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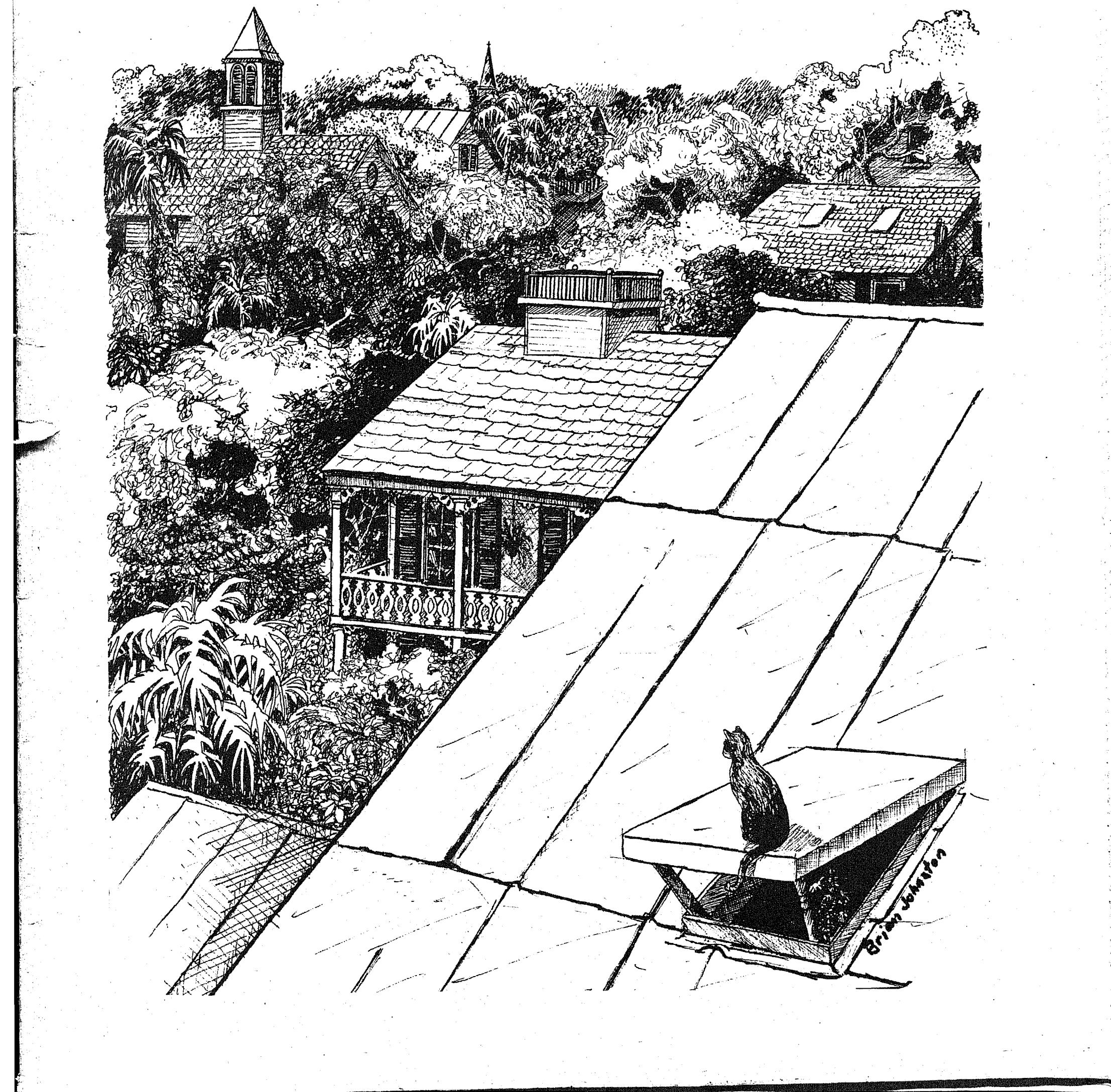
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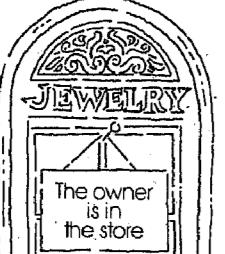
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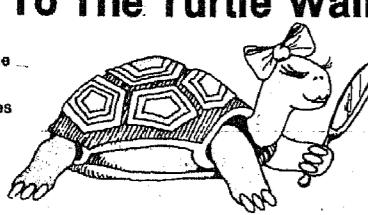


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With a little help from our friends...

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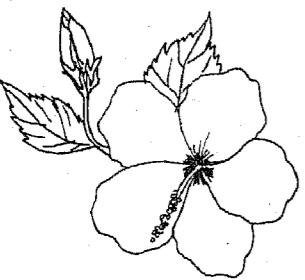
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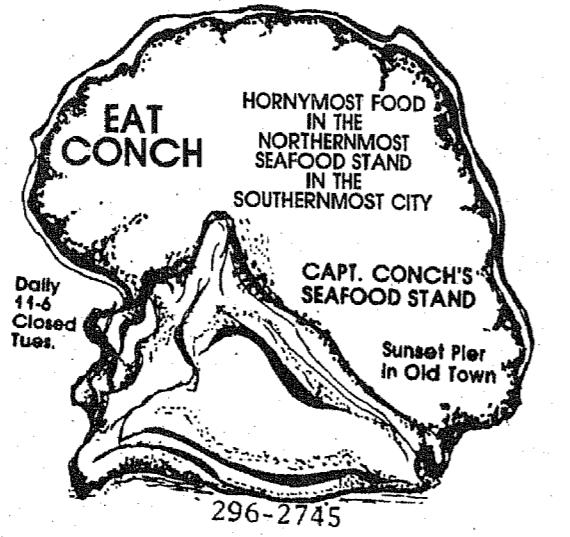
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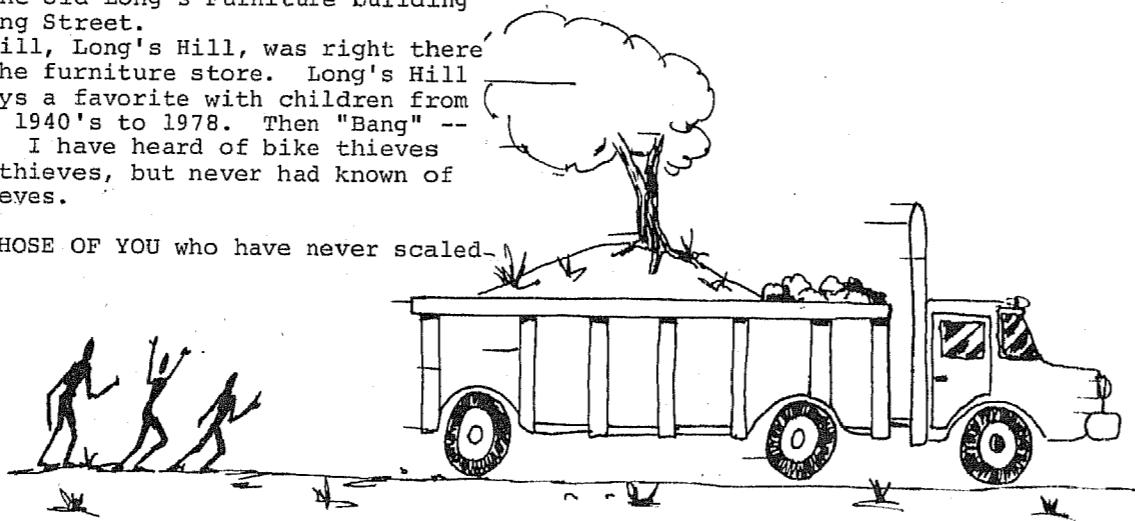
Someone Stole Long's Hill!

by Ray Daniels

ALERT THE AUTHORITIES, call the police, the governor, the President, call someone, please. In the middle of the night some dirty crooks came and stole a landmark of Key West; I know it was there, right behind the old Long's Furniture building on Fleming Street.

The hill, Long's Hill, was right there behind the furniture store. Long's Hill was always a favorite with children from the late 1940's to 1978. Then "Bang" -- no hill. I have heard of bike thieves and car thieves, but never had known of hill thieves.

FOR THOSE OF YOU who have never scaled



Long's Hill, played "King of the Hill" or never hid in the bushes near the sidewalk and watched all the neighbors, then let me tell you what you missed.

On my first trip to the hill I was about four years old, and to scramble up the front slope was a good strain. It was four more years until I dared the steep rear slope. At the top left of Long's Hill was a beautiful seagrape tree, and the branches of the tree extended up to the top of an old tin garage roof. At the right foot of Long's Hill was a mass of bushes along the sidewalk. The bushes offered a hiding place for children.

those rocks were excellent for a rock fight.

Rock fights in Key West are an old tradition, and seldom did more harm than to the defeated person's dignity. If a kid placed himself just right on the hill he could keep several others well away.

I remember one rockfight that lasted several days. It started as a grudge match between a smaller neighborhood kid and a boy from two blocks away. I remember the two broke up the fight because the local boy had to go to lunch, so with threats and vengeful promises, plus some taunts, the rockfight was adjourned for an hour or so. After lunch the fight soon

began, again with taunts and threats, and rocks were scattering everywhere.

WELL, NO CONCH kid was going to be left out of a good rockfight, and it became an intra-neighborhood rockfest. Again it was broken up by all of us having to go eat supper, usual taunts, threats and dares to come back tomorrow. Each



side congratulated itself on a victory and a few of us had bruises as signs of heroic efforts, or just plain clumsiness at having zigged instead of zagged.

THE NEXT MORNING saw an early start to the rockfight, and when one side found itself short, the other would give up one of theirs or handicap a good rock thrower by making him a lefty.

I personally was never very accurate. I could hit someone on the run perhaps 20 to 30 feet away, but only with luck. Many of the kids were deadly at 40 to 50 feet or more. Where my value came in was in strategy. I knew more ways to sneak up Long Hill than anyone else. I knew that hill like my own room and could run at top speed up and down, day and night. Once you gained the hill, the battle was yours, at least until suppertime.

The rockfight lasted for three or four days and probably had 20 different kids

in it. And who won? Well, that was difficult to determine.

I always said the only winners were the neighbors, who, finally afraid of broken windows, called the police. It so happened we were all just hanging around drinking sodas when the police came by. With our promises of being good, or at least careful, the police went off. The neighbors were happy once again with peace restored. In all the

rockfights I was ever in or heard of, I never once heard of broken windows or anyone with more than scratches and minor bruises.

ROCKFIGHTS WERE FUN, but tree tag and running touch tag on the hill were great games. Just running fast and free down the slopes of Long's Hill on a sunny day, then up again to the top, was fun. Lying on one of the slopes under the shade of the seagrape tree and eating seagrapes was tops. Sitting on top of the cool tin roof and hiding from the occupants of the furniture store was a nice way to spend lazy afternoons.

Long's Hill was our hill, and those were the spring days of our youth. Both are gone but still loved.

I dedicate these memories to the neighbors of Long's Hill.

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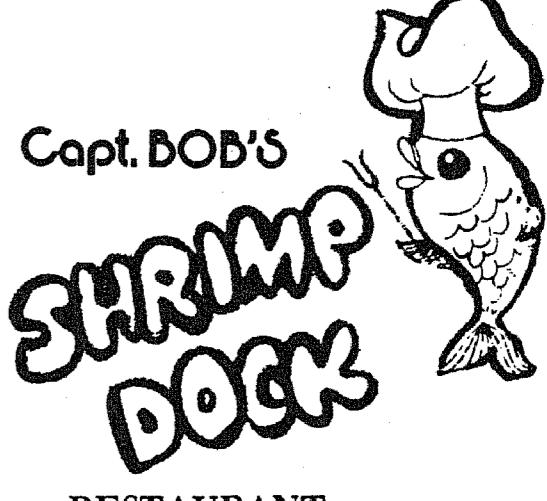


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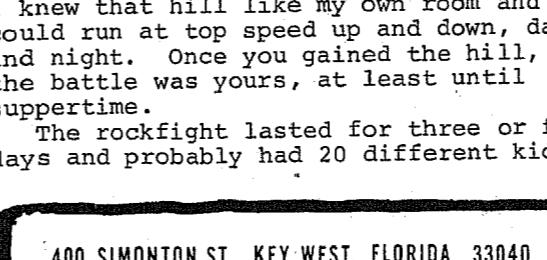
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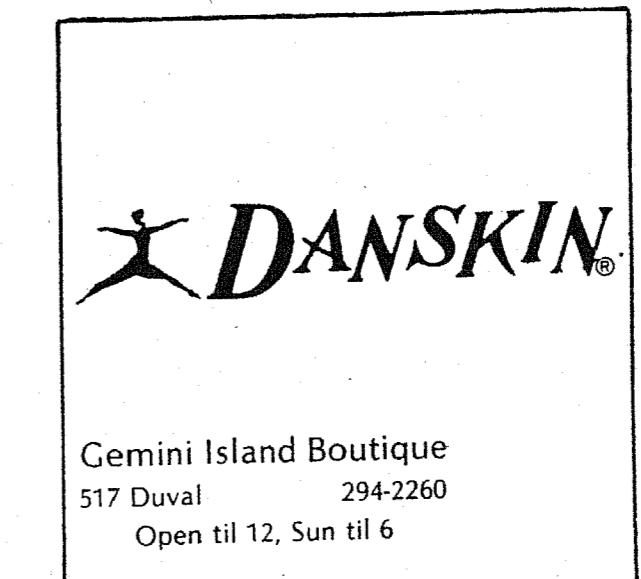
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MC VISA

notes and antic-dotes

by Dorothy Raymer

RECENT VISIT HERE of the USS Tang II stirred up lively memories of the days when submarines played an important role in the local military drama.

One of the Key West-based subs was the USS Sea Dog (S 401), skippered by Cmdr. James B. Elliott, Jr. He was justifiably proud of the softball team from Sea Dog, but the sports editor of *The Key West Citizen*, Jim Cobb, was too busy to attend Navy intership games played over on the Naval Station recreation field.

I've forgotten how it came about precisely, but I was maneuvered into covering a game between the USS Sea Dog and the USS Sea Poacher.

THE BASEBALL GAMES back in 1952 were enthusiastic events attended by entire families, not only Navy rooters, but lots of civilians and townspeople as supporters. Games were exciting and fun to watch.

Cmdr. Elliott and his wife, Gina, called for me at 6 p.m. one evening in September. Jimmy Elliott III, nine years old, was bat boy for the Sea Dog. His brother, John, who was "almost five," also wore a blue and white uniform with the Sea Dog emblem on the shirt. The emblem was a fish with the head of a bulldog. Young John had on a slightly different headgear, a bright red cap, so that his mother could spot him from a distance.

Intrepid John had a habit of emulating his big brother in picking up bats. The trouble was John didn't care what team it was for which he picked up the bats, so a close surveillance had to be maintained.

ON ARRIVAL AT THE FIELD, I apologized for not being a regular sports writer and admitted I would be a little hazy on play by play description. The team's manager, Navy Chief Harold Smith, accepted the substitution with a shrug and a smile.

We climbed into the bleachers agilely, if not gracefully, and I was introduced to wives and children of the players. The mothers and moppets who filled the stand prepared to yell for the Sea Dog Nine. They even brought throat lozenges!

The Sea Dogs were breaking in natty new uniforms that game. Never say that uniforms make the team, but they certainly help. The Sea Poacher opposition appeared in nondescript outfits, fatigue pants, and scruffy shirts, and a few wore red caps. They also had an indifferent spirit.

With tenacity and consistent skill, apropos of the quickness of the fish and the bulldog determination of the emblem, the Sea Dog players won 33-10.

AS A RESULT of my writeup of the game, I was invited to have lunch aboard the submarine three days afterward. It was an unforgettable experience.

I accepted with optimistic alacrity. Alas, there were no etiquette manuals on eating aboard a submarine, so I had to make do with a few suggestions from other people who gave me some fine details. They weren't fine or detailed enough!

First of all, there was the problem of how to dress. I didn't own a pair of slacks. Shorts were too informal. I knew a tight skirt would be confining. So I selected a plain cotton dress with a full loose skirt. Remember this was back in the 1950's, and only the very young wore the jeans which have since become fashionable.

It's too bad that I wasn't given proper advice, including carrying a special gadget for loosening skirt hem which catch and hook on unexpected projections inside a submarine hatch.

There also should have been a sort of x-ray type of glasses

to wear so that it would be possible to see through dress material.

A FEW OTHER FOREWARNINGS should be given to prospective lady visitors to submarines who aren't young and supple and have not had acrobatic training. It would be wise to do some setting up exercises in advance, chiefly deep-knee bends and ladder climbing. It would also facilitate matters on sub expeditions to practice hanging by a bar (not the honky-tonk variety) and doing walking-on-air exercises.

