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FREE

Vol. IV, No. II

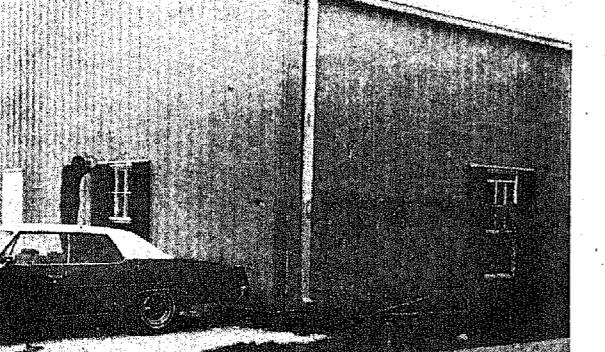
Key West, Florida

February 1979





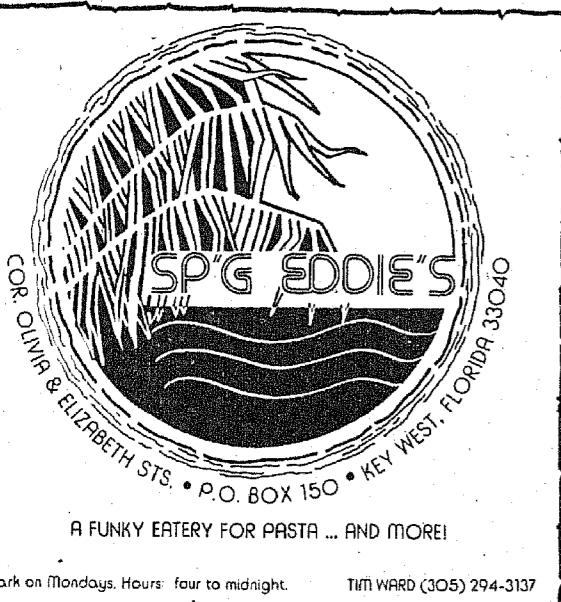
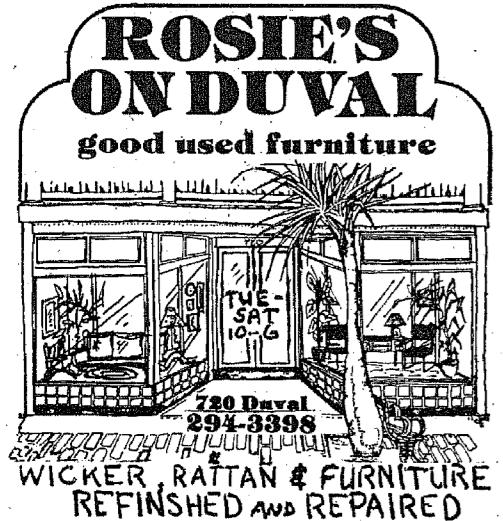
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## From the Editor

Hello--

**VOTE NO** on the pipeline! Read Bill Westray's excellent editorial that starts on page 15 for our reasons why.

**GOOD NEWS!** Good news! Billie Rupp has been meeting with John Mercer of the Old Island Restoration Commission, and my understanding is that there will be changes in the facade to bring the building more into line with the surrounding buildings. Also, as the photo shows, Key

meet in the Marathon Courthouse to hear citizen input concerning what should be done when the Area of Critical State Concern (A.C.S.C.) legislation expires on July 1, 1979. The Committee, composed of Senators and Representatives, must report back to their respective state houses by March 15. Concerned citizens are urged to attend and express their views.

**THERE IS** A special Cris Ray Search Fund that has been set up to aid those volunteer search parties looking for Cris' downed plane in New York State. Donations can be sent to this fund at the Florida First National Bank on Front Street.

**THAT NEW STRIPING** on N. Roosevelt Boulevard is very confusing. It seems that many motorists have no idea what is meant by that strange center lane, because the striping lines are so unusual.

**I WONDER IF** the tourist drop-off has to do with the sizeable rate increases put through by so many motels this season. There are very few places left in town that have reasonable prices, and this may be driving away many of the tourists.

**INCIDENTALLY,** Bill Westray has done an incredible job of research in putting together his editorial on the pipeline. Not content to work with just engineering reports and figures, our man Westray crawled through a section of the new bridge pipe to find out first hand how smooth the inside of the pipe was. It is this type of thoroughness that Westray brings to his research that makes his reports so invaluable.

**OUR LANDLORD-TENANT** problem wrap-up will appear in March.

See you next month.

WT

Our cover artist this month is Pocahie Burford. Her works may be seen at the Gingerbread Square Gallery and at the new Kennedy Gallery on Duval Street.

AT 1 P.M. on Thursday, February 1, 1979, the Special Legislative Committee will

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EDITOR.....BILL HUCKEL  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR.....RICHARD MARSH  
EDITORIAL CONSULTANT.....BILL WESTRAY

COPY EDITOR.....DONNA MARSH  
ART DIRECTION.....WALT HYLA

With a little help from our friends...

Solares Hill Co., Inc.

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## Ethea Kemp Stricker

BORN AND MARRIED in the very same spot at 513 William Street at the head of Pinder Lane, 81-year-old Ethea Kemp Stricker is kind, vital, dignified, and busy with her hands and head in her church and social activities.

Her mother before her had lived in the same house as a widow, and Mrs. Stricker, after the death of her beloved husband George Jay, has continued living there with her daughter, Ruth Scadlock, and her family.

mother awoke the next morning and cried out. We all awakened with a start. I evidently slipped a disc in my back at that moment. The disc rested on a nerve going into my right hip. At times I could walk as good as ever, but suddenly it would catch and I'd fall. The pain was excruciating. I would pray to die, but God had other definite plans for me.

"At that time, my brother William lived in Atlanta, attending Southern Dental College. Since we didn't have much money I wanted to quit school and go to work to help keep him in school. But he insisted, 'If you quit, I'll quit too.'

"It was decided that I would finish the term, and the next summer when he



tattered clothing. They didn't say a word."

She taught at No Name until a job opened up three months later at Division School (now Truman).

**ETHEA AND GEORGE** were married in 1918. They honeymooned at Palm Beach. They shared a love for singing, having met during choir rehearsals. Both were Conch kids, although he had been mostly reared by his grandmother and had lived in other places.

After the marriage, George and Ethea moved in with her mother. The family house had been replaced before that. Four buildings on the property had been removed to accommodate the new ten room house (the present place).

The house was moved from the Harris School yard property on huge logs. When a log was rolled out the forward one was put to the back.

WHEN SHE WAS five months pregnant with Ruth, a chiropractor came to town. With treatment he relieved the pain in her back. He taught her how to deal with it. She learned to put the disc back into place by lying on a heating pad.

During the fifth year of their marriage, George took sick. He was advised to keep out of crowds and to avoid communicable diseases. They went to Big Pine and started a grocery. After treatment he fell sick again and died in 1925.

"People wondered why I never married again. I just thought too much of George to marry another man."

SO AT 28, and with three small children (Ruth was just 16 months), Ethea stayed on with her mother. Two years later she returned to teaching.

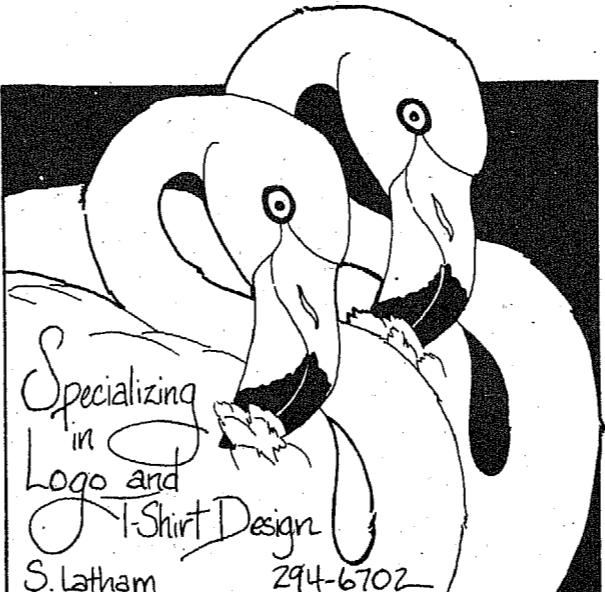
All the children have been born and married in this same house (excepting her son who married Peggy Mills' sister at Peggy's house). Ethea has three children: Jay, Dorethea (after Ethea) and Ruth. There are ten grandchildren and seven great grand children, of whom she is very proud.

HER MOTHER took care of the children when she taught. Pay then was \$70 a month. (She had started out earning \$40 a month.) She supplemented her salary with other small jobs. The most lucrative one was buying avocado seeds from the children for a penny apiece, and then sending them to Central Florida to be planted by growers. Often she earned in three summer months more than the nine months of teaching.

As to her teaching, Ethea felt that the children were a real challenge. "We were much closer to our teacher in those days." (She is now a lifetime member of the PTA and was a president of the Classroom Teacher's Association.)

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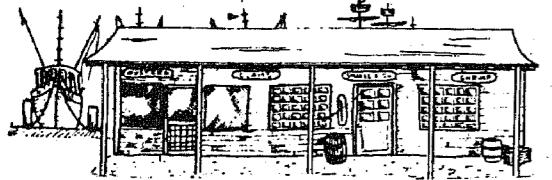
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"In the early days we had no aides. There were larger classes, and the children had to buy their own textbooks. The children were also much easier to handle."

ETHEA CLAIMS that Dr. Spock caused parents to be less concerned with discipline. "Children need guideposts."

She has thoroughly enjoyed her years of teaching and says she had always had a good relationship with parents. Many students still come to talk.

"That's the reward. They're happy to see me. I've taught thousands."

DURING ALL HER YEARS of teaching, Ethea continued her own education, attending summer schools, taking correspondence courses, traveling, writing, reading, learning. In 1958 she graduated with a B.S. degree from the University of Florida.

She has been active in many groups and has been honored many times by the Senior Women's Club and the Junior Women's Club.

She was voted Woman of the Year in 1967 by the Senior Women's Club, and the Junior Women's Club presented her with a "This Is Your Life, Mrs. Stricker" recognition at a special dinner. She's a lifetime member of the Senior Women's Club.

WE TALKED a lot about what an old fashioned Key West childhood was like. Key West was different in those times.

"We didn't have street lights back then, and really didn't need them. Everything was very quiet and peaceful, and we used lanterns to light our way. We played jackstones at Will Roberts' place where the tiles were nice. His girls and I played a lot together since we went to school with each other. We jumped rope a lot."

THERE WAS ALSO a big 4th of July celebration and bicycle race, which Ethea entered on an old bike her brother had

fixed up. She won the race, which went from Whitehead to Duval. The girl behind her stumbled and Ethea stopped to help her on her way, still coming out a winner. As a prize she got an umbrella and a very elated feeling that stayed with her for a long time. There were very few cars on the streets then, and bicycling around the island was (as it still is) a real pleasure.

In the fall there was a grand Firemen's Carnival. "It was a big thing in our lives, held on the Courthouse grounds. There were lots of rides -- the Ferris Wheel, merry-go-round, loop to loop.

"For entertainment on Saturday nights, the young people had a promenade on Duval. Back and forth we'd go, many times. Parents would visit with their friends.

"At Fleming and Margaret was Davis' Store." Flashed on the wall outside of the store, we saw our first moving picture.

"Children also loved the moonlit nights. We made 'moonshine babies' by placing pebbles around the form of a reclining playmate to form a silhouette."

FOR THE HOLIDAYS, saw horse tables were set up in the back yard, which became a very busy and exciting place. Neighborhood families would prepare the food. The teenagers did a lot of the work themselves.

The boys in the family had a big time. Mrs. Stricker's father liked to supervise the activities. The banjo and piano were well liked, and songs like "Let Me Call You Sweetheart" were popular.

There were also covered-dish suppers called "put-in parties." A locally made strawberry syrup would be served with ice and water. There were also candy pulls for which the gang went to someone's house (perhaps a Sunday school teacher's), and she would boil sugar and pour it out on marble, then pull it and cut it when it had cooled.

"CHRISTMAS TIME we'd get our own

trees from Big Pine." Gifts were mostly hand-made, as were the ornaments she still makes. "Good will was plentiful.

"We all really enjoyed caroling on a truck. Carolers would visit the sick and shut-ins.

"It used to be just mostly rich or poor people. Now, there's a lot more of a middle class. Downtown were the aristocrats. United Street was the Vinegar Flats, and Conch Town was the new middle.

"The most wonderful event of my childhood took place on my 16th birthday. I had a beautiful party at my sister's on Whitehead Street. A vaudeville troupe was brought from the San Carlos (her brother-in-law was the manager then). My school teachers were there, which made me feel very proud."

"I traveled in Europe for three weeks once. I had saved my substitute teacher's salary for seven years. I visited five countries and found people to be friendly wherever I went. Everywhere people were speaking English. In a restaurant I tipped a waitress and she kissed me!" She has written pieces on all the countries that she visited.

MRS. STRICKER says that it's hard for her to accept the changes she sees in these days; but she does try to accept them, so that she can avoid a generation gap.

She doesn't let old age slow her down either. Someone, I notice, is always coming by in a car to pick her up and take her here and there. She is always smiling, beautifully groomed and happy.

"Trust in God," she believes. "Have faith in God and His divine plan." Ethea feels a close relationship with God.

"I believe in prayer very deeply. I could not live without it. Everything I do, I consult God first. The answers arise from within me, and then I act

accordingly.

"I enjoy the comforts of the present, but I liked the security we had in the past, and the peacefulness."

ETHEA HAS WRITTEN several things: A Thumbnail History of Key West, Memoirs, an Autobiography, and a history of education in Monroe County for the bicentennial.

She gave me a pamphlet on the History of Methodism in Key West to look at. There was a poem in it that she had composed:

"We love our Church, Oh God:  
Abide in it and make it Thine.  
There is more to it than floors  
of pine and ceiling high, for  
there is memory  
That comes of pioneer sons with  
courageous hearts  
Who gave it form.  
Abide in it, God, and be with  
those who come when we have  
gone."

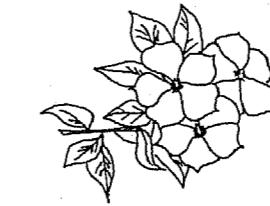


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the prices for parking in the Mallory Square Parking Lot as currently posted

the current composition of the Mallory Square Advisory Committee. (Should they not have business interests in the Mallory Square area?)

the ability of our Chamber of Commerce — in its present confused and divided condition — to attract visitors to our city

the ability of our police force — as it is currently composed — to adequately protect citizens and visitors

the ability of the city to keep the streets and other public areas reasonably clean

the ability of an overworked Old Island Restoration Commission to by itself oversee construction and improvements in the historical sector

WE ALSO ALSO CONCERNED about panhandling and other forms of street harassment.

OUR PRIMARY PURPOSE is to attract local residents and tourists to the historic Old Key West area. If your interest in Key West corresponds to our purpose and concerns, you are urged to attend a one hour meeting.

Date: MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12

Place: BILLIE'S BAR & RESTAURANT

Time: 6 PM

Add your voice to ours, so we can add our voices to yours.

Jim Wells, Chairman  
Old Key West Business Association



BY FRANCES ELIZABETH SIGNORELLI

#### LOUIE'S BACK YARD

LOUIS WAS hacking off a tree limb which bothered him, and I gave a subdued push to some leaves in the ocean patio. It was a lusterless time for us. He had been working for buttons for an outfit here on the island.

Which one of us said, "Why don't we make a restaurant of this old house and garden and call it 'Louie's Back Yard'?" Which one said it now is lost in the mists of time and under the racket of ensuing events.

I know that I locked him in his wild, brown eye. He looked me in my mean, blue eye. We locked knowing glances. Glances fraught with visions of peril and excitement, of gaping canyons opened up with possibly the carcasses of dreams broken on the floor of the gorge.

THUS INSPIRED, Louis set to and made 24 key lime pies that week, to get his hand back in. This and other humiliations faced me in the chaotic time before Louie's Back Yard staged its opening.

Louis had been master chef in the merchant marine, a school whose colors were black and blue. "Were you good?" I asked. "I'm alive, aren't I?" If a chef wasn't good in the merchant marine, the men pushed him overboard, or that's the way I understood it.

PRESSED INTO SERVICE was the breezy, old, long dining room which swept the

length of the house. Through its windows insinuated the kissing sounds of the ocean wavelets rushing up against the coral rocks.

Arty, clever, daring George Mitchell decorated. That is, he arranged all 12 of the seats. This island adventurer-artist was so sharp that sometimes he cut himself, and the place offered the air of a hurricane party, perhaps while the eye of the storm passes.

LARGER THAN LIFE, in billowing caftans, I reigned in the door with a cigar box for monies, and comers tripped past the small spit of sand -- where rested the cadaver of a mangrove root -- passed under the Tree of Radiant Happiness and into our lair. When approached in a boat from the sea, this consequential matriarch of a seagrape tree offers to the gaze a green, generous grotto.

Tables flanked the tree, and a luncher counted it a joy when a heart-shaped seagrape leaf tumbled onto her spinach salad, or a seagrape popped into her glass of chilled Chablis.

FAT FREDDIE, naturally, was selected as the first bartender. Fat Freddie bore a truly awesome disrespect for all creatures that move, more especially those entering his bar. As the years now have slipped by and he has found his Judy, now he is so happy that he has become fashionably civil. It's so sad.

Fat Freddie presided indignantly in his pocketbook bar, whittled out of the cistern in the intimate-most bowels of the house, wee, bright fishes darting frolicsomely in the little tanks ranged round the wall. Six persons could get in at a time and they were come over with a feeling of return to their mothers' womb.

BEWILDEREDLY, with a certain show of courage, I miscounted the change in my cigar box and billowed in my caftans and overbooked the dining room so that, when

it rained, those waiting were ranged sitting along the wall, their feet sticking straight out.

And, all the while, I kept thinking that the situations we are confronted with, the things we have to do, so often are the ones that we know how to do least well. And isn't that the way we learn? What makes life purposeful?

A kind of success ignited then, a glitter and sizzle, and, for while there, we two, Louis and I, who had discharged the sparkler, stood with a harmless spray of sparks falling about us, illuminating us in quite a diverting fashion.

THE GREAT and the near great came, picking their way past the beguiling seagrape tree. Of the latter number, I can call to mind a Philadelphia aquarium curator who could play the harmonica through his nose. And Mrs. George Barber, Key West's 1946 Sponge Queen Gloria Ascevedo, crowded at Bay View Park.

Other owners have surfaced. Have subsided. Perhaps will spring up again. Gone the cigar box. Remaining the legend. Louie's Back Yard. Irrespective of the turn of the screw, of future revolutions of the wheel of fortune, never shall I be free of the hold this one spot has for me.



**Swift's 1979 STEREO SYSTEMS BUYING GUIDE**

**THE SECOND SYSTEM ..**

**Hi-Fi Magician**

**Garrard 730M**

**Ultralinear 77C**

**Technics SA-200**

It's important to have good-looking Hi Fi equipment. Something that doesn't make your \$400 a month apartment look like a combat zone of wires and knobs. Ultralinear's new herringbone grill cover makes the model 77 look like a designer speaker. However, looks are only half the bargain. The sound is clear and smooth with a new three-way air suspension speaker array. Capable of handling 40 watts of power, these speakers can really deliver a punch. The Ultralinear unique high efficiency voice coils take only 8 watts to achieve the same sound pressure level as it does with 40.

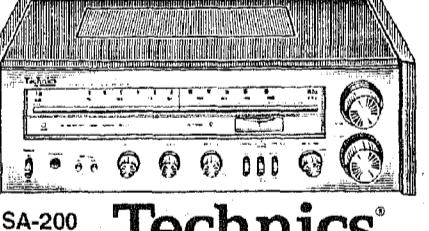


The Second System incorporates three of the biggest names in Hi Fi today ... Technics, Garrard and Ultralinear. Garrard turntables have, for years, made their way into the keenest of audiophiles' homes and studios. Now, made in England, they have an unchanged position in the American Hi Fi market. The 730M is one of the best turntable buys available anywhere today. For its price it delivers the record-tracking ability that much more expensive units do, provides lots of strong accurate speed, and not only stacks records but looks good too.

With 25 watts of true undistorted power, the Technics SA-200 provides more than enough drive to push these speakers to ear-splitting levels. This beautiful, well-laid-out receiver not only has lots of power but also a lot of functional extras such as dual function tuning meter, fuse protection for the amp

Garrard Turntable 730M Regular Price ..... \$533.00  
Ultralinear Speakers 77 Swift's Package Price ..... \$99.00  
Technics Receiver SA200 YOU SAVE .. \$134.00

and speakers, and 41-step click-stop volume control. As with all Technics receivers, the total harmonic distortion (THD) is very low at .04%.



