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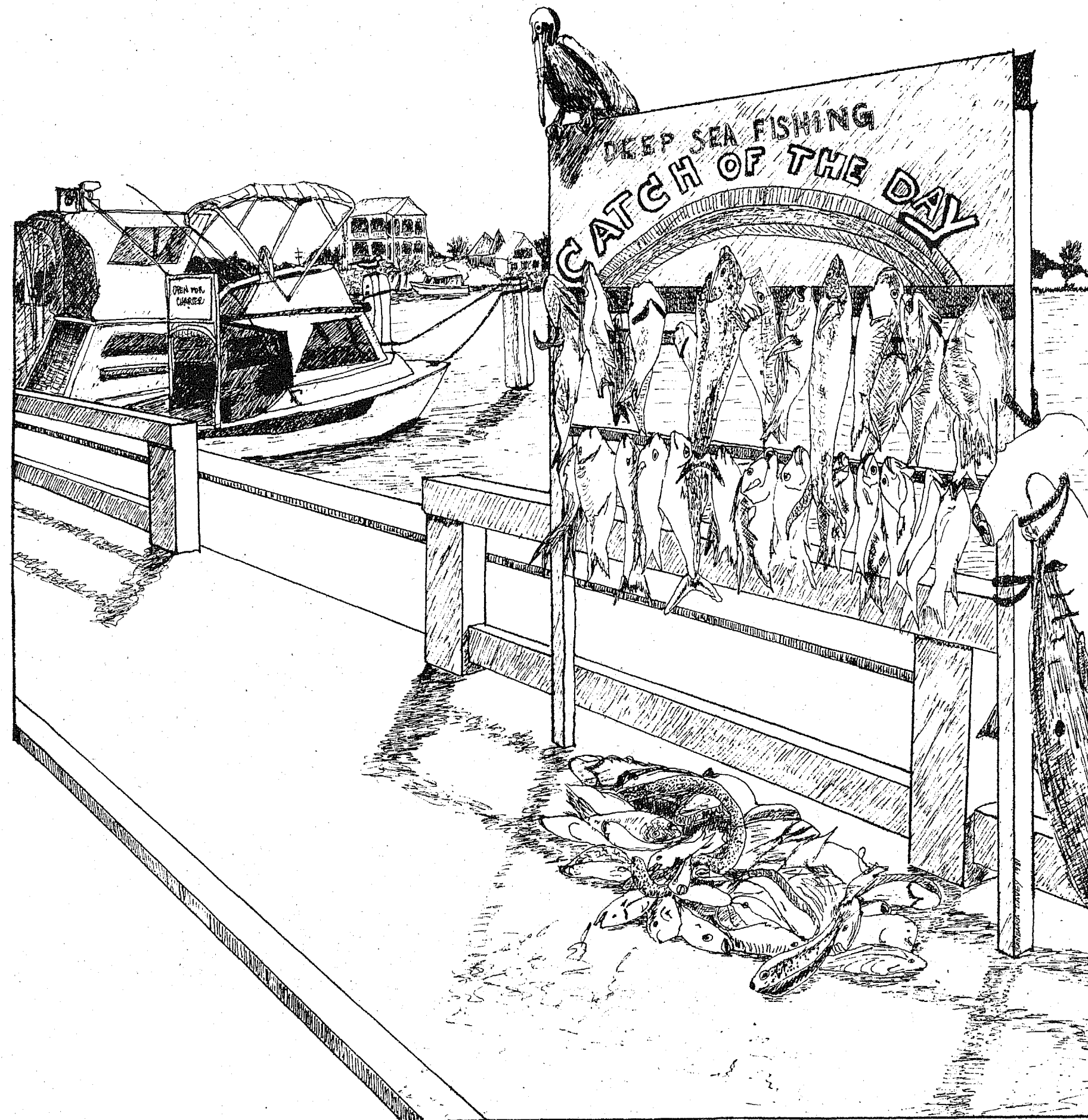
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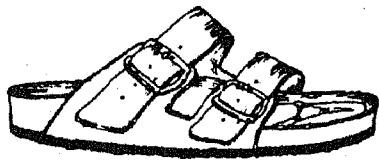
FREE

VOL. VI, NO. 5

KEY WEST, FL.

MAY, 1981





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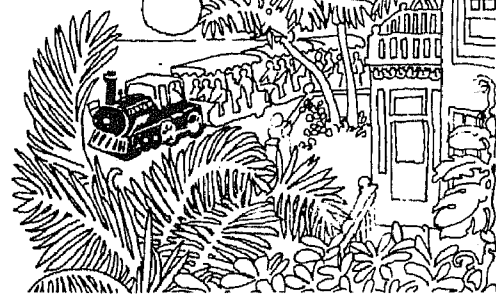
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**FROM THE EDITOR**

Hello -

I saw some incredibly fast police work the other day. I was riding my bike down William Street and a fellow came running out from behind a house. A man was yelling after him. Moments after the runner rounded William Street a police car whipped around the corner and pulled up. A couple of policemen leapt out and pursued the runner and in a matter of moments collared him. He had been seen attempting to break and enter and minutes after the first call went into the station, the police had their man. Good work and congratulations to the men of car number 533 who made the arrest.

We still need Critical State Concern. The Terraces, a planned project that would have 2 1/2 times the density allowed under existing zoning regulations and would be 2 stories higher than our laws allow, had been Oked by Judge Lester in a recent ruling. He ruled that the Terraces building permits were "existing and valid permits" even though there has been no work there of substance for four years and there is a city ordinance that states that permits shall be cancelled if the work described in the permit was not substantially completed within two years of the issuance of the permit. The city should have challenged the judge's ruling but thus far this decision has not been appealed. Thankfully state officials have expressed concern that the Terraces are not in compliance with state critical concern or with local laws. This is why we want to keep our status of Critical State Concern.

Another example of city indifference to its own best interests is permitting a ruling to go unchallenged that developer Jim Stewart is entitled to "inverse condemnation" because the city laws prohibit him from building on a narrow stretch of Rest Beach. The city is of a mind to let this ruling (also by Judge Lester) permit Stewart to build his condominiums without having to observe our set-back laws; admittedly Stewart will give the city 100 feet from the White Street Pier toward the existing

Rongo project as part of the deal. Hey, this is not good enough! Why doesn't the city challenge Judge Lester's decision doesn't the city know of the new Florida Supreme Court ruling that states that municipalities have the right to restrict building on environmentally sensitive areas without having to go the route of "inverse condemnation"?

W. Dan Thurman, owner of Atlas Memorial's which is a division of the Southern Keys Cemetery, has donated a headstone for "Bo-Red" and I understand that it will soon be placed in the local cemetery. "Bo's" many friends will be glad to hear this.

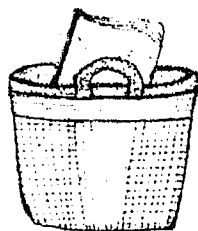
The Children's School of Key West is holding a benefit party Sunday, May 3rd from 12 to 6 P.M. at the Half Shell Raw Bar. There will be food, entertainment and a raffle.

Bill Westray points out a couple of interesting things in his editorial this month. One is that according to the statistics given by the Anaheim/Wood team daily green fees at the golf course figure out to be \$32 which is a ridiculous figure. Who is going to pay this amount to play golf? The second part of his editorial informs us of the great dangers the citizens of Key West could face as a result of House Bill 397 which would give the Key West Redevelopment Agency extraordinary powers. If after reading his appraisal of this bill you are as alarmed at it as we are please write Rep. Joe Allen or our delegation of Senators at Senate Office Building, Tallahassee, Florida 32304 expressing your concern.

See you next month.

*lit*

Cover artist this time is Barbara Davey.



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**And in This CORNER ...**

"Any fan who has any kind of bet to make that Nebo wins Monday's boxing contest against Jimmy Wade will be covered if the person calls the Casa Marina Resort and asks for Mr. Boxing Fan."

The Key West Citizen,  
February 22, 1935

They were on their feet in Key West that night, as Pete Nebo, the hometown boxing hero, defeated the Orlando whirlwind Jimmy Wade in a ten-round decision that shook the local sports world. "Nebo, Nebo, Nebo," they cried, chanting the name of the Seminole Indian who reputedly rejected a \$1,200 New Orleans purse fight against Eddie Kid Wolfe, which was offered just hours after he had signed to fight Jimmy Wade. "It's good ole Cayo Hueso for me," declared the immortal Pete Nebo, who later continued to box his way through South America, fighting in the biggest cities of the USA as well, wowing them at the World's Fair in Chicago, and always shouting his motto, "Keep the Fighting Spirit Up, Don't Let It Die!" wherever he went. It was good ole Cayo Hueso for Pete Nebo too, then as well as now. To mention the word "boxing" here is to conjure up the image of the Key West-born legend, who together with his brother John, a boxer and a boxing promoter, live on in the annals of local fistic lore.

BOXING, ITS ORIGINALLY-INTENDED title being "The Noble Art of Self Defense," came to the Americas through England, where it was revived as a sport by the "Atlas of the Sword," James Figg, in 1719. He became the first heavyweight boxing champion in modern history, bringing to life rules and customs which had lain dormant from 500 to 1700 A.D. Prehistoric man had fought with fists; indeed, the Greeks had developed the techniques of ring games for their Olympics as far back as 1185 B.C. Some say the shortest fight in history was Jack Dempsey's knockout of Fred Fulton in eighteen seconds in 1918; Homer wrote that Odysseus KO'd Irus in less than five seconds! Whatever one wishes to believe, the fact remains that of all competitive endeavors, boxing survives as the most definitive man-to-man combat, basic and elementary. "Ask any six-year-old child who won any fight," comments one sports writer, "and he or she will be able to tell you. It's obvious."

GETTING IN THE best punches is what it's all about, and the great boxing champ Mr. Figg became an authority on how it could be done. His rules required battling until there was a definite winner and clear loser. Not until

1743 was the game given finesse and scientific application. A Mr. Jack Broughton, "The Father of Modern Boxing," polite, well-educated, an excellent fencer and boxer, was the first to say that no man could be hit when he was down, that there would be no hitting below the belt, that a man on his knees was considered down, and that seizing by the hair was not allowed. His greatest contribution was the invention of the modern boxing glove, however, which was to replace bare-fisted fights.

BROUGHTON KNEW HOW the Greeks fought; he had studied their leather-thonged hands, their wooden mitts with finger holes, even their spiked raw-hide endeavors. By wrapping that hand in a glove, he decided, a modern version of the ancient Olympic glove could be devised. Instituted it was, for training and sparring. Yet prizefighters were a scruffy lot in those days--they continued to battle it out with bare knuckles. The Welsh and the Scottish heard about the new sport, and readily embraced it. Still, in the saga of the fist, it was the Irish that featured most heavily, for it was they who brought the English game to the USA.

IN TURN, IT WAS the U.S.A. that designated the "World Champion" classification, taking over the control and development of boxing. When the Irish-American John L. Sullivan, "The Boston Strong Boy," decided to put on the gloves, give up bare-knuckled fighting, and play by the newly-revised "Marquis of Queensbury" rules with defined three-minute rounds, 10 to 15 round fights, etc., a new era began.

ACCORDING TO THE legends, John Lawrence Sullivan, born in Boston in 1858, standing five feet eight inches and weighing 196 pounds, was a great burly slugging fighter, good-natured, blustering, conceited, and extremely well-liked. He charmed the hearts of the fans, and introduced the golden age of boxing to the world. Opponents had to be hired to get in the ring with him. "I can lick any sonofabitch in the house. Does anyone want to take me up on that?" he shouted before one famous match. Sometimes the World Heavyweight Champion would climb in the ring too drunk to fight, apologize to his fans and slowly depart. They still loved him.

IT WAS NOT until 1893 when Gentleman Jim Corbett beat him in Jacksonville, Florida, that the remarkable Mr. Sullivan felt his powers slipping. His crown was at stake, and a few years later, he was out of the ring forever.

His fans never deserted him, however, and he never deserted the great sport of boxing. He ushered in the modern era with these words:

"Such mean tricks as spiking, biting, gouging, concealing snuff in one's mouth to blind an opponent, strangling, butting with the head, falling down without being struck, scratching with the nails, kicking, falling on an antagonist with the knees, and the use of stones and resin, are impossible (now) ... Fighting under the new rules before gentlemen is a pleasure."

BOXING SPREAD QUICKLY throughout the cities and towns of America, seizing the hearts and minds of the people and finding ready sports enthusiasts to cheer the champions and the challengers alike.

There was James J. Jeffries, "The Great White Hope," who was pitted against the black Texan, Jack Johnson, by boxing managers who disliked Johnson's attitude and sought his downfall. They did not enjoy a black man being world champion, and took Jeffries out of retirement to beat him. Jackson knocked him out in the fifteenth round, holding onto his title until it was taken away from him in Havana, Cuba, on April 5, 1915.

THERE WAS JACK Dempsey, who demolished Jess Willard to start the reign of one of the greatest champions of heavyweight fighters of all times. Then there were many, too numerous to mention: Tunney, Baer, Schmeling, Louis, Pep, LaMotta, Carnener, Firpo, Braddock. Cubans were proving to be good fighters; blacks, Germans, Italians, all were coming into their own to show their prowess and skill in the battle of the fists.

THE SOUTH, AND Florida in particular, developed fine fighters who were eager to don the gloves and challenge the contenders. Intra-city fights became more popular as national fights acquired more broadcasting and press coverage. Key West played a dominant role in this sports picture, its proximity to Cuba providing a steady flow of handy toughs who were more than willing to show their power-punching skills. The Navy had its own boxing teams, and those stationed on Cayo Hueso participated in the popular boxing events as well. From Tampa to Miami, from Miami to Jacksonville, from Jacksonville to Key West, from Key West to Tampa -- the matches and rematches were arranged for an ever-ready populace. Pete Nebo devotees emerged en masse to cheer their hero to victory, eagerly awaiting the pun-

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ishing jabs, furious rounds, stinging pressure and staggering retaliation. Yes, indeed, Key West was a great boxing town!

**BOTH NEBO BROTHERS** -- Pete, who dazzled the crowd with his footwork, hand speed, punch power and ring pressure, and John, who, though a fine jabber in his own right, became better known locally as a boxing promoter, and who built the popular portable ring arena in the center of town to encourage boxing matches -- have passed on. They were not the only heroes of Key West, however; there are still those remaining who call to mind the heyday of uppercuts and solid rights, who know how to sting a man with a combination and who still possess an assortment of flashy weapons. Longing to see a return of the fight to Key West, the

former ring stars speak lovingly of the sport in which they once excelled.

**ONE MEETS NO** palooka in the figure of "Battling Geech" Forbes, known to many locally as "Shine," who resides at 104-R Fort Street here, and who looks and behaves like a man ready for action. His powerful arms, quick movements and muscular body all spell out one message: the language of the ring.

"I guess I got my strong arms from working Amando 'Mandita' Solano's dairy," "Geech" reveals. "I worked all the dairies. Lopez had a bull with 47 cows; 'Mandita' and another guy shared the bull, and they had about 37 cows. I remember those days, though, filling the milk, four bottles at a time, and thinking about becoming a welterweight. 'How did I get the name 'Geech'?" From Carolina, you know. They call all

them people up there 'Geeches' because they don't talk so good. Well, I don't talk so good neither, but, I tell you,



Pete Nebo and John Nebo

I'm a good fighter.

"Lemme tell you a story. In those days, it was no good to have somebody throw in the towel. You know right away what that means. You're no good, that's what it means. Well, I didn't like to have nobody throwin' in no towel on me. And who do you think did it? Right! Hemingway, himself!

"He was a good fighter, Hemingway. He liked to fight, and he liked to fight with us. But that particular day, I didn't even know him. Not at that time, I didn't."

A friend of "Geech" and fellow boxer of former days, "Iron Baby" Roberts, jokes, "You sure did get to know him fast!"

"Well, he threw in the towel on me, man! What'd you want me to do?" "Geech" queries.