Perhaps the day will come when there will be metal poles in subs, the kind they have in fire stations, to slide down, and then a hoist to yank a guest up from the interior to the deck. But back then you just took a desperate gulp of air and made a silent toast, "Down the hatch!"

CAPT. ELLIOTT EXPLAINED that a submarine was no place for dignified entrances or exits. How right he was!

I started down a perpendicular ladder through a circular opening into the depths of the Sea Dog facing the ladder. I stepped down one rung, then two, and made it to three. I was reaching for the fourth rung of the steep ladder with one leg when a breeze from the interior came whooping up and blew my skirt right up in front of my face. The hem caught on some metal protuberance above my head -- and there I hung suspended, one foot dangling, trying to find purchase on the next rung. "Unhook your skirt," came the command from up above. But I was afraid to let go of my hold on the sides of the ladder to do so, and I couldn't see through the skirt, which ballooned up over my head, obscuring the caught-upon obstacle.

I COULD HEAR a muttered consultation from the deck. Then a sailor was lowered, head first, to unsnag me. He did this hanging upside down, held by his ankles, then was hoisted back up the hatch to the deck. To keep the billowing skirt from catching again, I snatched at it with my teeth and gripped it there so that I could at least peer about me. I again began the perilous descent.

Capt. Elliott called down to crewmen below, "Secure eyes!" Afterward I found out that meant for all below-deck crewmen to face the hull away from me and the ladder on which I was slowly inching down into the interior.

I finally stepped off the last rung and sighed with relief. I don't know how the men below managed to suppress laughter, but they did.

THE ORDEAL didn't end then. Every other step toward the ward room, where luncheon was to be served, involved ducking my head. Finally we were seated at the officer's mess table. I looked at my guest card and found I had been made an honorary member of the Sea Dog's softball team.

The chef on the Sea Dog was Enrique Cruz from Guam, the man who was pitcher for the softball nine. He pitched in the galley, too, right over the hot plate, and produced a gourmet repast.

ANOTHER BIT OF ADVICE to luncheon guests aboard a submarine: don't eat breakfast that day.

When "lunch" was served it was a full-sized, full-course meal, more like a dinner, with leafy salad, tangy dressing, buttered corn on the cob, sauteed mushrooms, french fried potatoes and broiled steak. The dessert was ice-cream with chocolate sauce, followed by coffee. I kept the menu, and that's one reason I recall the items.

I can vouch for that old saying, "The Marines get the glory, the Army (infantry) gets the marching, and the Navy gets the chow."

continued on page 27

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editorial

by Bill Westray

ON FEBRUARY 6, 1979, the voters of Monroe County decided by a vote of 6853 to 4181 to approve the \$53,225,000 loan from the Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The loan is to finance construction of a new 36-inch, 30-inch, 24-inch water pipeline from Florida City to Key West, replacing the old 18-inch line, to increase the water treatment, filtration, storage and pumping facilities at the Florida City wellfield, and re-finance some \$11 million of existing bonded indebtedness.

Thirty-five percent of registered voters cast ballots in the referendum, exceeding the forecast turnout by ten percent. At the end, the election seemed to turn on the issue of possible loss of the highly favorable five percent loan, should the referendum not have been approved. In any case, now that the election is over, the water pressure seems to be about back up to normal, and the Fuel Adjustment seems to have started a slow descent from the peak of \$1.02 the day before election.

DURING THE CAMPAIGN we raised a number of questions, most of which were not resolved. Only considerable time will tell how valid some of these questions were. Most will not be resolved until

While the voters have in fact approved the LARGE PIPELINE (36"/30"/24"), we continue to have serious doubts whether the large line can be built with the funds the voters have approved.

after the new pipeline is completed and operating. However, in the words of the *Keys Keynoter*, there is need among the voters for vigilance in making sure the Florida Keys Aqueduct Authority (FKAA) does what it has promised. The FKAA Board of Directors must be held strictly accountable for any substantial deviation from their promises and assurances.

WHILE THE VOTERS have in fact approved the LARGE (36"/30"/24") PIPELINE, we continue to have serious doubts whether the large line can be built with the funds the voters have approved. We have very carefully gone back over the base data that FKAA used from the Black, Crow and Eidsness (B,C&E) Engineering and Financial Study, and we can still not understand how FKAA was able to pare over \$16 million from its cost estimate between May 1976 and February 1979. Using that base data we prepared our cost estimate, and a comparison of our estimate versus that of FKAA is presented in the following table:

CONSTRUCTION AND LOAN COSTS	
OUR ESTIMATE	FKAA ESTIMATE
\$ 19,630,600	\$ 13,131,000
17,517,500	11,717,500
9,211,400	6,161,500
2,200,000	2,000,000
\$ 48,559,500	\$ 33,010,000
1,430,000	1,300,000
2,002,000	1,820,000
1,727,000	1,570,000
\$ 53,718,500	\$ 37,700,000
2,600,000	2,600,000
2,500,000	800,000
150,000	150,000
2,500,000	650,000
Contingencies	
Refinance Bonds	11,325,000
TOTAL LOAN NEEDED	\$ 53,225,000

AS CAN BE SEEN, our nearly \$73 million estimate of total funds needed is about 19.5 million greater than FKAA's \$53,225,000 estimate. The proof of this pudding will come early, within six to nine months. We believe that the architectural engineering firm of Greenleaf-Telesca, who are preparing the bid specifications for FKAA, will learn fairly early in their studies that they are short on money. In any event the bid response will be the final word on construction costs. We should have these before Christmas. If we are right, FKAA will be faced with two alternatives: 1), reduce the scope of the project (to the smaller pipeline we proposed?) to stay within the available funds; or 2) attempt to secure additional loan funds from FmHA.

OLD PIPELINE

IN VIEW OF the possible cost overrun of pipeline construction, the need to replace the underground portions of existing 18-inch line south of the Seven Mile Bridge should be reexamined. It is strongly recommended that a corrosion survey be conducted of these sections before further expense is incurred towards replacement.

WATER RATES

IN ITS LOAN application to FmHA, the FKAA estimated that it could eliminate the Fuel Adjustment (F.A.) and reduce the water rate to \$2.85 per thousand gallons, after the new pipeline was built. In other words, FKAA said it could build and pay for the new pipeline, and save enough to reduce water consumers costs by about \$1.37/M. We have continually questioned FKAA's predicted savings.

Our figures show that when the new pipeline is built and operating, the cost of operations including the repayment of the loan will cause a water rate of over \$5.00 per thousand gallons. If it should be necessary to increase the loan as suggested in the earlier section, the cost of water would approach \$6.00 per

We urge the Board of Directors to keep politics out of the replacement selection process, and to seek a new director with proven experience and credentials for the task ahead.

thousand.

The proof of this pudding will probably not be disclosed until a full year after the pipeline is completed and operating. By then it will be too late. No matter who is responsible for the error in estimate, the owners, THE PUBLIC, will have to pay whatever it costs.

GEHMAN'S RESIGNATION

WE CANNOT CLOSE without taking note of FKAA Executive Director Claude Gehman's resignation on February 13th. He said his reasons were "personal, irrevocable and unnegotiable." We wonder what the true reasons were. We note that the resignation letter was prepared secretly on February 5, 1979, the day before the election, and kept tucked away since then. We could understand that he might have submitted it if the referendum had failed, as he had threatened to do. To have won the referendum and then sat on the letter for eight days suggests there might be other reasons. Has Gehman used the dispute with Treasurer Joe Balbontin as an excuse to avoid having to face some of the promises he made during the campaign? We wonder. Again, only time will tell.

IN SPITE OF our controversies with Gehman, primarily over cost estimates, we found him a director of substantial ability. In our opinion, there is no one else on the FKAA staff capable of directing the immense and complicated aqueduct operation. We urge the Board of Directors to keep politics out of the replacement selection process, and to seek a new director with proven experience and credentials for the task ahead.

PEACHES OF KEY WEST



BHAGAVAD-GITA AS IT IS

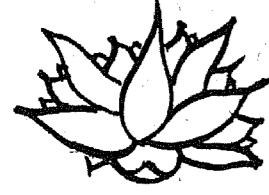
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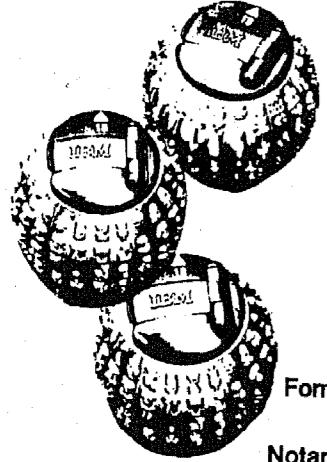
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BY FRANCES ELIZABETH SIGNORELLI

WE RENT

DURING THE down swing of the late 1960's, a big, goofy champagne poodle, Bongo, and I held forth renting out apartments at the old homestead, a tall, ancient island clapboard house defiantly backed up to the Atlantic Ocean. It was during a rather bad patch, financially speaking, due to a series of convoluted circumstances.

Before landladyism, I had held that I was a poor, little, soft woman with a quick, benign interest for all creatures seeking shelter. If you want a good, hard look at the dry, icy core of yourself, there at rock bottom, start renting out.

WHAT I HAD to rent were piecemeal bits of the old house, surrounded by makeshift annexations and growths. Partitions sprang up like mushrooms, as I found a rinky-tink island carpenter who could hammer in a partition between dinner and bedtime, creating another off-shoot to rent.

It was quite fitting and, doubtless, deserved that, generally, the most intractable, the most capricious renters presented themselves at my door.

POODLE BONGO was my advisor throughout. Janet Padron had given him to me after he had been culled out of her father's fine pedigreed kennels as the absolute pits. He had deep, copper-colored eyes with a manic expression, and a bay which, when he burst into full throat, would ricochet down Waddell Avenue, lobbing off people's windows and doors, casting

hate and dissension. Having Bongo by me was like having a volatile, half-witted companion.

A little poem came into my mind:

"Ann, Ann, come as fast as you can,
There's a fish that talks in the
frying pan."

IN MY NIGHTGOWN I peered down at dawn upon a first confrontal between Bongo and Howard Paul, a new neighbor who was returning home in his cups.

Bongo was furious for being out on his street at dawn. Howard argued with passion, defending himself conscientiously to Bongo. "My family are in iron, timber and steel." Then, Howard would eloquently quote Edna St. Vincent Millay poetry to Bongo. At each juncture, Bongo would bay hideously as the sky displayed sunrise bruise colors and windows shot up all around.

HOWARD IS the dearest remittance man I ever knew, and he and Bongo later patched it up. Bongo would go down to Howard's big house and lay around all night on the Navajo rug, leaning against the grand piano while Howard painted his rooms, singing loudly and lustily.

I rushed out. Bongo had a man spread-eagled against his pickup truck. "Tate Plumbing Co., New Rochelle, N.Y." The man averred that he had had a dream showing him this particular house and that he had driven 36 hours to come here to live. This kind of thing always was happening, and I helped him hand down his bags from the bed of his pick up. As it happened, Bongo's primary aversion hit right on target. Mr. Tate left in the middle of the night, owing two weeks' rent and taking the shower nozzle with him.

THREE TEACHERS, mild souls, renting upstairs, one by one, married, went back home, got fired, and three brand new ladies had sublet without my noting much about them.

An elegant winter resident next door confided that, when her husband got up in the night to get a soda, one of the girls propositioned him over the garden wall.

This, I agreed, seemed infra dig. The girls reluctantly departed, declaiming, "But we like it so much here! This is just right for us."

When Elegant Winter Residents drove up from Connecticut the next winter; she said to him, laughingly, "Wonder who she's renting to now - the Mafia?"

WHEREUPON MY FBI MAN, who had moved into the apartment, received a call out into the field and burst down the steps, strapping on his gun holster, while Elegant Winter Residents stood, mouths open, among their luggage.

Fortunately for all, rentals went on only for a relatively brief span, for I am a sprinter rather than a marathon runner.

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I will stop in and visit you whenever I get back down there. In the meantime, don't change Key West. You can't improve on perfection.

Don Long

KEY WEST by Don Long

Sometimes I want to give up
Just chuck it all and walk away
My clouds have no silver lining
I'll never see a brighter day

I want to go back to the land of sunshine
Where a dream can still come true
Where the ocean meets the sandy beach
And the sky is always blue

Mix a pineapple-rum in a tall cool glass
Take my pen and paper too
Sit in the shade of an old palm tree
And write love songs just for you

It's a place I'll always yearn for
Cause it's apart from all the rest
That little piece of Heaven
Called the Island of Old Key West

Just to drink again at Papa Joe's
And to stroll down Duval Street
Spend some time in Pirate's Alley
On a chance that it's you I'll meet

Just to gaze again from the widow's walk
Above the streets of cobblestone
It's the place to be with the one you love
And it's a place to be alone

Life on Mallory Square is as mellow
As a slice of Key Lime Pie
And I want to see another sunset
Before life has passed me by

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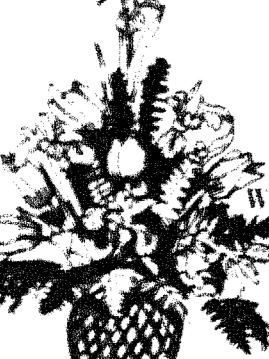
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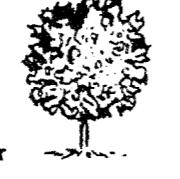


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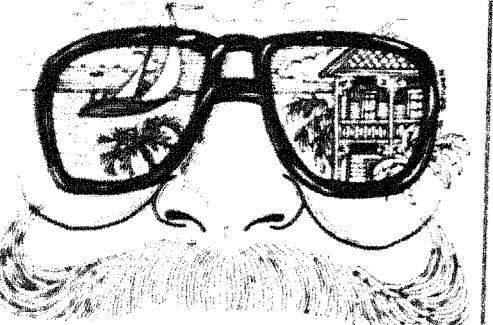


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What A Drag

by Amy Lee De Poo

WHEN A COLD winter arrives in Key West, it seems as if a person can never get warm.

We lived in a house very close to the shrimp docks and really felt the chilling bite of a nor'wester as it whistled through the cracks of our old Conch home on Dey Street. Conch homes were never insulated very well because it was superfluous to prepare a dwelling for extended periods of severe cold, simply because the southernmost city had such a benign and tropical climate. However, as I said before, very cold winters were possible and occurred every few years, and the old Conchs who lived in the old Conch homes just adapted to these spells with tremendous nonchalance.

MY MOTHER, having been raised in up-state New York, knew cold weather and did everything humanly possible to alleviate our frozen outcries with various methods. Her standard remedy to the inclement weather was a portable kerosene heater, three layers of woolen socks and so many sweaters a body could barely move enough to scratch one's ear.

There was great ceremony surrounding the advent of the first cold snap -- cleaning the wick of the little kerosene heater, moving wooden furniture safely away and lengthy lectures on the dangers of kerosene and its purported demonic ability to leap into flames if a child even walked near the can.

MY SISTERS AND I took in all of this with great excitement and interest, because it seemed so exotic to us to have to go to such complex measures to keep warm. We were true believers that civilization ended at the Stock Island Bridge. (You can imagine our shock when we learned of a place called Marathon and our total astoundment to one day actually visit a bizarre land known as Miami.)

Anyway, when it got that cold we were all excused from taking a bath to save us from contracting some ungodly case of incurable pneumonia, my mother holding the strong conviction that it's better to stink than to die. My father, John de Poo, was also not very enthralled with personal hygiene when the small craft warnings went up. Being a creature of generally meticulous personal habits, he rarely if ever missed his evening shower and shave after working all day in the machine shop at Boca Chica. He did it like clockwork.

ON THIS PARTICULAR bone-chilling evening it was absolutely out of the question to even consider putting your hand under the faucet, it was that cold. Consequently, John ate an inordinately large meal and proceeded to pass out in a reclining chair in the living room. We girls were entertaining ourselves, as was our custom, by seeing who could get the long tissue paper string out of a Hershey's kiss without ruffling the foil, an activity indicative of our collective innate intelligence -- not to be underestimated by the reader.

But even that can become quite a bore after a while. We girls were hard pressed to find another game quite so entertaining.