**SA-200 Technics**  
by Panasonic

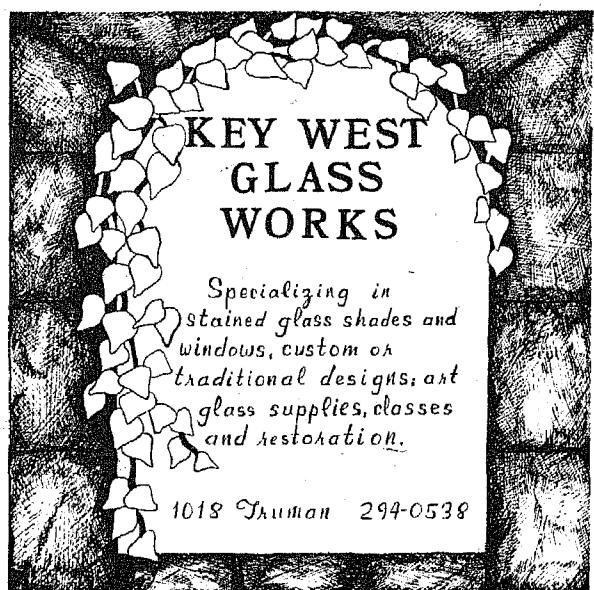
All of these components are relatively small in size, so space for a good sound system no longer remains on your list of problems.

By buying the Second System, you are investing a little money for big sound and big names that people who know about Hi Fi look for, and besides ... don't you deserve just a little more?

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**LETTERS**

Dear Sir:

Just additional information on "OIRC: Paper Tiger?" As in any organization, there will be improvement or termination. You have brought much-needed public attention to the Old Island Restoration Commission which I appreciate. With the City of Key West's court and jail system transferred to county and state jurisdiction, cut backs in the building and zoning departments because of insufficient revenue from taxes, of which Old Town obviously pays its fair share, we have tried to get the owners of the historic district property to voluntarily comply with OIRC and not have to resort to the office of the over-burdened city attorney or state attorney's office.

The voluntary commission works very hard inspecting, gathering on-job-site information and diligently confering (although not always in agreement) at its monthly and sometimes emergency meetings. Emergencies arise from roofs, unsafe stairs and other situations which demand immediate attention as well as economic factors such as the difficulty and availability of labor and materials on an island.

This is not rubber stamp responsibility, as your article stated, nor does any member get a handful of applications upon which to individually decide. I referred to individual members who check reported violations, verify compliance to plans of specific jobs and assist a property owner with an unexpected problem. The chair, with definite guidelines, is empowered to approve only the rules which are in the historic guideline book of the OIRC. New buildings are reviewed only by a full commission.

Key West was fortunately saved from the plastic-facade movement which attacked other historic towns during post-war prosperity. The island lay dormant and unabused. Its preservation is now the responsibility of OIRC which is re-

sponsible for a bit more than deciding the appropriate exterior colors for historic buildings. As the demand for real estate in the old town has suddenly thrust this city into cultural shock, we have sometimes been overwhelmed by the long-reaching abuse to the community's historic value.

Yes. Those responsible for Billy's disregard for the historic guidelines are many. This responsibility rightfully belongs to the citizens of this community for the policing of their heritage, OIRC, the City of Key West and the media. Only through cooperative efforts can the integrity of the historic district be preserved. Through such a united effort we can stave off any future violations of this unique island community we all love.

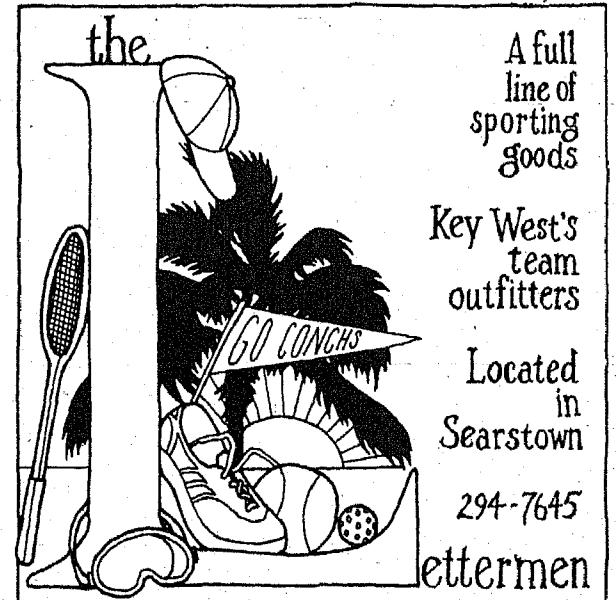
Sincerely,  
John Mercer  
Chairman, Old Island  
Restoration Commission

LAST MONTH'S ARTICLE said, "Mercer said that the members of the OIRC -- Mercer, Florence Rabon, Joe Pinder, Dick McGarry, and Bill Ford -- have agreed to portion out applications for OIRC approval to individual OIRC members. That is, each member gets a handful of projects to decide on individually, rather than the whole board reviewing all applications."

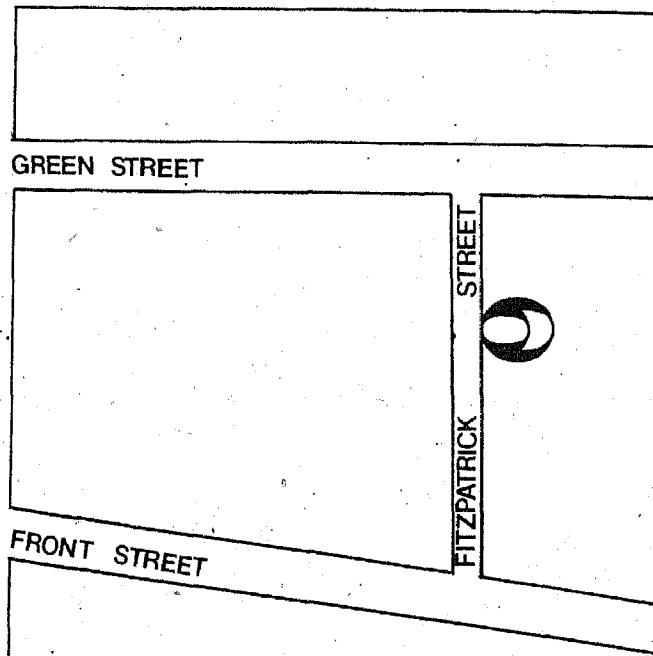
Our interpretation of this practice was that "the other four members will rubber-stamp each member's independent assessment of the projects assigned to him."

MERCER HAD EXPLAINED to us that the OIRC agreed that if Billie's application met with Mercer's approval, then "all members would vote accordingly." And further, that if all members of the OIRC agreed that the chairman -- Mercer -- or any member is responsible for one specific project, the rest of the OIRC would agree beforehand to support that individual's decision on the project.

R.M.



**GOLDSMITH**



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## notes and antic-dotes

by Dorothy Raymer

ST. VALENTINE'S DAY is the most widely observed day in the month of February. Of course, there is Ground Hog Day, February 2, but it doesn't have romantic appeal. And there are birthdays for Presidents Lincoln and Washington to be marked. But St. Valentine's Day remains the most popular with its hearts entwined theme -- and not just for people!

February 14 is a day designated as one for the birds -- at least for canaries in South Florida. Breeders of the songbirds usually arrange the mating season to begin then, and there is a mass marriage of birds of a feather who are caged together.

I SUPPOSE this schedule is coordinated with the most advantageous time to coincide with bird show and market dates, for actually the mating period can begin in any time when spring is in the air.

I first learned about the official "Sweetheart Day" some years ago when I was on The Key West Citizen staff and received a telephone call asking me if I was interested in Red Factors. For a few minutes I wondered if somebody was stirring up the ghosts of a Communist witch-hunt.

As the conversation continued, I learned that a Red Factor had nothing to do with the Russians, but was a color characteristic in the genes of a new type of canary. The caller, Suzie Michalk, of 2215 Fogarty Avenue, had just won six trophies and a number of show prize ribbons for exhibiting her champions at an international Red Factor Breeders Association premiere show, the first in all the world.

Mrs. Michalk invited me to come see the winning birds and have an interview.

I HAD NEVER had much experience with canaries, although my grandmother had two in gilded cages. One was a ball of fluffy butter-yellow, a chopper, as the somewhat ordinary breed is known, and an olive-yellow bird with black marking, a Hartz Mountain roller introduced from Germany. He was a marvel, initiating his song interludes with a bass tone, then rolling into flute notes, something called "Glucke tours" and bubbling water effect, with variations.

I appreciated Billie's nearly operatic roller achievements, but found Dickie's loud, short bursts and trilling more interesting, chiefly because he had been captured by my grandmother. She invented a sort of Rube Goldberg contraption to catch him. She spied the little canary hopping round in the yard, obviously a lost pet unused to uncaged freedom and looking for a handout.

She scattered a trail of seeds from the back walk to a feeding area inside our latticed back porch. Over this, she suspended the top of a round cage from a thin cord. When the canary followed the seed trail to the center of the cage bottom, she snipped the cord and the upper cage dropped, encasing the hungry bird.

She had taken a teasing from my grandfather, who taunted her about getting close to the bird. "The only way, as you know according to an old saying, to catch it is to put salt on the bird's tail." She exhibited her prize and collected a bet of \$10. Dickie lived to a venerable 13 years, although eight is an average life span for a canary.

BACK TO THE prospective feature on Red Factors. Al Palmer, from Montreal, was our photographer at the time, and all the way to the Michalk house, he sang French love ditties and whistled tunefully. He claimed it was to get into the mood for the bird mating photos.

A black and white mongrel dog greeted us with friendly overtures when we got out of the car and approached the Michalk

residence. But the instant we stepped inside the house-aviary a furious chorus of bird noises began. The clamor never let up the entire hour or so that we were there. There were chirps, trills, warbles, cheeps, clucks, whistles and bird chatter interchanged, and this came from more than 300 throbbing throats! Besides the canaries, dozens of parakeets, some of them capable of talking, unleashed their vocal abilities. The resulting cacophony was incredible.

THE OWNER of this filibustering bird congress, Mrs. Michalk, said that the birds began sounding off if even a beetle crawled near the caged inmates.

Photographer Palmer asked, "Doesn't all that racket bother you at night?"

"No," said Mrs. Michalk with a saucy tilt to her head, just like a perky canary, "but if you came around you might bother the birds. They are regular little watchdogs and set up a disturbance whenever anyone or anything strange intrudes into the bird colony."

The bird woman claimed that her canaries were individuals with distinctive personalities of their own. "There are shy birds and bold ones; some are aloof and others friendly. I've been in the bird business for 18 years and I can study a person a short while and know what kind of bird is for them. Some want a bright colored bird with a soft song. Some want a standard bird with a loud song. My advice is listen to the bird and its song before buying. I don't sell birds to just anybody."

IN ORDER TO make a canary more tuneful, a special diet must be fed. Suzie Michalk said that in addition to a variety of seeds, the trillers ate lawn grass, dandelion leaves, carrots, yeast, endive, watercress, broccoli, escarole, and small amounts of lettuce, plus cooked egg yolk, apple and orange tidbits. Cuttlebone is also placed in the cages.

A favorite bird seed is from Indian hemp, which is also known as bhang or marijuana! Give a bird enough hemp and it will hang itself -- even upside down -- from its perch in acrobatic postures. Cannabis sativa, besides yielding a coarse fiber used in cordage, is also the source of the narcotic hashish.

THE WARBLERS were originally bred in the Canary Islands and were a light to moderate yellow. Since then, crossbreeding with finches, siskins, bullfinches, linnets, and relative species, the colors vary in shades of buff, fawn, copper, cinnamon, brown, orange, pure whites, chartreuse, olive green, light green, avocado, slate blue, and even a pastel pink.

The champion Red Factors raised in Key West included fine feathered friends in shrimp pink, apricot, and some in tomato red. Markings were in brown and black on wings and tail, and very stylish birds had frosted feathers, touches of white on the surface, just like milady's frosted hair coloring!

THE CAROLERS were confined to tiers of rectangular cages. In one compartment, there were 115 female canaries, all contentedly chirping and tweeting, doubtless gossiping bird-style, discussing potential husbands and clutches. A clutch is not a grip or part of a motor vehicle in birddom. It's the number of eggs laid by a canary hen. The average clutch is four eggs.

To keep things under control, the breeder removes the first egg of the clutch and swaddles it in cotton wool, placing this in a warming container. The first egg is not replaced in the nest until the other eggs have been laid. This is to keep the first hatched bird from getting the edge on the later arrivals.

THE KEY WEST BIRDS included "mules," and readers may get a kick out of the fact that "mules" in the bird world are

continued on page 46

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## BRIDGES; SCHEMES & DREAMS

AMONG THE MANY schemes and dreams that have percolated through the fertile brains of Monroe County politicians over the years, perhaps one of the most interesting has been to provide a second highway in and out of the Florida Keys, besides the dangerous and nerve-wracking U.S. 1 with its 44 bridges.

The idea was revived to a degree in the recent session of the legislature, when Dade Senator Vernon Holloway proposed that the state buy out the bondholders at the Card Sound Road and Toll Bridge District for \$2.1 billion. When the road was built back in the early 1960's, one of the reasons given for it was that it would give Upper and Middle Keys residents an escape valve in the event of impending hurricane -- they could use it or travel via the original Jewfish Creek bridge outlet.

HOLLOWAY'S ARGUMENT was that maybe the Monroe County officials wouldn't act fast enough to suspend the 60¢ toll per car in case of a giant storm, and that would result in traffic jam-up at Jewfish Creek, which, if the Jewfish Creek bridge slipped a cog and was stuck, would create a tremendous backup of cars and trucks all along U.S. 1 into Key Largo.

But apparently Holloway's proposal didn't catch fire and died. Besides, there never was any evidence that Monroe County officialdom would not immediately suspend the toll-taking, in order to get its citizens out of the Keys the fastest way.

Nevertheless, Holloway's thought about a second access stirred up some remembrances from the late 50's and early 60's.

THE COUNTY COMMISSION, and public sentiment to a large degree then, leaned heavily toward better roads and bridges, as well as the second access highway, much as it does today. With a weather-eye on voting strength and some hyped

up publicity, officials tried to give most of the public most of what it wanted -- or wanted to hear, anyway.

AFTER 1960'S HURRICANE DONNA struck in the middle of the night with such devastating power at the Florida Keys from Marathon up to Key Largo, with raging winds over 185 mph and high thunderous tides that brought together the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf over long stretches of the lowlands, the county's officials really started taking stock of many regulating details they had overlooked for years previously.

Residents and business people from the Middle and Upper Keys on that September night fled northward toward Miami. There wasn't any Card Sound Road then, so hundreds had to cross Jewfish Creek and make it to South Dade from there. Luckily, because of sharp weather forecasting from Miami and Key West for days in advance and new weather radar, many lives were spared.

THE CARD SOUND ROAD and Toll Bridge District was set up under a bond issue which financed the building of the high arched span and its approaches. One man on the county commission at the time voted against it, because, he claimed, even though it was touted as a "private" issue it still carried the name of Monroe County in it. Billy Freeman, now the sheriff, was against it. He also predicted the tolls and traffic wouldn't bear the weight of the obligation.

In the years between then and now those tolls have had to be increased steadily by the county bosses in order not to default on the bond issue.

There was another well known fact behind the Card Sound structure -- political pressure from the super-wealthy Ocean Reef Club members at North Key Largo. They wanted a shorter route to their posh resort community than having to drive all around the mulberry bush

By An Observer

via Jewfish Creek. The new road chopped off over 20 miles of driving.

TODAY, the road and bridge are viewed as one of the safest routes for driving and one of the most beautiful parts of the long haul from Key West to Miami. Even though it costs 60¢ at the bridge.

About the same time they were establishing the Card Sound Road, then-commissioner Billy Osterhoudt proposed one of the most visionary schemes for a second access highway into Monroe County that had been heard of in a long time.

His was the "Road to the West Coast" plan.

THE BASIC IDEA was to furnish the Lower Keys, Key West and the lower end of the Middle Keys area with an escape valve route without having to make the drive all the way up the Keys. It was further seen as an excellent way to bring in tourists from the west side of the state who'd welcome the chance to avoid having to curl eastward and then come south and again west to the Lower and Middle Keys.

The Road to the West Coast would be, in effect, a long causeway with some bridges, across the flats of the Florida Bay, leading from No Name Key in a north-east direction and cutting into the Everglades just south of Naples, where it was supposed to hook up with a major state highway.

Motorists from the Lower Keys would branch off U.S. 1 at Big Pine Key, steer north to the Old Wooden Bridge leading to No Name Key, and then onto the Road to the West Coast.

THE IDEA rang up huge dollar signs in the eyes of developers and road and bridge construction outfits. At the same time it raised the hackles on the backs of all the county's "conservationists," the forerunners of today's "environmentalists."

continued on page 14



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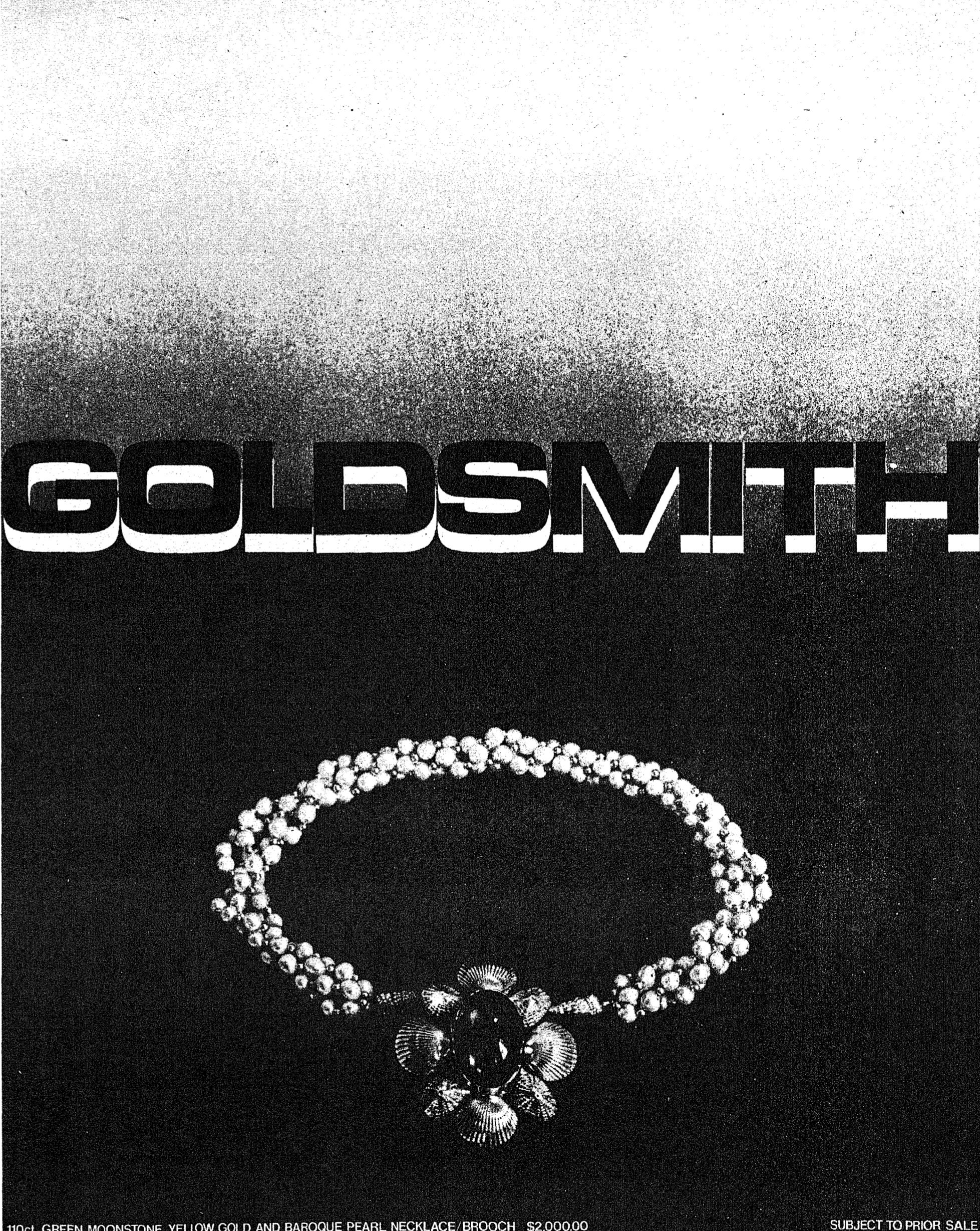
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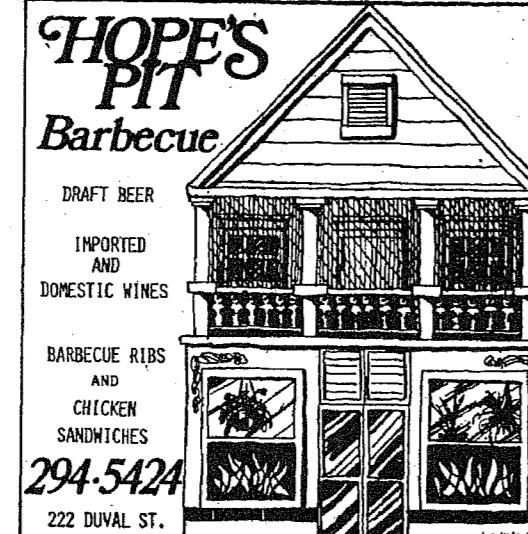
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continued to study the problem, new concerns arose, particularly about construction cost overruns and about the need to replace all of the old pipeline.