"I knew I was losin', but no towel man! I see some man throw in the towel on me, so I picked it up and throws it back out again. Well, he picks it up, and in it comes. Well, you know what I did, I threw it out. The third time he picks it up and in it flies. Well then, I was mad, see? So I turns to him, this big ol' man throwin' in the cloth. He grabs me by the ears, like this, and steps back. I lean over to get in my jabs, but he just stands there, with my two ears in his two hands. I'm swingin' my arms like wild, tryin' to get in a punch. Then somebody say, 'Heh, Geech, don't you know who you fightin'? Don't hurt him now!' I say no, and I don't care, and they say, 'That's Ernest Hemingway.' Well, I stopped swingin' then."

JAMES C. ROBERTS, "Iron Baby" to the fistic world, chuckles a bit more, recalling the famous incident.

"You didn't swing no more, did you?"

"Well, no, man, no!"

"He just didn't like to see you get hurt," "Iron Baby" explains.

"Yeah, well, you know ...."

What the two ex-champs have to say now is how they became close companions of Ernest Hemingway in the early thirties, practicing with him as a sparring partner at his home on Whitehead Street or inviting the famous writer to join them for a few sessions down at the local gymnasium.

"HEMINGWAY LOVED BOXING," Iron Baby reveals. "He loved to put on the gloves and give us a few go-rounds. I remember the time he took me with him to Cuba. Said he heard they were good

boxers down there and did I want to go with him to check them out. Well, it was a good opportunity for me, back



"Iron Baby" Roberts

then, you know, to go to Cuba, so we went. That's the last I ever saw of him. After that, they said he went to Africa to write a book, and he never came back to Key West."

"OUR GYM WAS on the corner of Petronia and Thomas," Geech discloses. "The dressing rooms are still there, right on top of the Blue Heaven billiard parlor. There was a cocktail lounge up there, too, and it's still there. I'd like to get in there again to look around, see how it is. The gym's gone,

but the dressing rooms are still there."

The two ex-fighters reminisce. Five- to six-hundred person seating capacity, full houses every night, fights every two weeks, 20-foot ring in the center, corner men, cut men, Iron Baby's dad: "He was called 'Iron Baby' too; that's how I got to be called that. They also called him 'The Cinderella Man' after another great fighter."

"WORSE FIGHT I ever had? Larry Samba." Geech is talking now. "I got in the ring. I put everything I had on him. In the tenth round he hurt me. He gave me a battle. I beat him, but he was older than me. Forty or so. And he drunk a half a pint of liquor before he got in the ring. Instead of water to rinse his mouth, he drunk liquor. I was 22; he was 40. He hurt me, man."

THEY MENTION LOTS of fighters, those they demolished and those they admired: Black Pie; Fightin' Joe Mills, a featherweight from Cuba; "Bowleg" ("they say 'Nobody can knock him off,' but Iron Baby did!") Nassau; Stanley Wilkerson, who was in Sugar Ray Robinson's stable; Victor Lorey; Arthur Colbrook; "Panama Kid"; Joe Russell. Then the name "Gertie" comes up, and the two champs laugh.

"Who's Gertie?"

"Oh, well, you asked if we ever boxed for bets, or gambling. No, but we did box for Gertie. See which one'd get to take her home!" This from Geech.

"Oh, you shouldn't be saying that, man!"

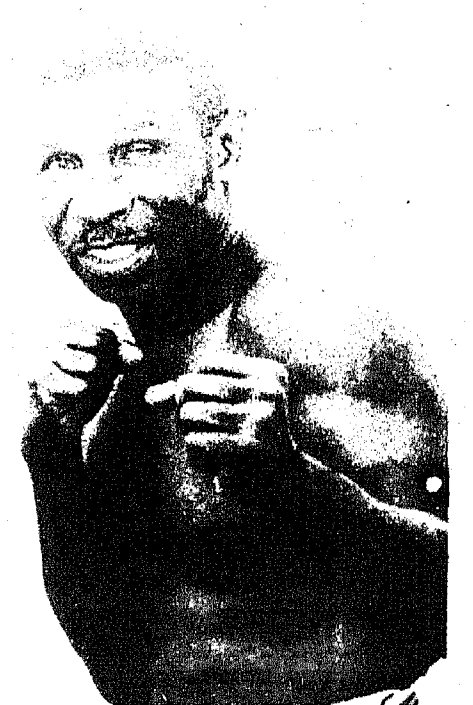
"Well ..."

"Let me say this about Hemingway. He was a good fighter. You felt it when he hit ya. He dropped me once," says Geech.

"He dropped you; he never dropped me!" Iron Baby makes that very clear.

BOXING'S FUTURE IS very much in their minds.

"I believe in my mind and conscience that some of the juvenile delin-

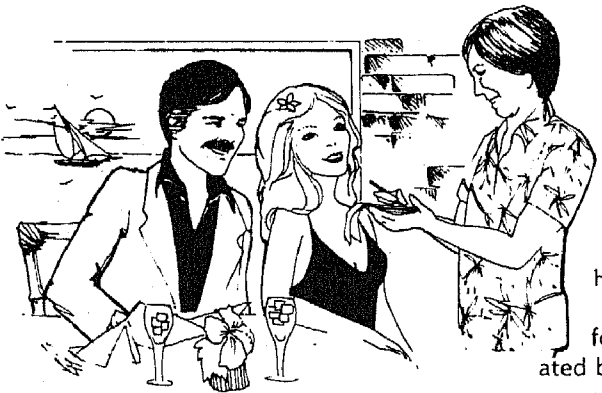


"Battling Geech" Forbes

quency in this community would lessen if more young people would take up training," affirms Roberts, who now operates a cleaning business on Petronia Streets and who was training youngsters with Jimmy Miza up until the Cuban Sealift brought an end to the use of the facilities on the Navy Yard. "When we were young, we used to run around the boulevard; we didn't smoke or drink. If we could, we would teach

(Continued on Page 20)

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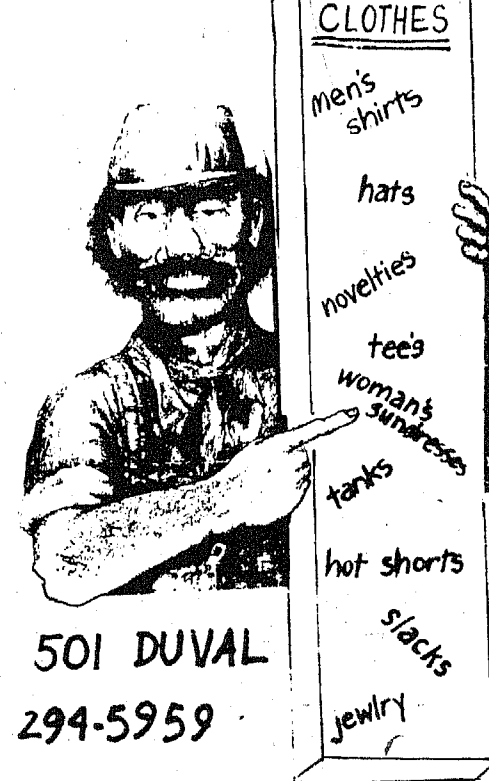
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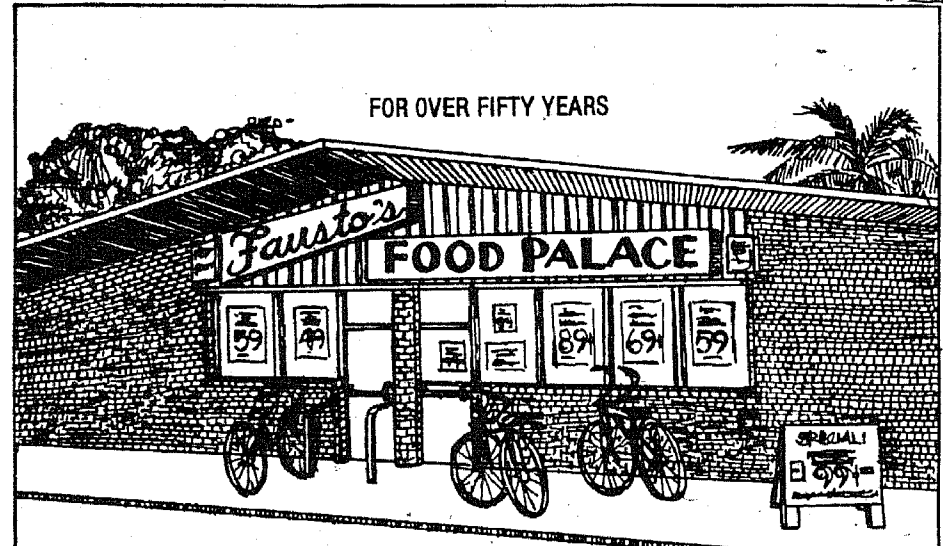
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## NOTES AND ANTIC-DOTES

BY DOROTHY RAYMER

This is part two of a three-part series on Tennessee Williams written by Dorothy Raymer. The third and final segment of the series will appear in our next issue.

THE SPRING OF 1955 was one of the most stimulating periods of my Key West years, in fact of my whole life, at least as far as writing goes -- and it went at a gallop back then. In the latter part of April that year, Tennessee Williams telephoned *The Key West Citizen* and asked if I would like to interview novelist Carson McCullers. She was visiting him in Key West at the time and having a reunion here with Williams after a nine-year interlude.

A date was arranged for the interview, but Tennessee talked to me privately and personally before the actual session. He explained that Carson had gone through an extremely trying period: the suicide of her husband, Reeves McCullers, emotional disturbance, and a problem with alcoholism, all of it terminating in a stroke which had partially paralyzed her.

"SHE NEEDS A morale boost," he confided. "She is working on her writing, but she feels depressed. I think a sympathetic and appreciative feature story might help her."

I had just finished an interview with Francois Sagan, a young French novelist and Tennessee's newest "protégé," who had come to Key West expressly to meet McCullers. But that is an encounter for another story. The playwright said he had decided that I would be just the writer to treat Carson McCullers with exactly the right mixture of understanding and compassion.

SOMEWHAT OVERWHELMED, I rushed off to the library to re-read *A Member of the Wedding*, which McCullers had written, and also *Reflection in a Golden Eye*, as well as *The Ballad of the Sad Cafe*, which was new to me. Thus, forewarned about the recent past of the sensitive writer, and equipped with knowledge of her best-known creations, I went to Williams' home on Duncan Street well-prepared, I thought.

But I was not ready for the impact of the actual meeting and the "inner force" which was projected by the frail-looking woman who had been a really close friend of Williams since 1946.

VIRGINIA SPENCER CARR revealed details of this long and tender friendship, or relationship, rather, since it was so profound, in her biography of McCullers, *The Lonely Hunter*, published in 1975 by Doubleday & Company, Inc. The title is a phrase from Carson McCullers' earlier book, *The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter*.

LULA CARSON SMITH (the writer's original name) became Carson when she was 16. She actually dropped the first name at 15 when she was in high school at Columbus, Georgia, in 1933. Photographs and paintings of Carson reveal the vulnerability most evident in her mouth and her large eyes. In these pictures she appears to be a waif type, although some photo studies give her a more sophisticated aura. And all of the portraits, either by brush or by camera, yield the impression of a sensitive personality, whether laughing, pensive or melancholy.

IT WAS APRIL 29, 1955 when my interview was finally set up and I met Carson McCullers, with a great deal of timidity on my part and a subdued, retiring attitude on hers. Tennessee was the monitor in our person-to-person session and he, of course, was exceptionally gentle and considerate with Carson.

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This attitude again underscores Tennessee's thoughtfulness in helping others, for he, himself, had just endured an emotional upset. His beloved grandfather, the Rev. Walter Dakin, had died on Valentine's Day, February 14, 1955, after a stroke. He was two months short of being 98, and of course the death was to be expected. Nevertheless the feeling of grief was acute. Yet Tennessee devoted his time and attention to Carson McCullers and her problems and interests.

AFTER INTRODUCTIONS in the living room of the Williams home, Carson sat beside Tennessee and posed for a photograph by Don Pinder of the *Citizen* staff. Her luminous, large, hazel-brown eyes looked directly at the camera, but she was unsmiling. She had magnolia-pale skin and a magnolia tone of voice, very soft and somewhat elusive to me. I tried adjusting my hearing aid to her low-decibel range, but there were several instances in which Tennessee had to repeat her answers for me. He was infinitely patient.

Mrs. McCuller's left arm was supported in a sling, and I later learned that she was enduring nearly constant pain, but she, too, was understanding about my handicap and extremely cooperative for my note-taking.

LIKE TENNESSEE, SHE declared that she found mornings the best time for creative thought. Said she, "I feel more inspired in the early part of the day." She was happy to be recovered enough to be writing again and declared she was "proud to be part of the Southern Revival." She was referring to the surge of literature by a number of writers in the South at that period. She had adapted her own play version for *A Member of the Wedding* and expressed gratitude to Tennessee for his advice and guidance. As she spoke of this, the rapport between the two old friends was vividly apparent.

SHE ADMITTED THAT she had written some poetry but had not submitted it for publication. In producing fiction, she did not make an outline because, as she explained, "The mood creates the story and then carries itself as I write."

As she talked, the writer ran her right hand through her tousled, spiked, brown hair, which was cut in a boyish cap-like style, adding to her French gamine appearance. In fact, she came of French and Irish descent and exhibited some of the gaiety of such heritage, as well as a trace of a moody quality, with hint of a volatile and stormy temperament. But the predominate note during the discussion of her work was of gentleness, graciousness and an undercurrent of sadness. All of these traits were touched with a personal warmth and radiance.

WILLIAMS WAS CERTAINLY cognizant of this quality. In the section "Some Words Before," which appears in the introduction to Carson's biography by Virginia Carr, he wrote: "Carson's heart was often lonely and it was a tireless hunter for those to whom she could offer it, but it was a heart that was graced with light that eclipsed its shadow."

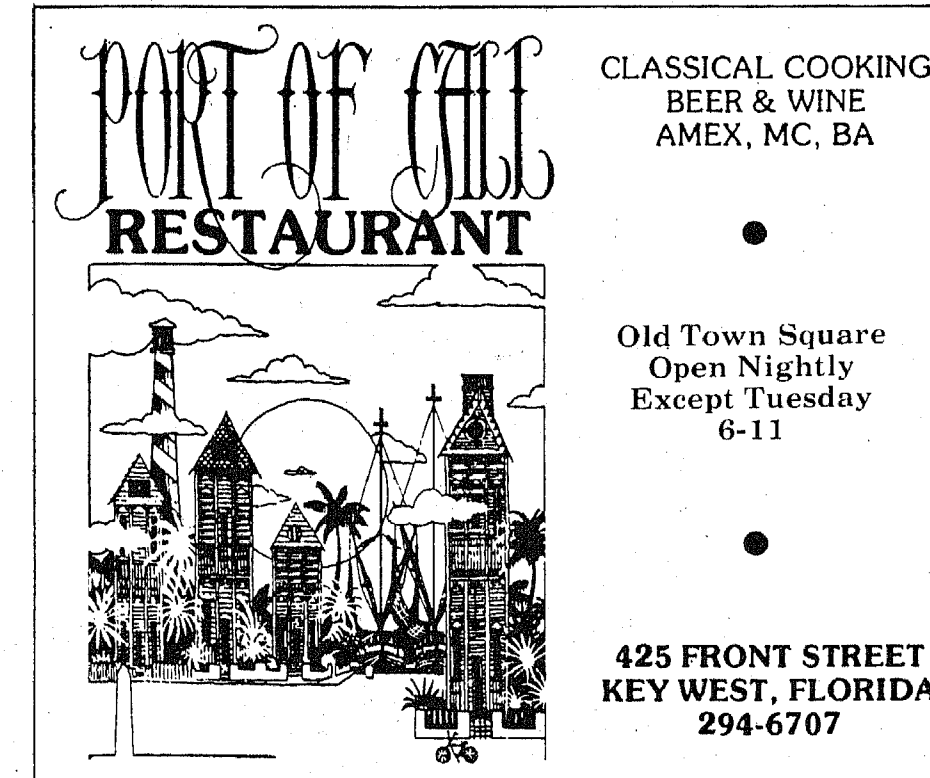
Carson McCullers went on writing in various creative forms including scripts, stories and magazine articles, despite her growing ill health, and Tennessee Williams continued his encouragement and friendship.