OUT OF THE BLUE, my older sister, Kathryn, looked over at the grizzly visage of our very dear and revered dad and decided he could certainly use a shave. Where she got the gumption to disturb an old grouch like him when he was all cozy warm, snoozing soundly and more likely than not dreaming of spearing a 200 pound jewfish out at the reef, I'll never know. But sure enough, much to the amazed delight of Martha and myself, we watched her tug on his sweater and ask if he would like a shave, right there in the chair. My God, I thought, he's surely going to give her a good clout for THIS! Miracles do happen, as we soon found out, because he snorted a few times and murmured something to the effect of,

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AFTER TWENTY MINUTES of picking, fixing and fussing we all stood back to examine our beautiful specimen of womanhood. He was still gassed out and oblivious to the ensuing miracle of cosmetic metamorphosis, but my mother was becoming quickly aware that the husband

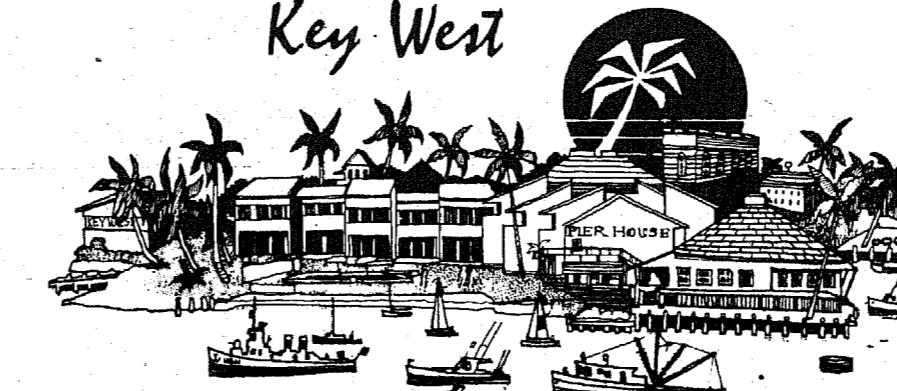
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GIDDY AND EXHILARATED with our tremendous achievement, we rousted poor old John from his fishy dreams and presented him with a hand mirror so he could become acquainted with his new self. I half-expected to be beaten and sent to bed right away, knowing his limitations for taking a joke, but evidently the coldness of the evening had numbed his better judgement. He held the mirror up to his face, and a strange twinkle appeared in his eyes. He obviously liked what he saw.

There was much laughter and wise remarks and even a few suggestions on how we could all capitalize on his new get-up. My father has always been the adventurous sort, but what he proposed next was so outrageous that even my mother began shrieking protests and begged him not to do it. That's right -- he wanted to put his costume to the ultimate test: visit our neighbors, Jim and Martha Nell, and impersonate a fictional friend of Miss Grace Kemp, a lovely, sweet and gentle old woman of Conch society, who happened also to have just sold them their home.

HIS DEVILISH LITTLE plot was to call up Jim and say that he was Miss Lilly from Homestead and had just gotten off the Greyhound Bus and was coming over. For a visit (not knowing, of course, that Miss Grace had sold her home and was not living there at all).

The air was electric with the prospect of abusing the phone like that, since we were never allowed to commit such acts of foolishness with the "vital instrument of necessity," as he called it. John did so, and got such a tender and understanding reaction and explicit instructions from Jim on how to get to Miss Grace's new residence that he was bordering on absolute euphoria with the success of his impersonation.

THEY SAY THAT a little success is a dangerous thing, and in John's case it was explosive. There was no stopping

him now. He had to push his theatrical charade to the limit of credibility. It was decided that, in spite of the bitter cold and freezing wind, we would all be witness to the powers he possessed to behave like a forgetful old woman and further fool the unsuspecting Jim.

We all bundled up and followed John, who had by now rolled up his pants under a long skirt and donned a blouse and a woolen shawl. The skirt was long enough, but I thought it was risky of him to leave on his steel-toed work shoes and not wear a pair of my mother's shoes, for the sake of authenticity. No matter. He led us around the corner in single file to the home of Jim and Martha Nell.

Delirious and wanting to scream out loud in laughter but struck with fear of being noisy and spoiling the game, my mother and we girls hid in the bushes at the end of their porch, watching John slip into the realm of his obviously well-split personality. He knocked, and Jim came to the door, whereupon John, as Miss Lilly, pretended to be so dense as to not know where to turn in locating her long lost high-school chum, Miss Grace.

AFTER SEVERAL DETAILED explanations, Jim was getting visibly irritated at the inability of this partially senile old woman to retain information. And the fact that he was not dressed warmly enough to engage in prolonged conversations in the middle of a record-breaking cold spell made Jim more than a little impatient. In exasperation he went inside to draw a large map to assist Miss Lilly in finding her destination.

When he went inside, John turned to us with the silliest look on his face, which prompted me to seriously doubt my genetic heritage. Martha snickered, and that silly look turned to icy daggers, and my faith in the hospital delivery systems of New York City was immediately restored.

Miss Lilly accepted her map and thanked

continued on page 39

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JAIL: PART II

by Kathleen Hargreaves

photos by Richard Marsh

PRESSURE INTENSIFIES OVER UNCONSTITUTIONAL JAIL

JIM FRY HAS a face that's hard to forget. In a city and state renowned for vitamin C and healthy, sun-bronzed bodies, his deeply circled eyes and ghostly pallor are particularly shocking. An inmate of the Monroe County Jail for the past 11 months, Fry's appearance highlights one of the many reasons why various criminal justice agencies rank the institution among "the worst jails in Florida."

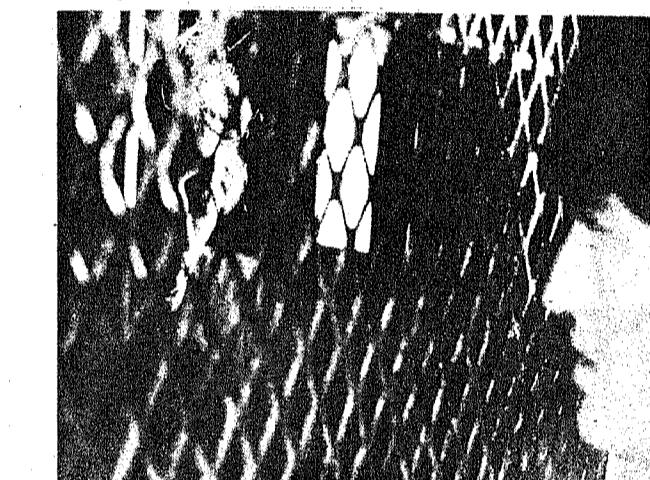
Solid steel doors separate the long, narrow cellblocks from window slits overlooking a small abandoned courtyard with high brick walls and a steel mesh ceiling. Just as well. A constant view of the sunny, former juvenile detention home exercise yard would only rub salt into the already festering wounds of the hundred-or-so prisoners and pre-trial detainees crowded into the county's jail facilities at 500 Whitehead.

THE BUILDING'S APPEARANCE is deceiving. Constructed in the mid-sixties, the Courthouse Annex is, for the most part, a modern complex of offices, judges' chambers, courtrooms and a law library. It's only on the second floor, in the jail, where it becomes difficult to believe that the structure is only 15 years old.

Dark concrete floor, low wattage lights, chipped enamel paint, stale, recirculated air and evidence of rats, mice and roaches create an indelible first and lasting impression.

MUCH HAS BEEN written about the effects of incarceration on the human psyche. The following excerpt was scribbled first in pencil, then retraced in ink by a former inmate of the jail, who "flipped out," according to a friend of his who entrusted us with the message.

"You forget who you are in this place. You become someone else. Being caged at close quarter brings out hidden parts of yourself. Age old instincts surge upward out of your subconscious to facilitate survival in a primitive, barbaric environment -- a cage. I'm fascinated observing and monitoring these subtle changes in and around me," he wrote.

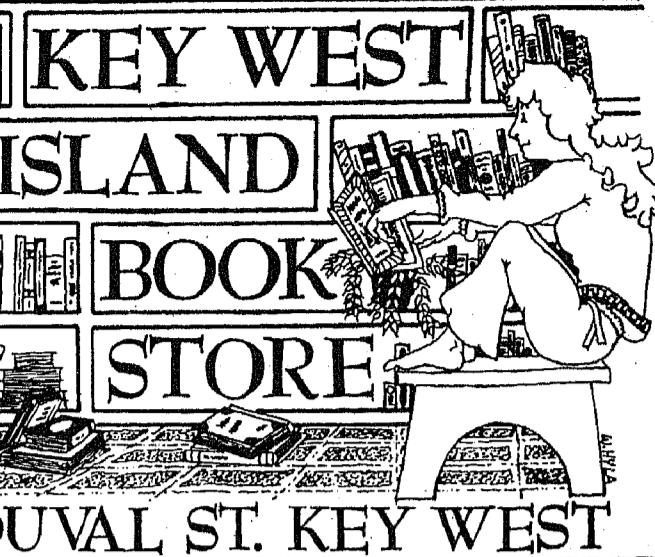


Pale and wan from his confinement in the Monroe County Jail since March, 1978, Jim Fry describes jail conditions to Solares Hill reporter Kathleen Hargreaves.

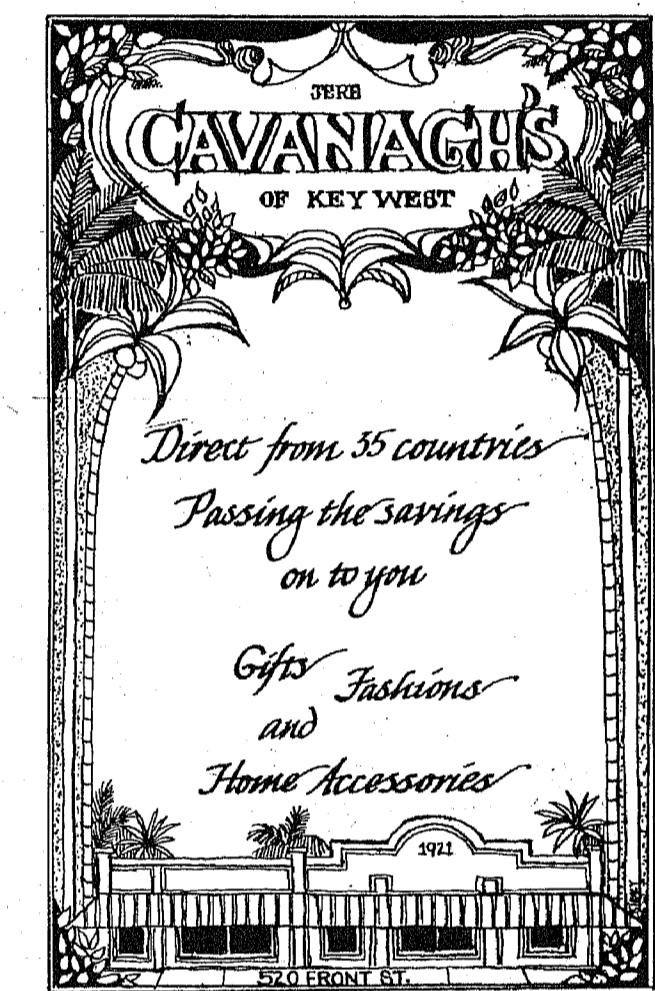
SHAMEFUL RECORD

SCHARLETTIE HOLDMAN, former Director of the Louisiana American Civil Liberties Union and present Director of the Florida Clearing House on Criminal Justice (FCHC), says numerous, long standing complaints about Monroe County Jail conditions are well known throughout state legal circles.

"The Monroe, Fort Meyers and Marianna County Jails are the worst in Florida. The one in Key West is notorious for its gross physical conditions. Constitutional



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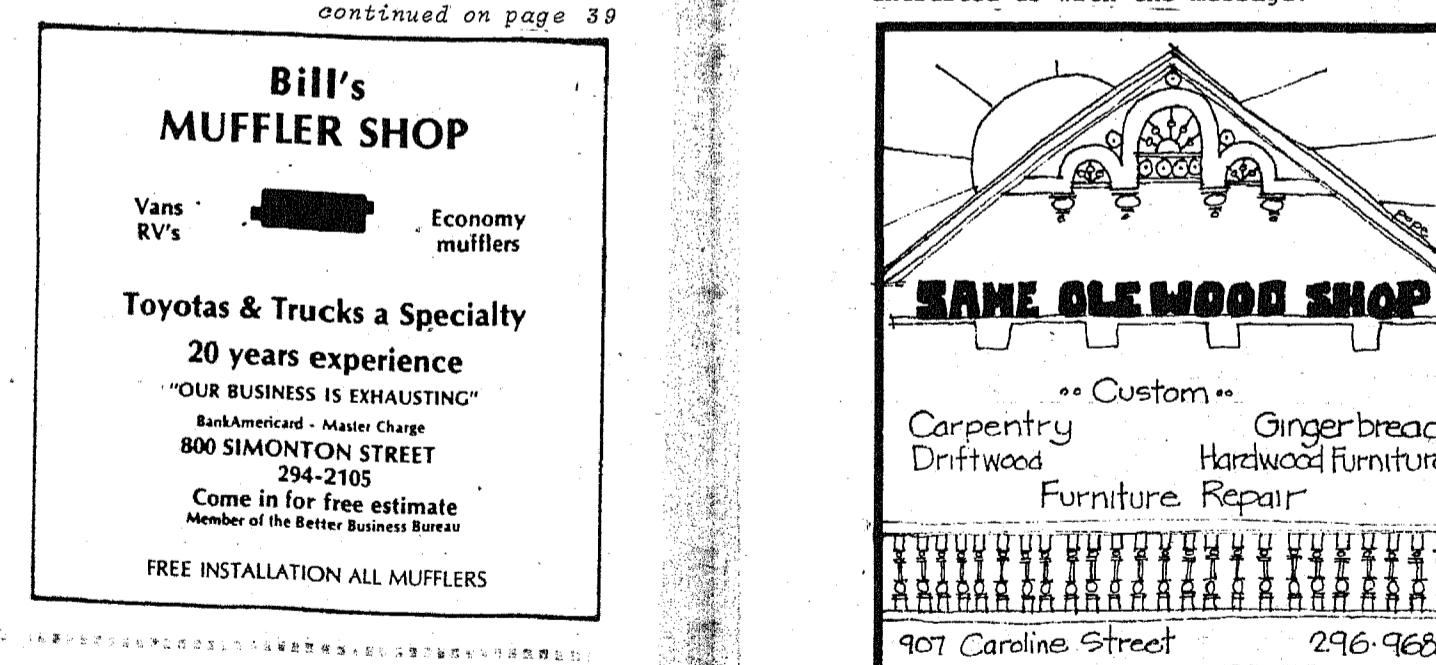


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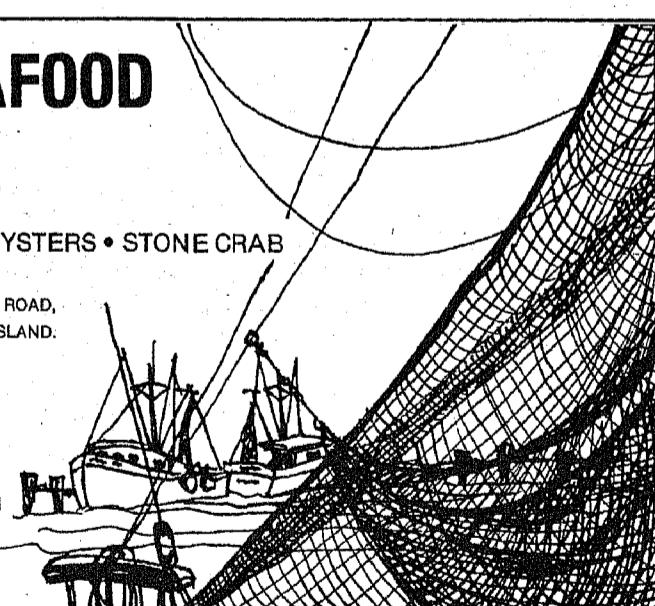
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rights are violated there daily. There's no access to a library, no recreation facilities, inadequate matron supervision of female prisoners, inadequate and understaffed medical personnel and facilities. Oh yes, we've heard about the Monroe County Jail," she assured from her Tallahassee office.

Discussing the constitutionality of jail facilities eliminates all room for debate. A jail either meets federal guidelines or it doesn't. The Monroe County Jail does not -- and has not -- for many years.

AVAILABLE TO CITIZENS under the Florida Public Records Act is an Inspection Report on County and Municipal Detention Facilities published regularly by the State of Florida Department of Offender Rehabilitation.

The report consists of a printed form that breaks down the jail population into Felons and Misdemeanants and asks a number of qualitative and quantitative questions about existing conditions.