ALL OF THESE questions have been raised during public forums conducted by FKAA in Key West, Marathon, Plantation Key and at a number of private organization meetings. None have been satisfactorily answered. Some answers are vague and make reference to other unidentified studies not available to the public or the press. Executive Director Claude Gehman has refused to answer financial questions that challenge the basic validity of some of the cost savings that FKAA has been promising, and he has refused to refute, confer or comment on budget analyses prepared by the writer that differed substantially from that submitted by FKAA with its loan application.

Our review of FKAA's engineering studies and data indicates that all reasonable foreseeable needs for water to year 1998 could be met by constructing a smaller line of 30-inch diameter from Florida City to Tavernier, 24-inch from Tavernier to Marathon, and 18-inch from Marathon to Key West. Also, there are strong indications that all the buried sections of existing 18-inch line south of the Seven Mile Bridge are in excellent condition and would not require replacement. The alternative we suggest would cut construction costs about in half, which would allow FKAA to build and operate the new line and amortize the loan without a rate increase.

IT HAS BEEN the total intransigence of the FKAA staff and board on the question of alternatives that has forced us to recommend a NO vote on the February referendum. We suggested that FKAA offer alternatives to the voters on February 6th. They refused. We therefore believe we must defeat the LARGE PIPELINE referendum and force FKAA to reconsider and offer the voters a reduced size pipeline plan at a later election.

The rationale behind our recommendation to our readers is as follows:

#### PIPELINE SIZE

THE BASIC engineering and financial study on which FKAA decisions have been based is the Black, Crow and Eidsness (BC&E) Consulting Engineer's report, dated April 1976 and revised May 1976. In this report BC&E originally recommended a 30-inch line from Florida City to Marathon and a 24-inch line from Marathon to Stock Island with three intermediate pumping stations. This would provide a capacity of over 19 million gallons per day (MGD) out of Florida City; 16 MGD out of Tavernier, 13.5 MGD out of Long Key, and 9.5 MGD out of Marathon on down to Key West.

In general we accept the design objective of 19 MGD, as it provides reasonable reserve transmission capacity for the projected 82,700 permanent residents and 31,000 tourist equivalents for the year 1998, and according to BC&E would meet maximum peak demand in 1998. We suggest that a 24-inch line from Tavernier to Marathon, operating at the same flow rate (6 ft/sec) as that planned for the 30-inch line out of Florida City, could carry over 12 MGD, and that an 18-inch from Marathon to Key West could carry well over 6 MGD at the same rate of flow.

The 36-inch line for the first stretch popped into the picture as Addendum B to the BC&E May 1976 report, when it was suggested that the Ocean Reef private resort on North Key Largo be added to FKAA's service area. BC&E estimated the demand at an average of 200,000 gallons per day, but recommended a design flow of 1.37 MGD to provide for fire protection flow. It recommended increasing the diameter of the pipe from Florida City to Tavernier to 36 inches to accommodate the Ocean Reef demand. It estimated that the Ocean Reef load would produce a net revenue of \$165,000 per year. It estimated the construction cost of the new distribution main to Ocean Reef at \$2,000,000 and over \$3,500,000 to increase the size of the 195,000 linear feet of main from Florida City from 30 inches to 36 inches.

WE QUESTION the economics of increas-

ing our indebtedness by \$5.5 million at an annual amortization increase of \$326,000 to produce \$165,000 in net increased revenue. Perhaps if Ocean Reef were willing to pay this system development cost of \$5.5 million, the economics would be more viable. We suggest that each of the three pipeline sections from Florida City to Stock Island be reduced by one pipe size; that is, 36-inch section reduced to 30-inches, 30-inch to 24-inch, and 24-inch to 18-inch. This, according to the unit costs contained in the BC&E report, would save about \$12 million in construction costs.

#### OLD PIPELINE

AT THE OUTSET of the entire pipeline project, the question of need to replace the entire 138 miles of old 18-inch pipeline was assumed to be beyond debate. However, since our December and January editorials on this subject were published, we have received communications from a number of knowledgeable individuals, engineers, scientists and technicians, questioning the need to replace all of the line. In particular, the need to replace the buried portions of the line in the Middle and Lower Keys was questioned.

We talked with people who had managed the line for the Navy. We talked with others who had managed similar pipelines in other locations. We heard statements such as, "If the chemistry of the water is maintained..." and "If cathodic protection is not relaxed...", and "If the pipe is not exposed to salt and the weather..." and concluding with, "It could last forever..." One engineer declared, "There is no engineering mortality rate on 18-inch steel pipe...it could last forever."

INASMUCH AS WE were suggesting an 18-inch line from Marathon to Key West, and inasmuch as almost all the exposed bridge crossings were already being replaced through a \$22 million state and federal grant, the question arose in our minds: do we need to replace the buried sections of the 18-inch line south of

the Seven Mile Bridge at all? We went back to the BC&E report and found statements such as, "The existing 18-inch main will be maintained where the cost of maintenance does not make this impractical."

"Should the construction bids exceed the estimates, all or part of the 24-inch transmission main can be deleted without negating the feasibility of the project. With the system completed to Marathon, the high operating cost of the desalination plant can be deleted and a significant revenue increase (savings) will be realized."

"The existing pipeline is experiencing varying degrees of corrosion especially where exposed to the atmosphere and at bridge crossings. The amount of corrosion in the underground sections has not been determined. Some degree of corrosion is present here, however, as evidenced by pipe ruptures."

"A corrosion survey of the 18-inch pipeline was not within the scope of this report."

IN A NUMBER of meetings we attended we heard Director Gehman talk about leaks and "break-outs" in various places. In almost every case, however, the breaks cited as examples were on bridges (already being replaced), or north of Cross Key.

On January 22nd we questioned FKAA Chief Engineer Bill Ladd about pipeline breaks. Again he cited numerous bridge leaks and breakouts in elevated sections between Cross Key and the mainland. He reported two recent leaks in buried pipe at Lake Surprise just south of Cross Key, and on Plantation Key in the Upper Keys, but no others in the buried sections. Asked specifically about leaks south of the Seven Mile Bridge, Ladd reported that there had been none in the last year, and that he could not recall a single case of a leak in the buried pipe there in prior years.

WE THEREFORE SUGGEST THAT THE BURIED SECTIONS OF THE 18-INCH PIPE SOUTH OF THE SEVEN MILE BRIDGE MIGHT BE RETAINED IN USE INDEFINITELY AT A REPLACEMENT CONSTRUCTION COST SAVING OF \$8,172,000.

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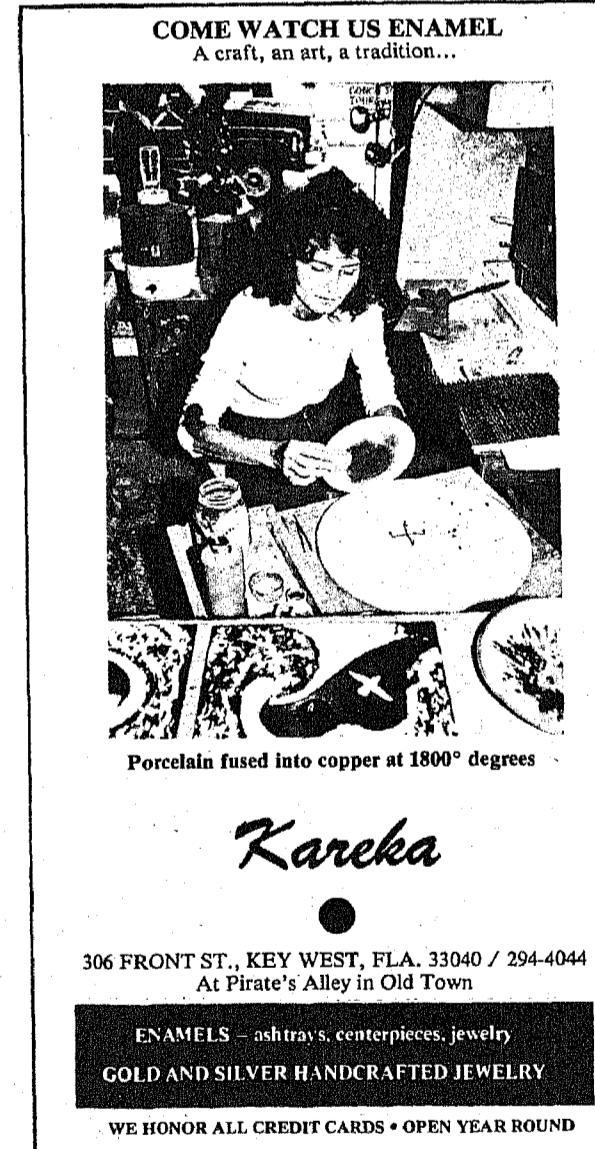
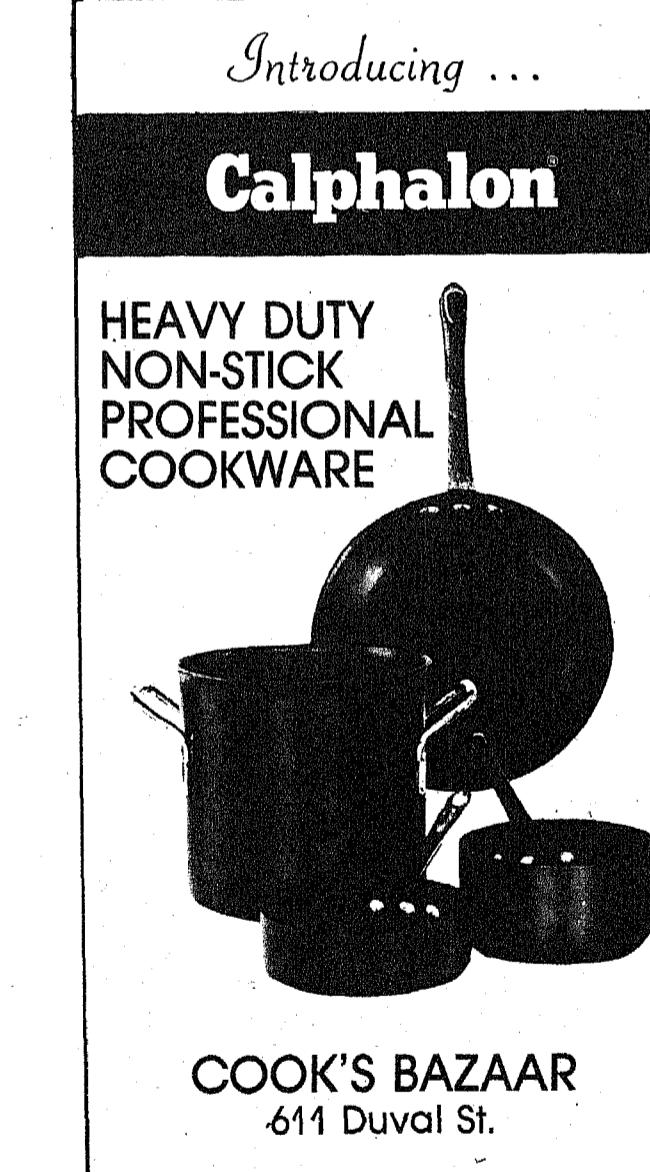
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In any case, we suggest that a corrosion survey of the pipe be conducted before any contracts are let for design or replacement of those sections.

THE COMBINED POSSIBLE SAVINGS OF SMALLER PIPE FROM FLORIDA CITY TO MARATHON, AND RETAINING THE OLD PIPELINE SOUTH OF THE SEVEN MILE BRIDGE, ARE ABOUT \$20 MILLION, OR ABOUT HALF OF THE TOTAL ESTIMATED CONSTRUCTION COST.

### PROJECTED WATER SALES AND CONSUMPTION

ALTHOUGH FKAA speaks loudly about peak consumption of 9.5 or 9.8 MGD -- and of course these demands are real and must be met -- these peak demands bear little relationship to total annual sales of water on which total income or revenue depends.

In Fiscal Year 1978 FKAA produced about 2,930,000,000 gallons of water and sold about 2,290,000,000 gallons. The difference is system loss of about 640 million gallons, or about 22 percent of production. Actual production averaged about 8,027 MGD to sell an average of 6,274 MGD.

FKAA has projected sales of over 10 MGD and production of 12.5 MGD for 1982. We find no data or studies to support this projected 60 percent increase in sales in three years. We think it is a grossly inaccurate projection, AND IT IS the basis on which FKAA is promising a rate reduction. Actually, by our computations, if they could sell 10.5 MGD, they could just barely maintain the existing rate of \$3.56 per thousand (M) gallons.

WE FEEL THAT we have been generous in forecasting sales of 7.5 MGD in 1982 (an 18 percent increase versus FKAA's actual experience of about 2 percent per year increase in sales), and our budget estimates for FKAA predict a water rate of about \$5/M based on 7.5 MGD sales. We have on two occasions provided FKAA with copies of our budget estimates for 1982 but FKAA has refused to comment or discuss the matter.

### EXPLOSIVE DEVELOPMENT AND COST OF SECONDARY SERVICES

WHILE FKAA is mandated by charter to provide adequate water and NOT control

population growth, it is NOT mandated to provide an oversupply of water and promote accelerated population growth.

FKAA has told the people that it will reduce or maintain the present water rate. It needs, and has projected, water sales of over 10 MGD, a 60 percent increase in three years. In essence it is looking for and promoting a population increase of over 35,000 residents and tourist equivalents in three years.

### WE CONSIDER THIS EXPLOSIVE DEVELOPMENT.

If FKAA should in fact cause this over-development, the cost to taxpayers in terms of providing more electricity, sewer systems, garbage disposal, roads, fire and police protection, schools, health services, etc., cannot even be calculated. For sewers, this amounts to \$36 million in the city and \$66 million in the county, now.

ONE RESIDENT estimated these secondary services would cost a quarter-billion dollars. We think that is low. Who would pay for these increased services? The taxpayer of course!

The South Florida Regional Planning Council in a letter to FKAA on August 10, 1978, cautioned that they believe a 30-inch/24-inch replacement pipeline (as then proposed) was too large and suggested a parallel 24-inch line all the way. The council warned about the population growth induced by the new pipeline and stated, "The secondary impacts of such population increase on transportation, health care, education, sewage disposal, disaster preparedness, and environmental systems will be significant. The County and cities will have to make major expenditures to provide for a 54% population increase." (With tax dollars? -- Our comment.)

### CONSTRUCTION COST OVERRUNS

IN 1976, Consulting Engineers BC&E estimated the cost of the planned 36-inch/30-inch/24-inch pipeline and expanded facilities at Florida City at \$49,434,000 in terms of 1978 dollars. In August 1978, in a supplemental report, BC&E estimated the same construction at a cost of \$37,700,000, including the \$2 million spur into Ocean Reef. We could find no rationale to justify this decrease of about \$16 million, nor could the FKAA staff explain it when questioned during

two public forums.

We greatly fear that the project cost has been seriously underestimated and that cost overruns will eat up the contingency fund of \$2,150,000 and a great deal more besides.

### DISTRIBUTION AND PRESSURE

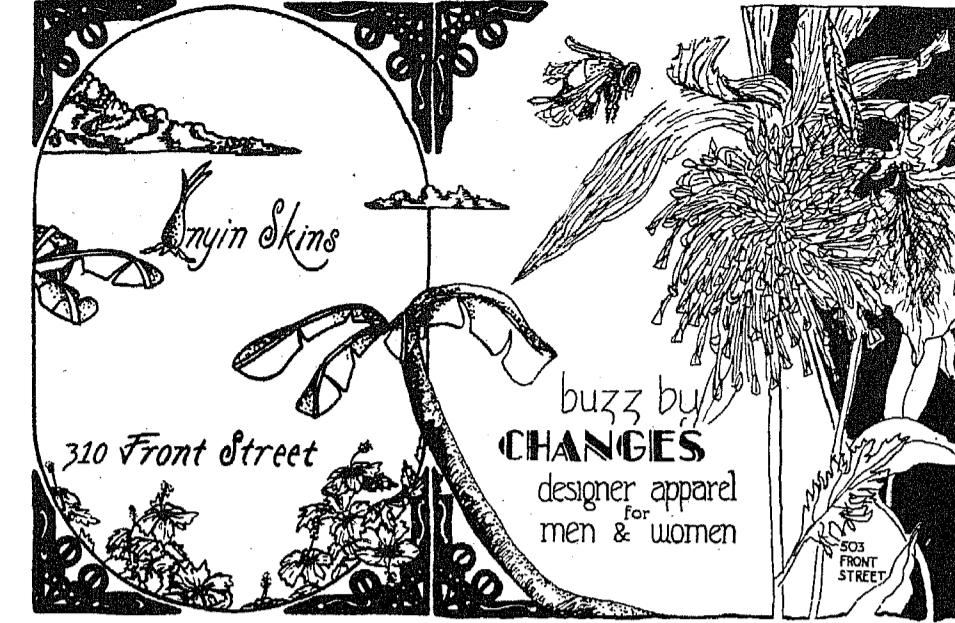
IN RECENT YEARS, FKAA, under Director Gehman, has done a commendable job of improving an unbelievably bad distribution system, which over the years grew like Topsy in a spider-like network of 2-inch galvanized pipe. Recent U.S. Economic Development Administration grants to build new storage tanks and install constant pressure pumps in key locations have relieved some of the low pressure problems. The continuing replacement of galvanized pipe with P.V.C. plastic pipe, using funds generated from the \$1000 per hookup system development fee, has been alleviating this problem on a continuing basis.

But a great deal more remains to be done, and if the development fee is dropped, as has been contemplated by the board, distribution system improvement will either stop or become funded by revenue from water sales, causing an increase in water rate of 15 to 20 cents per thousand gallons.

THE NEW PIPELINE will do little, if anything, to directly increase water pressure to consumers, other than to allow the system to maintain normal pressures during periods of high seasonal demand. If construction costs could be reduced by building a smaller pipeline, some of the loan savings might be used to accelerate improvements to the distribution system.

### LOAN MONEY

FKAA STAFF and board have clearly implied that if the voters reject the large pipeline referendum on February 6, the \$53,225,000 FmHA loan will be lost forever. Our discussions with FmHA offi-



320 Front Street

cials at county and state levels have indicated that this is not true. Although the FmHA "Conditions" letter to FKAA of September 21, 1978, states that any changes in the project cost, scope or other factors must be approved in writing by FmHA, officials have assured us that they would favorably consider any reasonable change or delay that is properly justified.

IT IS OUR BELIEF that if the voters should reject the large pipeline on February 6, the FKAA Board of Directors could submit a plan for a smaller pipeline to the voters in another referendum election in about two months, and that the reduced scope and delay would be acceptable and approved by FmHA.

It is our regret that FKAA did not see fit to offer alternatives to the voters in the February 6 election and thereby save the cost of a second election. However, the issue is too important, and the consequences of a bad decision too great, to allow the cost of a second election to stand in the way of a sound decision.



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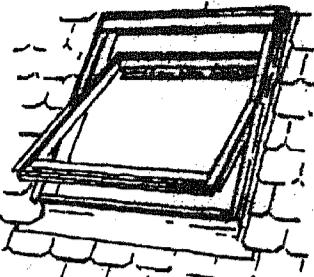
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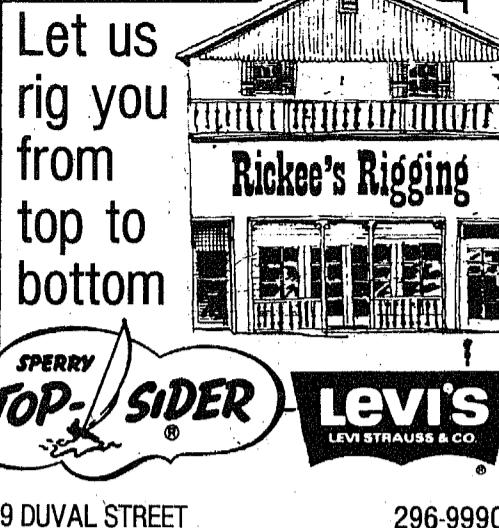
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arrived and parked her bicycle, as she always does, on the front bricks.

Just at this moment, a cat screamed. It was obvious to her that a tom was accosting one of her young females, and she ran off to break up the activity that caused us to have so many kittens to play with. I immediately stuck my nose into the grocery bag to see what I could find.

I was thrilled with her innovative choice of candy bars: a Hershey bar with almonds for me, a Baby Ruth for Baby Martha, a Nestle's Crunch for Kathryn, and a Cadbury Hazelnut for John. (Of course, I never referred to my father as John when I was young, but he's been gone so long, the fink, that "Daddy" sounds a little too cute for my blood.)

BEING A CHILD of insatiable curiosity and a fair amount of shrewdness, I decided to sample just one little, teeny, tiny, infinitesimal corner of the Cadbury. The hazelnuts on the wrapper intrigued me, being a food I was certainly not familiar with and was quite anxious to try. I snatched it from the bag, deftly slid it part way from the outer wrapper, and ever-so-carefully peeled back a corner of the inner wrapper.

I took that small, savory sample I spoke of before. It had a different flavor, to be sure, and I came to the conclusion then and there that this was not my cup of tea. I expertly re-wrapped the Cadbury to its original pristine state and promptly forgot all about it.