In August of 1967, she had another stroke and died September 29, 1967.

PLAYWRIGHT WILLIAMS HAD said goodbye in Key West to Carson McCullers on April 28 and she returned to her house in Nyack, N.Y., before the exciting news arrived May 3, 1955, that he had won a second Pulitzer prize for his drama, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, which was then packing in enthusiastic crowds of play-goers in New York.

con't on p. 14

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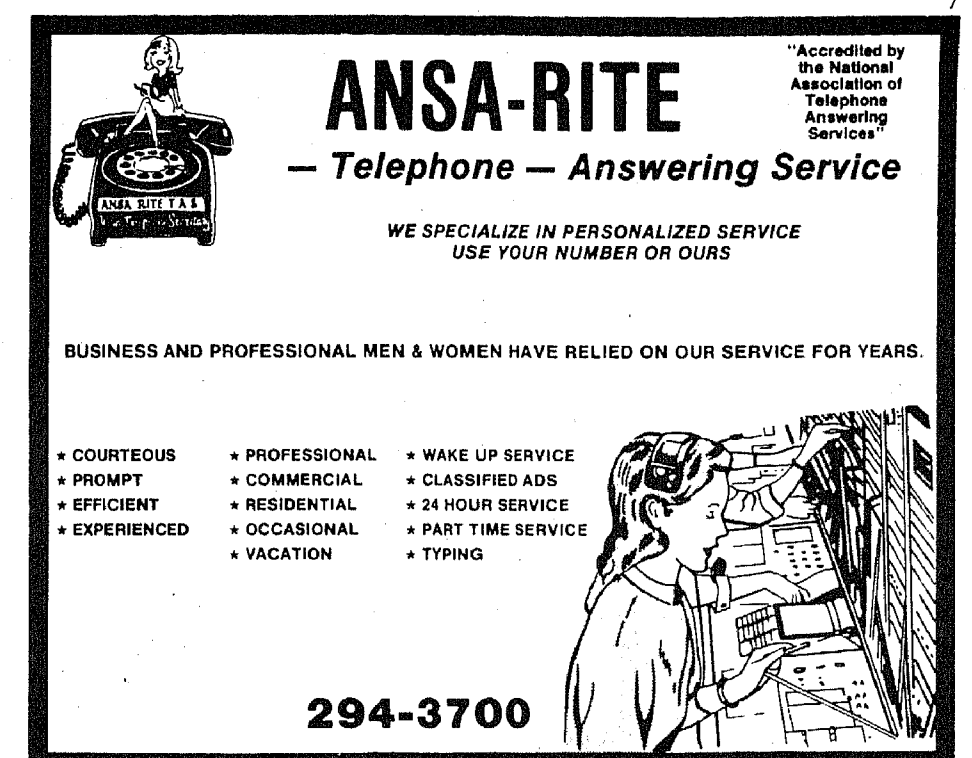
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# CATTLE QUARANTINE STATION

BY GIL RYDER

ACCORDING TO A recent report in *The Miami Herald*, the Fleming Key Animal Import Center will close May 29th. If you don't recognize the name, it was known to many as the "Cattle Quarantine Station."

Dedicated with much fanfare in October of 1979, this monstrosity was going to make a great contribution to the economy of Key West, and was heartily endorsed by the Key West City Commission, the Greater Key West Chamber of Commerce, and other prestigious and supposedly knowledgeable groups.

HOW ANY THINKING PERSON could have believed that it would be anything more than another famous folly passes all understanding. If the highly-placed authorities responsible had simply read the *Solares Hill* articles concerning the matter, they should have had at least reasonable doubts as to the feasibility of the program.

FOR INSTANCE, Walter Carson, scientific advisor to the Florida Keys Citizens Coalition, gave many reasons for not going ahead with the program. One paragraph in particular stands out as being especially relevant at this time: "Carson has also mentioned that a process of embryo transplant is being researched, and this advancement, much like artificial insemination, will predominate in the cattle industry in the near future. The report (Final Environmental Statement report) makes no mention of this breakthrough which will make the transporting of cattle between nations obsolete."

GALEN KRILL, ASSISTANT veterinarian quoted in *The Miami Herald*, said: "I hate to see it close. But we're financed by the demands of the cattle industry. We can't change that. We just can't keep it open if we don't have the importation requirements."

EVERYTHING WE READ on the subject indicates to us that the project was close to obsolete before it was ever on the drawing board. Since the project opened for business, only 150 head of foreign cattle have occupied the premises. Can you imagine spending seven million dollars of the hardworking taxpayers' money on a temporary way station for 150 head of foreign cattle? If you were a federal or state official, with authority over the project, would you have given the go-ahead for this seven million dollar motel for transient cows? If you were a local official, would you have endorsed it? Or would you first pay serious attention to the valid objections of those opposed?

SOME MIGHT SAY that it's easy and unfair to criticize from hindsight -- after the fact -- but that doesn't happen to be the case. Valid, intelligent and knowledgeable doubts and criticisms were made and published beforehand (see June and August 1976 issues of *Solares Hill*) and officials involved at whatever level of government should have listened, read and heeded the warnings. \$7 million ain't hay -- even for a cattle quarantine station.

SO MUCH FOR what should have happened and what should not have happened. Whether we like it or not, this huge windowless building is now an established and enduring part of the landscape.

The question citizens should now be asking is, "Should the building just sit there with a skeleton crew, waiting

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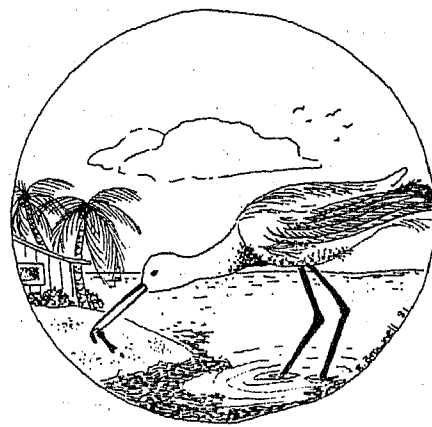
for the good ole days to return, or should it somehow be converted to something beneficial to the citizens?"

LET'S RECOGNIZE THAT probably it would not be readily and cheaply converted to hotel, hospital, nursing home, school, etc. The building was designed for the temporary housing and care of animals. Maybe it could be used as a warehouse or a bomb shelter. Perhaps it would be more practical to turn it over to a coalition of the Humane Society, Friends of Animals, United Humanitarians, and the people who rescue birds. There might even be room for a veterinary medical center. Would the

incinerator in the project be of any help in disposing of Key West solid waste? Or could it be converted into a crematorium?

THESE PARTICULAR SUGGESTIONS may well be impractical, and there will probably be a lot of red tape involved in getting permission from the federal government to do anything, but it might be worth a try. Let's find some practical use for the building to avoid wasting that \$7 million.

NO MATTER HOW officials maneuver and explain -- It's seven million dollars down the drain.

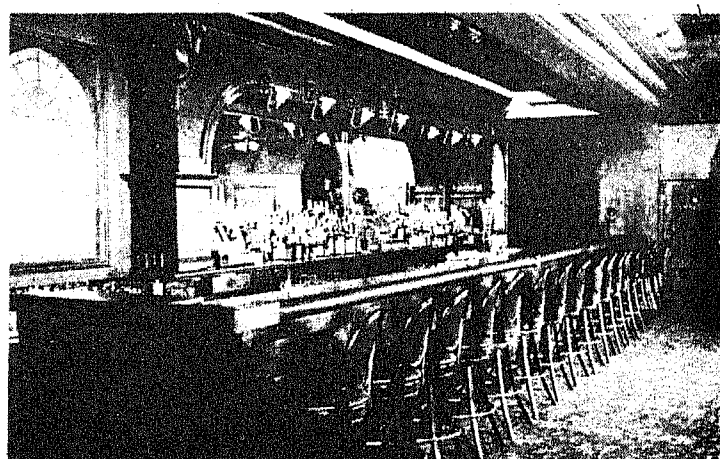


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## GENERALLY YOURS

BY HELEN CHAPMAN

GENERIC PRODUCTS, AS we all know, are products lacking brand names, thus able to be sold at lower prices. (I have this awful tendency to confuse generic with genetic with geriatric, with disastrous results.) One can buy generic peanut butter, tea bags, canned milk, right up through generic toilet tissue. It's marvelous, if you like to live dangerously. It seems as if all generic products come in gigantic sizes -- never mind family size; generic things come horde size. So if, like me, you have only one stomach to feed, you may wind up with a jar of peanut butter that not only tastes awful, but lasts a year and still sticks to the roof of your mouth.

LATELY I HAVE been apprised of the fact that there are generic cigarettes on the market. One friend described them to me as "Not bad." Anything described as "not bad" usually turns out to be dreadful, I have found. It would be my luck to buy a carton and be stuck with a cigarette either three times as strong as Pall Mall, or as vapid as Carleton 100's. "Not bad" probably applies to those frightening moments when you find yourself out of your regular brand.

THERE IS ALSO generic booze. Aha! Labeled, "GIN GIN GIN," "RUM RUM RUM," or "VODKA VODKA VODKA," how bad can it be? After all, the alcohol is still there and the taste can be disguised in many ways. I'll drink to that! Suppose airlines no longer used company names. Competition between them would cease. Ads would say, simply, "FLY!" and when you go to a travel agent you would be told, "We have something

or other leaving for New York at 6:00 P.m."

Nameless detergents would make women friendlier to each other. I wouldn't stand for some strange woman telling my husband he had ring around the dollar, but since she wouldn't be able to better my detergent, she'd have to keep her big mouth shut!

AND HOW ABOUT generic jeans? Forget the Jordache Look -- try the Generic Look, found only at the free box. They may sag a little in the seat, but the price is right.

Generic used cars would be fun. "Smilin' Honest Al" gives you the best deal in town! What's that you say, sir? This one looks like a Cadillac? My dear sir, do you see GM on the engine? Do you see Fisher on the body? Do you see Goodyear on the tires? No, sir! This is a genuine generic automobile that used to belong to a little old lady in Lakeland, who shall remain nameless.

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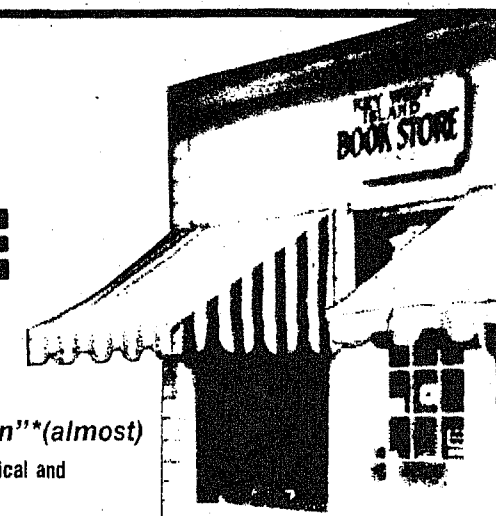
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NOW THAT WE'VE come this far along the road to genericism, I must tell you about my generic mink coat. It was gorgeous, and only \$575. (You can find generic mink between marmalade and mushroom soup at Pantry Pride.) I wore it to the opening of the Midget Bar (don't ask which opening; there've been so many) where anybody who was anybody would be. The coat received many compliments. Unfortunately, I took it off and tossed it over a chair. The last time I saw it, it was crawling out the door. I let it go.

THE OTHER DAY I saw a poke in the market. It had no brand name on it, but the price was reasonable. When I got it home and opened it -- guess what! You're all invited to a pig roast next Sunday.

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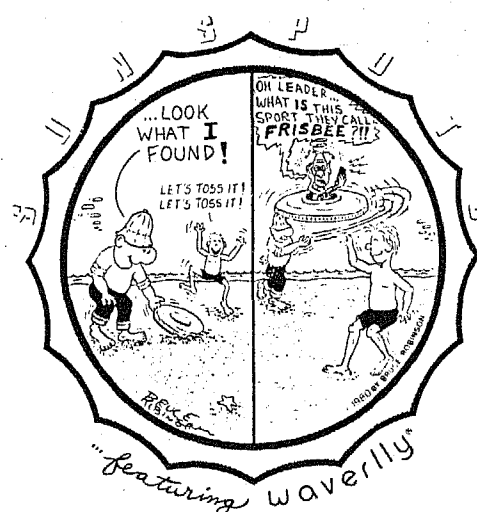
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Notes &amp; Antic-Dotes can't from p. 7

Assigned to do an interview with the famous playwright, whom I knew as a friend, I was aware that the story would also be carried by the Associated Press, as well as by the local newspaper, and to me this was like a shot of adrenalin. I was intense and nervous when arrangements were made to talk to Williams. He had been notified of his triumph by Music Corporation of America about 4 p.m., Monday, May 2. The AP call came through asking for a personal interview. Through telephone contact, Williams agreed to a conference at 5 p.m., Tuesday, May 3.

HE MADE AN immediate effort to set me at ease, sensing that I was tense and nervous about the auspicious meeting. Grinning happily, he received photographer Don Pinder and me while reading batches of congratulatory telegrams. He was relaxed on a sofa in the living room at 1431 Duncan Street, dressed casually in a blue sports shirt, dark blue Levis, and brown loafers. He was sockless, foot-wise but not verbally. His conversation carried plenty of "sock."

HE QUIPPED, "I am waiting for a ham dinner to be prepared. Don't you think the ham is *apropos* with theatre?" He chuckled at his joke. His answer to my first question -- which was standard: "How do you feel about winning the Pulitzer prize this time?" -- was frankly put. "I got more kick out of this prize than the first one for *Streetcar* because this time it was unexpected."

HE CONTINUED, "THE play, cat, as I call it, has a message dealing with the mystery of one person's relationship to another, regardless of intimacies. The applied interpretation is simply that two people can live together without really knowing anything about each other."


He was pleased that there had been no censorship angle, so far. He commented, "Even in Philadelphia, no old ladies came to the box office to complain. There was only one change in the original script. A Southern slang word was put out -- the term 'humping' was eliminated."

HE DECLARED, "THE stage has more freedom than movies or TV shows." He also expressed agreement with Director Eli Kazan in the selection of the cast. Barbara Bel Geddes played the original part as Maggie. This triumph was repeated in 1974 with Elizabeth Ashley in the leading role. The movie version placed Elizabeth Taylor as the heroine, and Paul Newman was cast as the reluctant husband, Brick.

The New York Drama Critics' Award also went to Williams in 1955 for the same play.

TENNESSEE HAS BEEN sympathetic toward women consistently not only in his plays but in real life. At one point in the late 1950s, he aided and comforted Diana Barrymore, helping her to overcome acute alcoholism and to attempt a comeback in her acting career. She wanted to marry him and her affection for him was genuine. But the rehabilitation effort wasn't successful. She died in January 1960 of a heart attack, after taking too many sleeping pills. Whether this tragedy was an accident or suicide was never firmly determined.

THERE WAS ONE incident when the playwright's patience with the female sex did give way to exasperation, but it was more humorous than serious in consequence. Williams was in the throes of creation and required solitude. One day he returned to his home after a beach excursion to find the little house buzzing with the chatter of a group of club women. He had forgotten that they had been invited to view the home and grounds. In a furious verbal attack, Tennessee ordered all the ladies off the property, shouting in no uncertain terms.



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There was momentary confusion and an aftermath of criticism ... but not by any of the more discerning local women who had intelligent insight into the angst of genius, and he was forgiven. A great many of the club members even accepted the situation with a shrug and laughter at the spectacle.