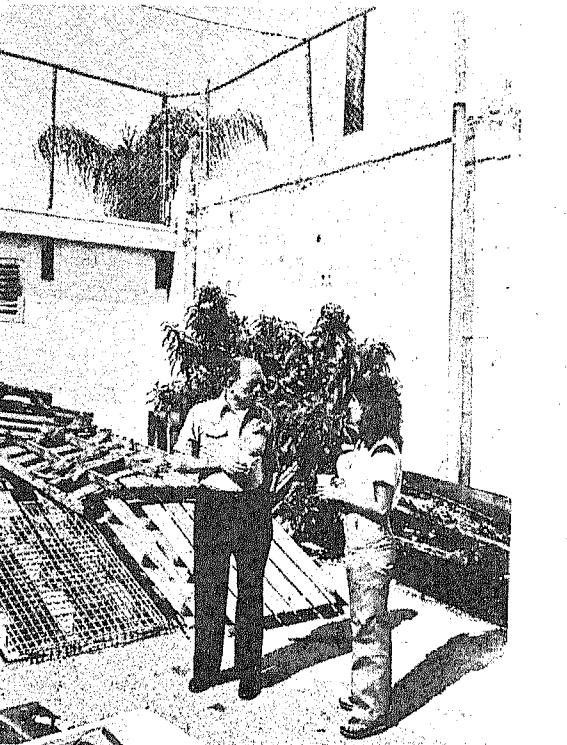
REPEATED VIOLATIONS

JAIL RECORDS, available at the County Clerk's Office, reveal a list of chronic violations. Comparing these complaints to federal and state rules and regulations covering county and municipal detention facilities (Chapter 33-3: Operation of Institution; and Chapter 33-8.10) it becomes readily apparent that Monroe County Sheriff William (Billy) Freeman, the Offender Rehabilitation Inspector, and lawbooks are in agreement: the Sheriff is operating an illegal jail.

THE MOST RECENT report on file, dated September 7, 1978, contains the following comments by Inspector G.L. McLain:

"This facility still provides no exercise program for prisoners. Some form MUST be programmed...Facility employs only one female attendant* not available 24 hours per day...Medical section is

overworked. Once a week visits by doctor provide bare medical services. Drugs are dispensed by jailer -- not medical staff...Work programs are not offered to prisoners...A discipline committee has not been formed by this facility, therefore no disciplinary action has been taken toward correcting violations..."



Abandoned juvenile detention exercise yard is barred to prisoners as County jail budget debate continues. Solares Hill reporter Kathleen Hargreaves inspects the yard with Sheriff Freeman.

THE PREVIOUS INSPECTOR'S report, dated March 7, 1978, contained similar comments.

*recently upgraded to two matrons

"The housing of prisoners is hampered by the large number of prisoners and limited bedspace. Eleven prisoners were forced to sleep on the floor at the time of inspection. Housing area is not well ventilated nor adequately lighted.** Several lavatories and water closets were inoperative. Persons who sleep on the floor must be without water or toilet facilities from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. each night.

"The inmates aren't given any type of exercise despite being confined to cells on a 24-hour-a-day basis. The administration has discussed possible utilization of a fenced area adjacent to the building as a possible recreation area. Currently worried about support to a solid wall that leans conspicuously. If money could be arranged, this area would provide outside exercise space. Will also require additional staff to review security procedures.***

"Exercise is necessary. There must be some way to get people out of their cells and not have them waste away from inactivity. If television could be installed, it would provide some immediate relaxation," the report stated.

ALL OF THE ABOVE criticisms were made not to make the jail a more comfortable environment, but rather to bring the facility in line with state regulations.

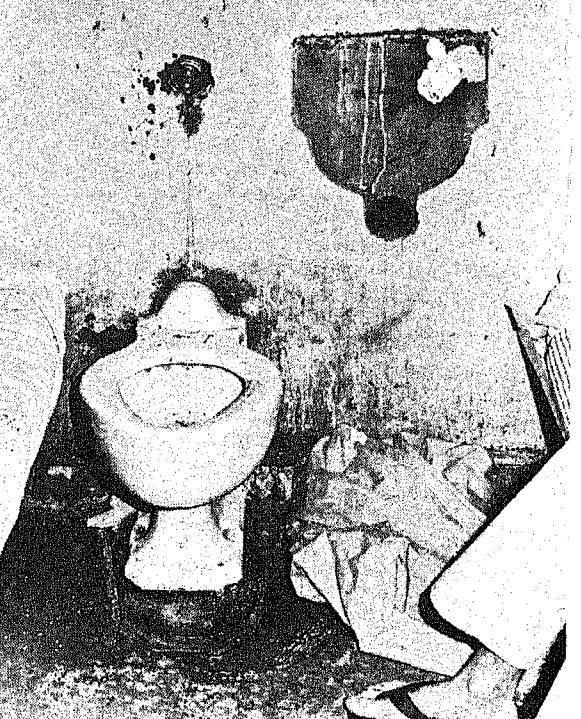
On a scale of seven possible ratings, the corrections inspector gave recreation-

**A light meter held outside the bars of one cell showed a reading of three foot-candles -- the equivalent of the light produced by a 60-watt bare light bulb at a distance of eight feet. Lights are outside the cellblocks; there are no lights in the cells.

***Estimating the cost of repairs and salaries for two additional jailers, Sheriff Freeman says his department would require approximately \$27,000 additional funds. Present figures place the County's contingency fund at \$75,000.

SERIOUS ALLEGATIONS

al facilities, work programs and training programs the lowest possible score on every inspection record viewed by this reporter.



Rag-wrapped water faucet is all that remains of a sink in a cell in Cellblock One. Plastic bag on the floor substitutes for the missing sink.

According to Sheriff Freeman, certain controllable conditions are being improved. Staff certification (requiring specified coursework) is underway. Although the reports mentioned an improvement in rodent control, prisoners joked about passing time with "Rat Races" and produced containers holding live rodents.

TRUSTEES (prisoners posing minimal

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Plus, Captain Hornblower's log features the tasteful vocals of Karen Stevens, also from Miami, recently returned from concerts in Scandinavia.

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AUTHORITIES OPPOSE E.R.A.

U.S. House Judiciary Committee Report, No. 92-359, July 14, 1971:

"Not only would women, including mothers, be subject to the draft but the Military would be compelled to place them in combat units alongside of men. The same rigid interpretation could also require that work protective laws reasonably designed to protect the health and safety of women be invalidated;...in some cases it could relieve the fathers of the primary responsibility for support of even infant children, as well as the support of the mothers of such children and cast doubt on the validity of the millions of support decrees presently in existence."

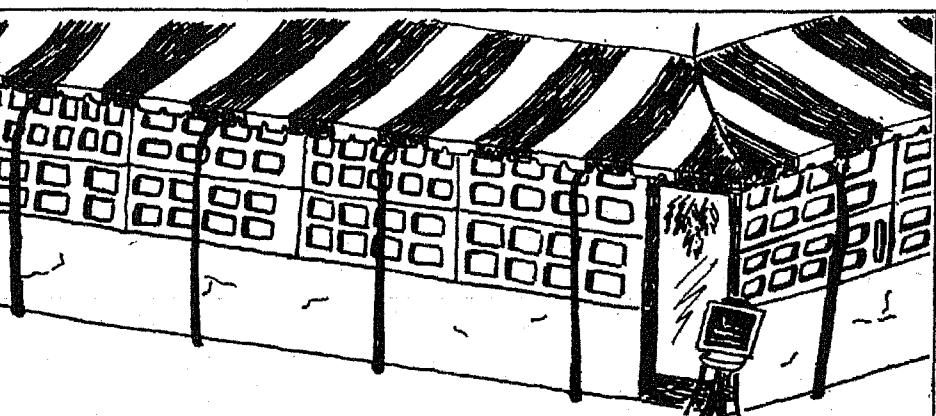
Congresswoman Leonor K. Sullivan, U.S. House of Representatives: - "I do not wish to see -- and to vote for -- a constitutional amendment (ERA) which would require all women to be equally obligated with their husbands to support the family, even though millions of women may choose to do so...."

"I cannot in good conscience support a proposal to take away from all women the protections which reasonable men and women consider reasonable protection for women."

Jean Noble, Executive Director, National Council of Negro Women: - "I call the (ERA) Equal Rights Amendment the liftin' and totin' bill. More than half of the black women with jobs work in service occupations; if the Amendment (ERA) becomes law we will be the ones liftin' and totin', so passage of ERA is not our first priority."

Every woman should know that "Equal pay for equal work" is guaranteed by the Civil Rights Act of 1964; Subchapter VI: Equal Employment Opportunities (42 U.S. Code 200e-2) and by the Equal Employment Opportunity Act of 1972 (Public Law 92-261) which forbids discrimination in every aspect of employment, including hiring, pay and promotions. Even executive, professional and administrative positions are covered. If a woman suffers job discrimination, she can file a claim with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and it will pay the costs of processing the claim and filing suit for back pay. ERA has nothing to offer women in this area, and its passage would wipe out, in the phony name of "equality," all protective laws currently in effect covering women. Write Rep. Joe Allen, Senators Vernon Holloway and Robert McKnight in Tallahassee, to defeat the ERA when it comes up for a vote in early April.

Paid for by Marie Carney



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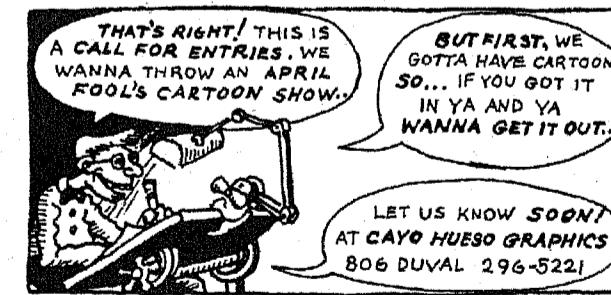
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numerous other seafood dinners**

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**Lands End Village
Foot of Margaret St.
Key West, Florida**

**Near the Turtle Kraals
Phone 294-7000**

security risks) described a recent emergency situation involving a fellow trustee suffering from a known diabetic condition.

"Right before it happened, the guy told us he didn't feel good. It was at night and we were locked up. He went into shock. It took almost an hour before we got the jailer's attention by pounding on the door and shouting. We did the best we could and gave him orange juice and candy bars until help arrived," recalled trustee John Morris.

Calvin Jackson, another prisoner and a permanent resident of Key West, said his five day request for medical attention for severe sinus headaches netted him "a couple of Vitamin C's" the first day. He was ignored for the remainder of the week.

WHEN ASKED ABOUT major grievances, prisoners invariably listed complaints involving lack of outdoor recreation, poorly administered medical attention, nonfunctioning, sub-standard or filthy toilet, shower and sink facilities; the failure of court-appointed attorneys to consult with prisoners prior to plea bargaining and pursuant to bail bond hearings; lengthy pre-trial incarceration (approximately 80 per cent of present inmates are awaiting trial); the inability to meet bail bonds (the majority of inmates are poor); and the refusal of the courts to consider releasing pre-trial detainees on their own recognizance.

Inmate Ken Cox told this reporter that he was interested and willing to file suit against the jail and hoped an attorney would contact him after reading this article.

PROFESSIONALS AGREE

THE OPINIONS OF Bill Ryan, Key West bail bondsman, reinforce prisoner complaints about the judicial system. When contacted regarding two New York teachers arrested for marijuana possession of "five grams or less" (one-fifth of a lid) Ryan said, "The way the courts are clogging up the jails with these cases is plain stupid. It's costing the taxpayer an outrageous amount of money to incarcerate people for possession of small amounts of grass, for loitering, trespassing or drunk and disorderly conduct. There are easier and less expensive ways to go about warrants and trials. They're just not using them.

"If they eliminated small 'personal possession' quantities of marijuana as a crime, the jail population would be immediately reduced by half. Don't they know how much money it costs to house prisoners?" he demanded.

CHARLETT HOLDMAN echoes Ryan's sentiments on over-crowded jails and clogged judicial systems.

"County jails are full of pre-trial detainees; people who are waiting trial and have the same constitutional rights as any of us. They are in jail because they're poor and can't make bond. Except for a few major crimes of violence, anyone can get out of jail in this state if he has enough money.

"Sixty to 70 per cent of the people in jail are there as pre-trial detainees. It's not a legal issue, it's economic," she explained, adding that according to all recent surveys, first time offenders in jail as pre-trial detainees are ten times more likely to be sentenced to a jail term than an accused with prior convictions who's been released on bond. That's because personal appearance on court day greatly affects the judge's decision, she says.

"If you're wearing wrinkled clothes, if your hair is messy, if you were arrested without shoes and have to go to court barefoot, that affects the judge. He's supposed to be impartial, but looks can and do often make -- or break -- the man," she added.

WORKABLE ALTERNATIVES

RESEARCH INTO what is commonly called "prison reform" uncovers some surprisingly simple, effective and relatively inexpensive solutions to problems like those experienced at the Monroe County Jail.

Recidivism is a term that describes the number of repeat offenders on any

given crime. Without exception, the present and commonly accepted prison/jail system suffers from an exceptionally high recidivism rate that averages about 70 per cent. Progressive cities that have already been forced to confront problems like those existing at the Monroe County Jail have devised a number of alternatives to non-rehabilitative incarceration.

IT IS ESTIMATED that it costs an exorbitant \$30,000 per bed-unit to build another jail. Experts further agree that it costs approximately \$25 a day to house and maintain prisoners; prisoners who stand a 70 per cent chance of returning to jail on a similar offense. It's a losing proposition.

The FCHCJ and other correctional institution watch-dogs are quick to point out that they do not propose, endorse or favor the notion of turning jails into resort hotels.

"Citizens say it costs too much to build another jail. We agree. We advocate a moratorium on prison and jail construction because we've discovered that new jails quickly become as bad as their predecessors," Holdman said, alluding to a modern penal institution in New York that was ordered closed before its first inmate was ever admitted.

MODEL PROGRAMS

FOLLOWING NEAR BANKRUPTCY of its jail facilities, Columbus, Ohio, organized a series of reforms in their criminal justice system. They instituted a dispute settlement program (funded by the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration) to settle minor criminal offenses and family disputes.

Prior to issuing an arrest warrant under the new program, disputants were invited to a hearing aimed at eliminating the confrontation before it required court intervention. Out of a total 3,626 complaints during the first year, only

84 required ultimate criminal warrants.

THE POLK COUNTY, Iowa, jail, closed due to overcrowding, was replaced with a multi-level, community-based program funded by a variety of law enforcement and social agencies. They eliminated the ability to post bond as a criterion for release; opting for a point-based own recognition program. Only 1.8 per cent out of 1,022 defendants (18 people) failed to appear in court. The Polk County program enjoyed similar success in other areas of its operation as well.

Examples of prudent and innovative alternatives to the present no-win incarceration dilemma are as numerous as they are encouraging. According to authorities, funds can be found, experienced organizers are available and programs can be implemented in as little as four weeks.

LOCAL INVOLVEMENT ENCOURAGED

FLORIDA HAS a recent record of closing institutions for failure to comply with correctional guidelines. High ranking officials suggest it could happen again.

One member of the state legal community who requested anonymity assured this reporter that state agencies were aware of conditions at the Monroe County Jail.

"You and I have to stop short of closing the jail. Only a federal judge can do that. But concerned members of the community can -- and should -- make their feelings known.

"Write letters, make phone calls to the county commissioners deplored the alleged conditions at the jail as reported in the press. Ask the Sheriff to allow groups of concerned citizens to view the jail facilities.* Insist that the commissioners be responsive to the people who elected them. Encourage the commissioners to explore alternatives," he suggested.

FOLLOWING THAT ADVICE, a copy of this

article was forwarded to the attention of County Commissioner Curt Blair with the request that he include these constituent remarks in discussion at the special meeting of the commissioners, the sheriff and representatives of the State Attorney, Public Defender and County Circuit Court that took place on Wednesday, February 28.

Recently elected to his first term in office, Blair unsuccessfully attempted to make emergency monies available from the County's contingency fund to open the prisoners' recreation area. His professional background includes familiarity with various health and social agencies.

Today's issue involves Jim Fry and his 85 to 100 fellow inmates. Tomorrow's situation could very well involve you, your son or your daughter. The conditions at the Monroe County Jail have persisted long beyond the limits of tolerable debate.

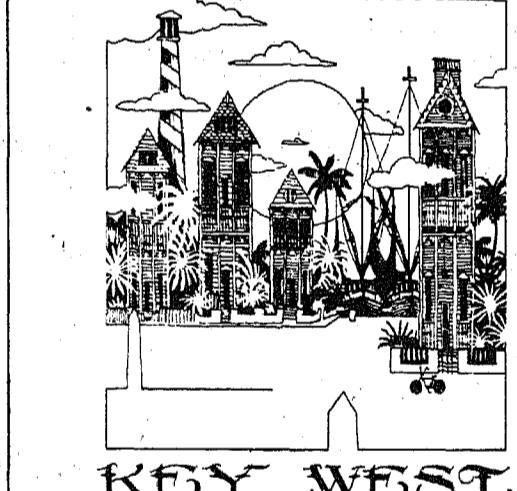
The time has come to stop talking -- and start acting.