MY MOTHER RETURNED, the sun went down, and a supper of piccadillo with black beans and rice was had without any further excitement. After a while, John, in his predictable fashion, asked my mother the same question he asked every night after his dinner had settled.

"What do you have for the old sweet-toot (sic) Toodie?"  
(I found this routine quite repetitious, to say the least, and could never figure out why adults with their seemingly infinite vocabularies always came up with the same trite phrases.)

She produced the candy bars and handed each person their brand, and we all settled back to relish our treats. I was just about to crunch up the big fat almond on the end of my Hershey when I heard my father exclaim, "What the hell is this?"

I almost choked.

My mother came running over and right away noticed that a small, very small at that, corner of the Cadbury seemed to be missing.

"Well, John, a piece could have chipped off when I set the groceries down," she said with that lilt of unconcerned certainty. Mentally I wiped my brow.

"No, that can't be, because the chip would have to be somewhere in the wrapper, and it's clearly not here." He removed his glasses to get a closer look.

"Why, I believe someone or something has taken a BITE of my candy bar!"

I decided to take action.

"You know, it could have been a rat," I said. "They love candy. Or maybe someone wanted to taste it before they bought it and then changed their mind because they didn't have enough money. It could be anything."

HE TURNED and looked at me. His eyes narrowed. I gulped a little too visibly, I guess, because he was now getting up off the couch with a very strange look on his face.

"I'll say it could have been a rat, and we're going to find out right now. Kathryn, did you take a bite of my candy bar?"

"No, not me, Daddy."

"Martha, did you take a bite of my candy bar?"

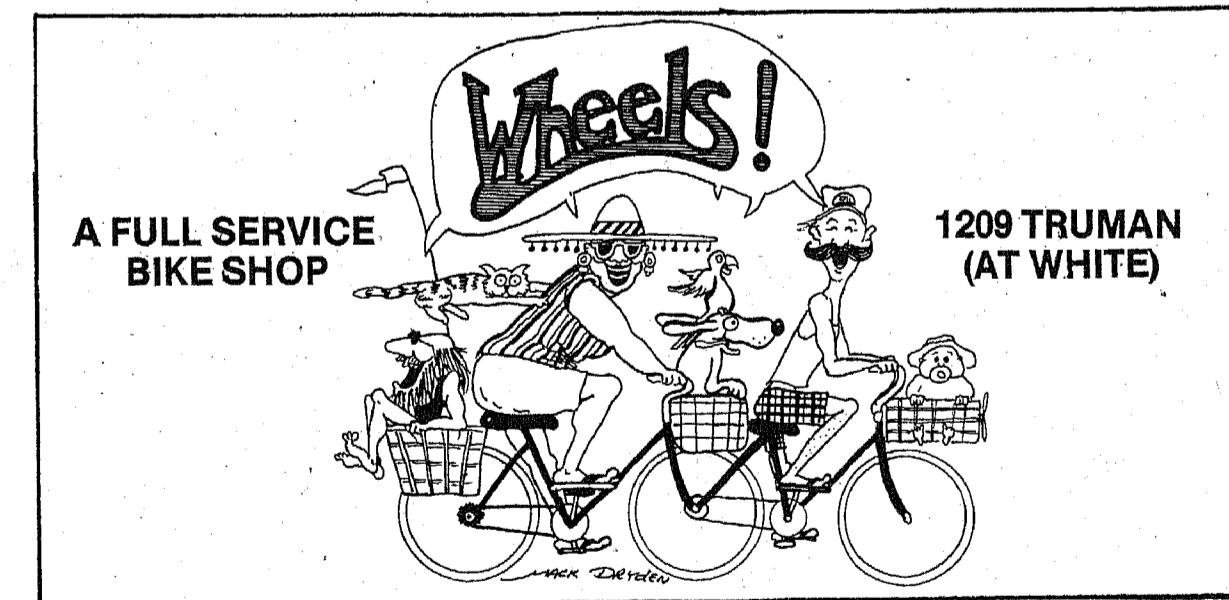
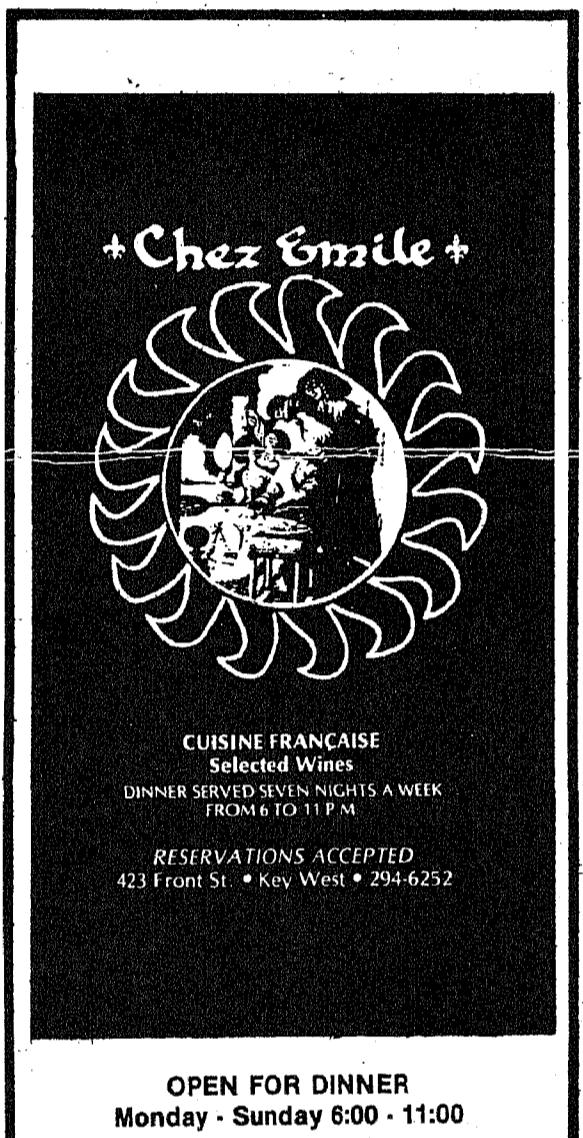
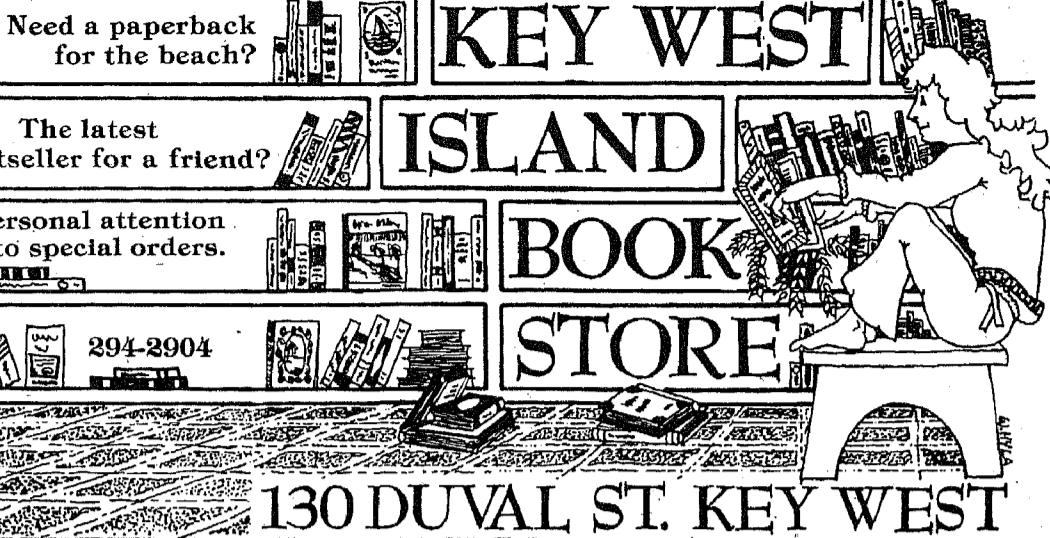
"No, not me either, Daddy."

They were disgustingly emphatic, I thought.

"Well, Amy, I suppose you didn't take one either."

I was acquiescent and attempted to muster up a guilt-free expression of amazement and horror.

"That leaves your mother, and I know she didn't take one. All of you, come



up to the bathroom right now. We're going to get to the bottom of this."

OH GOD, I thought to myself, what Gestapo technique is he going to use on us now? I knew he'd been reading *The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich* by William L. Shirer, so there was no telling what we were in for at this point.

We all marched up the stairs (fourteen

This outcry totally surprised John, and he turned to her and asked her one more time if she was indeed the candy bar criminal. She hedged and squirmed and rubbed the tears from her eyes. Oh buck up Martha, just one more time, say you did it so we can all go back to the peaceful world of *Andy of Mayberry* and get away from the southernmost head of the Gestapo, I thought to myself. But



memorable and agonizing steps to be exact) and were made to line up against the wall in a glaring light, while Herr John carefully unwrapped a new bar of Ivory Soap. Kathryn was by now screaming hysterical oaths of innocence and pulling at her hair and contorting her face into images straight out of Dante's Inferno.

I did perhaps say once or twice I wished we could find the creep in Fausto's who would DARE to tamper with merchandise like that, and Martha was getting a terrible case of the quivering chins. Finally Martha burst out, "I guess I did it!"

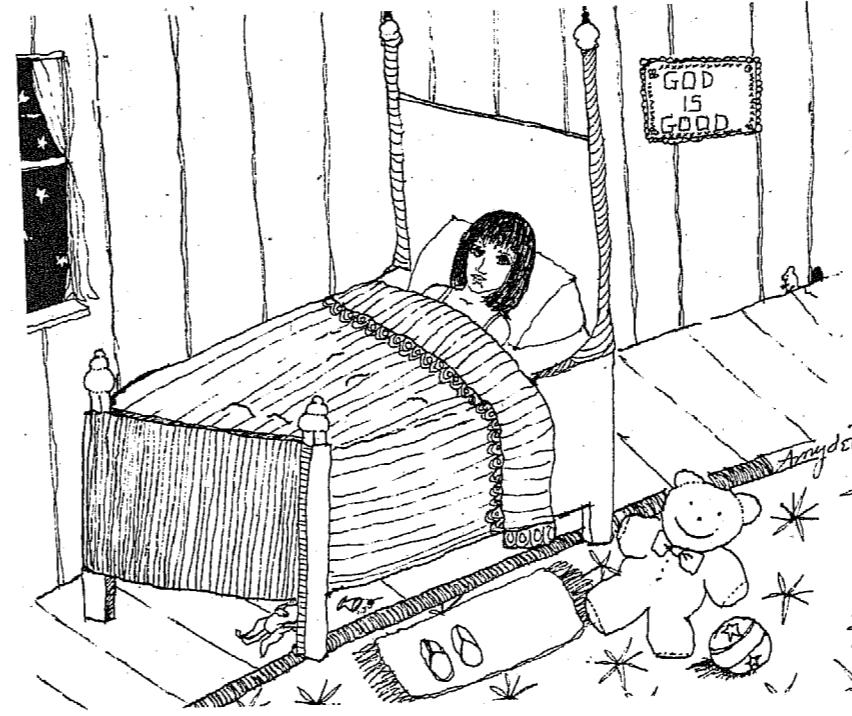
What a relief -- she couldn't take the pressure!

no. She hesitated too long. John resumed his interrogation.

"O.K. Now each of you is to take a careful and gentle bite on this bar of soap. Not too hard, mind you. I want to get a good look at what the teeth marks look like."

Where he picked up this little trick I'll never know, but the writing on the wall was becoming more and more visible to ME. We all did as we were told, and he stepped under the bulb to meticulously scrutinize and compare the teeth im-

pressions with those on the Cadbury with Hazelnuts.



I WAS, at this juncture, making a pact with God to never eat candy again and never, ever chase the dog into the street again. My prayers were not heard that night.

"Well, well, well. It seems we have found the rat who likes to nibble on candy bars. Amy, do you have a chip on your front tooth?"

"Yes, but Kathy has a bigger one. Why don't you take a peek and see for yourself?"

"I'll do just that. Open your mouth, AMY."

My goose was not only cooked, it was done to a humiliating turn. Needless to say, I did not return to the delightfully bland world of Barney Fife and Sheriff Andy, but spent the rest of the lovely Key West evening lying in my bed and asking God why, if he was so good at miracles and restoring sight to the blind, couldn't he replace one little, teeny, tiny, infinitesimal corner of a tasteless old Cadbury with Hazelnuts anyway.

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# Lignumvitae Key

Our thanks to Fiesta Magazine for their permission to republish this piece.

DURING THE fourth voyage of Columbus, while navigating in the southwestern Gulf of Mexico, days from the nearest point of land, the ship's lookout sighted a queer spectacle. Dead ahead and adrift was a dugout canoe, square-rigged with sail. The crudely built craft was unoccupied, but laden with cotton clothing from Mexico. On that day in 1503, Columbus and his crew must have marveled



The dock at Lignumvitae

at such a daring feat as tackling the Gulf in an outrigger canoe. Later, the Italian discoverer recorded in his journal that a primitive trade had been long established by Indians between the Yucatan, Cuba, and Florida.

Today, historians and anthropologists believe that the Calusas, who once inhabited the Keys and South Florida, were trading with Cuba and Mexico. In 1971, the State of Florida took steps to learn more about the Calusas by purchasing a flourishing 280 acre primeval tropical island called Lignumvitae Key at a cost of \$1.5 million.

SITUATED A MILE offshore from U.S. 1 between Upper and Lower Matecumbe Keys, Lignumvitae contains an ancient Calusa burial mound that may provide more information in connection with the pre-Columbian history of Florida. Other oddities of the island also await scientific study. Prior to the state's interest, the Nature Conservancy, a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving natural wildlife areas, tried to buy Lignumvitae. Tallahassee stepped in when the Nature Conservancy could not meet the purchase price. The Key was sold to the State of Florida by a Dr. E.C. Lunsford.

During the past six years, Lignumvitae Key has been marked "off limits" to the public. A special scientific council from the University of Miami was supposed to take an "inventory" of the island. To date, the inventory hasn't been taken, but the Key is now open to the public. Interpretive tours are provided in the afternoons for a charge of fifty cents. Visitors must obtain their own boat transportation to Lignumvitae.

STATE ARCHEOLOGISTS are still await-

ing the opportunity to investigate Lignumvitae's burial mounds. In the late 1940's, archeologist John Goggin supervised some preliminary excavations of the Lignumvitae mound. Skeletons removed from the site were reported to be from Indians as tall as seven feet. Burial rituals dictated that the remains be placed in a fetal position and faced towards the east horizon. Dating methods determined that the oldest bones were 900 to 1,000 years old. Goggin concluded his studies by declaring that Lignumvitae and the adjoining islands were

account of nearly 400 French sailors who were marooned by shipwreck and then seized by the Calusas. After imprisoning their captives on a Key near Lignumvitae (probably what is now Indian Key), the Calusas slaughtered all in ritualistic sacrifices.

Escalante Fontaneda was one of the few to be captured who lived to tell about it. At the age of thirteen, in 1545, Fontaneda was sent from Peru to Spain for schooling. A storm caught his ship off the Keys and delivered the young Spaniard into the hands of Carlos, the Calusa chief. Escalante's life was spared when he amused the Indian leader by performing songs and dances. Soon the young aristocrat learned the native tongue of his foster tribe, and when he eventually escaped, he recorded his experiences in a *Memoir* dated 1575.

FONTANEDA ESTIMATED that the Calusa holdings in gold and silver from shipwrecks reached into the millions of pesos. The *Memoir* lists fifty Indian villages that belonged to the Calusa confederation, including one village by the name of Tampa.

To the disappointment of historians and anthropologists, Fontaneda does not offer any hint of the origins of the Calusas. One school of archeology theorizes that they were related to the Arrowcays, an Indian tribe that once inhabited Jamaica and was famous for its unusually tall warriors. Still other scholars, like the well known professor of Florida history, Dr. Charlton Tebeau, think that the Calusas migrated from northern Florida to South Florida.

"All of the latest information we have," said Tebeau, "indicates that the movement was southward. But new surprises are always appearing. For instance, we are finding now that these Indians had more than just a primitive sense of religion, as evidenced by the elaborately decorated ceremonial masks recently found at Marco."

TEBEAU, AUTHOR OF *Man In The Everglades*, also said that the paintings and accounts of Indian culture in seventeenth century Florida left by the French artist LeMoyne may be the key to the Calusas' past. LeMoyne's *Narrative* speaks of an Indian tribe that once occupied what is now the Jacksonville area. According to custom in this tribe, the tallest warrior was crowned chieftain. He, in turn, would select the tallest tribal women as concubines. From one generation to the next, offspring became progressively taller. LeMoyne also observed that the shortest Indians were relegated to a lower caste.

LeMoyne's paintings depict these Indians as being nearly a foot taller than Europeans. Dress consisted of a breechcloth made from Spanish moss or thatched palm fronds. Shark's teeth and seashells provided the material used to make necklaces. One drawing shows an Indian who had wrapped up his hair and pinned it with fish bones and the plumage of flamingos. Tattoos covered him from head to foot. LeMoyne wrote that the Indians were skilled hunters and excellent fishermen.

LIGNUMVITAE KEY is also valued highly for the immense variety of natural features that abound. Along the mangrove shoreline stand several cannon, peeling from the corrosion of many centuries. Behind these rusting sentinels, on higher ground, sits a coral rock house which dates from the turn of the century. A sun-faded sign at the foot of the steps to the house warns: "Know Ye That This Is The Island Kingdom of Lignumvitae."

Jim Stevenson, chief naturalist with the state's Division of Recreation and Parks, reported that the house was re-

cently restored and the state is in the process of acquiring antique furnishings for it.

"At one time the house had a cistern for fresh water and a windmill generator

natural features felt that the doctor's development plans would have led to the destruction of a very unique ecosystem.

PEOPLE WERE NOT the only threat to Lignumvitae's ecology. A former owner



A walk on the wild side

for electricity. We've repaired the cistern and have built a new windmill generator. The state's emphasis is going to be on showing the public how people used to live in the Keys during the early days," explained Stevenson.

IN ADDITION to the Calusa burial mound, another intriguing fact of Lignumvitae is a crumbling coral rock wall. No one seems to know why or when it was built. Some theories have it that during the early sixteenth century, when the Spanish missionaries came to Florida, Lignumvitae Key was the site of a settlement. This purported settlement may have been established as a base for salvage operations and for the purpose of Catholicizing the Calusas.

THE VINE-COVERED walls outline what appears to have been a stockade, where cattle possibly were kept. Near the center of the enclave endures the coral rock ruin of what may have been a soldier's guardhouse. A small grove of Seville oranges thrives near one end of the enclosure.

Indians and Spaniards were not the only ones to seek refuge on Lignumvitae Key. The famous buccaneer, Jean Lafitte, alias the "gentleman pirate" Mitchell, lived on the island in the 1820's. The heat from a generous bounty placed upon his head became too much for him to remain in the usual Gulf Coast hideouts. The foundation to Mitchell's house still occupies the eastern side of the Key, commanding a superb view of the Atlantic Ocean.

WITH THE ARRIVAL of the twentieth century, Lignumvitae Key came under the eye of commercial interests. A rock quarry was started to provide gravel that was used in the bed of Flagler's railroad. Frozen in time and rust, swallowed up by the tropical foliage, stand a rock-crushing machine and an antique bulldozer. Both contraptions look as though they were defeated in some strange battle with the tropical elements. At one time the dozer was to be placed in an American Caterpillar Company museum, had not Lunsford demanded too high a price for it.

Dr. Lunsford regarded the island in terms of development potential and planned to construct a motel-marina complex. In 1968 he tried coaxing Monroe County to extend a causeway to Lignumvitae from U.S. 1. Surveyors' stakes still mark the point where the proposed bridge was to intersect the island a few yards from the Calusa burial mound. A debate began. Those who were interested in the Key's

ALREADY THE ECOLOGY of Lignumvitae Key has offered extremely valuable knowledge to a new branch of science. The ethologist Konrad Lorenz visited Lignumvitae Key to observe the variety and tensions produced in the behavior of organisms that subsist in an environment such as abounds on the key. The result of his studies on Lignumvitae and elsewhere was the well-known work entitled *On Aggression*.

George Avery, a botanist at Fairchild Tropical Gardens in Miami and compiler of a partial catalog (over two hundred species are listed) of the key's plantlife, tells how the Lignumvitae tree is rapidly disappearing in the West Indies because of commercial exploitation and in the Keys because of land development.