ON THE CREDIT SIDE of the ledger ... I was a witness to his hospitality and kindness when a bustling bevy of women travel writers converged on the island and a tour of the Williams residence and grounds was on the entertainment agenda.

The date was January 17, 1971. The late Mary Louise (Mrs. Ray) Manning of St. Louis was hostess and she joined with the playwright, his Boston terrier Gigi, and a cat called "Gentleman Caller" in greeting top fashion and travel writers from commercial publications of the United States and France. Tennessee even acted as interpreter for a visiting French editor, with skill and courteous, warm graciousness.

ON ANOTHER OCCASION when Tallulah Bankhead was in Key West as a guest of author James Leo Herlihy, Tennessee made it a point to attend the weekend sessions held at the night spot All That Jazz, located at the corner of Caroline and Duval streets where Dedek's Restaurant and Cafe is now, when the incomparable Miss Bankhead appeared to sing throaty versions of ballads. Despite their differences of opinion on some stage matters, he wanted to help Tallulah in her effort to add to her theatre triumphs. He gave her a "pep talk boost" on her rehabilitation obstacle course.

NINETEEN YEARS LATER, after the 1955 Pulitzer prize award, Tennessee was given the annual Award of the Association of St. Louis West Libraries for outstanding contribution to literature. The event took place at the Pius XII Memorial Library, St. Louis, Mo.

Tennessee was suffering from an attack of the flu and said so in a brief accepting speech. He quipped, "I have not been able to prepare a long speech, and some may consider this an act of God."

RAY MANNING, St. Louis public relations man, and then husband of Mary Louise Manning who had become Tennessee's close friend, wrote to me describing the ceremony for my column "Conch Chowder," a feature in *The Key West Citizen*. He sent on a description of the event, reading:

"As to the award presentation, the newspapers do not signify anything as to how skillfully Tennessee played to the audience of more than 1,000 in a strictly ad lib and very glib fashion. He has really become a fine performer. His audience caught little intimate glimpses of himself as a person, as well as a playwright."

"Later, seated beside him prior to the dinner in his honor, I observed him fielding inane questions and signing numerous autographs."

"THEN A MAN approached and said, 'Mr. Williams, I have never been able to find a character in any of your plays who resembles your brother, Dakin. Did you deliberately omit him or is it that he is just too normal to have been included?'"

Ray Manning reported further, "Tennessee leaned back, folded his arms and announced to all present, 'I have talked with many people; I have answered many questions; I have signed many autographs. I have made an accepting speech -- and now I feel that I have EARNED the \$1,000 that I get for this appearance. And I am not going to answer another question or sign any more autographs.'

"So saying, he worked through the crowd and left."

(to be continued)

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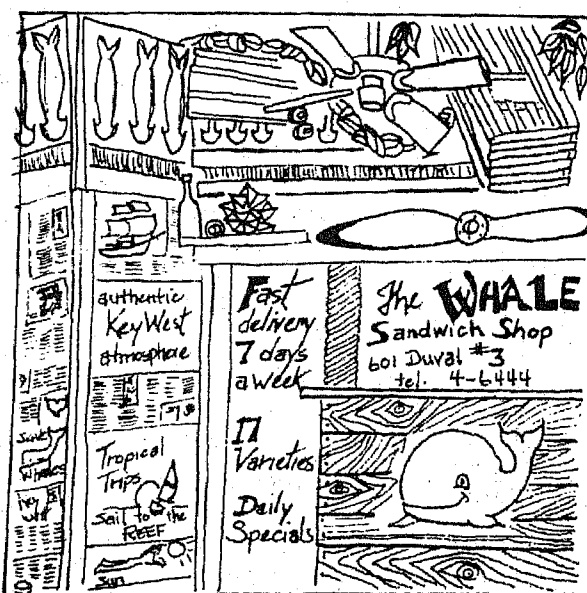


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## THE ICONOCLAST

BY JIM KOGAN

### THE GREATER GOOD

so-called, anyway. This paper in April, 1981, had comments about the Peggy Mills Garden and one quote arouses indignation. From the City Manager: "the City does have several ordinances which will effectively preclude pursuit on any plan by a private owner of the property which would cause even a minor alteration...."

I AM AS interested in community welfare as anyone and more than many. I would regret loss of this oasis and would favor making it a park if the police can protect its users. Yes, I listed it as a possible site for another project -- it has a "for sale" sign on it.

But there is a vastly more important principle involved -- one whose loss or invasion is far more serious than loss of any amount of public amenity. A principle for which men died -- and which has already been invaded and compromised and eroded beyond the point where resistance is long overdue.

THAT IS THE principle that each individual citizen is entitled -- entitled without compromise -- to protection in his property and if the public necessity demands its forced sale he must be fully and promptly paid for what is taken, in full and on real proof of real necessity.

Sure, it's been "accepted" or at least said often enough among "political economists" for a century or two that if anyone creates something that enough people covet, sooner or later it will be confiscated and probably with at least the color of legality. But, back to Key West and the instant case -- start the reforms in our own corner.

MOST MINOR CIVIL divisions have a whole body of laws that enable governments to take private property without paying for it. Some of the more generous ones mandate token payments; many do not even mandate that. All operate under State "police power" enabling laws and many are called "planning" or "protective" laws. Our town's "tree law" is one of many, here and elsewhere, of this group.

AS THAT LAW stands, if I am foolish enough to plant a tree on my land I forfeit the right to remove it for a driveway or swimming pool for the tree becomes, in effect, public property. I have given a de facto gift to the town and I can't even count it on Form 1040. And the impairment of value of my land does not cut local taxes. The assessor will likely seize on my demonstrated gullibility to raise the assessment -- "He bit once, let's get him one more time, like every year from now on."

If anyone does that after proper notice, well, there's a bridge up in the big city I'll sell him cheap. It's been sold before.

HOWEVER, WHEN MRS. Mills planted her garden did she have notice that she was thereby destroying at least a large part of her heirs' inheritance -- under "several ordinances"? Perhaps she would have done so anyway but that is not the point. The point is that local government has effectively confiscated a significant part of the value of the estate she left to her heirs. They have driven the "value" down by abuse of governmental power -- taken without payment.

SURE, IT'S LEGAL. A lot of things are legal but not right. There have even been Federal court rulings that Consti-

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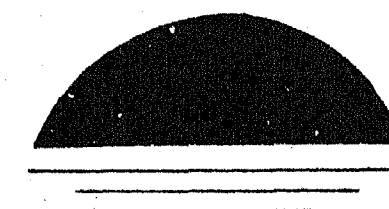
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tutional protections would unduly inconvenience local government so, Sorry, Charlie, constitutions are not self-enforcing.

Simply put, this is theft. Related laws contain a lot of provisions for theft -- the "tree law" is not the only one -- and they are often used to take from helpless owners. Some are selectively applied to avoid confronting victims likely to go to the expensive courts.

BUT IT IS still theft and the fact that it is done in the name of "the people" makes it no less theft -- all tyrants "represent the people." In fact, though we all know better, we really should be able to expect the custodians of the public trust to display a more highly-developed sense of honesty than people concerned with crass



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profit-making. Would that it were so. Regrettably, the reverse is so often true as to be impressive.

WHY WORRY ABOUT these people -- they're rich anyway? Because freedom is an indivisible whole. If they're not safe, neither is anyone else. At the very least the City Manager should be ashamed of that remark and should address his efforts to getting the unjust laws repealed -- not bragging about their use to steal from someone.

NO COMPELLING PUBLIC NECESSITY exists to justify even fully-compensated forced sale -- public want is not public necessity. Either let the owners do with it as they will or pay the asking price. Or admit you believe in dictatorship and the essential unimportance of the private citizen.

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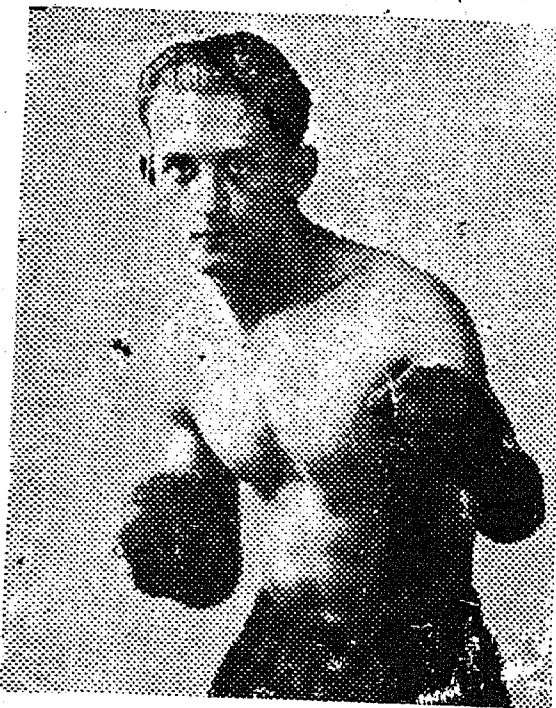
## And in This Corner ...

young people how to become physically fit and they could learn the art of defense. Inside it's a good feeling to know you can protect yourself, without a knife or a gun...."

DURING THE EARLY to middle thirties, while Battling Geech and Iron Baby were duking it out at the gym on the corner of Thomas and Petronia, another "corner" was training at the Cuban Club, in a small building which used to stand adjacent to where the club exists now on Duval St. Oscar "Young" Fernandez, who together with his wife Valentina now operates a small guest motel on Angela Street, was described as "one of the cleverest, fastest and most polished scrappers of the day" by sportswriters from Miami and Key West. The accolades were repeated time and time again: "Fernandez, a little bundle of fighting sinew and heart, sent Pee-wee Harris to sleep in the third round...." "Fernandez gave the fans a real exhibition of glove tossing...." "Fernandez has whipped Baby Guzman of Tampa...." "Young Fernandez knocked out Sonny Boy Hughes in the second...." and on and on the praises grew. The bantamweight supremacy of Key West was assured whenever Fernandez was in the Cuban Club ring.

HE WAS DESCRIBED by Jack Bell in his "O'er the Sports Desk" column of *The Miami Herald* as "a lad who knows a thing or two about hitting. He doesn't monkey around when he starts throwing gloves. He shoots 'em hard and fast. I don't like these Dutch windmill swingers, and evidently they don't learn that style in Key West." Young Fernandez was also picked a top contender in his weight division by Red Newton in his column "The Morning After" and praised by local sportswriter Oscar Pita in his "Circling Cauliflower Row" column in *The Key West Citizen*: "He has licked everything in sight...."

"I HAD my first fight at fourteen," Fernandez recalls. "We trained quite often at the Athletic Club, way down at the foot of Duval. If I'd win, I'd



"Young" Fernandez

maybe get thirty dollars. From that I had to pay my manager, H.N. Davis from Miami, and my second manager. Give me twelve to fifteen dollars take home. During Depression, that'd buy food for a week, or pay the rent or something that we needed."

In those days the fighters agreed to get in the ring for a certain amount of money, which was to be paid as a flat guarantee. An added amount on a percentage basis was awarded if the house or the proceeds at the gate exceeded an estimated amount given by the sponsor of the program.

"WHAT WAS MY best fight? My last!" acknowledges Fernandez, and what a battle that was! On February 2, 1935, in a "grudge fight" against Bobby Waugh, Young Fernandez demonstrated his hammering style to a crowd eager to watch Waugh take his lumps. Waugh was staggered by "Cuso's" (another nickname!) punch-power. At the sound of the final bell, Fernandez received a standing ovation!

THIS WAS THE Golden Age of Boxing in Florida, ranked second only to football as a choice for fans. When Miami Municipal Stadium featured its famous "Card of Champions," on January 23, 1935, the finest fighting arena in the world showcased the finest fighters. Max Baer, then heavyweight champion of the world, was billed to fight Jimmy Maloney; Barney Ross, world welterweight champion, was there to defeat Frankie Klick and "to return boxing to the clean fight status of Dempsey, Tunney, Leonard...." Frankie Klick was no stranger to local fans, having given Key West's own Kid Chocolate his second straight K.O. just a few days before. Pedro (Pete) Nebo had the great honor of fighting Barney Ross in Kansas City, in a fight which ended in a draw. "The little man with the iron jaw," as Pete was affectionately dubbed by local sportswriter Art Espinola, had a peculiar style of coming in a crouch with his face covered, only to eventually outfox his many opponents. "He held his own against Barney Ross," it was written. In the age of Joe Louis, many Key West scrappers held their own!

BY THE LATE 30s and early 40s in Key West, boxing matches were being held at the Athletic Club and on the roof of the "roofless" Strand Theatre, where fans could watch from the second stories of their homes across the street on Duval. "Boxing Under the Stars" proved most successful, as sports enthusiasts turned out in large numbers to support their favorite pugilist artists. Times were a-changin', however, and with the advent of the Second World War, boxing as it had been known locally experienced somewhat of a decline. Fighters were still around in good numbers, just the same, and new names were coming to the forefront. Kid Gavilan is one of the heroes who emerged from the era of the 40s.

BORN IN CAMAGUEY, Cuba, in 1926 of impoverished sugarcane workers, Gerardo Gonzales, later to become "The Kid," captured world-wide attention as a boxer, leaving behind his stinging trademark called "the bolo punch," an exaggerated uppercut that damaged some of the greatest, including Sugar Ray Robinson, Johnny Bratton and Billy Graham, and which was a major contributing factor to Kid Gavilan's welterweight crown in 1951. He fought at the Cuban Club in Key West, and many "old hands" from the area recall observing the champ on his way up. One man remembers him better than all the rest, however, having been victimized by "the bolo" and the great Kid Gavilan himself. That man is Key West's Terry Lee Garcia.

TERRY LEE TRAINED with Sandy Saddler and counts Rocky Marciano as a good friend. To this day, he will tell anyone

who asks that his greatest fight was against Kid Gavilan on September 10, 1949. "The Kid broke my nose in that fight," Terry reveals. "But he couldn't knock me down. In all my fights, I only lost two, and one was to the great Gavilan."

"Terry and the Pirates," as he was nicknamed by his manager, tells classic tales about his desire to fight in the ring. "As a kid, I had to pay other children to fight me," he declares. "I'd work shining shoes for fifteen cents, then pay ten cents to any kid who would fight me. With towels wrapped around my hands, using inner tubes from bikes as padding, I figure I fought over 2,000 street fights. Out of them, I only lost two."

GARCIA, THE TAMPA-BORN tough who loved to box in the style of the 1935 lightweight champion of the world, Tony Canzone, is right-handed, accustomed to using "strong right" punches to knock out his opponents. "I was a good sport," he admits. "I never got mad. But I wouldn't go down. That was one thing. I just refused to fall. After my fight with Gavilan, I went over to him and said, 'Kid, you might have won, but you couldn't knock me down.' That to me would've been the worst."

Garcia says he lives his life by what he learned in the ring. "Roll with the punches," he advises. "Go with them rather than try to resist. That way, you'll come back quicker."

THE MAN WHO tried to KO everybody earned as much as \$8,500 in a single purse before he retired from the ring in 1950. He fought in New York City where purses were split down the middle, where fighters received \$7,500 or 22% of the gate, whichever was greater, and where he came to admire the great Joe Louis and the unbeatable Rocky Marciano. "You can't beat a perfect record," he says of the "Rock from Brocton" who "had the good sense to retire before he was stopped."

For the most part, Terry Lee Garcia will always love the life of the fist. After coming to Key West to settle down in 1950, Garcia became a trainer of the Navy boxing team here, working with



Richard Garcia, umpire, American Baseball League; Terry Lee Garcia; Rocky Marciano. such notables as Eddie Agin, Lefty Betancourt and Richard Conrady. "Rocker"

Roberts, now a singer with a singing group called The Airdales, was one of his boys too.

WITH THE SLOGAN "The friendship of those we serve is the foundation of our progress" on display in his bondsman's office on downtown Fleming Street, Terry Lee Garcia explains his decision to retire.