*Sheriff Freeman has welcomed all questions and requests for facility inspection posed by this reporter. Freeman maintains that the Sheriff's office has an "open door" policy regarding information and emphasizes that he is eager to re-visit jail conditions.



Peeling the bark
skin dried
from the croakily old front tree,
I wonder at this majesty --
Shade beneath,
Sky smile above,
The powdered earth
welcoming love.

by Phoebe Coan



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Michelob on Tap	1.00

OTHER CHOICES

Perrier Water	95
Coffee, Hot or Cold	75
Tea, Hot or Cold	75
Apple Juice	75
Soft Drinks	75
Milk	50
Espresso	1.00
Cafe con Leche	1.50

DESSERTS

SALADS

Nicoise	4.25
Avocado Stuffed with Shrimp	4.50
Bird of Paradise with Fresh Fruit, Cottage Cheese or Yogurt	3.75
Seafood Salad	4.95
Stuffed Tomato (with Tuna Salad)	3.50
(with Shrimp Salad)	4.95
Avocado, Tomato and Onion	2.75
A la Carte Salad	1.25

SANDWICHES

Tuna Salad	2.50
Reuben (Open face)	3.50
Shrimp Salad	4.00
Finger Steak (Sirloin on Garlic Bread)	4.95
Grilled Cheese, Tomato & Canadian Bacon (Open face)	2.75
Hamburger	2.75
Cheesburger	3.00

PLATTERS

Eggs Benedict	4.25
Fish of the Day	4.25
Platter of the Day	3.95
Conch Steak	5.95
Stone Crabs	5.95

SOUPS

Conch Chowder	2.00
Soup of the Day	2.00

OMELETTES

Mushroom & Mozzarella	3.25
Cream Cheese & Scallions	3.25
Omelette of the Day	3.

An Artist Remembers The W.P.A.

by Malcolm Ross photos by Richard Marsh

THE YEAR WAS 1935, the month January, and the country was a tangle of bread lines and soup kitchens. Bill Hoffman had in his hands a letter from the Treasury Department ordering him "to proceed with all possible speed to Key West."

Lila Mecklin, art critic for the *Washington Star*, had seen and admired a mural which Bill and his wife, Martina, had painted in the children's section of what is now the Savannah Public Library. She mentioned it to Edward Bruce, then head of the bureau dealing with artists working under the Works Progress Administration, President Franklin Roosevelt's ambitious program to put the faltering American economy back on its feet. As a result of Miss Mecklin's recommendation,

another ferry to No Name Key, and then drive the remaining distance into Key West.

Bill arrived in Key West on schedule, checked in with the Key West Administration of the W.P.A., and met some of the other artists including Eric Smith. Smith took Bill to Sloppy Joe's Bar (at its original location on the site of the present Captain Tony's Saloon), where he was introduced to one of Smith's drinking buddies, Ernest Hemingway. Eric eventually did a mural in the bar either as part of the W.P.A. program or in payment of his bar bill. The ultimate fate of the mural is unknown, although it may still exist somewhere within the catacombs of Captain Tony's.

AUTOMOBILES WERE RARE in Key West in the 1930's, there being no more than a dozen in all of the Lower Keys. Three taxicabs were all the town could produce at the time, and most people relied on other forms of transportation, including going on foot. Every Saturday night there was a big promenade on Duval Street, where everyone went to see their friends or be seen. Gambling and Bolita were rampant, and every bar on Duval had an assortment of slot machines. Flat broke as people were, they always seemed to be able to get together a nickel or dime to play Bolita or bet on a cockfight. Cuba always had some kind of trouble going on, and the only outsiders other than what the Overseas Railroad brought in were navy personnel.

THE CITY WAS in a financial and spiritual eclipse. What had once been the wealthiest city per capita in the nation had declared bankruptcy and prevailed upon Washington for help. No one in town had any money and it didn't matter. Those who were able to find work with the W.P.A. programs considered themselves lucky to be drawing a salary of \$8 a week. Lobsters sold for a nickel apiece, and two pounds of turtle steak commanded twenty-five cents. Turtleburgers, an all-but-disappearing species, were the Depression day MacDonalds. Single men often committed minor crimes so they would be put in jail and get free meals. Jail conditions have obviously changed a great deal since that time, but time was when inmates were given money to see movies in town. It was an amusing sight after the movies let out to see men running back to the jail to keep from being locked out! The town had an all-pervading quiet, a peace perhaps which only poverty can create. The quiet was so complete that boats with motors were outlawed, and the Columbia Laundry's noon whistle was silenced as too disturbing to the stillness.

BILL, A NATIVE SAVANNAH, knew nothing about the place to the south, and the maps which the local libraries had to offer told him little more than the fact that Key West was a tiny dot of land, practically infinitesimal and totally surrounded by water. Bill recalled its remote association with Ernest Hemingway, but by a stroke of luck he did locate a copy of Jefferson Browne's history of the island, written a quarter of a century earlier and somewhat out of date.

There were still many unanswered questions in Bill's mind after reading Browne's quaint and romanticized version of Key West history, including whether he could bring a car here, but the prospect of steady employment at government subsidy under sunny skies seemed most appealing. Bill's wife had died quite suddenly several months previously, so a change of scenery might just be a good tonic, and, anyway, what did he have to lose?

BILL'S COUSIN and his wife were interested in going to Cuba, so Bill decided to form a car pool using his car and take his chances getting to Key West via automobile. The information he had gathered had given him a vague understanding that there were stretches of highway along the Keys and ferry service between some of the islands, but the picture was very sketchy. Upon his arrival in the Keys, he soon learned that one could drive as far as Matecumbe Key, take a ferry to Grassy Key, drive through to the western end of Marathon, take

Greenwich Village or Provincetown South. Typical of so many other industries on the island, sponging had languished and died years before, and the far-sighted Mr. Stone surmised that the island's only true hope of survival lay in attracting tourist money. The only problem with establishing an artists' colony was finding the artists. A few writers like Hemingway and mystery writer Jonathan Lattimer, who was later to write Perry Mason episodes for television, were in residence, but the artists had to be transplanted.

There were probably no more than twenty-five artists working with the W.P.A. in Key West at any one time, but many of them were to go on later to excel in various fields. Stephen Dohanos was to become a well-known illustrator, Stanley Wood retained a long association with *Fortune* magazine, Dick Sargent became a well-known watercolorist, creating many *Saturday Evening Post* covers as well, and Sidney Laufman went on to teach at the Art Students' League. Laufman's works now hang in the Chicago and Metropolitan Museums, and Bill still has a portrait which Laufman painted of him during the Key West days.



Hoffman by Laufman

THE MARTELLO MUSEUM in Key West still maintains an exhibit relating to the Key West W.P.A. project of the '30's, including magazine articles, paintings and photographs relating to the project. All artists were instructed to don shorts (a disconcerting act for many!), and their contributions to the organized beautification of the island ranged from tree-planting and landscaping to mural and restaurant decoration.

One of the W.P.A. projects was a booth for a Miami flower show in 1935, but someone had discovered a bug on a plant coming from Key West, so a quarantine was placed on all plants originating in the Keys. This threatened to put the damper on Key West's aspirations for the show, but artists were soon put to work creating a booth filled with murals of fish and other undersea life, and when topped by a thatched roof and embellished with shells and sand it walked away with first prize.

ONE OF BILL'S major projects sanctioned by the W.P.A. was a large mural which still flanks the stage in the auditorium of Glynn Archer School on White Street. Made in two sections depicting the Spanish exploration of the Keys, including the

naming of the island Cayo Hueso (Bone Key) for the many bones which were reportedly strewn about its dunes and beaches, and the awesome construction of the Overseas Railroad, thefeat proved



Discovering the Isle of Bones -- mural at Glynn Archer School

almost as prodigious as Michelangelo's decoration of the Sistine Chapel. Created out of ten-foot high sections, the mural had to be painted in a room only eight feet high in the W.P.A. Administration Building on the Naval Station. It was only after the two panels were hung in the school that Bill could get a proper perspective in his work and see if it was technically accurate.

THE HURRICANE WHICH hit the Florida Keys on the afternoon of Labor Day 1935 seemed to have little effect on the already isolated island of Key West. Rains poured down heavily and winds rose to a speed of 55 miles per hour, but it wasn't until townspeople saw the train which had just left hours earlier backing into Key West that they realized what had happened to the Middle and Upper Keys. The railroad beds, which had been constructed of marl and rock, acted as coffer dams holding back the heavy surge of the hurricane until they could hold no more, breaking and washing away houses and humans and miles of railroad tracks.

The hurricane, which had one of the lowest barometric readings of any storm ever recorded, had made a nightmare out of Henry Flagler's dream -- the Overseas Railroad. The tracks between Long Key and Key Largo were washed away completely or set up on end like giant picket fences, and the casualties ran into the hundreds. Many of the dead were the remnants of the Veterans' March on Washington, D.C., who had been sent to the Keys to work on various W.P.A. projects, and a train sent down to evacuate them had itself been blown away in the force of the hurricane.

Five hundred people were known dead, and a full moon shone brightly on the piles of bodies, which were soaked with gasoline and burned with little ceremony on those humid September nights. Key West had missed the brunt of the killer storm and appeared to suffer few after-effects -- no more freight cars of pineapples from Cuba, perhaps, and a lessening somewhat in the number of visitors in town who would normally have come in on the train.

ANOTHER OF THE W.P.A. projects for the city of Key West was a lavish production of Gilbert and Sullivan's *Pirates of Penzance*, which was to be performed on an outdoor stage near Fort Taylor. Professional singers and lighting technicians were imported for the big affair, which involved practically the whole community in one form or another, and the W.P.A. artists soon found themselves

busy creating scenery and costumes for the production.

Rehearsals for *Pirates* were held upstairs at the old Duval Street Cuban Club, and at one of these Bill happened to take notice of a comely young lady who sang in the chorus. She turned out to be Julia Jones, who, although born in North Carolina, had come to Key West with her family by way of New Orleans.

Her father had had a life-long love affair with newspapers (he had his first newspaper when he was fifteen), and his credits included coverage of an incident in the early 1900's at a cold and remote part of North Carolina named Kittyhawk, where two brothers named Wright were trying to fly a curious and clumsy-looking contraption. It was Jones' early prediction that "the thing would never get off the ground," but history and time were to prove him wrong, and he was forced many times later to eat those very words. Jones had also spent some time as editor of the *New Orleans Times Picayune* and later accepted a position as editor of a Key West weekly called the *Florida Keys Sun*.

JULIA HAD SPENT most of her salad days in Key West, living an easy carefree life on the tiny laid-back island and graduating from the Key West High School. Typical of the recreation of the day was an activity which gave some variation to an afternoon of sun and swimming. The Naval Station beach was the popular scene, and one of the props was an automobile, albeit a rarity, but nevertheless essential. The auto was parked near the water's edge with a long rope attached to its bumper, and a swimmer would swim with the rope away from shore until the end of the rope was reached. At a signal, the car would start off pulling the swimmer at breathtaking speed through the water toward the shore. Barracuda and shark were known to infest the waters surrounding the island, but residents respected the fishes' rights, and attacks by either species were a rarity.

One sunny afternoon it was Julia's turn at the rope. The car started, pulling her swiftly through the water.

IN 1936, BILL and Julia left Key West for parts north and other employment. The W.P.A. was due to fulfill its function, and the economy of the country was on its way to a healthy recovery.

An Overseas Highway was built to replace the now defunct Overseas Railroad, using in fact some of the old railroad beds and bridges which had survived the hurricane of the century. What had once been a tenuous connection with the mainland had now been firmed up, and tourists could again visit Key West.

Among the visitors were Bill and Julia, who made many trips back to the island where they had met and married. Bill's

commissions and other work had taken them to many parts of the country, back to Savannah, South Carolina, Vermont, and even Philadelphia, where Bill was employed as a designer for the Philco Corporation. A special place in their hearts was reserved for Key West, however, and it was back to the island they came in 1965 to buy a house where they have settled into quiet retirement.



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PHOTO QUIZ

photos by Richard Marsh

The first person to correctly identify all ten of these photos will win \$25. Identification must be specific; that is, name or address of building or intersection nearest to the object pictured, or an otherwise definite description of the object and where it is located.

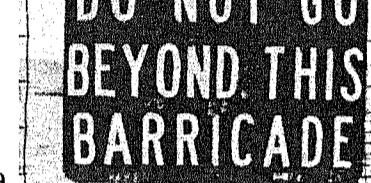
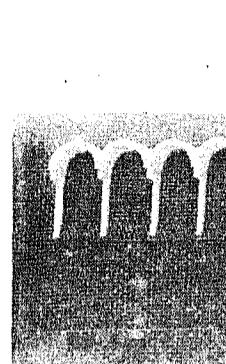
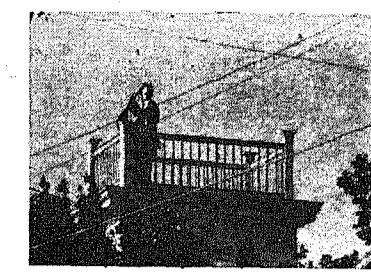
All of these objects are in the Old Town area and can be seen (and were photographed) on or from public property.

All entries must be mailed to:

PHOTO QUIZ
Solares Hill
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The winner will be the entry with the earliest postmark having all ten photos correctly identified. In case of a tie, a drawing will be held to determine the winner.

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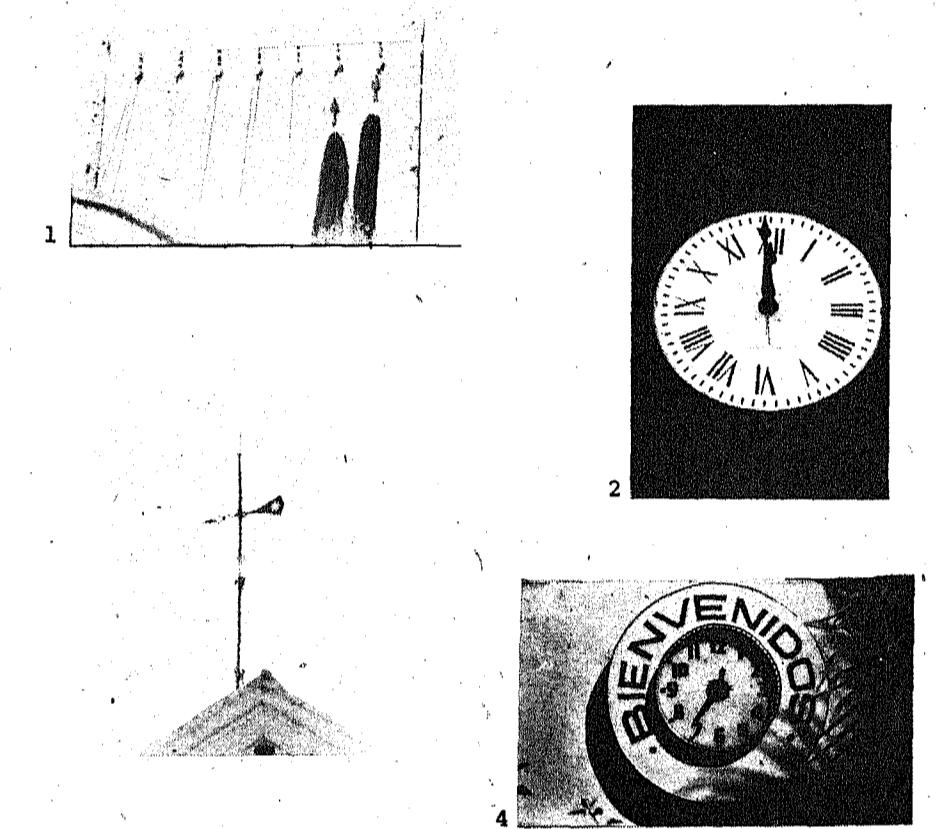
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LAST MONTH'S PHOTO QUIZ

The winner of the February Photo Quiz was Michael Lew Rodriguez. Here are the answers:

- 1) Senior Citizens Center (Old Armory) at White and Southard
- 2) Lion in front of 410 Simonton
- 3) Presidential Gate to Navy Base, Whitehead and Caroline
- 4) Florida First National Bank, Front and Duval
- 5) 615 Elizabeth
- 6) Lighthouse on Whitehead near Truman
- 7) Map on wall of Coca-Cola Company, Simonton and Front
- 8) Lewinsky Building on Duval near Southard
- 9) Jewish sign support at Captain Tony's
- 10) Bottle fence at Margaret and Angela