LIGNUMVITAE TIMBER was once in great

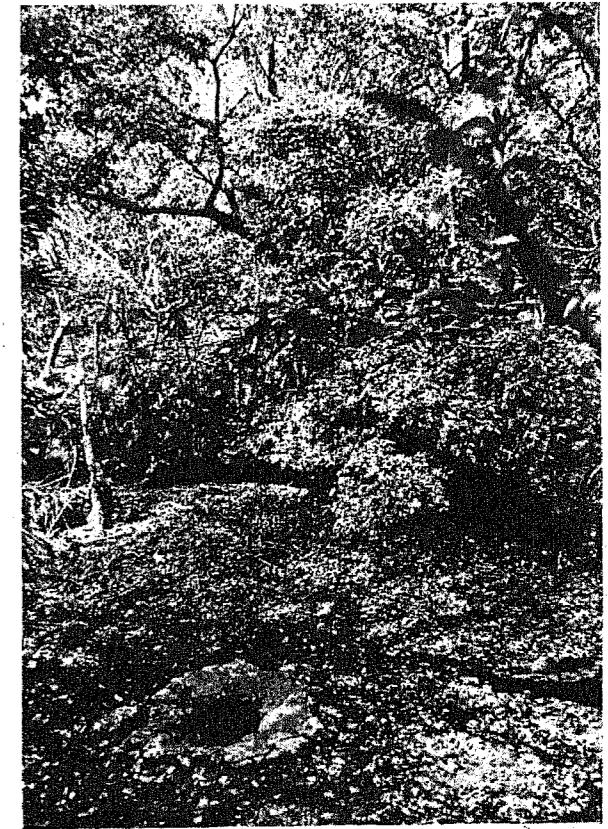
demand because of its durability. A wide range of products from bowling balls to propeller shaft bearings for steamships were made from Lignumvitae. The advantages of its self-lubricating properties and resistance to all wood rotting fungi meant that the wood was especially useful on boats, except for construction of boat hulls. Lignumvitae is so dense that it sinks in water.

In 1508 the European medical profession first prescribed the Lignumvitae sap as a panacea for practically all diseases which troubled man.

"As a matter of history," noted Avery, "there was once the old English custom of drinking liquor from a Wassail bowl that was carved from the wood of Lignumvitae. The celebrant was assured at least a happy evening, if not the year's health that was supposed to result from the spirits absorbing the precious resin."

THE SIZE OF the champion Lignumvitae on Lignumvitae Key belies its real age. The tree looks more like a bush but its age is estimated at over 300 years. Only the Bristlecone Pines of Utah and the huge Redwoods of California top the Lignumvitae in longevity.

Tropical flora of Lignumvitae offer a plethora of native organic remedies. Jamaican dogwood yields a pain-killing narcotic. Wild coffee provides a strong stimulant. Barbados cherry, another plant that migrated to Lignumvitae from the West Indies, is an excellent source of vitamin C. Before the advent of modern medicine, fevers were treated from a concoction brewed from prince-wood bark, and the Key lime acted as a preventative for scurvy. Chicle can be extracted from the sapodilla, and soap from the soapberry plant.



This island's freshwater artesian well

WITH ALL THIS rich variety, there is still something more to Lignumvitae Key. Perhaps the mood of this nearly forgotten island is its greatest attraction. To scientists and historians, Lignumvitae represents a theater where the evolutionary plays of the plant kingdom and the drama of human history have unfolded to a unique plot. A walk through the island's darkened primal forest reveals flitting iridescent butterflies, giant ferns, century plants, canopies of vines, Spanish moss and tropical orchids spreading out overhead. It is as if the curtain of time rises, and the path leads far back into the primeval dimensions of Florida's prehistory.

## A Look At Violence

"I won't let my wife walk downtown alone during the day." -- A Key West police officer.

MY SISTER-IN-LAW, Patty, had arrived for a visit the night before, and I was showing her the sights downtown about noon on a Sunday last month. As we walked along Duval Street in front of the First National Bank, a wild and scuzzy-looking man in his twenties staggered across the street to intercept us.

"Hey, man," he said, "can you spare seven cents?"

"Sorry," I said automatically, and we walked on without slowing down.

"----" he said behind our backs, "you ain't sorry. You just ----ing don't care."

IT WAS CLEARLY not a dangerous situation. It was broad daylight, and there were many people around. Patty is young and adventurous -- she was into sky-diving last year --, and new and strange experiences are interesting rather than threatening at her age, yet her reaction was one of disgust.

"I can see how that kind of thing would upset tourists," she said.

A couple weeks later, I combined an article research tour with showing Patty what downtown nightlife was like. It happened to be one of the nights the Florida Department of Criminal Law Enforcement (FDCL) was more or less inconspicuously roaming the streets, trying to look like tourists, to investigate violence at the request of State Representative Joe Allen.

WE WERE WALKING along Duval a little after midnight between Greene Street and Charles Street, when three scuzzies suddenly closed ranks in front of us, preventing us from continuing on our way.

The spokesman for the group said, "Hey, man, how would you like to buy some really good grass?" He went on with an enthusiastic sales pitch like a late night tv gadget commercial. When he saw

that we weren't interested, he concluded, "I know, you just get high on life, right?" One of his fellow scuzzies said, "They're all right; let them go," and they stepped aside to let us pass.

Patty was frightened at first, then irritated at being accosted.

ONE SATURDAY NIGHT last month a man carrying a pool cue was reportedly "86ed" from Sloppy Joe's and Captain Tony's. Then he allegedly attacked a man on Greene Street at random, hitting him on the head with the pool cue.

Three police cars happened to be in the immediate vicinity. I arrived just as the alleged assailant was being handcuffed and placed in the paddy wagon. The victim was sitting on the sidewalk, bleeding profusely from a scalp wound and vowing vengeance.

A passer-by who had been attracted by the commotion put his fingers into the middle of the wound, slowing the bleeding until a police reservist and para-medic, who had drawn his gun to make the alleged assailant drop the pool cue, could direct his attention to the victim.

A FEW NIGHTS LATER, police responding quickly to a report of a fight on Duval Street near Eaton received this story from the participants in a scuffle that did not have time to escalate into a full-fledged fight.

A man walking on the sidewalk reportedly called three men in a passing van "queers," the men tried to ignore the pedestrian, the pedestrian persisted, words were exchanged, and the van was parked partway into the sidewalk. About this point the police arrived and I took a picture of them separating the opponents.

I SAW MORE street harassment and violence in January than I had ever seen before, but that was partly because I was frequently downtown looking for it to gather material for this article. The majority of those I talked to regarding

Photos and article by Richard Marsh

violence said that there is not an unusual increase in violence, but only an increase in the reporting and general awareness of violence. Street violence is a hot news item, so people read about it and talk about it more, some say.

CITY COMMISSIONER Alton Weekley said, "It is not so much that there is an increase in violence, but there is an increase in reports and an increasingly vocal protest against the violence."

Weekley, a native of Key West, pointed out, as did others, that when the Navy population was greater the high school boys used to beat up sailors for kicks. He said that it was hard to tell if the recent wave of violence is directed specifically against gay people, who have been coming to Key West in greater numbers than ever in the past few years.

But Weekley admitted, "The new people tend to be the victims, and the locals -- generally 17-21 year olds -- tend to be the aggressors."

ELECTED IN 1977 to the City Commission, his first public office, Weekley frequently rides in police vehicles at night to get a first-hand view of police activity and problems.

Jim Camp, president of the Key West Business Guild, which is made up predominantly of gay businessmen and serves in effect but unofficially as the main forum for the gay community in general, said that there is an increase in violence, but no more than anywhere else in the country. He could not say if there was an increase in violence directed against gay people.

"Violence hits gays," he said, "because they tend to be out later in discos and nightclubs."

CAMP SAID that there may be an increase in reports of violence since the Key West Business Guild began distributing printed "incident reports" in early January, encouraging victims of violence

continued on page 41



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Danny "Captain Hornblower" Knowles, your Key-notable, blows trumpet and Flugelhorn.

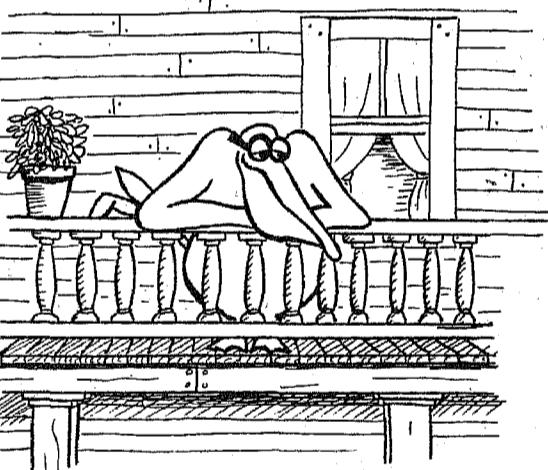
Hank & Judy Aldridge, very well known in the Keys, present a "Down Home Hello" as Hornblower's Host and Hostess. They've been working clubs in the Keys for over 15 years.

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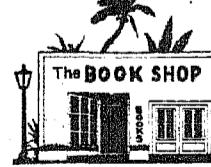
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## PHOTO QUIZ

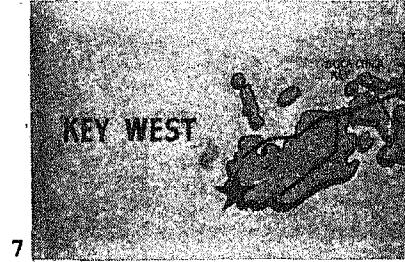
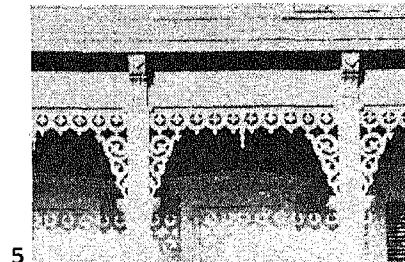
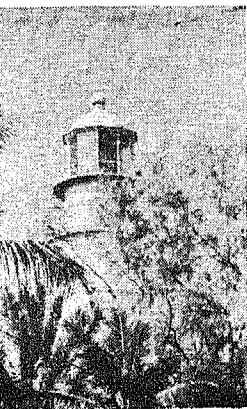
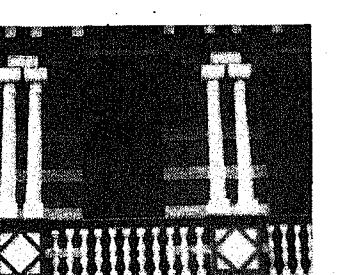
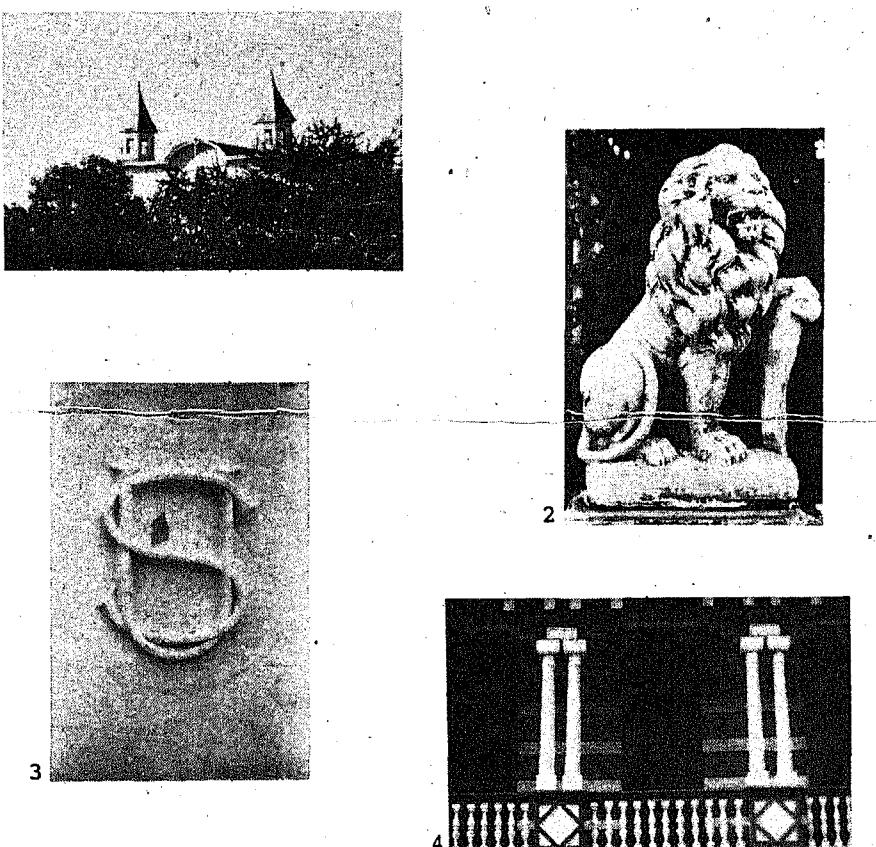
photos by Richard Marsh

The first person to correctly identify all ten of these photos will win \$25. Identification must be specific; that is, name or address of building or intersection nearest to the object pictured, or an otherwise definite description of the object and where it is located. All of these objects are in the Old Town area and can be seen (and were photographed) on or from public property.

All entries must be mailed to:

PHOTO QUIZ  
Solares Hill  
821 Duval St.  
Key West, FL 33040

The winner will be the entry with the earliest postmark having all ten photos correctly identified. In case of a tie, a drawing will be held to determine the winner. Solares Hill staff members and their families are not eligible.



### LAST MONTH'S PHOTO QUIZ

The winner of the January Photo Quiz was J.B. Johnson. Here are the answers:  
 1) Bell at Oldest Schoolhouse, now Knight Realty, at Duval and Eaton  
 2) Lamp at Main Post Office on Simonton  
 3) Gate next to J.W. Steak House on Duval near Southard  
 4) Campbell Building, now Cross Animal Clinic, 617 Fleming  
 5) 916 Windsor Lane -- visible from Windsor Lane and Truman  
 6) Stone fruit pots in front of 534 Eaton  
 7) Lopez Wholesale Liquore, 207 Duval  
 8) Gingerbread on house at 1020 Southard  
 9) Monroe County Public Library, 700 Fleming  
 10) Face carved in stone fence on Windsor Lane at Truman, across from Catholic church

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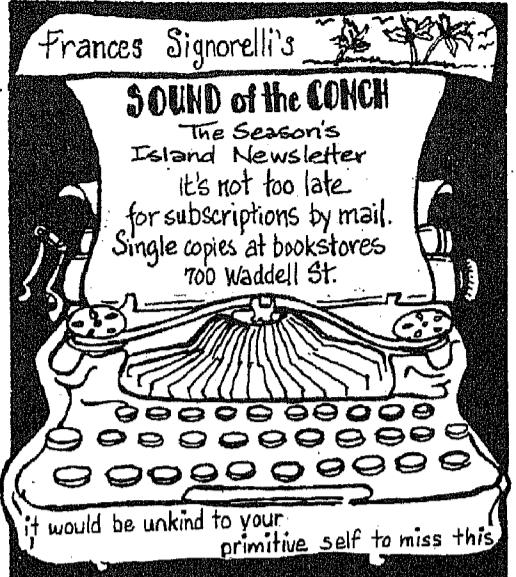
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## Jail Disgrace

NO HELP IN SIGHT FOR MONROE COUNTY JAIL

by Kathleen Hargreaves

### PRISONER ATTITUDES

STATE INSPECTORS say the Sheriff of Monroe County is operating an illegal jail. Prisoners claim that cell disturbances over sub-standard facilities are the only ways to direct attention to their problems. Sheriff William "Billy" Freeman maintains he is powerless to correct the situation. The Board of County Commissioners insist that their coffers are empty, and overburdened Monroe County taxpayers eye California's Proposition 13 with the curiosity of eager converts. The only people without strong opinions on the subject are those who haven't heard about it. Read on.

At issue is a complex and inter-related cluster of prisoner grievances that includes overcrowded cells, lengthy pre-trial incarceration, a lack of exercise or recreational facilities and under-trained or understaffed medical, jail and legal advisory personnel.

The surface controversy involves facilities at the 15 year old Monroe County Jail. Less apparent but just as volatile is the question of potential federal or state lawsuits, operating budgets and the possible transition of jail caretaker responsibilities from the desk of the Sheriff to that of the Commissioners.

### MULTIPLE PROBLEMS

"THE CONDITIONS at this jail have been going on for years, and they're gradually getting worse," Sheriff Freeman explained. "There are a number of major problems here: undersized staff, slow processing of inmates to trial or state penitentiaries, inadequate medical facilities and the lack of any prisoner exercise area. Some of these problems extend beyond the area of human rights and now involve infractions of state or federal laws."

ACCORDING TO FREEMAN, the day-to-day responsibility of operating a jail has fallen traditionally under the jurisdiction of the Sheriff, a custom which dates back to English common law. Freeman said that although the Sheriff must maintain custodial security, hire staff and assume responsibility for the acquisition of institutional supplies, the actual funding for the operation of the County Jail comes under the jurisdiction of the Board of County Commissioners.

"According to the law, the Commissioners provide for the jail facilities and fund it. I have no authority to secure monies. I can only make requests and recommendations to the Commissioners. That I've done in my 1977 and 1978 budgets. The Commission's response was a resolution saying they would not consider requests from anyone for any extra money," Freeman explained in response to growing publicity about the condition at the jail.

UNDERLINING HIS current problems is the January 15 toilet flooding demonstration by the inmates, which sent ankle-deep water throughout the second floor cellblocks and down into the ground floor offices of the Sheriff's Department.

That disturbance as well as earlier ones are considered "pretty good because now maybe they'll do something about the jail," according to one prisoner.

Acting as spokesman for cellblock 2, another inmate said, "I don't particularly go along with the destruction of property, but if that's the only way anyone will listen to us, then that's what we'll do. It seems the only way to get attention around here is to make a fuss."

### OVERCROWDED

THE JAIL, designed to hold a maximum of 86 prisoners, averages anywhere from 95 to 115 persons on an average day. Divided into four long, hallway-like sections approximately 15 feet wide by 80 to 100 feet long, each cellblock contains approximately 22 prisoners. Two other sections house women prisoners and trustees.

Sheriff's Deputy "Fritz" Frederick discussed jail conditions as he sees them. "Some days are worse than others. I've seen guys stuffed in these cells like sardines. It's bad. During the flood, everyone was in their racks (beds), and because there just aren't enough beds for everyone, some of the guys had to lay on the floor during all that mess. We only had one man on duty that night. There's only so much one man can do, and he had his hands full for a while."

"I've got to stay downstairs most of the time, but I try to get up here at least three or four times a shift. The guys are always asking me when they're getting out. They ask about their cases. I've seen guys here five or six months, and they've only seen their attorney once or twice. Some don't even know what they're charged with. Others can't remember or were never told what their bond is. Look at the walls. I've been trying for five years to get a little paint for the place. I'm still trying."

### UNDERSTAFFED

THE UNDERSTAFFING at the jail on the night of the flood is not unusual. Although the state recommends one jailer for every ten prisoners, Freeman contends that his present budget makes that guideline unattainable.

"One jailer for 95 prisoners," Freeman said. "The state says one jailer for every 15 inmates is tolerable. That means we need additional funds for five or six more jailers just to bring us in line on this single criticism. And that's only one of our problems. Right now we've got a jailer dispensing medi-

cine. The state says that's a no-no. Another complaint involves women prisoners. I have one matron on staff. The state requires 'round the clock matrons for our female prisoners. And rightfully so. There's always a possible danger when male jailers have to enter women's cells. These women are totally unattended for two out of three shifts a day. I've requested that the Commission give us funds for three more matrons, but their answer is the same -- no money," Freeman said.

### NO FUNDS

THE SHERIFF contends that his department is doing as much as possible with the money available. Since Freeman assumed office in January, 1977, his budget has increased a quarter of a million dollars -- approximately 14 per cent of his total operating pool. Two officers have been added to the staff. But according to the Sheriff, the major part of that increased budget has been eaten away by inflation, automobile insurance, raises and gasoline. Expenditures for auto insurance alone exceeds \$100,000 per year, according to Freeman. He said that the increases to his budget are a far cry from his original request for an additional \$1,300,000.

### POTENTIAL LAWSUITS

A FORMER MEMBER of the Florida legislature and a past County Commissioner, the Sheriff admits he's in a position to see both sides of the coin.

"I realize the Commission has problems," he said. "They say there's no money and that the taxpayers need relief. That's fine. But I'm sitting here in a worse condition than I was when I came into office, and that problem is one that's not going to go away on its own.

"There are state laws and regulations and federal court decisions that say what's happening here shouldn't be happening. Today's prisoners are smarter. Unfortunately, some of those people upstairs have been in other jails -- some in federal jails. Their complaints involve legal infractions, and one day one of them is going to sit down with his attorney and take the matter into federal court. I'm not an advocate of prison reform. All I want to do is put this jail in reasonable compliance with federal and state laws before there's a lawsuit. Because if that ever does happen, and the judge issues an order to run this jail according to state law, it's going to be ten times as expensive to do it then. And if the Commissioners don't do it then, they'll be the fellows complaining about conditions upstairs, because they'll be the ones up there."

### NO ALTERNATIVE

FREEMAN BELIEVES his repeated and unsuccessful bouts with the County Commissioners leaves him little recourse. On January 22, he met with State Senators Richard Anderson, Bob McKnight, and Vernon Holloway and Representative Joe Allen, Jr., members of the local legislative delegation, and proposed legislation that would turn the operation of the Monroe County Jail over to the County

Commissioners. Freeman cites precedents in a number of Florida counties, including those servicing Miami and Orlando, where correctional institutions are run by the Board of County Commissioners.

"You don't need a law enforcement agency to run a jail," he said. "It's like any other institution, with the added element of security. Florida's Highway Patrol and Marine Patrol don't run their own jail. That's handled by the State Department of Offender Rehabilitation. I suggest that the Commission take back the money offered me in my budget and try to operate the jail on it. I've tried everything else; now I'll try this approach," Freeman said.