"I'm sort of superstitious," he confesses. "I was running, training, along a stream by a railroad track, readying myself for the next fight, which was to be a cinch, so my manager assured me. I heard this voice, got this message: 'Don't fight. Don't fight any more.' I called my manager then and there. 'I'm through,' I said. 'You're crazy,' he replied. 'I'll get the fight changed; you need a rest. We'll schedule it later.' 'No need,' I said. 'I'm not fighting any more.' I believe in messages like that."

THE GREAT TERRY Lee Garcia, who had fought in Mexico City, Havana, and as far away as Venezuela, winning all but two fights in his brilliant career, stepped down to work for the Key West police department in 1950. Later he served as fire inspector and city commissioner. But, as he says himself, his first love is the padded glove sport.

"Oh yes, I heard about Kid Gavilan. They say he's dancing for his supper in a Miami nightclub now. But he'll come back. They say he's working with young kids, teaching them the tricks of the trade. That's good. That's how it should be."

ANOTHER NOT-TO-BE-MISSED CHAMPION who retired only to become a trainer of the younger set is the father of the great former football star, George Mira. Fighting under the name of Jimmy Gonzalez, Jimmy Mira worked his weight class up from 90 to 165 pounds, set out running at 5:00 a.m. daily, completing 5 to 10 miles before going to school. During the Depression, he made from \$100 to \$300 for a main bout which lasted 10 rounds, admitting, "I thought it was damn good to make \$100!" Using bricks from the streets as training tools, chopping wood all day and fighting all night, Jimmy Mira toured the boxing capitals of the South: Tampa, Sarasota, Plant City, St. Petersburg, Jacksonville, Macon, and more, traveling with five or six other fighters and his manager. Motels were 50¢ a day; they'd arrive two or three days ahead to get the press they needed. Onward to New Orleans, Fort Worth, Dallas, Shreveport and Deerfield Beach, the fighting Jimmy Gonzalez fought. He attacked "Gorilla" Jones, ex-middleweight champion of the world, in Fort Worth and Sam "Sad" Jones in New Orleans. Jimmy won a 10-round decision to beat the "Gorilla" and Ko'd Sam "Sad" in the third!

"GAMBLING, WELL, NO," considers Jimmy Mira today. "Only once do I remember anything like a fixed fight. 'We want to see the kid come up,' they said. At first I didn't get it. Then it dawned on me what they meant. 'He'll have to get by me first,' I said."

After serving as a professional fighter for nine years, Jim broke his hand in 1937. He boxed one time after that, at the Strand Theatre in 1941, where boxing was held every week for two or three months. "The Navy was a prominent factor in Key West at that time," Mira observes. "There were always plenty of supporters." In addition, many of the enlisted men sought to try their fistic skills out on each other.

JIMMY MIRA HAS been on the Key West boxing commission since that era, and firmly believes that most of the fans were in it for the fun, not for gambling money or shady deals. "There really wasn't much of that back then,"

he feels. "I think I would have caught wind of it, being on the commission. But no. That's something that's part of boxing today. Not so much in those days."

Mira is an ardent boxing enthusiast, willing and able to promote the sport and engage newcomers in the art of defense. He was instrumental in getting the USO building at the Navy Yard as a training gym for Key West youth a year ago, but the Freedom Flotilla hampered his goals. The edifice is now unfit, according to more than one source, and there are other complications.

"IN A SMALL TOWN like Key West," Jimmy concedes, "it doesn't take long to realize who's good and who's not so good. Kids will soon learn who they don't want to fight. We were importing kids from Miami for a while, but that gets expensive. You have to find a place for them to stay, feed them, arrange transportation down and back, that sort of thing." He frowns. "I'd love to see it work, but I just don't know if we'll be able to get it going again."

ALTHOUGH THAT ASPECT of the boxing fortune of Key West has its negative side, Jimmy Mira follows boxing avidly, watches every fight on television, has faith in the newcomer Jerry Cooney, the Irish-American "corner," and displays many copies of *Boxing Digest*, *Boxing Today* and *World Boxing*. He has opinions on who should fight whom, who shows promise, who's on the way down, and who's practically out. Any boxing enthusiast benefits from being in the company of the man who has fathered a sporting family, and is not bad as a chef either. His pizza establishment, named after his famous son, George, on Kennedy Drive, finds him behind the counter every day, mixing up a bit of grub with a bit of boxing lore.

"BOXING IS DIFFERENT from every other sport," Mira philosophizes. "For the love of it, one has to sacrifice every day, stay in shape, remain ready, even though a bout may be months off. Football, you're there in a week or two, other sports, every day. But boxing, sometimes you don't get a match for a year! It's tough to be that determined, that willing to stay in shape. Good training for life, though. It, too, is a daily preparedness."

A RUGGED RIVAL who never minded the training or the opportunity to stay in shape is Eddie Agin, who came to Key West via the Navy, from Pawtucket, Rhode Island, fighting his way to 6th District Naval Championship. Born of a half-Irish half-Italian family, this steady contender grew up a street-fighter and was used to getting hit. "Punches never fazed me," he remarks. "I had to control the urge to kick or grab my opponent around the neck, had to remember technique and boxing rules, but ever since I was a kid, I could take a punch."

Out of 23 amateur fights, Agin demolished his opponents in 21, losing only 2. From 1957 to 1959, with Terry Lee Garcia as his manager, Agin scored well in the famous Navy "hookers," coming out in the classic manner, proving himself to be more a boxer than a puncher, thrilling the crowds that averaged 150 to 200 fans every week. They turned out locally to see the fighter with outstanding ring presence and versatility.

"People in Key West love boxing," Agin asserts. "I'm sure if they got things going around here again, the people would support it. It's a boxing town; always has been."

HE WAS CHOSEN Navy Athlete of the Year in 1957, advancing fast and making his training pay off. "I did my road

work running from the airport to Bertha Street in the sand with boots on, with only my dog to keep me company," Agin recalls.



Eddie Agin

Apart from winning a trophy for his fights in the Navy, Agin was more than satisfied with his "duty." "I didn't work, just boxed the entire six-month season," he admits. "Got up, did my road work. Lunch at eleven. Gym at one. Two to three, teamwork. Little later on, chow time again. I guess I had it made. I was supposed to have two years' shore duty, two years' sea duty, but my orders were changed by a Key West captain who loved boxing. I stayed right here, trained and developed myself for the next performance."

FOLLOWING HIS STINT with the Navy, Agin turned pro. He participated in approximately a dozen fights before making the personal decision to retire, a choice which he questions and regrets to this day.

"I was the only pro in Key West at that time," Agin shakes his head at the recollection of what might have been. "To develop as a fighter, you have to train with better people than yourself. You have to keep improving, or you don't know if you're getting anywhere. I was outpointing and outboxing every other guy I trained with. Terry Lee Garcia, my manager, meant well for me, but he was involved in other things at the time. I had to decide whether to leave Key West and make the change to Miami, to get the right sparring partners and the development I needed, or to stay here."

"At the time, I had just bought a house, had a new wife, you know, the whole nine yards. So, even though I had won 11 of those 12 pro fights, I went ahead and quit. That was 1963."

"I'VE REGRETTED IT to this day. I'll always wonder what could have happened if I'd have done something different. I wasn't like a lot of the other guys who would say, 'I hate to train! I just like to fight!' Not me! I loved to train! To be in the gym all day, or out running, that to me was great. I missed the chance to find out."

"Boxing's a funny thing," the charterboat captain of the *ONE 2* continues. "Mentally and physically, one has to be there all the way in spirit. You can break a boxer's spirit, just like you can break a horse's spirit. But I always had plenty of confidence. I might have a few butterflies getting into the ring, but I always thought, 'You might BEAT me, but you can't EAT me.' That confidence got me through."



"SCATTER HAWK" DIXON is the KO artist Agin remembers vividly in his short but impressive career. "He could punch like a sucker, believe me! The first time we fought, he fractured my rib before that eight-round fight was over! Every time I breathed, it was like a knife twisting inside me. But I couldn't quit! I prayed he wouldn't knock me out, and kept on applying the pressure. I knew I'd outboxed him in the first few rounds. Well, when the final bell rang, I'd won it by decision. But that sucker could punch!"

In the rematch six months later, the fight was stopped in the second round because Agin sprained his ankle. The fight went down as a TKO (technical knock out). "That's the only time I was ever stopped," Agin proudly remarks. "I was a good boxer; I loved it!"

ANOTHER BOXER WHO sounds like a winner is Puerto Rican Angel Lewis Betancourt, known locally as "Lefty," who began as a bantam rooster at 119 pounds and developed upwards from there. He was popping away with his punishing left jab in the Police Athletic League in New York City at an early age, taking his father's advice and keeping off the streets. Betancourt's punching prowess earned him the championship brigade featherweight title in Navy boot camp in Balnbridge, Maryland, after he finished high school, and when he arrived in Key West in 1957 to finish out his last year of service, he immediately donned the gloves again. Sparring often with Eddie Agin, and training under the direction of Terry Lee Garcia, Betancourt soon saw his name in *Ring* magazine as "Prospect of the Month."

"I FELL IN LOVE with Key West," Betancourt declares. "It reminded me so much of Puerto Rico, with the fruit

trees, the mangoes. And boxing made it home."

Like his father-in-law Joe Mills, a jabber who fought in Key West in the late 30s, and went on to fight pro in New York City around 1945, Angel



"Lefty" Betancourt

"Lefty" Betancourt believes himself to be a good puncher but a better boxer. "Most of my 48 or 49 fights I won by decision," he claims. "I was never stopped, KO'd or knocked down. My idol is Sugar Ray Robinson; he was the best, as far as I'm concerned. But I'm a

left-handed fighter. I think I used to copy the style of Chuck Davey from Michigan. His style always appealed to me."

LEFTY BETANCOURT, who jogs today and keeps in excellent physical condition, has encouraged all of his children to participate in sports. His living room is testimony to the athletic nature of the family, filled to overflowing with trophies which his children have won for various high school athletic endeavors. Although they are talented in football, Betancourt is reluctant to see them take up the gloves.

"It's a rough sport," he confesses. "Besides, it's different now. Back then it was strictly for enjoyment. Nobody ever asked me to fix a fight. We were fighting for a trophy or a little recognition. Now, it's a big business. Those Navy days are gone for good."

THE MARINES BOASTED a boxing team in the fifties also, and heavyweight tough Richard Conrady, who has just recently completed graduate work at the FBI National Academy, relives those days still. He puts on the gloves every chance he gets, recently finding an opportunity to beat a few FBI buddies to the punch while studying law enforcement.

"They heard I used to box, and so one day, joggin' around, one guy says to me, 'I want to spar with you.' Well, we went a few rounds. Then another guy says the same thing! 'I want to spar with you too!' So there I was, reliving my former boxing days."

Unlike his old friends Agin and Betancourt, Conrady doesn't see boxing as a tough sport. "I've made some great friends through boxing," the flashy fighter believes. "We had a lot of fun

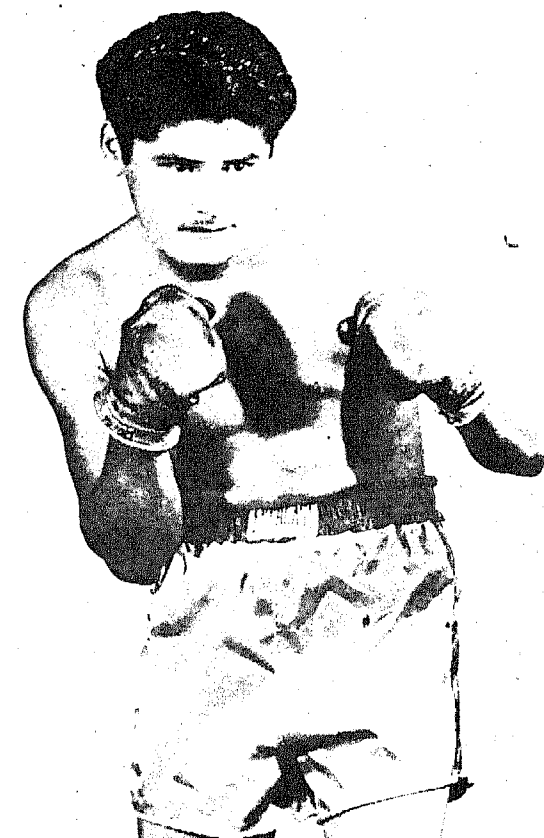
together. Although I was runner-up in the 6th Naval District, I never saw fighting as a career. I wanted to try it; in a dozen or so fights, I had a fairly good record; but for me it was just a chance to develop a little skill."

PROVING IT TAKES all kinds to get the boxing fans to go crazy is Jesus Romo, a lightweight from El Paso, Texas, who boxed his way as far as Attleborough, England, with the Air Force team in the late 40s. Having duked it out on the same card with Billy Conn, former light heavyweight champion of the world, Romo saw his ability as a trainer early in life, and by 1955, he had developed Pete Melen-dez, a Golden Gloves national champion. By the 1960s, the speedy right-handed Texan with Mexican roots had started a training group at Bayview Park in Key West, having migrated here in 1959 to take over his brother-in-law's business on Fleming Street. With the aid of Marion Stevens, who bought all of the equipment, Romo used the facilities at Mary Immaculate school to give youngsters a bit of sparring practice. Vandalism and insurance difficulties caused him to abandon the project, unfortunately, but he still has hopes for the future.

"I was involved with Shine and Jimmy Mira at the USO, and we're trying to get a gym again. The city can't make up its mind, but if it ever does, we'll be back training," asserts the hopeful Romo.

SCOTT LE DOUX, "the Fighting Frenchman," who fought an exhibition fight in Key West before defeating WBA heavyweight champ Mike Weaver, donated a punching bag to the boxing fans in appreciation of their support. The back shed of Romo's grocery is highlighted by both this punching bag and

the speed bag, which is jabbed a few times daily by the ex-right-hander. "Who would I like to see come up? The Mexicans, naturally!" Romo says,



Jesus Romo

smiling. "I'm not a gambler, but I never fail to watch a match on TV, and I think the Mexicans are coming along fine!"

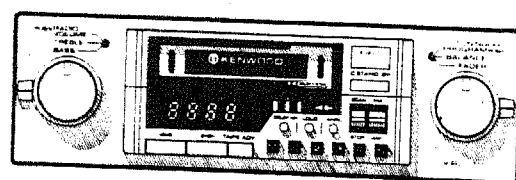
Sponsoring two local girls' volleyball teams, and one boys' team, Romo does his share for the sports-minded citizens of Key West. "It's the young ones I like to work with," he declares. "They are the future."

YET, AS ALL of these aforementioned heroes know, the future never unfolds without a backward glance at what has come before, what has influenced and stimulated, what has ennobled the minds and ambitions of the aspirants who seek the challenge of the ring.

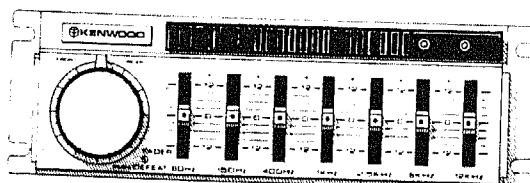
THE PASSING RECENTLY of the great Joe Louis, a heavyweight champion who many fighters both here and elsewhere identify as the hardest-punching king of all time, provides the opportunity for that backward glance. "The Brown Bomber" was pitted against not only Max Schmeling in 1938 but the entire propaganda theory of Aryan supremacy as well. The rise and fall of this man's fortunes, like that of great nations, and the vast, complex, revelatory power of a man who held the longest championship of any fighter since the donning of the gloved fist—both point to a legend too true to be believed. Joe Louis was laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery, honored by a nation that had set him aside. Only in death, as only in the ring, had the crowd cried, "Let's Hear It For The Champ."