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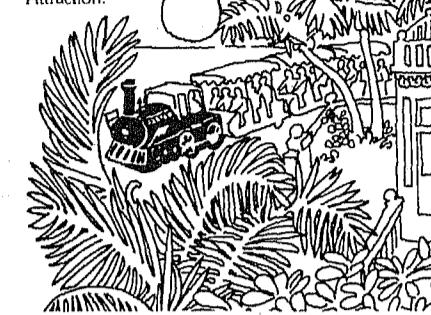
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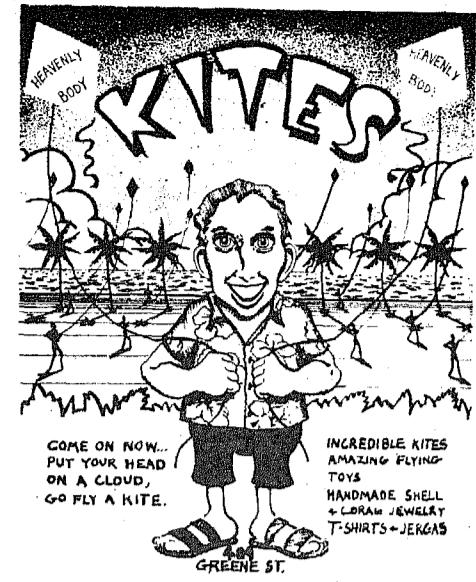
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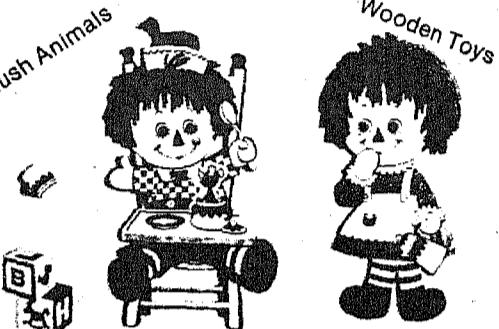
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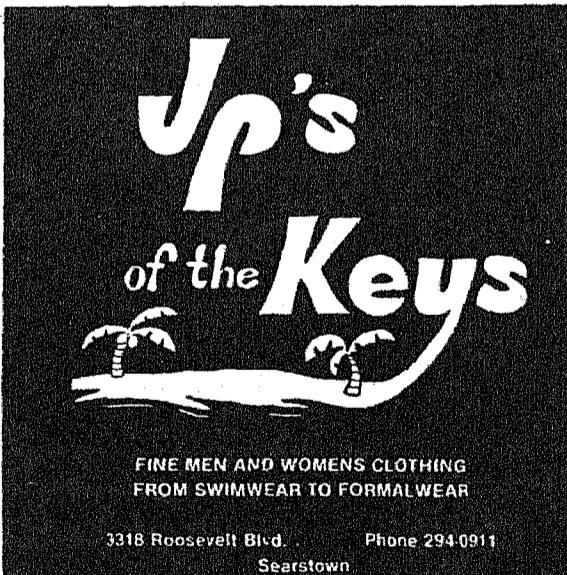


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27



FILL LOOKS LEGAL

article and photo by Richard Marsh

IS DAVID WOLKOWSKY trying to bring the United States and Cuba closer together the hard way by illegally extending his property at 1502 Vernon south into the Atlantic Ocean, as some observers claim?

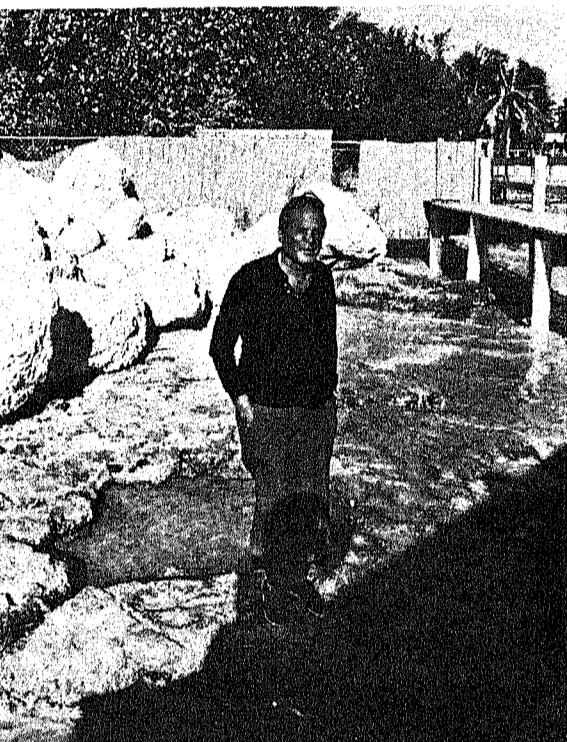
Or has he installed boulders legally -- landward of the Mean High Water mark -- on his beach to protect his property from erosion, as he contends?

"I'm interested in helping Key West, not turning it into a hot dog stand," Wolkowsky told me on tour of the property. He waved a deprecatory hand toward a small parcel between his property and the Sands Beach that belongs to Southern Bell, where the submarine cable to Cuba enters the water. Debris has washed up and accumulated among derelict boats in various stages of decomposition that litter the phone company's land. "Why don't they pick on a billion dollar company and leave a poor millionaire alone?" Wolkowsky complained. An hour later he had a second thought about the wording, having noted that had written it down. "Do you think 'struggling millionaire' would sound better?"

DUBBED "LOCAL ARISTOCRAT" in a recent *Time Magazine* article ("I would have preferred 'Aristocrat of taste,' he said), Wolkowsky is one of Key West's best known and reputedly wealthiest residents, and he attracts attention as a lightning rod attracts lightning. It was a widely known "secret" that after he sold the Pier House for \$4.6 million he was buying up property near the Sands (reportedly through an intermediary, to keep speculation on his dealings from raising prices) to create a resort complex on the Atlantic, as he had with the Pier House on the Gulf. "You just watch," I was told last summer by a Wolkowsky-watcher, "David always gets what he wants."

Last Fall, *Solares Hill* was informed that Wolkowsky was building a pier on

his 1502 Vernon property near the Sands, allegedly illegally. We checked and found that proper permits had been secured and that the project was legal.



David Wolkowsky stands on a survey mark showing where the Mean High Water line is at one point.

IN JANUARY, we were deluged with complaints that Wolkowsky was dumping loads of rocks illegally into the ocean between the new pier and the house. The issue seemed to revolve around whether or not the boulders had been placed legally landward or illegally seaward of the Mean High Water mark. We mentioned in last month's *Solares Hill* that we were awaiting the completion of a marine survey to determine the location of the Mean High Water mark -- the average of the highest and lowest high tides over a period of years.

The survey, by Phillips and Trice of Key West, was made available to us by Wolkowsky last month. Five men spent two weeks on the survey, Wolkowsky reported. He did not want to say how much it cost, he told us in a tone that indicated that he did not like to think about the cost either.

A marine survey will show the Mean High Water mark regardless of any alterations to the shore line. Environmental experts and regulatory agency officials assured us that the survey proves conclusively that the boulders were placed landward of the Mean High Water mark, and therefore are legal.

MOREOVER, ACCORDING TO Lynn Kephart, a local environmental planner who earned a reputation as a tough enforcer of environmental protection laws when he was the Monroe County biologist, the boulders are placed in such a way as to help prevent erosion of the beach due to wave and tide action not only on Wolkowsky's property but on adjacent properties also.

Kephart joined me at my request when I inspected the property with Wolkowsky. I asked Kephart to explain and interpret the technical terms of the survey and the environmental protection laws as they applied specifically to the Wolkowsky property.

IT WAS A fairly simple matter to understand when the property in question, the survey marks, the survey drawing, and an expert like Kephart all came together. All available evidence leads to the conclusion that the fill was done legally.

We had spoken previously with Sandy Hanson of the Department of Environmental Regulation, and he said that he had inspected the site and found no violations from his agency's point of view.

Chuck Schenepel, a biological technician with the Army Corps of Engineers, planned to inspect the site early in March. If he finds any objection to the project, we will report on it next month.

THE REASON SO many questions have

been raised about the pier and the boulders may be that Wolkowsky's personal renown and the intense public interest in his business dealings have focussed people's attention on a property that is highly visible, sandwiched as it is between the popular Sands Beach and the public access to the ocean at the foot of Vernon Street.

If, as it appears at this point, the Wolkowsky project is completely legal, it will not have been the first time we have received a false alarm from concerned citizens. It is an indication that Key Westers care deeply about conserving what is left of the natural environment of the Florida Keys, and we hope that our readers will continue to alert us to suspected improper tampering with the land.

Notes and Antic-Dotes continued from p. 9

THE VISIT below deck ended, and I made a final panting (and I mean that) ascent to upper strata, but I retained touches of claustrophobia.

Achievements of the submarine weren't confined to athletic endeavor. Some time later, the USS Sea Dog, on a maneuver up the coast, rescued a straying Navy blimp and towed it into a port. The feat gained national acclaim and international headlines in the news.

When the submarine returned to Key West, it was tendered a razzle-dazzle reception.

He

ONCE AGAIN I was invited to attend a special coffee reception aboard the submarine. But this time I adamantly refused to go down a hatch. I slipped my coffee safely on the nice level deck.

I suspect that the officers and crew were mightily relieved at not having to repeat escorting me below.

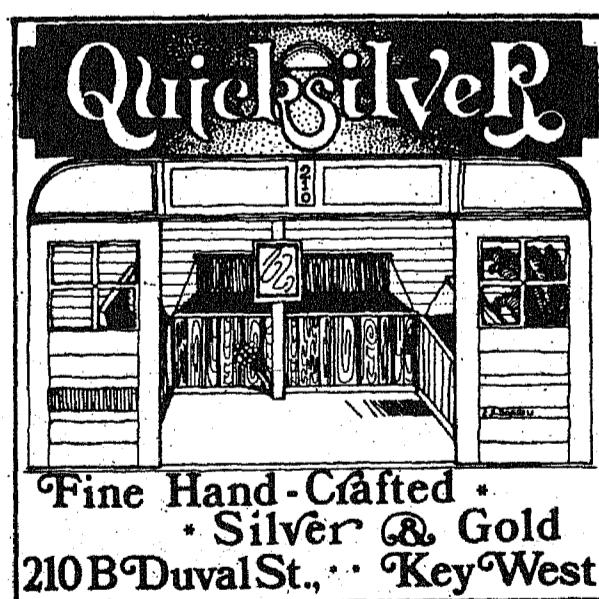


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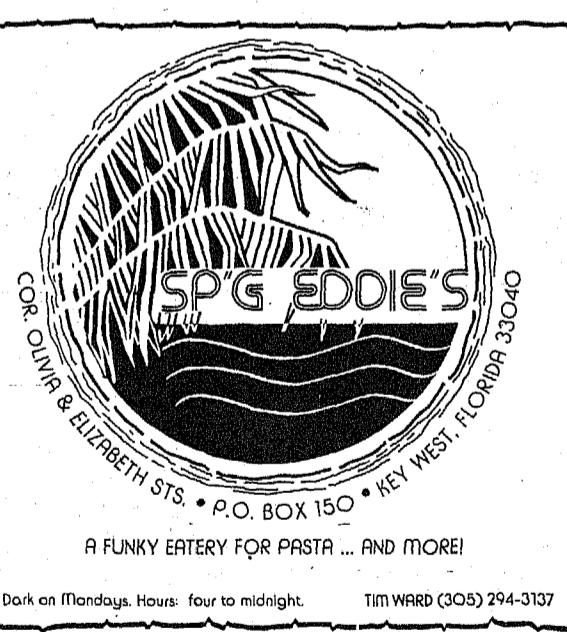
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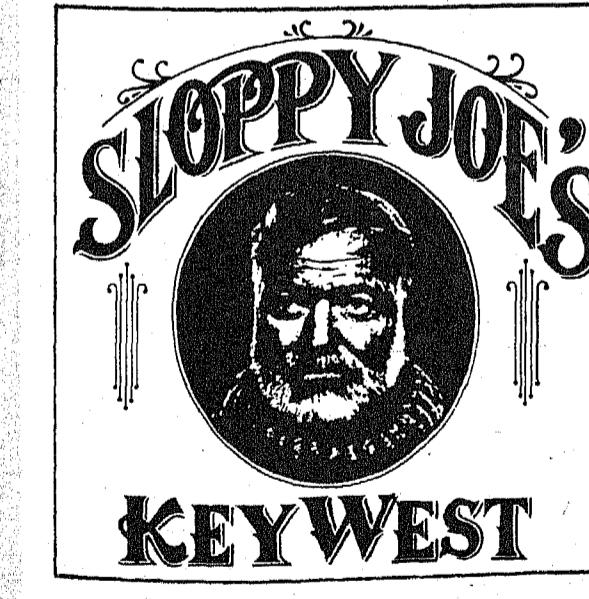
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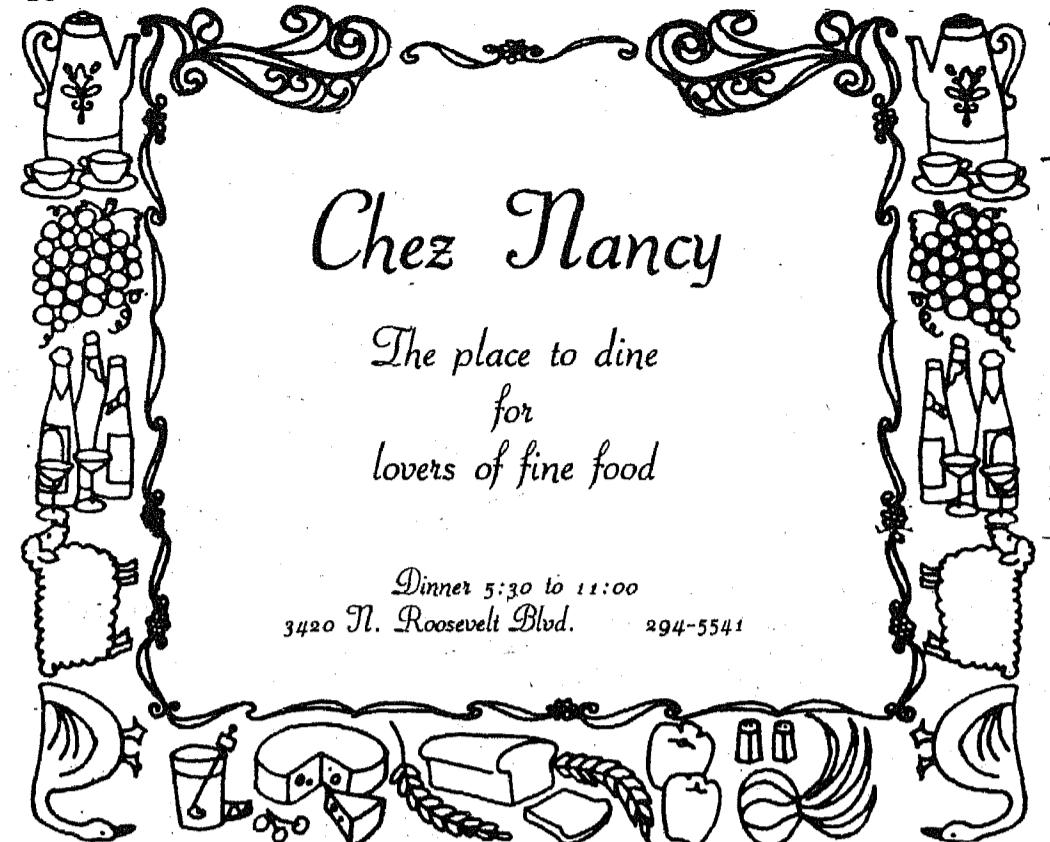
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Bus Humor

by Timothy Hoskins

(The Port and Transit Authority of the City of Key West recently sent selected citizens a questionnaire intended to try to help improve the bus service locally. Some of the questions asked seemed rather odd and it was difficult to see how they related to bus service. We submitted the questionnaire to local observer Tim Hoskins and this is what we got back from him....Ed.)

CONSIDER THE BUS. Nothing much to it, right? A big thing, bunch of seats inside, people get on and off, ride around a bit. No big deal. But there's more. Look at *Bus Stop*, for example. Great movie. What the critics punningly failed to call a Marilyn Monroe "vehicle." In the sixties that same bus stop became a hit single record for a group called the Turtles. It doesn't stop there. In that same decade the rock group The Who gave everyone a thrilling musical ride on their "Magic Bus." And who can forget Arlo Guthrie's legendary "red VW microbus" that drove him in and out of insanity in *Albee's Restaurant*?

We've even got jokes about buses: You know the one about the two guys driving down the street and they come to a stop sign. The driver, looking left, asks his passenger if there's anything coming from his side. "Nothing but an old dog," the rider answers. The car pulls out and there's a tremendous crash. From the wreckage the driver asks, "Just what kind of a dog was that anyway?" "Greyhound, man."