### HOLDING THE LINE

THE SHERIFF'S SUGGESTION met with little enthusiasm. When contacted for comment, County Commissioner Curt Blair said he believes that the Sheriff is the "logical person to operate the jail. We don't mind assuming an albatross like the jail if it made any sense. But in my opinion, the operation of the County Jail is -- and should be -- the responsibility of the Sheriff."

Blair also said that the restrictions placed on the Sheriff are no different from those placed on any other official operating a county budget. "We have to hold the line somewhere. At this point, it's necessary to withhold funds for his special requests involving recreational facilities, additional jailers and other related staff.

"I don't think there's any question whether the Commission realizes there's a problem at the jail. We sympathize with the Sheriff. But it's more involved than that. Before we do anything, we have to locate the funds. We also have to decide how much time and how much money we should invest in an obsolete facility. Clearly, the jail is over-utilized. But the Sheriff's budget requests are inconsistent with our request to hold the line on spending. The only option presently open to the Commission and the Sheriff is to make use of limited money reserves at the disposal of the Commission."

CAUTIONING THAT he spoke only for himself on the issue, Blair said there were two main problems at the jail: the Commission's unwillingness to respond to "blackmail by the prisoners" and the actual condition at the jail.

Blair also expressed concern over Freeman's statement that the conditions at the jail could lead to lawsuits. "That's the last thing we want to put into people's heads. I don't think there's any question about whether or not the Commission wants to operate an illegal jail. Of course we don't. But on the other hand I don't think we need to be all that concerned over whether the state is going to shut it down for violations. As long as we demonstrate good faith to them in trying to get the facilities back into shape, I think they'll understand that it takes time and money to alleviate the problem," he concluded.

### LONG WAITS



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**PARADOXICALLY**, it's time and money that are responsible for at least one specific complaint by both the Sheriff and the prisoners. An increasing number of arrests in Monroe County is creating a tremendous backlog of court cases. In many instances, prisoners are forced to wait as long as seven or eight months before their case comes up for trial. Although United States jurisprudence states that a man is innocent until proven otherwise, the Monroe County Jail is filled with theoretically innocent people who are waiting the better part of a year to prove it. Other prisoners remain in jail awaiting trial because they aren't affluent enough to post bond.

**NO RECREATION**  
ACCORDING TO Sheriff Freeman and his deputies, constant confinement breeds tensions that manifest themselves in cellblock fights, strikes and incidents such as flooding, which are injurious to both people and property.

"You should see those guys upstairs. They're white as sheets. They sit in those cages for months at a time -- no sunlight, no fresh air, no exercise. To me it's what breeds all these internal problems. I've suggested to the Commission that immediate help would come if they gave me funds for two more jailers, made the walls behind the jail secure, and allowed us to take a cellblock at a time outside so they could at least walk around and relieve some of their physical tensions. That, too, was denied," Freeman said.

The Sheriff added that he has also investigated other alternatives such as using the old navy brig behind the jail for excess prisoners. But because the structure is wooden, state law prohibits even temporary housing of prisoners there. "We acquired the former juvenile detention home on Stock Island about a year ago. That place is fine for minimum security inmates, but it's too small. It only holds 25 prisoners, and it's filled to capacity at all times," he explained.

**NO TO CETA**  
WHEN ASKED whether CETA employees might provide immediate manpower re-

sources to the jail, Freeman replied, "There's a couple of problems with CETA. First, there's security. We've got to make sure that anyone who handles prisoners is very responsible. Somebody's got to walk them downstairs and watch them. Otherwise they won't come back. And if they don't come back or they cause injury to the citizens of Key West, I'm responsible.

"Another problem is that CETA is only good for one year. We can't afford to train CETA people for a year and then turn around and hire another one. CETA is for training, not for law enforcement. CETA would be excellent should we ever renovate the building. They could be trained as carpenters, bricklayers... but not as law enforcement personnel. CETA shouldn't even be considered in this circumstance. We've got to be very careful who works with prisoners."

Despite their many differences of opinion, both Sheriff Freeman and the Board of County Commissioners agree in principle on one point. Until the improper conditions at the jail are corrected, the problems will never really disappear.

**WHEN YOU HAVE a jail as bad as the Monroe County jail, all the excuses for not fixing it become invalid. Whether the excuse is lack of money, lack of jail staff, unwillingness to respond to blackmail by the prisoners," is short, whatever it is that should be done must be done to remedy the cruel and inhuman treatment we, the citizens of Monroe County, are meting out to the prisoners in the jail.**

**The most important item on the prisoners' complaint list is the need to get some sunshine. There is already a yard. What we need is funding to make the walls behind the jail secure and two guards to oversee these men and women as they get some exercise. This is an emergency situation of the first order, and it is disgraceful that it is not being met. No excuses are sufficient to deny someone sunlight for months on end.**

W.H.

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## The Alpha-Omega Connection

by Helen R. Chapman  
that we've all met the enemy, and it's us.

TURKEY HAD THE right idea (and I understand Iceland still does) when they listed telephones by first name. I don't know if this is still the procedure there, but it was twenty-three years ago when I lived in Turkey. Mustafa Kemal made the use of surnames mandatory back around 1930, but it took a while to catch on. The first name listing was not as confusing as it sounds, because the street address was all-telling. Ali the carpenter would not be living in the same district as Ali the attorney.

FIRST NAMES are important over there. When I first arrived and checked into a hotel, I was asked for my father's first name. This really gave me a turn since I was then married and had a different name from my father's. Also my father was deceased. I learned that this was a further form of identification, needed, I suppose, in case I o.d.'d on raki. I shall never know, however, how they could have identified me through my father's first name.

There's an idea for the phone book, though -- first name listings. Friendlier, too. And who ever remembers anyone's last name? If Mr. Zitser's first name is Aaron, he's got it made. He'll be the busiest lawyer in Connecticut.

JUST AS THERE ARE thousands of Alis in Turkey, there are as many Johns in this country. But unfortunately we can't rely on the street address to help us very much. With our economic structure (or stricture, as the case may be), John the carpenter not only lives in the same district as John the physics professor, but probably next door and making more money.

Mr. Zitser's suggestion for removing this inequity is to scramble or reverse the order of listings every other year. Sure. Just take all those computer cards, toss them up in the air, and however they fall, that's the listing for that year. I don't think the telephone company would go along with any plan so anarchic. Scrambled phone books would certainly fool the enemy, except

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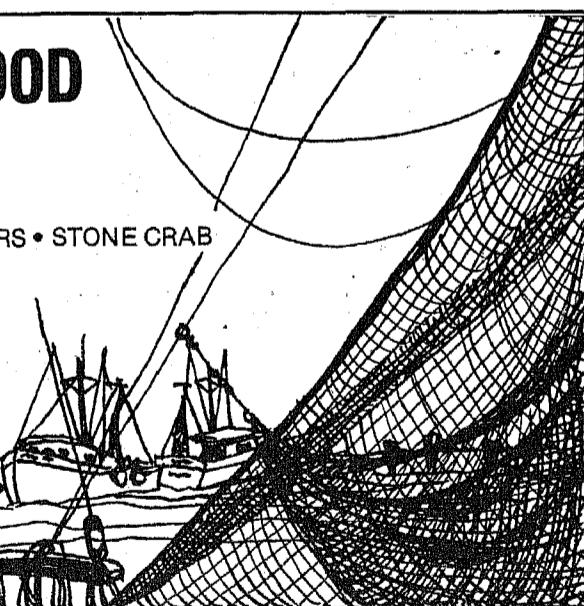
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# OLD ISLAND DAYS

## 1979 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

JANUARY 24 - FEBRUARY 25 ART EXHIBITION - 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. East Martello Art Gallery and Museum. Watercolors by Stan Sharp and Millard Wells. Oils by R. Clay Kent. Sponsored by Key West Art & Historical Society.

JANUARY 30 - FEBRUARY 3 THE GLASS MENAGERIE - Curtain time 8:30 p.m. Presented by the Tennessee Williams Repertory Company at the San Carlos Opera House, 516 Duval Street. Tickets and information at San Carlos Box Office or by phoning 296-9611.

FEBRUARY 3,4,5 SIDEWALK ART FESTIVAL - 9:00 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mallory Square. Sponsored by Key West Art Center.

FEBRUARY 3 PANCAKE BREAKFAST - 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Community Center, Mallory Square. Sponsored by Hi-Noon Lions Club.

FEBRUARY 3 CUBAN SANDWICHES - 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Old Island Patio, Mallory Square. Sponsored by Laureate Delta Sorority.

FEBRUARY 3 LITTLE MISS OLD ISLAND DAYS BEAUTY PAGEANT - Key West High School Auditorium. Preliminaries start 1:00 p.m. Finals 7:30 p.m.

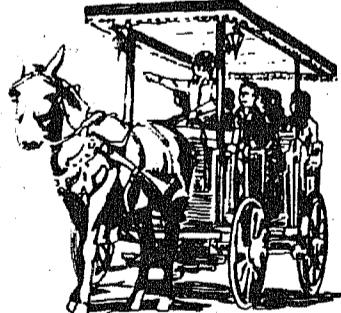
FEBRUARY 3 MONTE CARLO NIGHT - 8:00 p.m. to ? Community Center, Mallory Square. Sponsored by Chapter 33, Disabled American Veterans.

FEBRUARY 4 CUBAN SANDWICHES - 11:00 to 3:00 p.m. Old Island Patio, Mallory Square. Sponsored by Key West Officers' Wives Club.

FEBRUARY 4 OLD ISLAND VAN SHOW - 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sears-town Parking Lot. Public is invited to vote for trophy awards. Sponsored by Florida Keys Van Club.

FEBRUARY 9, 10 HOUSE TOURS - 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Tickets at Hospitality House, Mallory Square. Sponsored by Old Island Restoration Foundation.

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FEBRUARY 10 SCOUTING IS... Scout Show. 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Community Center, Mallory Square. Sponsored by Buccaneer District, Boy Scouts of America.

FEBRUARY 10 KEY WEST DELICACIES - 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Black Bean Soup, Cuban Bread, Baked Goods. Old Island Patio, Mallory Square. Sponsored by Rainbow Girls.

FEBRUARY 11 OLD ISLAND DAYS RALLYE - See Historic Key West. Starts 2:00 p.m. Neisner's Parking Lot, Roosevelt Blvd. Registration 12:00 Noon, Nominal Fee. Sponsored by Ecurie Vitesse Sports Car Club.

FEBRUARY 14-18 ANTIQUE SHOW - 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Community Center, Mallory Square.

FEBRUARY 16 PICADILLO LUNCHEON - 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Duval and Eaton Streets. Sponsored by Episcopal Church Women.

FEBRUARY 17 CONCH CRITTERS - 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Conch Chowder, Conch Fritters, Key Lime Pie. Old Island Patio, Mallory Square. Sponsored by Easter Seal Society for Crippled Children and Adults of Monroe County.

FEBRUARY 17 TROPICAL LUNCHEON - 12:00 to 3:00 p.m. 319 Duval Street. For reservations call Annice Curry 296-5084, or Elena Albury 296-6847. Sponsored by Key West Women's Club.

FEBRUARY 18 CHILDREN'S FAIR - 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Exhibits, Handcrafts, and Food. Old Island Patio, Mallory Square. Sponsored by Children's School of Key West, Inc.

FEBRUARY 18 ROYAL LIPPIZAN STALLIONS OF AUSTRIA - Two performances 2:30 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. Key West High School Stadium. Reserved seats - for ticket information call Key West High School 294-5212.

FEBRUARY 26 - MARCH 3 "THE INDOOR SPORT" - Comedy. Waterfront Playhouse, Mallory Square. Curtain time 8:30 p.m. Box office open 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. February 5. Telephone 294-5015.

FEBRUARY 20-24 "SUDDENLY LAST SUMMER" - Curtain time 8:30 p.m. Presented by the Tennessee Williams Repertory Company at the San Carlos Opera House, 516 Duval Street. Tickets and information at San Carlos Box Office or by phoning 296-9611.

FEBRUARY 22,23 WRECKER'S AUCTION - Viewing 7:00 p.m. Auction 8:00 p.m. NCCS Hall, Duval and Virginia Street. Sponsored by Humane Society.

FEBRUARY 23,24 HOUSE TOURS - 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Tickets at Hospitality House, Mallory Square. Sponsored by Old Island Restoration Foundation.

FEBRUARY 24 KEY WEST TREATS-FOOD - 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Old Island Patio, Mallory Square. Sponsored by Preceptor Gamma Sorority.

FEBRUARY 25 ANNUAL MASSING OF COLORS - 3:00 p.m. St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Duval at Eaton Street. Sponsored by Military Order of World Wars.

FEBRUARY 28 - APRIL 1 ART SHOW - 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. East Martello Art Gallery and Museum. Paintings by John Seery and Byron Slettin. Sponsored by Key West Art and Historical Society.

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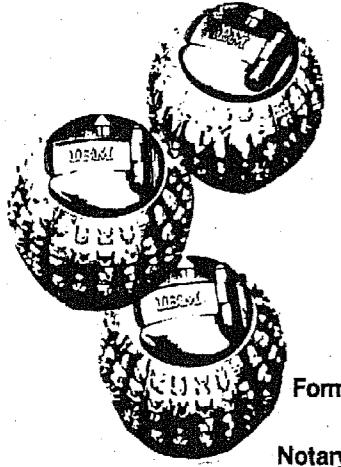
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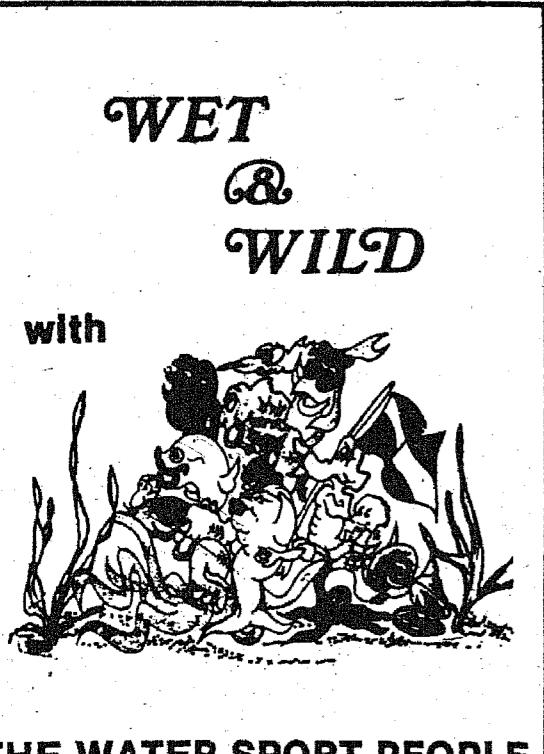
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## The Pelican Revue

written and illustrated by Malcolm Ross  
enough water to wash down its food, and the performance begins again.

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SKIMMERS SKIMMING

THE SHIFT OF SEASONS has brought cool nights and mornings, and there is a noticeable change in the local inhabitants, particularly the avian ones. Those of the human species able to easily throw off the mantle of sleep have been treated of late to a performance by our feathered friends as they forage for food each morning against the background of the rising winter sun.

The cool morning air is refreshment in itself, redolent with the delicate smells of jasmine and orchid trees and virtually free of automobile exhaust. It is prime time for the jogger or anyone else who wishes to fill his lungs with air devoid of pollutants.

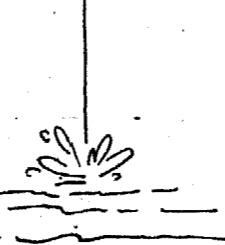
SUNRISE ITSELF is a daily spectacle (although occasionally less than spectacular due to cloud conditions, etc.), and those who have marveled at the painted skies and waters of Maxfield Parrish, feeling that they must have been the product of a too fertile imagination, would likewise marvel at the skies and waters which accompany the local winter sunrises. Missing of course are the classic Greek columns and other architectural features with which Parrish's work is fraught, but many winter skies and ocean views are virtually identical in execution and truly sights to behold. One can only imagine Parrish's languid demi-nude bodies, unless one is fortunate enough to sight a courageous early morning swimmer.

THE REAL SHOW of course is for the birds and by the birds. There are many minor roles in the daily revue, including the slippery cormorant who dips and dives for the unwary fish. His routine, performed primarily under water, is generally lost to the viewer, unless one is fortunate enough to have a good location, close to and slightly above the performer, such as the wooden Reynolds Street pier affords.

After a zig-zag swim beneath the surface of the water, the cormorant emerges with sleepy fish in beak, the fish bristling with spines like a pin cushion, and carefully maneuvers it into its gullet, which must be lined with cast iron to allow passage of the spiny creature. The neck of the bird expands visibly to accommodate the fish, the cormorant dips his head into the water, perhaps as if to take in

from summers spent in northern circuits, is the black skimmer, who makes a brief but handsome performance, particularly on cool mornings and often in large numbers. Outfitted in white and tails fitting for their cousins the penguins, these Sonja Henies of the sea cut a dashing figure as they work the ocean with lower mandible of their large beak extended into the water in search of small fish or other edibles that may be lurking near the surface. Their show is particularly spectacular on a calm morning, as they trace the mirrored surface of the ocean in long lines looking in flight something like a combination between a small private airplane and a large dragonfly. Their act is usually one of the first to appear on the program; it is often brief and showy and generally over before the sun rises.

ONE OF THE oddest performers is the diminutive Sandwich tern, whose sudden



TERN PLOPPING

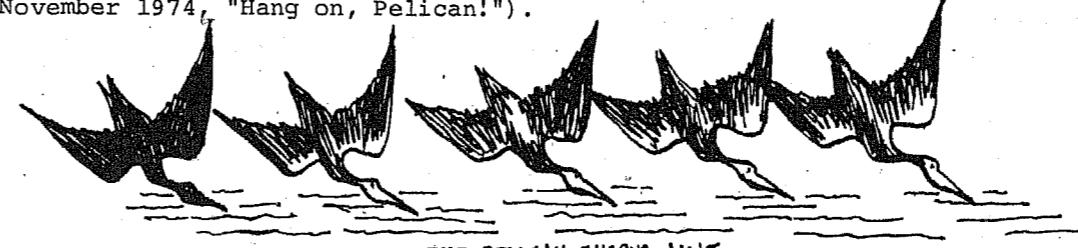
vertical plunges punctuate many performances. The black and white (but mainly white) bird will hover like a small fluttering butterfly and then plop dramatically

into the water as if hurled by some unseen force, only to emerge seconds later with a small fish in its beak. Although an erratic performer with a small part to match its size, it contributes greatly to the show, catching the spectator unawares and adding an element of surprise to the performance.

STAR BILLING of course must go to the pelicans, who have apparently withstood the devastating effects of DDT (see Audubon, November 1974, "Hang on, Pelican!").

in against chest, but the unheard or unseen cue prompts a group of them to suddenly flap their wings wildly (and quite audibly!) as they struggle to become airborne, and then swoop and dip and bank in formation (graceful again) necks suddenly shooting out like spears as they dive into the water all at precisely the same moment and at an angle that would appear to snap their necks!

This precision of movement must be

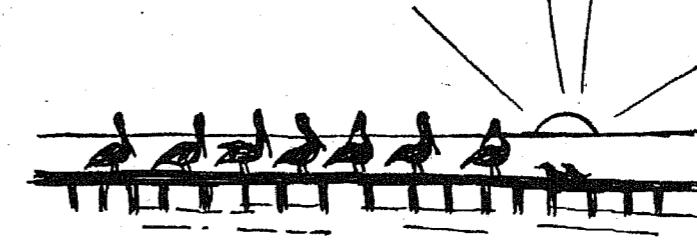


THE PELICAN CHORUS LINE

Now that the noxious chemical has been banned, they have been increasing in amazing proportions. Apparently the pelican has hung on, and this winter for the first time in years (DDT was banned in 1972) pelicans are seen in large numbers in local waters.

Perhaps in gratitude for permission to perpetuate their species, the pelicans have organized themselves into a slapstick chorus line, which forms the major portion of these early morning revues. As many as thirty individuals at a time have been seen in the vicinity of the wooden pier as they participate in the morning spectacle. The pelicans afford comedy relief to the slippery cormorants, plopping terns and graceful skimmers, as they perform singly, in pairs or in their large chorus line routines.