MANY OF THE Key West boxing stars mentioned here believe that the lessons of boxing are the same lessons of life. The challenger today, the hero tomorrow, the footnote in less time than one would expect, remind mankind of that elusive magic, that boxing aura, that one man can and does, for a time, at least, become indomitable, the most powerful human being alive. Who wears that champion's crown wears that elusive

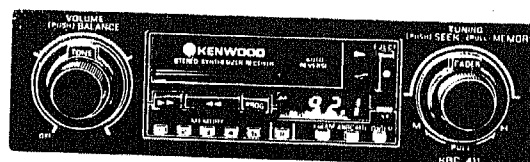
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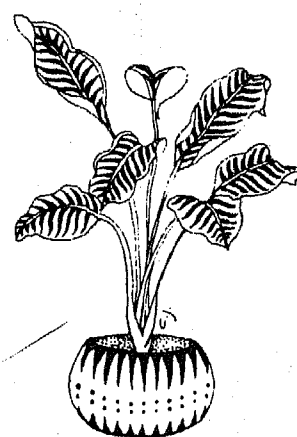


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LIKE POETRY ITSELF, boxing, man's oldest, most human competition, seeks to settle the challenge of life. Within every human is the quest to be that number one human being, that perfect specimen, that fighting machine who can conquer all obstacles. The men who stepped into the ring in the past, those who are and those who will, know this sense of quest. They are celebrated here in brief, yet their image is beyond description. They stand, determined, proud, hopeful, strong, on the shoulders of the John L. Sullivan, Joe Louises, Rocky Marcianos and even the Trevor Berbicks, shouting the words of the great American poet, Walt Whitman, who advised mankind to follow... "After the great champions, And to belong to them!"



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## Reviewing Stand

BY DOROTHY RAYMER

GEOGRAPHICAL LEAPFROG is played in the new novel *The Wine and the Music* by David A. Kaufelt. The story begins in Western Poland, then jumps to the United States and pinpoints New York, Hollywood and Key West. Europe, Berlin and Paris are also in the plot map, as well as Cuba.

THE CENTRAL FIGURE is Bessie, who has hair the color of red poppies. On her fifth birthday in Poland, her parents, Hannah and Abraham Meyer, took her to a party where a troupe of traveling German Jewish singers entertained. Little Bessie was singled out from the crowd by a young, handsome, clean-shaven singer with sandy hair and eyebrows and eyelashes so light that he seemed to have none. He picked up the tiny red-headed girl and marched around with her on his shoulders as he sang. The impression he made on her was to influence her all the rest of her life.

MILDRED MEYERWITZ, a relative and a seamstress spinster, took Bessie to the United States with her shortly after Bessie's fifth birthday. She convinced Hannah and her husband that the Cosacks were preparing to raid Poland and that the child would be hauled off to a tragic fate. Mildred had tuberculosis but managed to make it through inspection at Ellis Island.

ALL THIS IS revealed in a prologue. After that the stage is set in New York City for Book One -- "Dawn" -- in which Bessie advances from hostess at a restaurant to the Yiddish Theater and first becomes involved with an enterprising Irish-American gangster. Throughout the

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book he is labeled only as "Ryan," although one presumes his first name is Timothy since his uncle is Big Timmy Ryan. This point is never really made clear.

The point that IS clearly emphasized is that Ryan has sandy hair and colorless eyebrows and eyelashes, like the singer of Bessie's childhood. She becomes infatuated and emotionally tethered to him, not only as his mistress, but in business as manager of his restaurant, known as "B's Gardens," adjacent to a combination gambling place and fancy whorehouse. Ryan's wife and children live on Long Island, seemingly untouched by his criminal career in the numbers racket, to name one of his illegal ventures which make him a fortune.

BESSIE RETAINS HER interest in a settlement house which rescued her from slum life, but she hates some of Ryan's political and racket associates, such as Bumps Bogan. Ryan has a surface career as a clever lawyer but he is deep in underworld machinations, Tammany Hall graft and crooked politics.

ENTER COMPLICATIONS -- Bessie's three younger brothers, ages 15, 13 and 12, who were brought over from Poland after their parents died in an influenza epidemic. From then on, the three boys -- blond Max, the eldest; Jake, also fair, the middle son; and Nick, the volatile, dark, youngest boy of the trio -- change the course of their sister's life.

THE AUTHOR HAS done a lot of research of the times encompassed in his novel, and details and sidelights are for the most part accurate reflections of the past.

However, the Key West image is not

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## Calico CATALYST

BY GIL RYDER

EVERYONE KNOWS THAT Key West has a salubrious climate, beautiful trees and shrubbery, excellent restaurants and motels, all surrounded by a sparkling sea—even clean air on the windward side of City Electric.

There is another plus for Key West that we are not always aware of. Stumbling along over our broken sidewalks are some of the nicest people in the world, tolerant, compassionate and helpful.

TO ILLUSTRATE: There is a very elderly man living alone in a small house on one of the alleys in Old Town. The house is small but sufficient for his needs and he owns it free and clear. Unfortunately, the property has been deteriorating badly and the old man has neither the strength to make necessary repairs nor the money for material and labor to hire it done. The old man, because of personal pride, would not ask for help or knowingly draw attention to his plight. However, an act of simple kindness, a casting of his meager share of bread upon the waters, brought his troubles to the closer attention of his neighbors, and this in turn brought about the solution to most of his problems.

ONE OF THOSE transient persons, who suddenly appeared in the neighborhood as casually and lightly as a small bird landing on a twig, came to roost in the area for a brief period, caused no problems, and as casually and lightly as the bird on the twig, flew off again, causing no ripples or trouble, except that he left behind his pet cat. She was a half-grown calico cat, of an even, friendly, affectionate disposition, but not self-supporting. The old man, being a kindhearted and sympath-

etic soul, took the hungry animal in and shared his rather light supply of food with her. In a few days, neighbors became aware of the cat around the old man's house and mentioned it in conversation with him. This, in turn, brought to light the old man's financial condition. The first and immediate result was that the neighbors provided food for the cat.

That act brought about more conversation which brought to light the fact that the old man's TV cable, for some reason, had been disconnected. The neighbors, while better off than the old man, were not in a position to pay for reconnection of the cable, but they did bring the problem to the attention of a well-known Key West political figure, in the hope that he could influence the cable company to reconnect without charge. The political person either could not or would not do exactly that, but he did go to the cable company and had the line reconnected at his own expense.

EVERYTHING ROCKED ALONG at an easy pace. The old man was no richer but he could watch TV again, with a pet cat on his lap, and the cat had a home and enough to eat. This may sound like a happy ending but it's really only the beginning.

After a bit, the calico cat was noticeably pregnant; bound to happen, but a new problem, nevertheless. In due course, four kittens arrived. A home was found for only one of them and the old man now had four cats (all female) to bring sunshine into his declining years.

NOW WE COME to the famous date of November 11, 1980. You may remember that as the day Key West got more than

half its annual rainfall all in one 24-hour period. Things were a little damp around the edges, and in the middle, too.

Neighbors of the old man decided that they'd better slosh over and see how he and his feline family were making out in the flood. Things were not too good. In one half of the house it was raining about as hard inside as it was outside.

WHAT WITH THE cats and the aged man, it looked like Noah's Ark with a bad leak and about to go under. In the wet half of the house, the ceilings were down, interior walls buckled, the ancient rug and furniture a sodden mess. Noah and his four furry passengers were safe and dry in the unwrecked kitchen. As long as the old man and his cats could weather the storm in the dry side of the house, there was nothing to be done until the rainstorm let up.

The next day the old man managed to clean out a good deal of the wreckage, and preferred to do so without help. Gradually, the house dried out, but you could stand in the livingroom and look through the roof at the sky. Something obviously had to be done—but what? Neighbors conferred with each other and decided that the best thing the old man could do would be to sell the property for whatever it would bring and move into the Senior Citizen Center.

ONE OF THE neighbors was appointed to discuss this with the old man and he did so, at length and on several occasions, but the old man was adamant—he owned the house, he had known happiness there, and he was going to stay there until he died. He and the cats would live in the dry side of the building and ignore the rest.

Further conferences among the

neighbors brought the suggestion that the spokesman should get in touch with another well-known political figure and see if he could prevail on the old man to make the suggested change. This was done. The second well-known political figure agreed and visited the old man a number of times with no more success than the neighbor had had. The second political figure finally decided that the only thing to do was to have the house repaired and put back in comfortable living condition.

THE HOUSE NOW has a new roof, new ceiling and walls in the living area, an almost-new carpet, new light fixtures, and a ceiling fan. The exterior of the house has also been renovated, rotten boards replaced, and the whole thing painted. The old man is happy, the cats are happy and the neighbors are tickled pink.

No questions were asked about how the money for these good works was raised, and the neighbors have been assured that no tax money or public funds of any kind were involved—but thanks to the second big-hearted politician, the job was done. Once again, this looks like a good spot for a happy ending, but wait—there's more.

WHILE ALL THESE things were progressing, so were the kittens. They became attractive, alluring, young-lady cats, and the word evidently got around. Almost every tom cat in Key West found his way to the alley of the old man's house. The whole area was entertained nightly by a resonant jungle chorus, good solid basses, high sopranos, falsetto, obbligato, and the works. The humans were not particularly happy about the whole thing but the cats must have been delighted -- the old man ended up with four pregnant cats.

THE NEIGHBORS, so delighted with the old man's good fortune and his

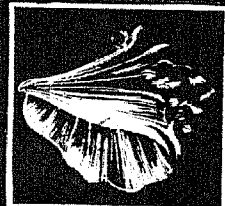
cats, were becoming a little less delighted and conferred again. What could be done about this without upsetting the old man's happiness? No one could locate an ASPCA or Humane Society. The last resort would be Animal Control and the destruction of the cats. Animal Control was called but the lady said there would be a fee for picking up the cats. This gave folks second thoughts as they really didn't want the cats killed anyway, but what to do? No one wanted the kittens when they were virgins, who'd want them now that they were pregnant?

BUT--THE GODS were with them again. Someone heard of the United Humanitarians, and with the help of that great organization, all the cats (Moral Majority, don't read this) were aborted and spayed. A truly happy ending for all hands: the old man, cats and neighbors.

UNFORTUNATELY, TO AVOID embarrassment, no names other than the United Humanitarians may be published, but the story is completely true, and doesn't it make you think just a little bit about a Sunday School lesson learned in your childhood concerning bread cast upon the waters?

IF YOU'D LIKE to try casting a little bread upon the waters, just send a donation to United Humanitarians. It will help in a great and needed work --and may be returned to you a thousand-fold (but not in kittens). If you would like a kitten, call United Humanitarians at 296-5106 before noon. Mention this story and they'll get in touch with the old man and a kitten (two left), now a spayed cat, will be delivered to you. Donations can be sent to: United Humanitarians, Attention Dorothy Fork, 2501 Harris Avenue, Key West, Florida 33040.

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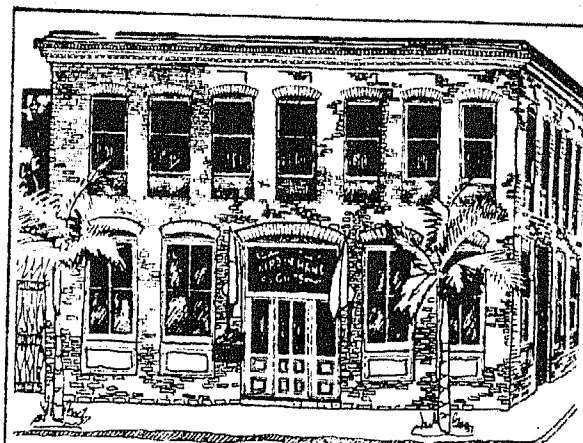
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Florence Fuller at the Museum.

Jeanne Taylor at award ceremony

WITH ITS APRIL membership meeting serving as an appropriate occasion, the Key West Art and Historical Society paid fitting tribute to two of its finest women curators of former days, Mrs. Jeanne Taylor and Mrs. Florence Fuller, who have both made outstanding contributions to East Martello Gallery and the Lighthouse Museum. Mr. August Mirzaoff, current president of the institutions, paid considerable compliments to each of them for their pioneering efforts and unswerving loyalty to the principles of preservation.

Citing Mrs. Taylor's 32-year involvement and Mrs. Fuller's more recent endeavors, Mirzaoff expressed the sentiments of Key West with his appreciate remarks, reflecting the feelings of many: "It is hoped that your accomplishments will continue to be enjoyed by countless generations yet to come."

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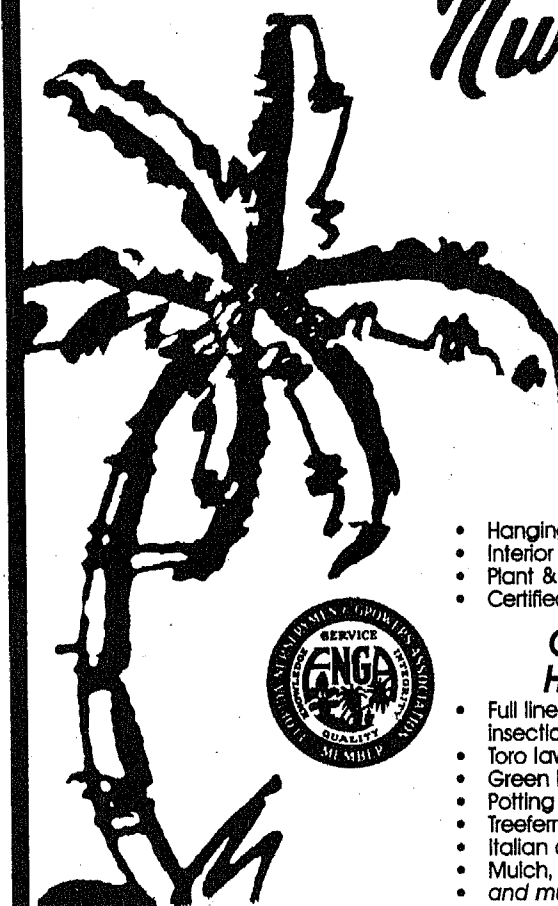
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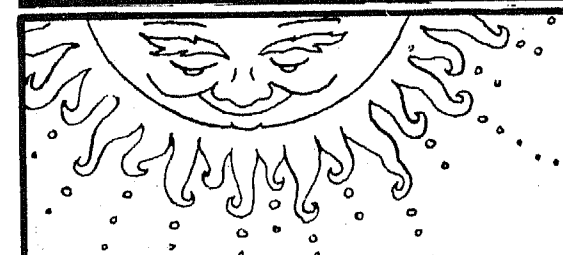
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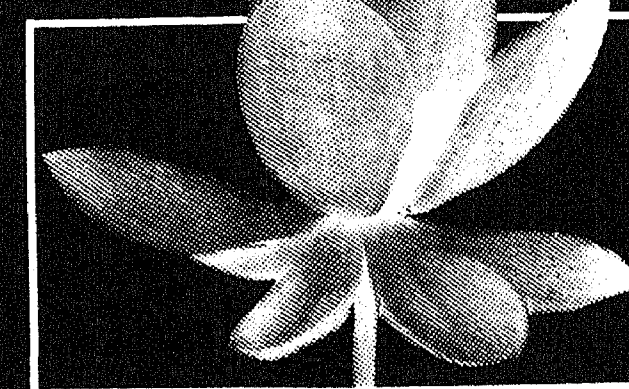
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BY FRANCES-ELIZABETH SIGNORELLI

THE TENDER, GREEN hand of Spring touched the hills of Tallahassee March 7 when the Florida Legislature opened. The pink dogwoods, which are hybrids, and the white-blossomed ones, which are pure; the rose, red and violet-colored azalias, the purple wisteria vines creeping over the walls—all pleased the eye.

The Monroe-Dade delegation had arrived in cars packed to the gunwales for their 60-day session. All sped to the Capitol that morning where the five flags of Florida—English, French, Spanish, Confederate and American—rippled in a soft breeze.

I PASSED UNDER the great, gold Seal of Florida and chose a seat in the glassed-in gallery overlooking the floor of the Senate. Comes over one in this impressive chamber a quality of thoughts and feelings. Let's not go over the moon, but I can attest that there is a sense of occasion about the Senate in session that almost makes your earrings fall off.