That's bus humor. Not funny, you say? The City of Key West apparently finds it a side-splitter. Enough so that it recently sent out to select residents a whole bunch of bus humor thinly disguised as a "Florida Department of Transportation Transit Survey." The problem, it seems, is that Key West residents will watch movies about buses, listen to songs about buses and even tell (or be told) jokes about buses. They'll do everything but ride one. The city wanted to find out why. To do so, they enlisted the services of the State of Florida and a branch of the local government with the most formidable and awe-inspiring title ever conceived: The Port and Transit Authority. Not Port and Transit Agency or Bureau or Association but Authority. Probably made up of high school principals, step-fathers, judges and maybe even a president or two.

THUS BEGAN THE quest for the perfect Key West bus rider (no minor task, as will be seen).

For some reason (far be it from me to question Authority), a lot of people evidently are not considered worthy bus material

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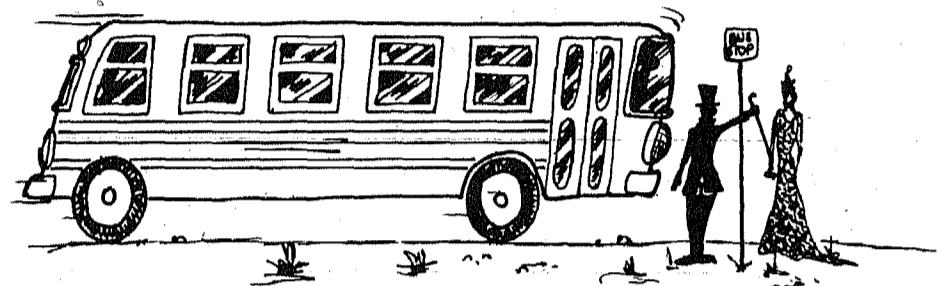
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and thus did not receive The Survey. For those unenlightened, it consisted of no less than sixty questions, most of which were to be agreed or disagreed with either strongly, mildly or slightly. That provided six ways to answer a question like #44, which read, "I would be willing to ride the bus at least once in the next month if I had a free round trip pass." One would think the survey people could have saved themselves a lot of trouble by asking that question first: If somebody won't even climb on a bus for free, who cares about his other fifty-nine opinions?

Question #44 was not unlike a lot of others, which dealt in a standard informational way with certain problems involving a compatible city bus system. Fine. That was just a warm-up. By far, the majority of questions read more like an application for a computer dating service. Questions like #4, "I think that any experience is more enjoyable when shared with a friend," made one wonder the extent to which the city would go to promote bus use. If enough people strongly agreed maybe an attractive escort would knock on your door and lead you arm in arm to the nearest bus stop.

WHY THEY SHOULD be interested in philosophy is unclear, but how else does one explain #25: "I have often found that what is going to happen will happen, and there is not much I can do about it?" Imagine an existential bus driver lecturing on Dostoevski between stops.

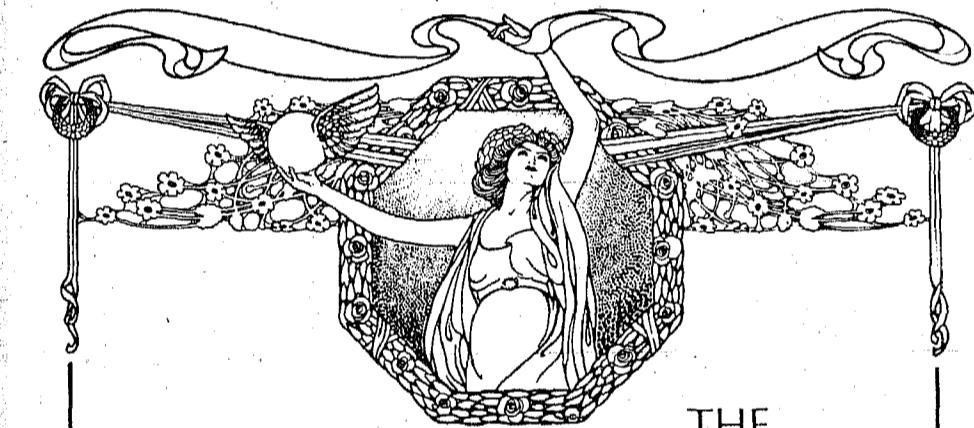
RIDING A BUS could get quite expensive if enough people strongly agreed with #33: "Most people who are conscious of style and fashion would avoid riding city buses." Pierre Cardin



uniforms for drivers and silver-brocade for the seats could cost the city a fortune.

Still other questions were so weird they bordered on the fantastic. Like #22: "The kind of car you drive says something about you." Assuming a car exists that actually can say

continued on page 42



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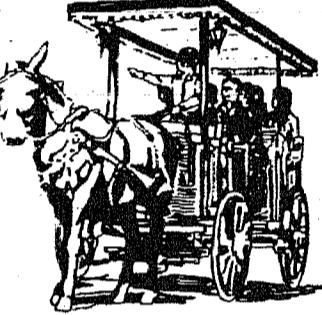
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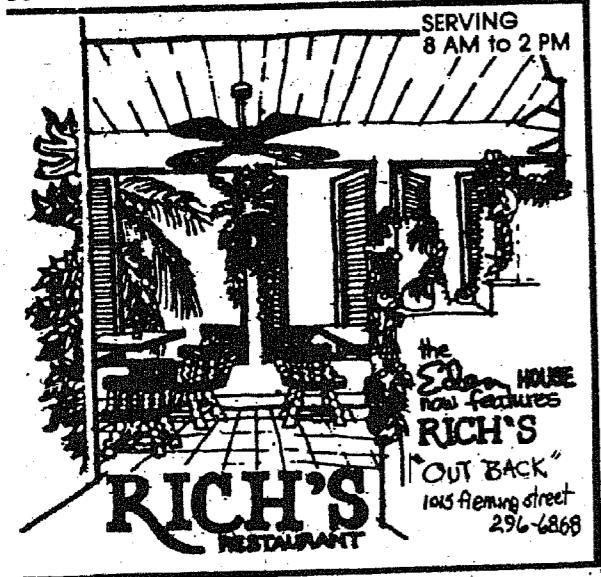
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LANDLORD-TENANT:SOLUTIONS?

by Richard Marsh

IT IS GENERALLY agreed by those who came, saw, and were conquered by Key West that this town is the closest place to Paradise to be found anywhere on earth. It is easy to forget sometimes that it is not Paradise.

Now that Key West has fallen victim to the inevitable results of its own desirability, property owners are complaining that prices and taxes are soaring, and tenants are complaining that rents are too high. When we get to heaven, we will find that property costs no more than it is worth, taxes are nonexistent, and there is an abundance of cheap apartments with a breeze and a view and no cockroaches or leaky roofs. Landlords gladly rush over in the middle of the night to replace a faucet washer, and tenants pay their rent a week before it is due.

BUT HERE, the last stop before Paradise, landlord-tenant relations are not always cordial, the bathroom floor is as springy as a diving board, and daylight and other creatures of nature creep in through the holes in the wall. Understanding prevails not, as one landlord accused tenants of causing high rents by paying them. That would be like our printer blaming the increased cost of newsprint on us.

Supply and demand is as natural a law as greed is a vice. If you have a number of things to sell, and a plus 10 people want to buy it, you can raise the price as high as people are willing to pay. Or, if you are not that greedy, you can raise the price as high as a plus five people will pay and be choosy about whom you want as customers.

HOUSING IS A seller's market now in Key West, which means that, short of artificial price and rent controls, the owner of a piece of property can charge almost any sale or rental price he wishes. This is somewhat complicated by

the fact that probably several years ago some Conch sold a \$4000 cottage to a Yankee sucker for \$10,000, and that Yankee sucker put a hundred dollar coat of paint on it and sold it the next year to a bigger Yankee sucker for \$20,000, who rented it out for \$250 a month until the recent boom. The present owner, who paid, let's say, \$50,000 last year for the cottage, now has to charge \$500 a month rent in order to net the traditional 10% on his investment after taxes and maintenance. And he is behind the times at that. A return of 10% is no longer considered adequate by many investors. Who is to blame for the high rent: the tenant, the present owner, the previous owners, or the Conch who skinned the first Yankee? Or the magazine that published the article that attracted the first Yankee to Key West?

THEN THE PROBLEM moves across the street. An old widow has lived most of her adult life in the neat frame Conch house that her husband paid \$6000 for when they were married 40 years ago. The tax assessor has suddenly realized that the cottage across the street from her sold last year for \$50,000. Her house is larger and in better condition, the assessor notices, and he values it at \$100,000.

The old widow dips into her savings account to pay her taxes.

"The rich get rich, and the poor get poorer."

Key West is a great place to live, if you have a lot of money. If you don't, well, it's still a great place...but to live? How much longer can those of low or moderate income afford to live here?

SHELDON RAMSDELL AND Jean-Louis d'Heilly wrote articles in the December and January issues of *Solares Hill* on the housing situation from first the tenants' and then

the landlords' point of view. Editor Bill Huckel appended a note to the second article saying that we would explore possible solutions to the problems in the February issue.

Then he asked me to write the "possible solutions" article.

THE FEBRUARY DEADLINE rolled around, and I had not found any solutions, so the article was postponed until this issue. The March deadline inexorably rolled around also, and still no solutions turned up of the sort I assumed the editor was expecting me to present in the article; that is, steps that can be taken to improve the problems that occur between landlords and tenants, especially as they are aggravated by the recent upsurge in property prices.

Other than the obvious advice to tenants to inform themselves of their rights and the landlords' duties, and the utopian wish that people would be less greedy, I can see only the two solutions to the rental problem in particular and the out-of-control real estate situation in general that I have thought for some time are the only way out.

THESE TWO SOLUTIONS are natural and, I believe, unavoidable: the next market collapse and the next big hurricane.

Then the non-rich who have been forced out of Key West by high prices can return and buy the property of the formerly rich for something like what it is worth.

A REAL CHARACTER

by Richard Marsh

"EVERYTHING'S SOUTHERNMOST here because of a geographical accident making this island, this little bit of heaven dropped from the sky one day, the southernmost bit of terra firma of the -- OOPS!" The scene is Cocalooney Key.

"I'm the southernmost gossip columnist and Society Editor of the southernmost news organ in the Disunited Mistakes. OOPS!" This is Polly, who writes for the *Cocalooney Gazette*. She is dodging "the vicious, overgrown sea birds which

are called cocaloonies, and are responsible for the name and notoriety of this -- OOPS!"

POLLY IS A character in *The Gnadiges Fraulein*, a Tennessee Williams play set on Cocalooney Key, which will be produced here for the first time March 13-17 at the San Carlos Opera House by the Tennessee Williams Repertory Company. The play's first, and only previous, production was as part of a double bill entitled *Slapstick Tragedy* with *The Mutilated* in New York in 1966.

The astute observer who attends the play or reads it in Williams' collection *Dragon Country* will notice two things: Cocalooney Key resembles Key West, and Polly is a distorted reflection of *Solares*



Dorothy Raymer

Hill columnist Dorothy Raymer. At the time Williams wrote the play, Dorothy was the Society Editor of *The Key West Citizen*. Also, a character in the play refers to Polly's Pan Am zipper bag as "your Dorothy bag."

THIS MAY BE only circumstantial evidence, but unarguable proof that Dorothy provided Williams' inspiration for Polly appears in Polly's line: "...this morning I did the southernmost write-up on the southernmost gang-bang and called it 'Multile Nuptials'..."

The style and the sense of humor are pure Dorothy Raymer.

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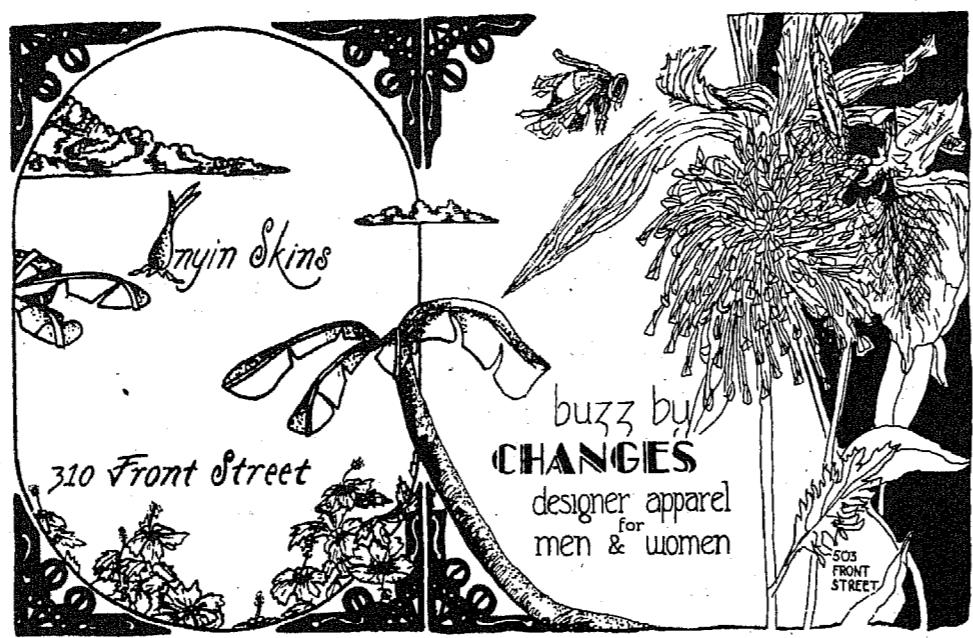
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some remarks

REPERTORY COMPANY RECEIVES TWO FINE ARTS COUNCIL OF FLORIDA GRANTS

THE TENNESSEE WILLIAMS Repertory Company has just been awarded two technical assistance grants by the Fine Arts Council of Florida. In letters dated February 8, the Council announced approval of funds for the Repertory Company's "Theatre for the Forgotten" and "School Outreach Program." Each grant is for \$500.

The Company created Theatre for the Forgotten last year to expand the charitable and public service programs it offers. The program began in December when tickets to the Fusion Dance Company Concert at Key West High School were distributed to Wesley House, the Monroe County Home, the Stanley Home, Florida Keys Memorial Hospital and Nursing Home, and M.A.R.C., Inc. Tickets to all three productions of the Tennessee Williams Repertory Company are also being distributed to Monroe County organizations for handicapped and underprivileged citizens.

THIS FINE ARTS COUNCIL of Florida grant makes it possible for the Company to continue Theatre for the Forgotten, but the need for local support continues. Businesses and residents who wish to make contributions to Theatre for the Forgotten can call 296-9611 for information, or mail them to Box 4071, Key West 33040.

The School Outreach Program will provide free performances to James Lash's *The Royal Cricket of Japan* to local Monroe County Schools in the next six weeks. Over 1900 children will benefit from the program. After initial performances at Poinciana, Sigsbee and Harris Elementary Schools, the May Sands Exceptional Child Center and the Children's School of Key West, matinees of *The Royal Cricket* will be presented at the Red Barn Theatre behind the Women's Club at 319 Duval.

THE SCHOOL OUTREACH PROGRAM is part of the Children's Theatre of Key West, located in the Red Barn Theatre. Celeste Day and John Hays co-direct the program, which includes classes for 8-14 year olds, a proposed class for 5-7 year olds, and weekend matinees including plays, puppet shows, movies and story-telling hours. Long range plans include children's workshops during school vacations as well as during the school year.

HAPPY MEDIUMS

PSYCHIC ENERGIES will be vibrating through Mallory Square's Community Center March 24 and 25 as over 25 "happy mediums" bring their special talents to Key West's first Psychic Fair.

From noon to 8 p.m. Saturday and Sunday readers of auras, astrology, palmistry, regressions, numerology, crystals, stones, I Ching, Tarot, psychometry, cards and others will be available for mini readings for mini fees.

FREE EXHIBITS throughout the two day session include ESP testing, extra-terrestrial, occult and parapsychological subjects on slides and films, and demonstrations of biofeedback equipment as it is used on people and communicating with plants.

Bruce the traveling geranium, star of radio and TV, will be answering audience questions by sending lights and meters up for yes, down for no.

Donation for attending is \$1.50.

SPACE FOR local merchants to exhibit and sell offbeat or psychically oriented products is available by calling Bette Kersta, coordinator of the Fair, at 373-6122 in Miami or Sunshine Smith here at 294-3607.