AWKWARD IN APPEARANCE and looking like something from the dawn of time, these modern day pterodactyls swoop and dive in a routine rivaling in precision the old Radio City Music Hall Rockettes. Much of their time onstage seems to be spent floating demurely with beak tucked



"WAITING IN THE WINGS"

rusting remains of the older section of the pier provides a convenient place for

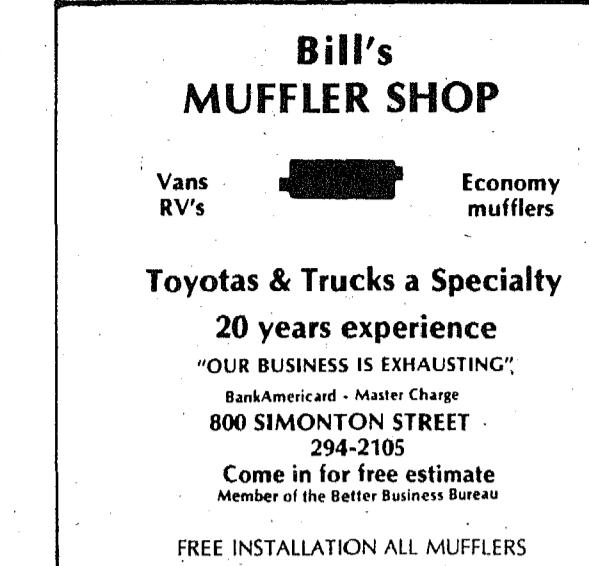
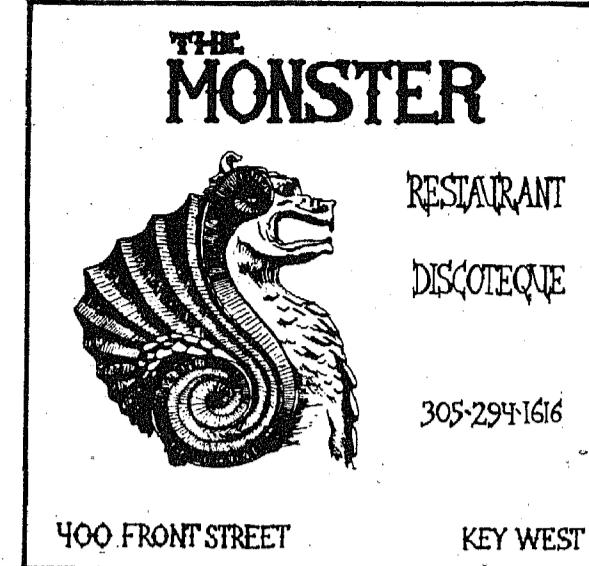
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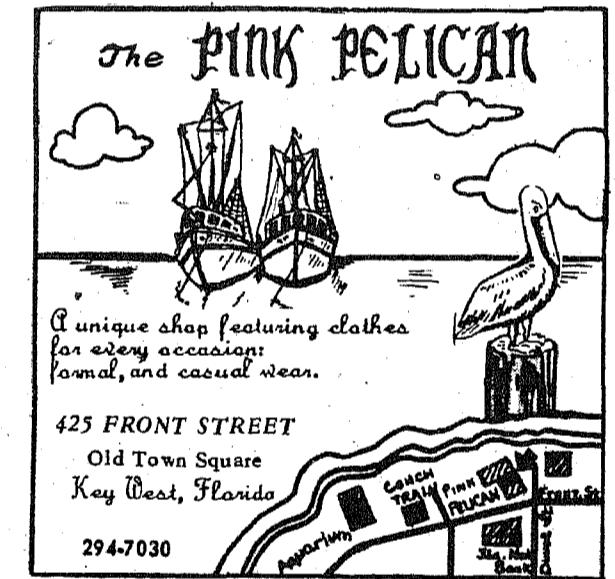
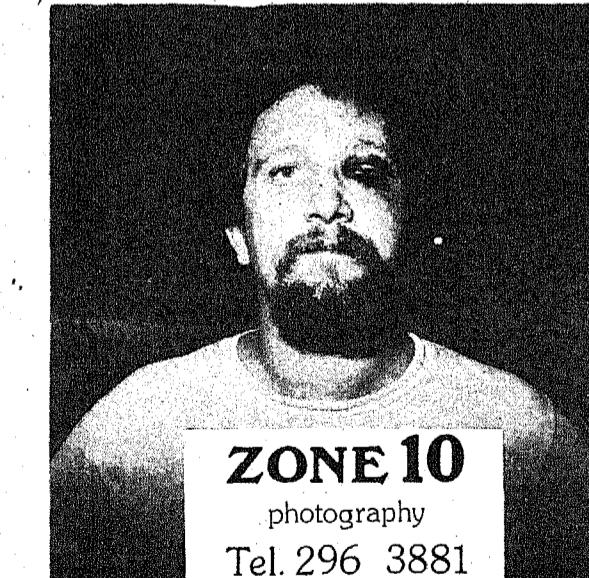


## SOME REMARKS

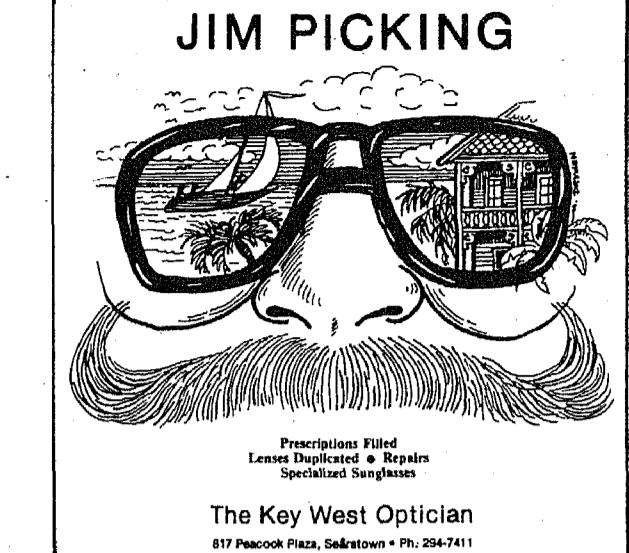
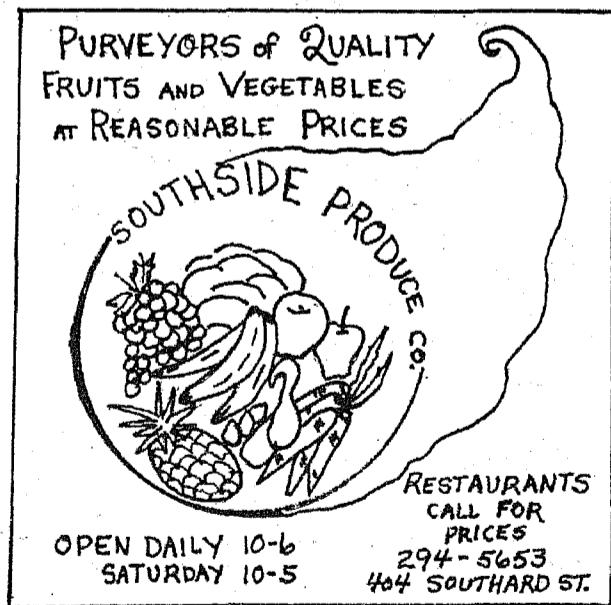
GARETH GIBBS, noted Welsh actor (left), in this country to star in the world



premiere of *The Devil's Pleasure*, is photographed with the play's author, Phillip Burton, at Burton's home in Key West. Burton, an important figure in theatre worldwide, is also the foster father of actor Richard Burton. The psychological suspense thriller, directed by Ruth Clark-Everitt, will be presented at Delray Beach Playhouse February 2 through 10 at 8:30 p.m. with a matinee February 4. Box office phone



On January 4 or 5 the "Bucktail," a very distinctive 10'6" long custom-built solo canoe was stolen from Little Torch Key. It has a distinctive towing eye in the stern. Anyone who sees it should notify police and call collect Stan Becker (305-872-2620).



is 272-1281. After that run, the entire company, plus sets and furnishings, will be transported to the Waterfront Playhouse in Key West for a 4-performance run starting February 12.

### NEW LIFE AT BOCA CHICA

LONG BEFORE the Carter Administration's fiscal 1980 budget was announced January 22, rumors were flying among Key West Navy people that the Naval Air Station (NAS) at Boca Chica would soon get a shot in the arm with the doubling of personnel and more than tripling the number of planes based here.

President Carter's budget revealed the Administration's intention to at least maintain Boca Chica at the present level. The current complement of 18 RA-5C reconnaissance planes, seven F4 Phantom fighters, and four A4 Skyhawk attack planes (bombers) is supported by a little over 2000 service personnel with more than 2500 dependents.

PEAK OPERATION of the NAS in recent years has involved some 200 planes and 10,000 service personnel and dependents. Navy personnel at the now deactivated Truman Annex Submarine Base and small forces of Army, Air Force, and Marine personnel brought the total military presence in Key West to around 20,000.

The civilian population of Key West being 25-30,000, the removal of 15,000 military personnel and dependents had devastating and far-reaching effects on the economy, housing, school facilities, utilities, social services, and many other aspects of government services and social conditions.

THE RETURN of a few thousand military people, besides raising the total population significantly, would support hopes or fears that the NAS, which is on the government's "hit list" of bases under consideration to be deactivated, may be on its way back to something like full operation.

We have pieced together reports from

several unofficial but knowledgeable sources that indicate a strong probability that 95 planes and some 1500 to 2000 Navy personnel and dependents will be gradually moved into Key West in the near future.

ENSIGN DEBBY HARLOW of the Navy's Public Affairs Office would only confirm that this movement is a possibility that is being considered.

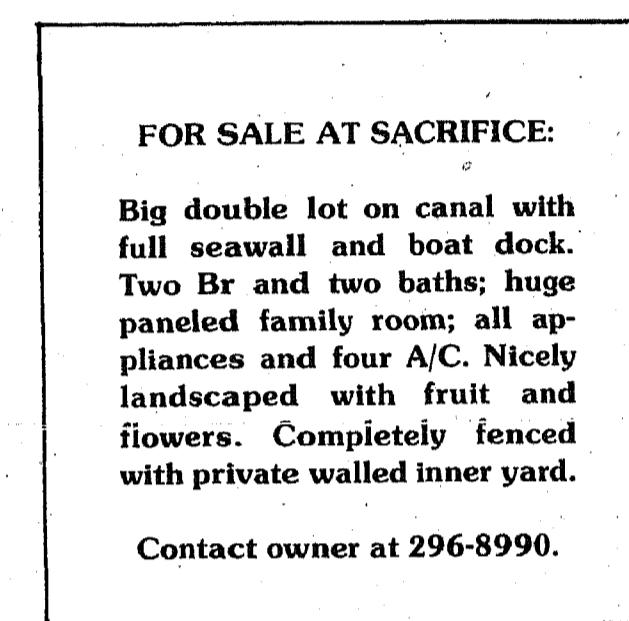
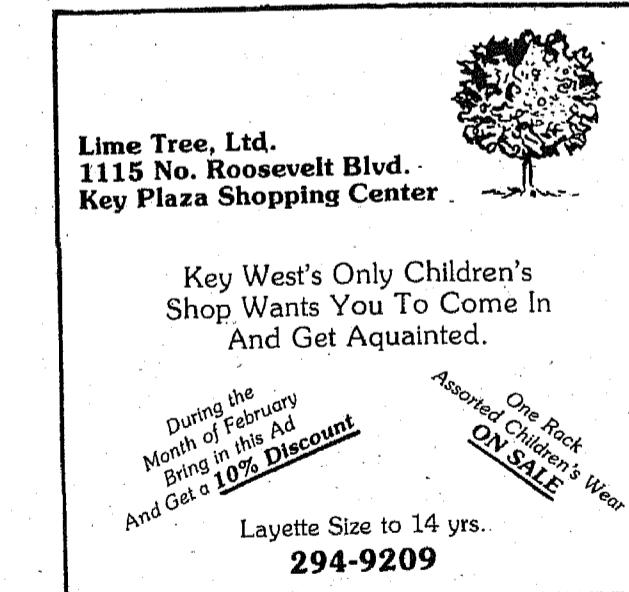
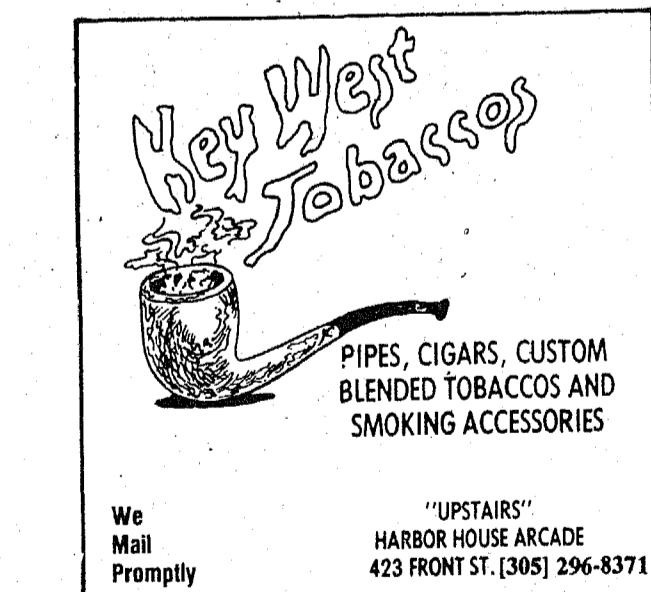
Fighter Squadron 101 (VF-101) was moved from Key West to Oceana, Virginia, a few years ago. The seven Phantoms and four Skyhawks that are here now are a detachment of VF-101.

Our sources say that the return of the entire VF-101 squadron from Oceana, and the assignment of a Replacement Air Group (RAG) from Miramar, California, are in the planning stages. (A RAG group provides final training to pilots just before they are deployed on aircraft carriers.) In addition, an F4 flight simulator, which is described as a relatively major operation, is being considered for installation here.

RECONNAISSANCE SQUADRON RVAH-6 was decommissioned last year, and over 200 personnel were reassigned elsewhere. The RVAH planes are becoming obsolete and will be phased out soon, but they will be replaced with a new plane, so it appears that reconnaissance squadrons will remain in Key West for some time to come.

Key West has the greatest number of clear flying weather days of any base and is ideal for maintaining training schedules, so it also appears that training squadrons will continue to be based here. Also, it is not unusual for other operational squadrons which fall behind in their training to be temporarily deployed here in order to catch up on their training schedules.

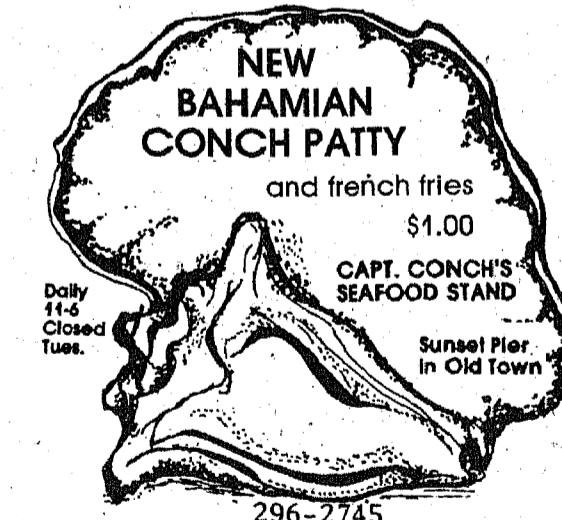
WHEN THE Truman Annex Submarine Base was beginning to be phased out several years ago, the Navy indicated that the reduction in submarine personnel would be at least somewhat offset by the upgrading of the NAS and addition of per-



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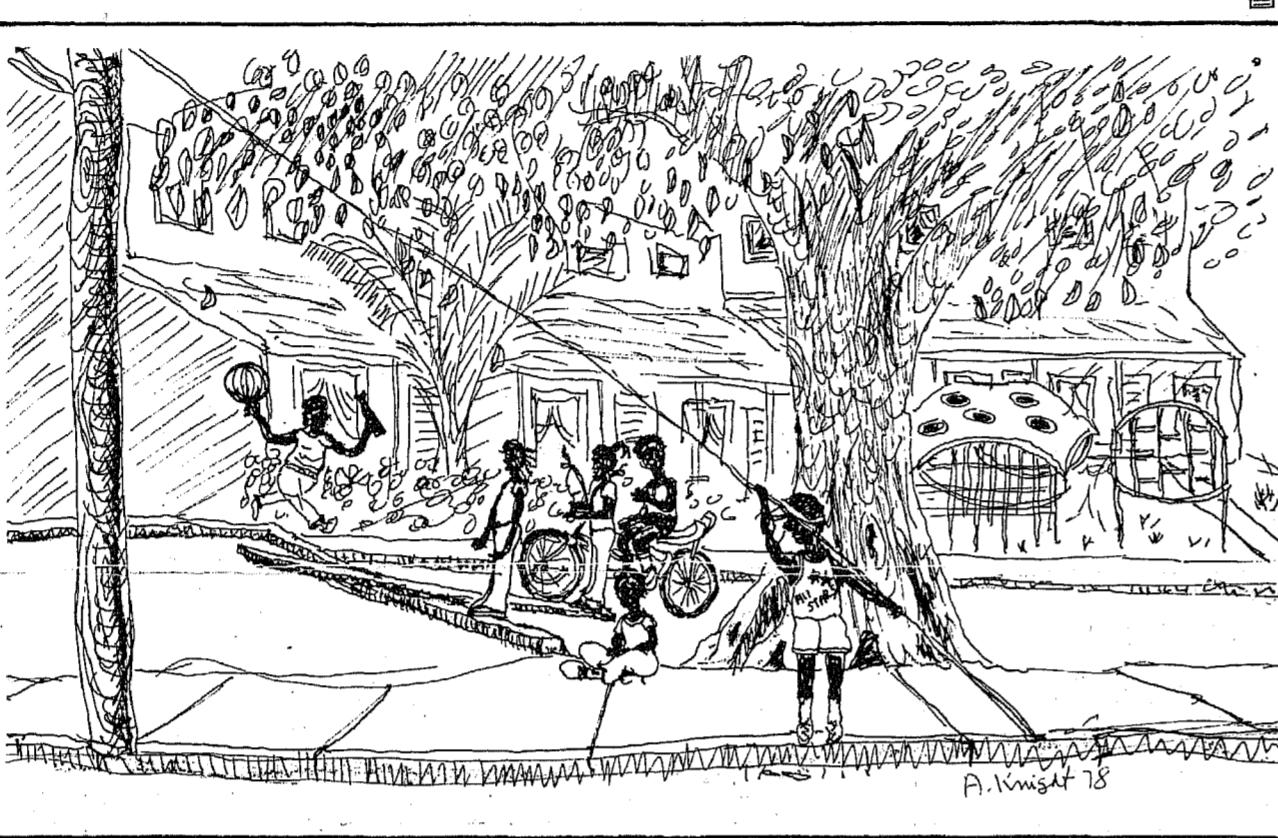
Then the NAS became one of the subjects of review on the Shore Establishment Realignment Study -- the "hit list."

Some Key West residents have supported the maintaining and upgrading of the NAS for economic and national defense reasons. A vocal minority of "Fly (Away) Navy" advocates, consisting largely of Tamarack Park residents who homesteaded close to the NAS and then complained about the noise of jets taking off and landing, seemed at one time to have a disproportionately effective influence on the Navy's thoughts about deactivating the NAS.

WE FEEL that Congressman Dante Fascell

accurately reflected the opinion of his constituents when he recently told the Navy to fully utilize the NAS or close it. The present stagnant condition of the NAS does the economy no good, and the uncertainty of its status makes orderly future planning impossible, which was made glaringly obvious during the recent Utility Board debate about how to provide enough power for an unknown number of future residents.

The Navy evidently considers the Boca Chica NAS to be of strategic importance for national defense, and we agree with those Key Westers who feel that a strong Navy presence here is good for both the country and our community. We hope that the reports are true that the NAS will soon be upgraded.



A LOOK AT VIOLENCE continued from page 26 to make reports to both the police and to the Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber of Commerce has agreed to collect the incident reports.

Camp said that one of the solutions to violence is for the victims to sign complaints and follow through on court action. He also said that the best way to deal with harassment is to ignore it, although in cases where it is practical people should stand up to harassers. He advocates learning self-defense methods and carrying Mace.

THIS RECENT incident of standing up to harassment was reported by a tourist:

Four hoodlum types in a black limousine called three straight men walking along Duval "faggots." The three pedestrians ignored the harassment at first, but when they turned onto Greene Street and the men in the car persisted, one of the three, a visitor from Arkansas, decided he had enough, and harassed them back.

The hoodlums parked the car on Greene Street and got out, but a police car was also parked nearby, and two of the men from the car became involved with the police in a discussion about parking. The Arkansan invited the other two hoodlums around the corner and "trashed" one. The other hoodlum and the other two pedestrians did not become actively involved.

ONE PERSON ASSOCIATED with the gay community said that some violence experienced by gays is the result of gays being careless about walking alone, late at night, in neighborhoods known to be dangerous. Gay waiters, returning from work late at night with cash tips, are especially vulnerable because of their money and their frequently unaggressive appearance. The man I talked to, who is straight, and 6'6" tall, is often asked to accompany friends home for protection.

GIL RYDER, chairman of the Monroe County Crime Commission, an organization of citizens concerned with crime prevention, made this written statement in response to our questions:

"I do not have any statistics on the casual violence in Key West -- but there

is too much of it, and there has been in the 7 or 8 years that I have been living here.

"Some of the violence is purely anti-homosexual, but most of it is not.

"A homosexual who looks like a prize fighter is not likely to be assaulted. Most of the violence is directed against those who appear least able to fight back: women, old folk, drunks, men of frail or feminine appearance, and individuals alone on an empty street may be attacked by a group.

"When the submarine base was active, the sailors were the victims. Now that the sailors are gone, the hoodlums spread their sadistic favors in more democratic manner. Anyone who appears vulnerable is a potential victim."