The 40 Senators were seated in huge, rich leather chairs ranged in tiers, flowers from well-wishers pervasive at their desks that day. These men are not simply political stars viewed from the public gallery; they are supernova. No hogwash materialism apparent to the naked eye. Nor bestial indifference.

SENATE PRESIDENT W.D. Childers, looking like somebody's trusted uncle, sends a committee over to the House notifying that the Senate is assembled and ready to begin the business of the day. Sen. Childers long time ago made a big name for himself selling Hula Hoops in Pensacola. There sits Dempsey Barron, a tall, blond man at the front, a Senate power broker.

The House sends word over that it is ready to receive the Senate. There is a push and shove of the public for vantage spots along the rims of the lofty rotundas overlooking the procession. Marble floors, everything state-ly. Is this all a little too smooth for Key West which is a bit cut off? Or which is HELD to be cut off.

SUCH POMP AND circumstance is always quite good value. Florida State University madrigal singers line the path of the marchers—that of both Houses, the Cabinet and the Supreme

Court (in black robes). Once in the House chambers, the crowd is Standing Room Only. Governor Graham's arrival always lends snap and crackle to an occasion here. It is soon that I spot Rep. Joe Allen's profile in the aisle. Sens. Dick Renick, Bob McKnight and Dick Anderson leave the line and are taking seats around the floor, so that Gov. Graham is well into his speech that he is diving with creamy agility before I spot all of them.

I HAVE A very advantageous seat for this, even though, admittedly, my clout at the Capitol is derived. After all, a senator's aide's wife! But I do not for a moment allow the marginal flavor of my foothold to deter me. In the jam produced at the end of the speech, I am swept along with a contingent of Democrats headed for a luncheon pow-wow ... "Let's go have a little of what killed Auntie ...." Being a Republican, I feel like a fox loose in the chicken coop.

IT IS NOT easy to extricate oneself and to reach one of the elegant water fountains (tasting like all city water—a slightly typhoid flavor) and to sip and to stand there considering the profundities, the gloss, the excitement, and, quintessentially, the promise of the Florida Legislature.

## AMUSEMENTS

BY ROBIN KAPLAN

As the town's social and cultural winter season draws to a close, we are left with more solitary pleasures, one of which is reading. Fortunately, a number of Key West authors have provided us with new material for the long, hot summer.

Michael Gardine has recently had a novel released by Dell Publishers entitled *Lamia*. The *Lamia* is a perfect beauty whose being is beyond good and evil. It is a fast-paced, perfect beach read, spellbinding in the sense of Stephen King's work, in that it deals with occult terror.

Kathryn Proby, highly regarded historical researcher and author, known for her volume, *Audubon in Florida*, has recently embraced Key West as her year-round home. Previously available only in hardcover, *Audubon* . . . has just come off the press in paperback. It has the distinction of being a scholarly work accessible to every reader and I highly recommend it. In addition, Mrs. Proby is awaiting publication of her new color illustrated biography of America's foremost primitive artist, Mario Sanchez. I have seen the plates and the galleys and believe this paperback edition will be a totally pleasurable experience as well as a collector's item, as the first printing rolls off the press later this month.

Out of stock for the longest time was the work of Peter Taylor, an excellent short story writer often published in the *New Yorker*. His highly crafted book, *Collected Stories*, is back on bookshop shelves again and is highly recommended.

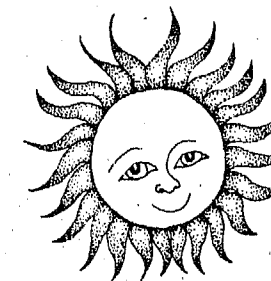
David Kaufelt is a busy man. Two of his novels have recently gone paperback, *Midnight Mover* and *Late Bloomer*. David has been compared to Fitzgerald, Capote and Ottara in his ability to weave a fast-paced story dealing in particular with the lunatic-fringe coterie set in Hollywood of the 40's.

His latest novel, *The Wine and the Music*, is a family saga about success in America beginning in turn of the century N.Y.C. It is the story of Bessie Meyers who immigrates from Poland and becomes a star of the Yiddish theatre. It's also the story of an Irish lawyer, Ryan and the 3 brothers of Bessie. Set in N.Y., golden-age Hollywood, jazz-age Paris, Key West and the underworld of Cuba and the Caribbean, it goes beyond the classic saga. It is the American dream.

Thomas McGuane was my introduction to the school of Key West literature with *92 in the Shade*. I loved it and rapidly gobbled up *Panama*. Now available is *An Outside Chance*, a personal account of 10 years in the sporting life expounded in essays dealing with hunting, sailing, fishing and "cow-boyng". It is a collection for everyone and a particularly good Father's Day gift.

Also of local interest is the new Anthony Burgess release *Ernest Hemingway and His World*. It is a brief but brilliant biography, amply illustrated that will induce new readers to discover Hemingway and seasoned readers to reread him.

On Monday, May 4th at 8:30 p.m. the Tennessee Williams Fine Arts Center will offer the last film in their series. Marilyn Monroe will fill the screen in *Bus Stop*, the story



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## Editorial Miscellany

BY BILL WESTRAY

### GOLF COURSE WRAPUP

SHORTLY AFTER 5 P.M. on Wednesday, April 22, 1981, Circuit Judge Arden M. Siegfendorf of Miami ruled in favor of the defendants, the City of Key West and developers, Toby Arnheim and Norman Wood, in deciding that he found "no legal impediment" to execution of the golf course sales and lease agreements that were authorized by a City resolution back in February. He declared that the wisdom of the transaction was not for the court to decide.

THE LEAGUE OF Concerned Citizens had filed the lawsuit seeking to block the sales agreement until the 46 acres of land involved could be appraised by a three-man board of licensed realtors and then sold for no less than such appraised value in accordance with the City Charter. They also argued that the Charter required prior approval of the sale by a referendum election. The court found that the Charter requirement for an appraisal, although it had been included in Section 237 of the Charter for about 20 years, had actually been rejected by the voters back in 1961. The court further ruled that the Municipal Home Rule Act of 1973 had superseded the special act of 1961 by which the Florida Legislature adopted

the charter, and that the City could change such provisions of the Charter by resolution or ordinance.

IN THE COURSE of the hearing several things were brought out through sworn testimony of the developers. It was established that Clint Murchison and Tex Schramm, owners of the Dallas Cowboys, are in fact partners of Arnheim and Wood in this venture. It was established that the developers will spend about \$13.5 million on the golf course and improvements, plus the \$1 million for purchase of the land. Nor-

QUESTIONED BY JUDGE Siegfendorf about potential income from greens fees, John McCracken, the financial executive of the developers, testified that by 1984 they expected about 40,000 golfers to use the course each year and pay over \$1,300,000 in greens fees. This yield would provide a breakeven for operations and maintenance costs but would not amortize the \$13.5 million investment. At 5 percent the City would get about \$65,000 per year from this yield. The individual greens fees would be about \$32 per play.

ONE OF THE provisions of the sales and lease agreements is that the developers would post a bond with the City to guarantee that they will complete the championship golf course and all improvements as described. The agreement stipulates that the actual amount of bond is to be established from the

AT 5 PERCENT THE CITY WOULD GET ABOUT \$65,000 PER YEAR FROM THIS YIELD. THE INDIVIDUAL GREENS FEES WOULD BE ABOUT \$32 PER PLAY.

man Wood testified that they had completed all necessary environmental studies which had been coordinated with the Army Corps of Engineers and the Florida Department of Environmental Regulation (DER) and that they expected to sign the sales and lease agreements and get work on the golf course underway about June 1. They hope to have the first nine holes of the new course ready for use by January 1982, and the other nine holes a year later.

architect's estimate and after all environmental permits were secured. Developer attorney Mike Halpern was authorized to apply for these on behalf of the City several months ago. The developers have now established the value of the improvements at \$13.5 million, so a bond in that amount would seem appropriate, and any significant deviation from that figure would seem questionable.

con't. on p. 35

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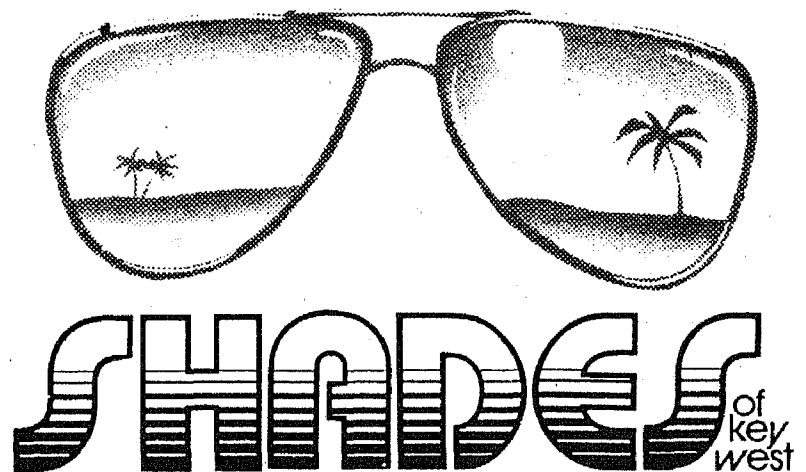
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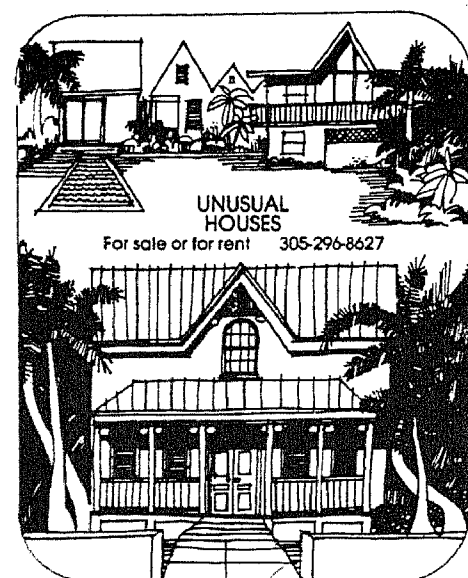


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## KEY WEST'S HOROSCOPE

BY EMMA CATES

MAY

Sun in Taurus, after 20 in Gemini.  
Venus in Taurus, after 11 in Gemini.  
Mercury in Taurus, after 7 in Gemini.  
Saturn in Libra, retrograde.  
Jupiter in Libra, retrograde - direct on the 28th.

Mars in Taurus.  
Uranus in Scorpio, retrograde.  
Neptune in Sagittarius, retrograde.  
Pluto in Libra, retrograde.  
North Node in 6 degrees of Leo.

THE NEW MOON on May 4th in Taurus aspects the twelfth house sector of the Key West chart, in good aspect to the stellium of planets in Capricorn in the eighth house. The financial picture is improving. Legal haggles will be settled, and the road cleared for new beginnings in June. The summer looks like a positive time for Key West in contrast to the past summer.

Another positive aspect in the progressed chart of Key West is the planet Jupiter taking its station to go in direct motion in the sixth house of work. The employment area will be showing great improvement.

THE FULL MOON on May 27 in Scorpio also aspects the 6th house. We should see groundbreaking for new construction and consequently increased employment in that area.

Our ruler, Saturn, goes direct toward the end of this month. This aspects our Capricorn Sun in a negative manner. Old or ongoing legal problems

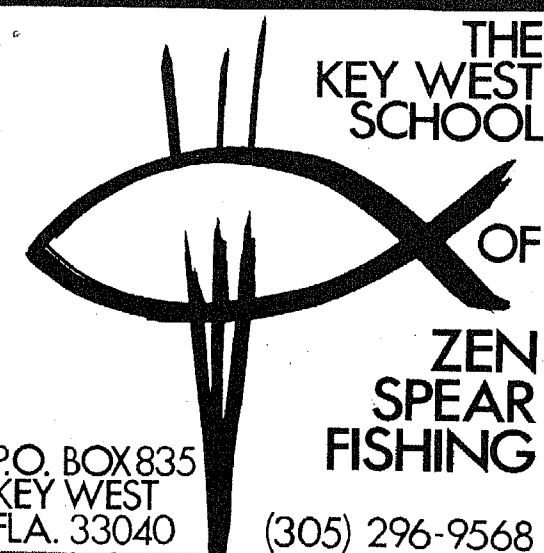
will be resolved, but new problems are very likely to crop up in the legal department pertaining to money.



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con't. from p. 32

WE HAVE SOME concern that the environmental permit process may not be moving as rapidly and smoothly as represented. We talked to local DER supervisor Glen Boe after the court hearing and he told us that the dredge and fill applications for part of the golf course fairway had not been completed, yet alone acted upon.

This is a process that takes several months, therefore we wonder about Wood's June 1 starting date for golf course construction.

IT APPEARS TO US that most of the legal questions concerning the deal have been resolved, and that reconstruction of the golf course and development of the townhouses are going to proceed for better or for worse. It is essential, therefore, that the City's interests be scrupulously respected.

We believe that all necessary permits should be guaranteed and the bond posted before the closing is executed, and the land irreversibly conveyed, to make sure that the developers can't back out of the golf course deal after they have secured title to the land.

WE FURTHER BELIEVE that the developers must be required to complete all development procedures (Major Development, Community Impact Assessment, Ord. 76-4; Townhouse Development Standards, Ord. 69-29, Section VII; Southern Building Code; National Flood Insurance Agency Standards, etc.) for the townhouse/condominium project.

WE HAVE SEEN what might appear to be some questionable quality in other construction in a different area of the City by some of the persons involved, and there is too much at stake in this instance to be less than vigilant

in requiring strict code compliance.

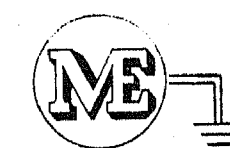
(At presstime we were advised by a representative of the League of Concerned Citizens that an appeal of Judge Siegenfeld's decision was being planned. We hope this appeal is successful.)

### THE REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY

UNDER THE FLORIDA House of Representatives' Bill 397 (HB 397), pre-filed by Representative Joe Allen on behalf of the Key West Redevelopment Agency (KWRA), the agency is proposing to have the City-created KWRA abolished and have itself recreated by the Florida Legislature as a City within a City.

Section 10 of HB 397 reads, "The agency shall be deemed to be a 'redevelopment agency' with the meaning of

con't. on p. 37



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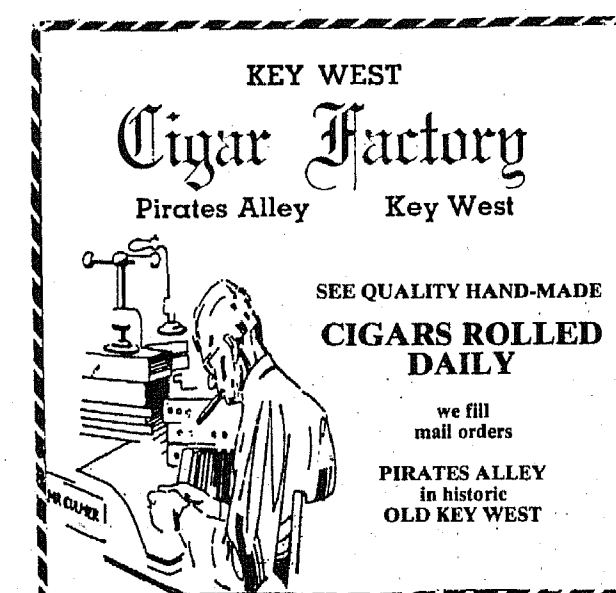


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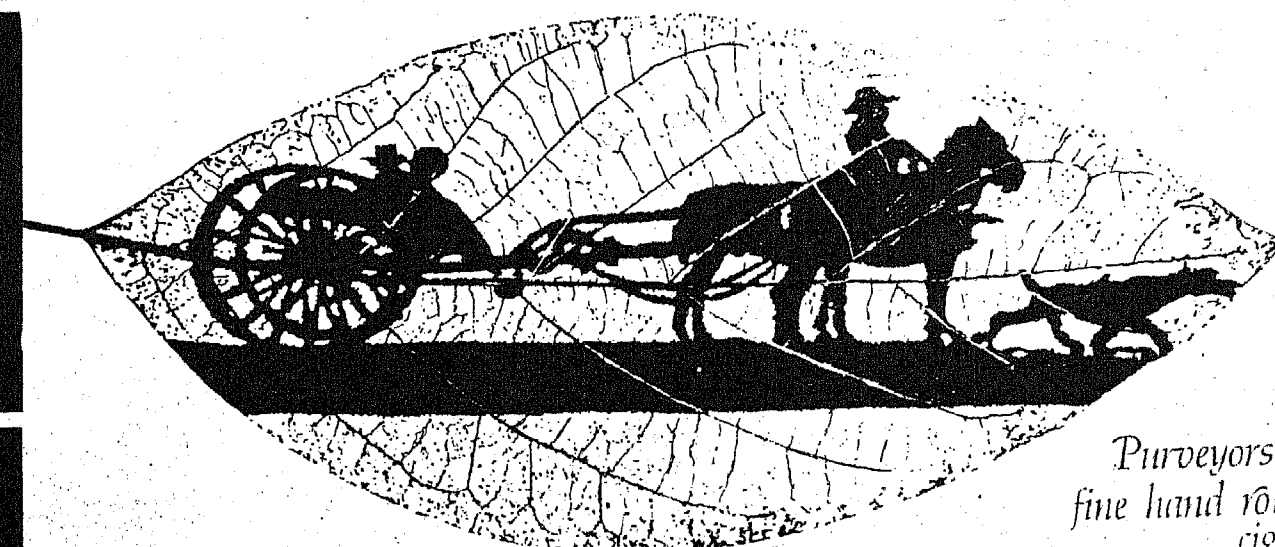
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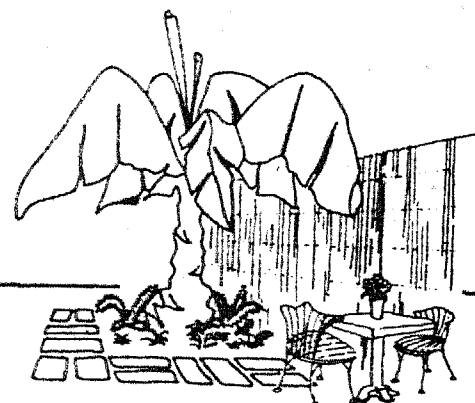
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Andrew Sarris, Village Voice

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New York Times

10-16

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Richard Schickel, Time

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Jack Kroll, Newsweek

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17-23

### "Swept Away.."

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"It explodes into a fierce battle of the  
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as ferocious as it is funny."  
—Judith Crist, Saturday Review

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24-30



### BREWSTER MC CLOUD

con't. from p. 35

Part III of Chapter 163, Florida Statutes, and shall have all the powers granted thereunder to such agencies. THE AGENCY SHALL FURTHER HAVE ALL THE POWERS OF A MUNICIPALITY UNDER PART III OF CHAPTER 163, FLORIDA STATUTES." (emphasis added).

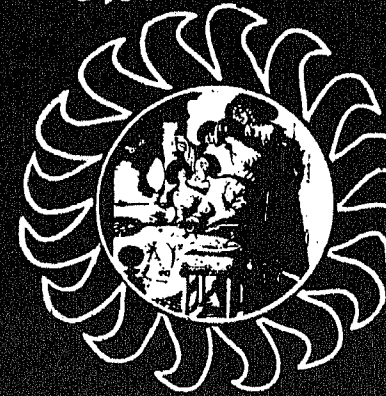
AS THE BILL is presently written and filed, this latter provision gives the Board of Commissioners of the redevelopment agency the authority to act as the governing body of the City in all matters related to redevelopment projects, including designating any area, "...within the corporate territorial limits of the City of Key West ... to be a slum or blighted area ... appropriate for redevelopment." A provision in Section 3 of HB 397 for the City Commission to designate areas other than the Navy's Truman Annex as slum or blighted areas in no way restricts the KWRA from doing so too under F.S. 163.358, acting as a municipality under Section 10 of the bill.

WE BELIEVE THAT ONLY BY KEEPING THE KWRA RESPONSIBLE TO THE VOTERS, THROUGH THE ELECTED CITY AND COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, CAN THE PUBLIC INTEREST AND WELFARE BE PROTECTED.

THE CITY OF Key West would have no authority to limit or restrict the powers of the KWRA other than to remove board members for cause and make new appointments, if the KWRA is established by the Florida Legislature as HB 397 proposes. Essentially the recreated KWRA would be autonomous and have "perpetual existence" under the Florida Legislature.

ACCORDING TO DENIS Anderson, Executive Director of KWRA, and according to the bonding firm advisors, the primary purpose behind recreating KWRA as a state agency is to preclude any future attempt to abolish the agency or restrict the bonding power of the agency.

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under Part II of chapter 159, Florida Statutes. It is felt by KWRA and its bond advisors that the City's credit position is so poor and the City has such a bad financial reputation that the KWRA would have trouble floating an industrial revenue bond issue under the present circumstances of City control of the agency. Making it a state agency with which the City couldn't interfere is expected to improve the agency's financial reputation in the bond market.

FURTHERMORE, ANY FUTURE controversy that the City and County Commissioners might have over the agency or its project plans would have no effect on KWRA as recreated under this bill. This bill appears to effectively take away the authority of the County to appoint two members to the KWRA Board unless the City Commission so chooses.

IT HAS BEEN our experience in the past that autonomous agencies tend to place themselves outside of Florida Statutes with respect to Public Records (F.S. 119), Administrative Procedures (F.S. 120), and Sunshine Law (F.S. 286).

We have had some difficulty in this with the present KWRA, as well as other state-created agencies. We would like to see specific provisions making these laws applicable to the KWRA to avoid misunderstanding.

WE CAN UNDERSTAND that KWRA would like to keep itself apart from local politics; however, we feel that the potential abusive use of the power of such an independent agency outweighs the potential benefits. We believe that only by keeping the KWRA responsible to the voters, through the elected City and County Commissioners, can the public interest and welfare be protected.

AS PRESENTLY ESTABLISHED and constituted by the Key West City Commission under Ordinances 79-15 and 79-25, the KWRA already has all the powers of a redevelopment agency under F.S. 163, Part III, and the authority to issue industrial revenue bonds under F.S. 159 Part II. We see no reason to give it the independent powers of a city, or to change it from an appointed board under the City Commission with two of its five members selected by the County Commission (NOT "or other public entity" as the bill proposed). We think this bill is potentially dangerous and unnecessary.

HOWEVER, IF THE legislative delegation makes KWRA a state agency, then its power to redevelop should be limited solely to the Navy's Truman Annex. Representative Allen has already assured us that this change is planned before the bill comes out of the Community Affairs Committee of the Florida House; however, the same commitment was given by KWRA representatives some time ago and was not carried out.

WE BELIEVE THAT any extension of the area should be controlled by the City or by the Legislature upon recommendation of the City, but in any event not the KWRA. The further powers of a municipality for KWRA under Section 10 of HB 397 should be deleted. A maximum limit should be placed on the bonding authority under F.S. 159, Part II. Finally, the provisions of F.S. 119, 120 and 286 should be made expressly applicable to KWRA to avoid any misunderstanding.

WE CAN'T HELP but wonder if one reason behind this bill is an effort on the part of a small group to create a perpetual agency with extraordinary power over valuable resources that would be outside the control of the City Commission and the voters of Key West.

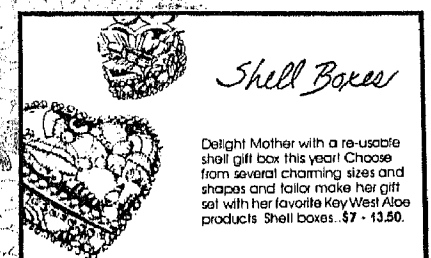
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## EVENTS

## SPECIAL EVENTS

May Previewing: Harbour Lights Restaurant, Garrison Bight Marina. An exquisite opportunity to dine on one of Key West's historic bay sites, and to enjoy a gourmet repast of top quality, featuring the finest in seafood, etc. Palm Avenue. 294-9343.

## THEATRE/ARTS

May 2: Tennessee Williams Fine Arts Center (TWAC) presents two performances of Bill Monroe and the Bluegrass Boys, at 7:30 and 10 p.m. Monroe, referred to as the "Father of Bluegrass," is famous for such well-known bluegrass numbers as "Mule Skinner Blues," "Blue Moon of Kentucky," and "Precious Memories." For tickets and information, call 294-6363.

May 3: Free evening of chamber music, beginning at 7:30 p.m., Old Stone Church, Eaton at Simonton.

## GALLERIES

East Martello, S. Roosevelt Blvd., 296-3913. 9:30-5, daily except Christmas. A 'fort-museum' with some of the most interesting artifacts of Keys' history and lore. Thru May: Key West High School exhibit.

Workshops in Life Painting and Drawing with Malcolm Ross. Mondays at 7:30 p.m. and Fridays at 2 p.m. For exact times and information, call 294-8301.

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

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

Gingerbread Square Gallery, 902 Duval St., 296-8900. 11-6 daily. Reopening even on the weekends, 7-10 p.m. This art gallery blends the modern and primitive styles in the works of Stell Adams, Henry Lawrence Faulkner, and many more. Featured shows continue bi-weekly.

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

Key West Art Center, 301 Front St., 294-1241. 10-5 daily. Sundays 11-4. This is a membership gallery, featuring individual wall shows every two weeks. Public lectures given from time to time on subjects pertinent to art and artists.

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

Moira, the Art gallery in Key Lime Square 294-1254. 10-5 Tuesday thru Saturday. Jin Lehmkuhl, artist in residence. Paintings and drawings by F. Ronald Fowler are currently on display.

Rooftop Gallery, 423 Front St., 294-5892. 10-5 daily. Small but mighty, this special artists' showcase includes handcrafted jewelry plus exciting works by local artists, including Henry L. Faulkner, famed Key West artist, singer and philosopher.

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

## REGULAR EVENTS

Aqueduct Authority meeting, 1100 Kennedy Drive, 296-2454. May 14 and 15 in West Palm Beach, following Water Management meetings at 10 and 8:30 on each day, respectively.

City Commission meeting, first and third Mondays at 8 p.m. City Hall. Corner Simonton and Angela streets.

City Electric Utility Board meetings, second and fourth Wednesdays, 5 p.m., Board Room, 930 Caroline St.

Monroe County Commission meeting, 294-4641. (Tentative) May 5 in Ocean Reef; and May 19 in Marathon. Both at 10 a.m.

Monroe County Library Book Sale, rear of Library, May 2nd. All books, 25¢.

Marathon Lions Club dinner meetings, second and fourth Wednesdays, Indies Inn, Duck Key, 7:30 p.m.

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

Quaker Unprogrammed Meeting for Worship, 802 Eaton St., Sundays at 10:30 a.m., third floor. 294-1523 or 294-3612.

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

## POETRY READINGS, LEARNING, ETC.

Guild Hall Poetry Society, 614 Duval St., 296-9359. Open reading held the first Sunday of every month, excelling in local Key West "color." Poets past, present and future are invited to come and share their works.

May 3: Original poems by Gay Dalton featured. 8 p.m. Refreshments.

Great Books Discussion Program, Library at 700 Fleming St. Theme: "The Search for Meaning." Meets every other Monday 7 to 9 p.m. Read selection in order to discuss.

May 11: *The Open Boat* by Stephen Crane.

May 25: *The Figure in the Carpet* by Henry James.

## FILMS

Monroe County Library, 700 Fleming St., 294-8488. Children's films every Saturday at 10 a.m. Free.

May 2: "The White Seal" and "Bone Ranger"

May 9: "Mysteries of the Deep" and "Haunted Cat"

May 16: "Cat in the Hat" and "Rabbit Hill" (hour long; based on R. Lawson's book)

May 23: "Charlie Needs a Cloak" and "The Happy Prince"

May 30: "Amazing Cosmic Awareness of Duffy Moon" and "Case of the Elevator Duck"

Adult films, every Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. Free.

May 6: "Trouble with Tribbles" (Star Trek)

May 20: "Tut: The Boy King"

May 27: "Amazon"

Tennessee Williams Fine Arts Center presents "Great Actresses in Film" series.

May 4: Last in the series: Marilyn Monroe in "Bus Stop." 3:30 p.m. See above, theatre, for box office information.

## SELF-HELP

Alcoholics Anonymous, 294-9026. Domestic Abuse Shelter Volunteers, 294-5506.

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

Overseas Anonymous, now meeting Mondays rather than Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. at the Fleming Street Methodist Church, 729 Fleming St.

Conscious Pregnancy Classes, 296-6259.

Key West Singles, 296-6977, 296-3423 or 294-6973.

Mail-A-Book Program, costs you only 29¢ for mailing! Library, 294-8488.

Metropolitan Community Church, 319 Duval St., Sundays at noon.

An extensive schedule of courses has been set up by the Women's Center, 602 Duval Street. The Center is open daily from 8 to 4:30. 294-8481. The class schedule for May:

May 4 through June 10. Conversational Spanish For professionals. 5:30-7:30 p.m. \$20 fee. Monday & Wednesday, Key West Skill Center.

May 4 through June 12. Beginning Spanish For Senior Citizens. 3-5 p.m. No fee. Monday & Friday, AARP Armory.

May 5 through June 11. Intermediate Spanish For Senior Citizens. 5-7 p.m. No fee. Tuesday & Thursday, Women's Center.

May 5 through June 11. Intermediate English as a Second Language. 7-9 p.m. \$20 fee. Tuesday & Thursday, Women's Center.

YMCA Silver Star "Advanced Diving" course beginning dates May 4, May 11, May 18. \$140 fee. Prerequisites: current physical; NAUI, PADI or YMCA basic diving certification. Course includes two lectures, three dives, one being a night dive, covered in a period of one week.

May 9 through May 10. Introduction To Sailing J Boats. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. \$60 registration plus \$50 lab fee. Saturday & Sunday, Truman Annex, Pier 5.

May 9 through May 10. Advanced Sailing of J Boats. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. \$60 registration, \$50 lab fee. Saturday & Sunday, Truman Annex, Pier 5.

May 21 through June 4. Hurricane Preparedness. 7-9 p.m. No fee. FKCC Room 1203, Thursday evenings.

remember  
MOTHER'S  
DAY  
may 10

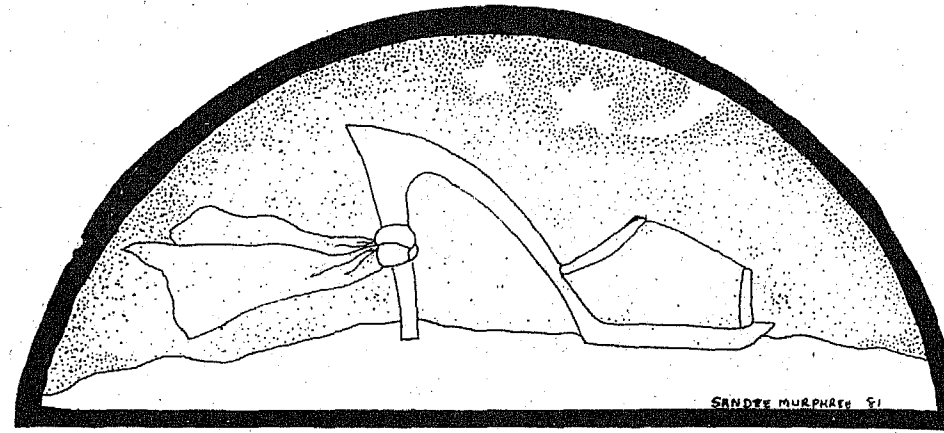
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