THERE IS NO QUESTION that at least some violence is directed at gay people for no other reason than that they are gay, but there may be reasons behind that reason.

There is some feeling that Rev. Morris Wright's call to arms, and similar demonstrations of religious and macho fervor, may have caused some of the recent violence.

REV. WRIGHT, Pastor of the Key West Baptist Temple, appealed to "good old fashioned guts and morals" and "a hundred good men" with baseball bats to beat up gays and other street people on Duval Street. Since his appeal was published as an advertisement on the religion page of the *Key West Citizen* last month, letter writers to the *Citizen* have either supported his stand with quotes from the Bible or denounced his self-righteousness and incitement to violence. Opinion has been about equally divided whether Wright is carrying on the work of Jesus or violating Jesus' teachings. Bible quoter supporting Wright seem to have missed "Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord" (Romans, XII:19) and "He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone" (John, VIII:7).

ANOTHER REASON why gays are singled out for harassment and attacks was proposed by a woman who feels she is being evicted because she is straight by gays who

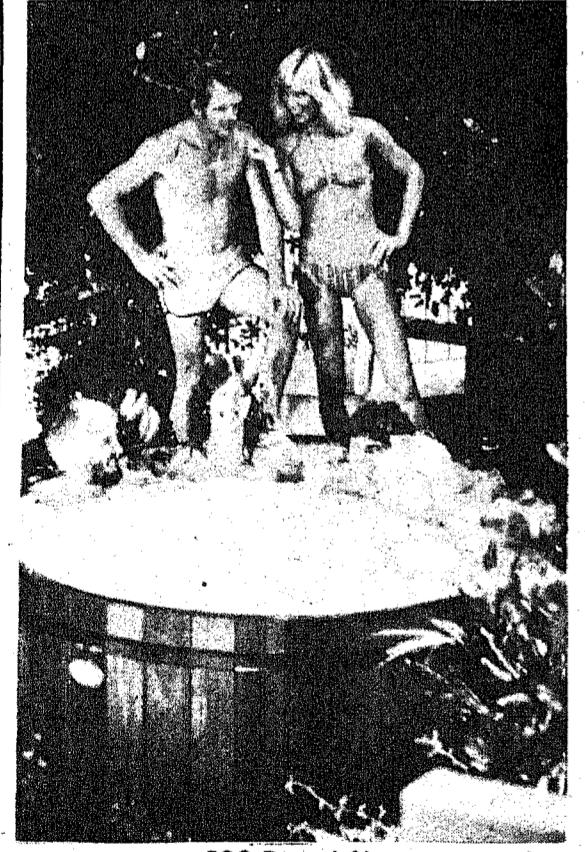
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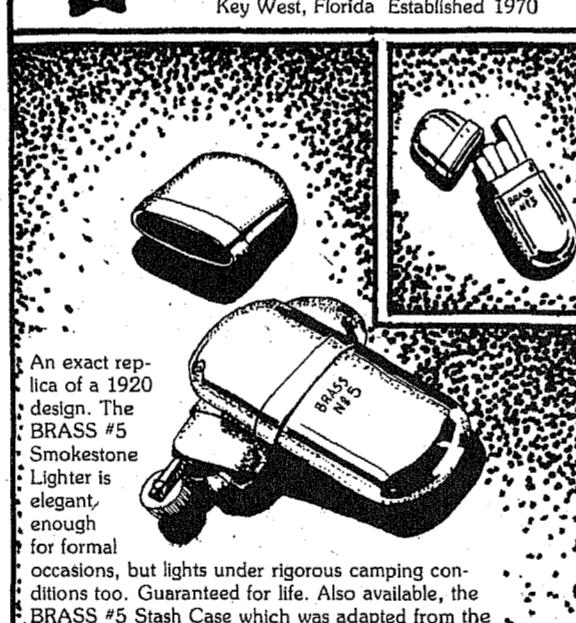
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have just bought the house she lives in. She says that there is resentment both among renters who have their rents raised by new owners, who have paid a fancy price for a run-down house, and among natives whose taxes are drastically increased by the inflated real estate prices. Some old families are being forced to sell their homes and leave Key West, because they cannot afford the taxes.

The most visible of the new, rich home and rental property owners are the gays, and so economic frustration is translated into violence -- a reaction to a situation for which there appears to be no solution.

THIS REASON FOR violence directed against gays was also given by a gay who came here from Provincetown about seven years ago. He sees Key West becoming another Provincetown in another ten years.

Another reason for straights attacking gays, according to one man, is to externalize a deep-rooted sexual identity crisis. He cited the case of a man who came to Key West on a bachelor fling just before he was to be married. Suddenly he realized that he felt comfortable in the gay atmosphere and that his previous antagonistic feelings against gays were only a reaction to his own inner conflict.

THE SITUATION in Key West seems to be this: there is too much violence, whether it is more than usual or only a return to a normal level after a lull or just made more visible because of increased attention. The violence is largely directed by local people against new people, not necessarily gays, although there is some directed specifically against gays. Along with the violence, there is an uncomfortable amount of panhandling, verbal abuse, harassment, and downright unpleasantness on the streets in the downtown area.

The violence and unpleasantness make the streets uncomfortable for residents and tourists alike, driving away the tourists who are the life blood of the Key West economy and denying residents the free use of the streets of their town.

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#### SOLUTIONS

PROPOSED SOLUTIONS to the problems fall into two categories: what the government can do, and what the citizens can do.

Representative Joe Allen called on the Florida Department of Criminal Law Enforcement to investigate violence in Key West after a meeting January 22 between himself and State Senators Bob McKnight, Vernon Holloway, and Dick Anderson and their constituents in Monroe County.

CITIZENS PLEADED with the state legislators to abolish Key West as a city. This was not a surprise, since there has been much discussion about this subject for several months. But what shocked the legislators was the emotional description of incidents that were presented as evidence of the inability of a corrupt city government to operate the city in the best interests of its citizens. The inability of the city police to control street violence and harassment was cited as one reason why the job of police protection in the city should be turned over to the Monroe County Sheriff's Department.

One thing the government can do to stop street violence, according to some, is to abolish the city, or at least turn the police work over to the sheriff.

Opposing that view is the contention by some that the city police are doing as well as can be expected under the circumstances. Although the city provides a budget for 54 policemen, there are currently fewer than 30. With days off, vacations, illness, and time spent at the station writing reports, the number of policemen on the street at any one time is most likely to be only three or four.

MANY PEOPLE would like to know why the police force is at half its budgeted strength and what is happening to the money in the City's coffers designated to pay the police we don't have. Many say that even 54 policemen is too few for Key West's population, especially during the winter.

When citizens appeared at a City Commission meeting last month to ask what

the Commission intended to do about street violence, they were told that violence was a police problem and were directed to confer with City Manager/Police Commissioner/Public Safety Director Ron Stack and Police Chief Jimmy James. The Commission itself was not the proper body to which to address the question, said Mayor Sonny McCoy, since it is a legislative body, not a police force.

McCoy later clarified his position.

Those with complaints should confer with Stack and James and explain the problem to them. Then Stack and James should present their recommendations to the City Commission, which would then direct Stack and James to take whatever action the Commission felt was necessary. Also, if it appeared that new ordinances were needed to solve the problem, the Commission could enact those ordinances.

IT IS IN THE MINDS of some people that an earlier bar closing would get people off the streets earlier and stop some violence: close the bars at midnight or 2 a.m., for example. Bars in Key West can stay open until 4 a.m. by city ordinance. Bars in Monroe County outside Key West are not required to close at all.

No good, according to those close to street action. Most of the trouble comes between 8 p.m. and midnight. After that there is some problem with drunks, but they are fairly easy to handle. The businessmen who depend on nightlife trade or on people who come to Key West for its nightlife would raise a howl of protest.

ONE NIGHT late in January, police responded to citizen outrage concerning violence by flooding the streets with police officers from Sheriff Billy Freeman and Police Chief James on down to patrolmen. "There ain't no one out there under sergeant," one bar owner said when I asked how things were. "Nothing's happening."

A periodic, unannounced show of force, a larger police force -- even larger than the city's budgeted 54 --, and education of local residents and appeal to their pride in their home town are solutions

continued on page 44

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continued on page 44

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## KEY WEST'S HOROSCOPE

BY EMMA CATES

Sun in Aquarius, after the 18th in Pisces  
Venus in Capricorn  
Mercury in Aquarius, after the 14th in Pisces  
Saturn in Virgo, retrograde  
Jupiter in Leo, retrograde  
Mars in Aquarius  
Uranus in Scorpio turning retrograde on the 23rd  
Neptune in Sagittarius  
Pluto in Libra, retrograde

notoriety. This could draw more attention, via the media, to the violence problem in Key West, but also it could draw a great amount of attention to the water situation in our town. Key West continues in the news regardless of whether the news is positive or negative. Fame is part of Key West's aspects at this time.

The Full Moon on February 12, 1979, will be in the sign of Leo. This makes a strong aspect to Venus in the chart of Key West. This will be a great month for all social affairs, and all types of celebrations. These vibrations should give our Old Island Days activities a great boost this month.

The planet Uranus will be retrograde on February 23rd, and continue retrograde until the end of July. It forcefully conjoins with the planet Mars in the chart of Key West in the sign of Scorpio. The violence that the city has been experiencing in various forms will have a tendency to repeat itself during this transit. Much discipline and control will be required to cure this problem.

The New Moon on February 26 will coincide with a total eclipse of the sun, in the sign of Pisces. This aspects our Moon in the 10th house sector of the chart. Again, the image of the City will be getting widespread attention and/or

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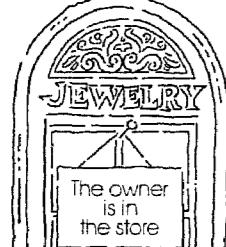
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A LOOK AT VIOLENCE continued from page 42 offered by Larry Rogers, Executive Vice President of the Greater Key West Chamber of Commerce.

LOCAL PEOPLE have to realize that their economic well-being depends on tourism, Rogers said, even if they may not work directly in a tourism-related job. Key West is more prosperous as a whole now, and everyone is better off because of a higher standard of living brought by the influx of tourist dollars. Key Westers' concern about the reputation of their home town should help cut down on the violence. The Chamber of Commerce is taking the message of local pride and dependence on the tourist dollar into the high schools in an educational program designed by Chamber president Tim Miller.

IN HIS RESPONSE to our questions, Gil Ryder also proposed solutions. Here is the rest of his statement:

"There are, of course, solutions to the problem. Unfortunately, the solutions are not popular.

"Government must reorder its priorities. The police department must be brought up to strength and then enlarged, even if it means that other services may be discontinued. Police and Fire protection are primary. Crime control is more important than weed control. We must be willing to live with dirty streets or clean them ourselves in order to release funds for the essential need of police protection. In the meantime, we might protect ourselves by never walking alone. Walk the streets of Key West in groups only, especially after dark.

"KEY WEST is a tourist town -- and the tourists are also victims of violence, as are the tourist businesses.

"A city sales tax on hotel-motel accommodations, bar and restaurant food and drink might well bring in the money necessary to give us an effective police department.

"There are many solutions, but no one likes them.

"We'll accept the solutions when we finally realize that we must bite the bullet or stop one.

#### OUR POSITION

THE PROBLEM of street violence is widespread, and its causes are many, so the solutions should be accordingly far-reaching and varied. A concerted effort on the part of businessmen and residents, natives and newcomers, citizens and government officials is needed to restore the comfortable, pleasant, and friendly atmosphere that is Key West's greatest attraction.

No additional laws are necessary if the present laws are vigorously enforced.

More police are needed than we presently have. The force should be brought up to its budgeted strength without delay, and increased beyond that if 54 police-men are not enough.

FOOT PATROLMEN in uniform are a necessity for safe streets. The sight of a uniform and the knowledge that a walking policeman's ears, unobstructed by closed car windows and the sound of an engine, can pick up a strange sound and quickly bring a searching flashlight to the scene of trouble is a sure deterrent to crime. Police-citizen relations are more cordial when the policeman is the man who smiles and says hello and calls you by name than when he is only seen at a distance driving by in a car.

WITH THE POLICE Department at half strength, the few policemen available need the mobility of vehicles. When the department is more fully manned, putting patrolmen on the street should be a priority. In order to attract and hold qualified policemen, the city is going to have to find the money to better the salaries and working conditions for the police.

We feel that for greatest efficiency and economy the city and county police agencies should be consolidated under the sheriff's department. It is inevitable. Perhaps serious attention should be given to doing it now.

AN OUTSIDE INVESTIGATION by the Attorney General or the Governor's office should be launched into citizens' allegations of favoritism toward prominent local people accused of crimes.

Leadership at City Hall is conspicuously absent. We do not expect the Commissioners to patrol the streets with guns, but we feel that the Commission, individual Commissioners, and especially Mayor McCoy were disappointing in their lack of concern at the January meeting when citizens complained about violence.

In the "weak mayor" manager-commission form of government that Key West has, Mayor McCoy has no more authority than any other Commissioner, except when the Commission delegates him to perform a specific duty, like sign a contract. The City Manager, Ron Stack, is supposed to run the city on a day-to-day basis. But traditionally, when a citizen has a problem or a complaint, he goes to the mayor. Mayor McCoy has taken it upon himself, with the acquiescence of the rest of the Commission, to almost single-handedly clean up the appearance of Duval Street by obtaining federal grants.

WE SUGGEST that Mayor McCoy, as the most visible and recognizable leader in city government, take as strong an interest in making it possible for residents and tourists to enjoy Duval Street as he did in making it look good.

McCoy or any Commissioner should initiate Commission action to order the police chief to bring the police force up to full strength and to ask the City Attorney to investigate the status of the volunteer police reservists to see if they can legally be more fully utilized to patrol on foot.

WE FEEL that the Chamber of Commerce program to educate high school students

continued on page 46

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SALADS	
Nicoise	2.25
Avocado Stuffed with Shrimp	4.50
Bird of Paradise (with Fresh Fruit, Cottage Cheese or Yogurt)	3.75
Seafood Salad	4.25
Stuffed Tomato (with Tuna Salad)	3.50
(with Shrimp Salad)	4.25
Avocado, Tomato and Onion	2.75
À la Carte Salad	1.25

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Mushroom & Mozzarella	3.00
Cream Cheese & Scallions	3.25
Omelette of the Day	3.25

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Tuna Salad	2.50
Reuben (Open face)	3.50
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Finger Steak (Sirloin on Garlic Bread)	4.25
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NOTES AND ANTIC-DOTES continued from page 11

like mules in the animal realm -- they are hybrids and can't reproduce their kind.

The ladies and gentlemen of plumage are kept in separate quarters until the mating session is due. The hen is into women's lib. She makes the overtures, Leap Year or not, calling to the male, crouching and fluttering her wings. The male is separated by a wire slide in the double breeder cage. If he is in prime and fit condition, he begins to sing "lustily," as one reference said with unconscious punning. Then the barrier wire is removed and the mating proceeds.

WE WITNESSED only one St. Valentine's Day courtship. Duchess, a canary of Cuban lineage and very warm-blooded, said Mrs. Michalk, was wooing her cage-mate with coy posturing and very dainty, feathertouch flirting technique, which more than did justice to the Southern Belle tradition.

Pinkie, the selected male, did not seem in the pink of condition for romance, and did not even twitch a pinion.

Perhaps Pinkie was reserved in his behavior, for even a bird bridegroom could be hesitant with strangers observing the overture to nuptials. Duchess, however, was a shameless hussy in performance.

THERE WERE THREE rare and curious-looking canaries in the collection, identified as Closters. The birds sported a feathery fringe on top of their heads. The feathers encircled the crown and hung down in bangs to just over the eyes. The effect was laughable like a Dutch Bob fright wig worn by one of the comedians in The Three Stooges movies.

AS PALMER AND I left the premises, a trained parakeet named Pretty Boy whistled loudly and called, "Hello, baby! Give me a kiss!"

I hopped out to the car all a-twitter.

A LOOK AT VIOLENCE continued from page 44

about the economic repercussions of violence is a good idea, but the ideal person to appeal to the students and to the community at large is the nominal and traditional head of city government -- Mayor McCoy.

WE ALSO SUGGEST that the mayor launch a personal investigation into the allegations made at the legislative delegation meeting January 22, especially those concerning corruption in city government, laxness on the part of city police, and the causes of street violence.

A PERSON'S SAFETY is primarily his own concern. The police can help assure one's safety, investigate crimes, and catch criminals, but they are frequently hampered by a lack of cooperation on the part of the victim of a crime, who may decline to prosecute or sign a complaint. Victims should vigorously pursue prosecution.

Witnesses should speak up, and people should get involved. The man who helped staunch the pool cue victim's bleeding is a good example of citizen involvement. Another graphic example occurred New Year's Eve, when some revelers began to pull down young palm trees on Duval Street. The crowd spontaneously booed the rowdies, and they stopped immediately. Peer pressure is a powerful force.

CIVIC AND RELIGIOUS leaders are expected to come up with more positive reactions than the City Commission's "do nothing" attitude and Morris Wright's unholy, irresponsible, and inexcusable crusade of violence.

WE WOULD NOT LIKE to see people deny themselves one of the pleasures of living on a warm, sub-tropical island, which is to take a leisurely stroll during the day or evening along flower-and-tree lined streets. But let's use common sense and not leave ourselves vulnerable to trouble due to the lateness of the hour, walking in dangerous neighborhoods, and perhaps a reduced ability to navigate.

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A LOOK AT VIOLENCE continued from page 44

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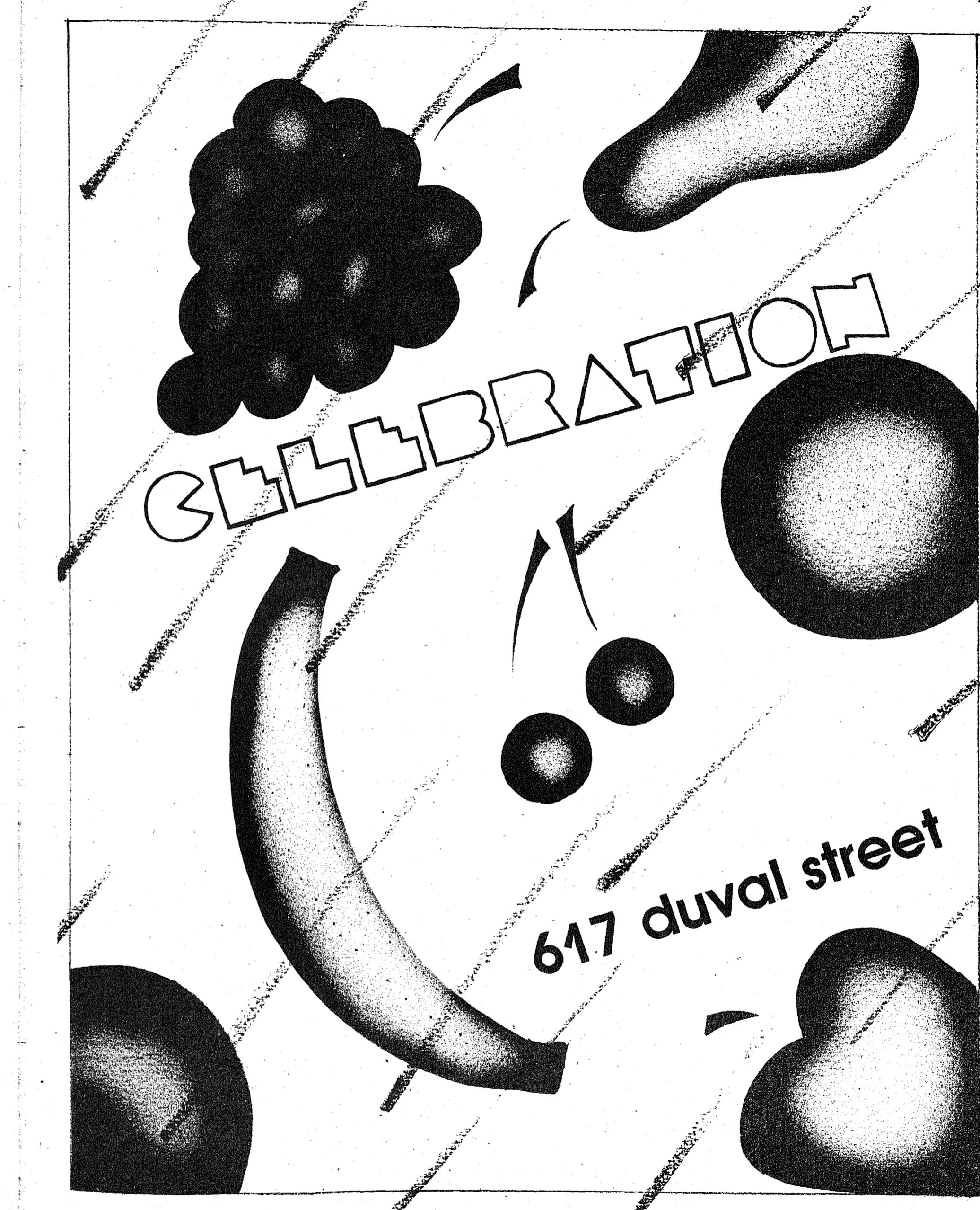
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