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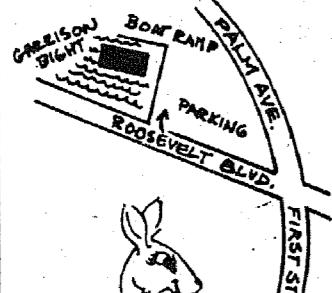
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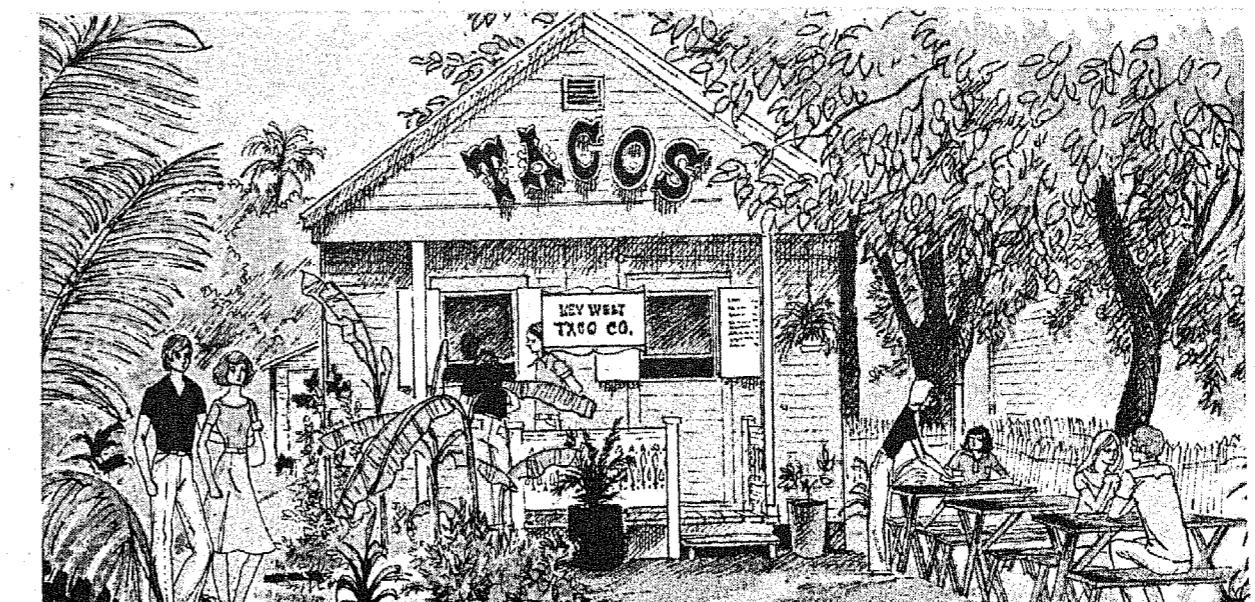
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and films to be announced. Donation for these events will be extra.



Local sculptor Gloria Shaw (right) was commissioned by the World Economic Organization to make sculpture studies of children from various countries in connection with the declaration by the United Nations General Assembly of 1979 as the International Year of the Child. She chose for her Spanish model Alexandra de la Guardia (left, with sculpture), the six-year-old daughter of Spanish Consul-General Jose Luis de la Guardia (standing, left) and his wife, Dona Victoria (second from right). The de la Guardias were in Key West last month to receive the sculpture of Alexandra in ceremonies at Florida Keys Community College. The consul-general plans to return to Key West May 7 for a lecture on "The Spanish Presence



MIDNIGHT GREENE

FOR FOUR YEARS, Greene Street Theatre has been a great place to go every few weeks. Beginning in March, Greene Street Theatre is going to be a great place to go all the time.

Here's the story: We moved into the new theatre at the west end of Southard Street and suddenly had all this space to go wild in. There's even a bar in the back where we'll start serving fresh juices and other drinks later this month. In addition, there was suddenly a lot of new talent coming our way eager to contribute fresh energy.

FROM THAT WAS BORN *Midnight Greene*, the new branch of the theatre that's going to see to it that after you've seen the current major production you won't have to wait a month for more quality entertainment.

Shades of Shakespeare, the two evenings of "Comedie, Tragedie, Music and Daunce" playing March 1 and 2, is *Midnight Greene's* first production (to avoid confusion we didn't bill it as such since the shows are at 8:30).

Roxana Stuart, whose portrayal of Blanche in *A Streetcar Named Desire* electrified her audiences, is acting in and directing several scenes in the review. Roger Owen and Perri Halevy, other lead actors in *Streetcar*, are also doing scenes. Joe Ross, who created a masterful Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol*, and Patricia Turney, Sally Bowles in the blockbuster *Cabaret*, are also cast in *Shades of Shakespeare*.

AS IF TO demonstrate right away the variety of entertainment coming up, *Midnight Greene's* next production is *Vital Signs*, an original comedy show directed by Mack Dryden. Dryden, whose 1978 and 1979 Key West Cartoon Calendars established him as a wit with a taste for the slightly bizarre, also wrote the show with help

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from funny friends like Jamie Alcroft and others.

WHAT'S IT GOING to be like? "Well, it starts at midnight, so you can bet it ain't going to be Captain Kangaroo," said Dryden. "We're going to try not to offend more than four or five hundred people if we can help it. By the way, if any of your readers has an old iron lung or a fairly healthy penguin they're not using..."

Midnight Greene returns to sanity the following week with a musical review by the young lady who brought Sally Bowles to life in GST's production of *Cabaret* in January. Her name is Patricia Turney, and she's a singer/dancer extraordinaire who can hypnotize audiences right into the 1920's and 30's with ease and style.

MEANWHILE, Greene Street is playing host every Tuesday night to a new film club called Flick Pickers that plans to show a different documentary or art film every Tuesday night, and admission will be by small donations.

What's next for Midnight Greene? One-act plays by contemporary playwrights (some of whom spend time in Key West) are planned, dance concerts and more musical reviews are on the drawing boards, and avant-garde theatre aimed at very discriminating audiences will be offered on a regular basis.

AND ALL THAT'S in addition to the usual fare of major professional productions such as January's *Cabaret* and the current *Streetcar*. *Vanities*, a highly-acclaimed comedy that traces the lives of three women from their high school cheerleading days into adulthood, will open March 8 and run through the month. Diana Bellar (Emily in last August's *Hello Out There*), Joy Hawkins and exciting newcomer Diana Haegelin star in the play.

We'll see you at the theatre.

ing met Tuesday February 13th with 20 or more interested persons attending. Our next scheduled meeting will be Tuesday, February 27, 1979, at the office of Dr. Mike Nathanson, 3401 Flagler Avenue. We have temporarily named our group "Help for the Hearing Impaired." Some objectives decided on by HHFI were as follows:

1. To locate and identify all children, teens and adults in Monroe County who have a hearing loss or are deaf. (If you know of anyone, ask them to call 291-5626)
2. Supply special education for the deaf within the Latin community.
3. Educate parents.
4. Form parents advisory group, with parents and professionals working together to help school system.
5. Bring in professional deaf people to community.
6. Open May Sands for parent programs using school facilities and equipment.
7. Social group for adults.

For further information please call 296-5626.

JAMIE

THE FIRST TIME I really met Jamie was at auditions for *A Night Out* at Greene Street Theatre. The director asked Jamie to read the part of Kedge, and he had me read the part of Kedge's pal Seeley. After we did a five-minute scene, he asked us to "switch parts." Jamie promptly pantomimed unscrewing his arm at the shoulder and handed it to me. I caught on and unscrewed my nose and handed it to him. The director let us exchange most of our appendages before it occurred to him that the end of the bit would probably be bawdy, so he cut it short with an "Okay, fellas, back to business."

You never know what's coming next with Jamie Alcroft. That's why I like him so much. He's a happy schizophrenic. You'll be having a "remember when" conversation about grade school and Jamie'll suddenly transform himself into a 60-year-old English schoolmaster, pointing a boney claw at you and demanding that you conjugate "to have" in the subjunctive. Ten minutes later he's Jean-Claude La-Fleur, the French-Canadian lumberjack, razzing you because you're a weakling "who does not know one end of zee ax from zee ozzier, ho HO!"

HIS MARLIN PERKINS is so good it's spooky: "Here's Jim being crushed to death by a giant anaconda while Kabulla and I canoe downstream to camp. Jim wasn't prepared, but YOU can be prepared with Mutual of Omaha."

Jamie is one of those people you don't just know. You experience him. He's an event that's always happening. When you say you're "going to see Jamie," that's generally what you mean. You're going to watch.

Jamie cooks best when he's onstage ("I go crazy sitting in an audience"), but since he can't always be onstage he's content to leave trails of puzzled bystanders wondering what hit them. Example: We were tooling along North Roosevelt in his beautiful 1950 canary

yellow Lincoln when a guy pulled alongside us at a red light. He looked the car over real good and then yelled out the window, "What year is it?"

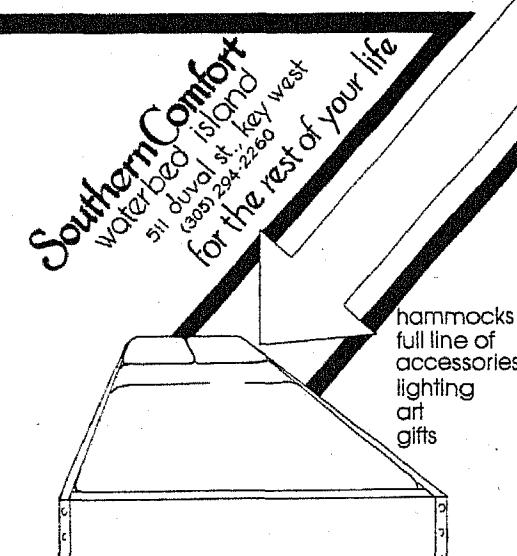
Jamie leaned out with a helpful expression on his face and said, "1979!"



How long you been outta touch?" and we drove off.

JAMIE'S A VEGETARIAN who hasn't touched meat or poultry for seven years. He's not an evangelistic vegetarian, though, so he'll let you glom down your roast beef without riding you about it (it's a tad unsettling when he starts talking to you in the voice of the dearly departed moo-cow, however). Naturally, he's not just a vegetarian.

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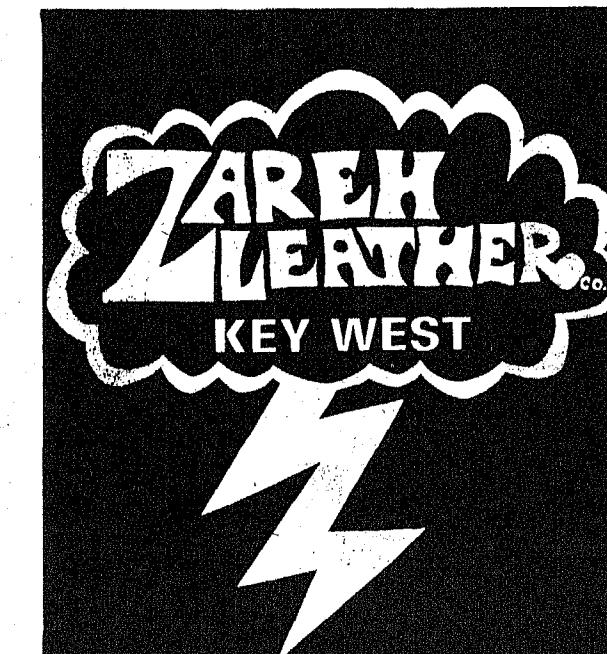
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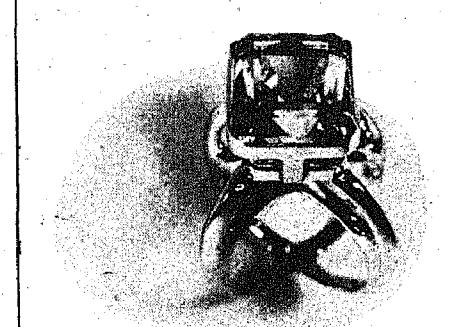
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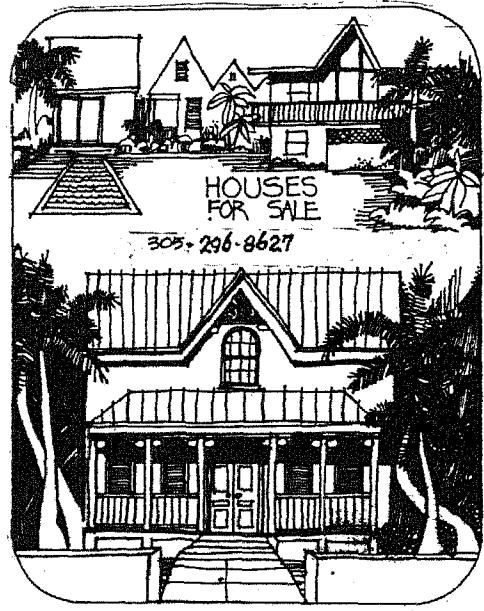
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He's a self-described "lax-ol"-episcopalian vegetarian" who has had the fourth syllable scared out of him several times by "militant Rhode Island Reds who actually resembled Colonel Saunders. And he's a gourmet vegetarian cook who can whip up mouthwatering combinations of mushrooms, broccoli, acorn squash and such.

JAMIE HAS HAD a normal schizophrenic life. He was born in Youngstown, Ohio, and moved when he was fifty minutes old ("Hated the place. I didn't get along with the other kids.") Both his dad and his grandfather were golf pros, and the game took the family to England when he was 12. He was an English schoolboy for four years, avoiding the cane with his angelic expressions, confounding his rugby team with forward passes ("Blimy, the Yank's thrown it AWYYYYY!"), and wondering what girls looked like. He found out when the family moved back to Morristown, New Jersey, when he was 16.

For many boys suffering the ravages of abject puberty, the trauma of the transplant would have been numbing. Jamie, a confirmed heterosexual even at 16, reveled in co-ed education.

HE CONTINUED TO revel at Ohio University, and then went to work as education director for the Wichita (Kansas) Symphony Orchestra. Being something of a traditionalist, he did what most education directors for symphony orchestras eventually do: he moved to Colorado, got a horse, and learned gold- and silversmithing ("It seemed logical at the time").

Not content to melt metal all day, he broke into show business, but was soon acquitted for lack of evidence (that's a little joke he told me, and it's recounted here in case anybody can make anything of it). Actually, he started at the top. At 9,100 feet, to be exact, in Silverton, Colorado, where he had a jewelry store. He did a comedy act at the only nightclub in town, and "the thin air made people giddy so I was a hit."

THEN HE WENT to Aspen and did a TV show with the U.S. Comedy Team, which he helped found (find?). That's where he met fellow schizoid Ron Maranian, the Armenian Comedian. Ron was clipped and clean-shaven on his right side and wore a conservative suit and half a tie on that side. He had shoulder-length hair and a beard on the other side, which was clad in love beads, patched jeans and half an Indian shirt. "He was always great with audiences," Jamie remembered, "but you couldn't have a normal meal at Howard Johnsons with him. You couldn't travel incognito with the Armenian Comedian. You were always nito."

JAMIE THEN ENTERED his Madcap and Zany Adventure Period as he and Ron traveled all over the country selling the act. During their travels, he showed some of his jewelry to some Miami buyers and they encouraged him to start a store in Key West. He opened Hi Ho Silver on Duval Street in 1975 and stayed there for a year before getting his present job as a disc jockey and production manager at WKWF.

At the risk of confusing everybody, I'll throw in here that Jamie somehow found the time in the past decade or so to do a midnight show for Manhattan Cable TV in New York, a comedy special for WPBT Channel 2 in Miami called "The Emergency Comedy Service," the "Last World Pie Diving Championships" for P.A.U. TV in Boca Raton, appearances with Jimmy Buffett, Tom Rush and John Mayal, live performances at The Cellar Door in D.C., Ebbets Field in Denver, Bachelors III in Miami and the Rose and Crown in Nantucket.

While he was in D.C. he specialized in recording out-of-the-ordinary messages for people's answering services. For instance, you might pick up the phone to hear the panting of a large dog, who then tells you that only he and the parakeet are in the house and could he take a message. Or you might talk to Hal the computer, or Paul Lynd,

or any of a number of British butlers, some of whom sounded suspiciously like Boris Karloff.

ANOTHER OF JAMIE'S lesser-known talents is his ability to pick up just about any wind instrument and play it well by ear. He's never studied saxophone or trumpet, but the first time he experimented with them he got actual music to come out the end.

Most local Key Westers know he doesn't

exactly sit on his hands here in town. In addition to his daily performances on WKWF (noon to three Monday through Friday, six a.m. to 10 on Saturday), he's done lots of stand-up routines for the J.P. Bo Variety Shows, and he won the \$100 first prize at the Sportsman's Inn Gong Show last year.

At Greene Street Theatre he's played everything from the Ghost of Christmas Past to Birdboot in *The Real Inspector Hound*. His latest and greatest role was that of Clifford Bradshaw, the leading man in *Cabaret*, which broke all previous attendance records at Greene Street.

LAST NOVEMBER, after we'd worked together a few times and I began to figure out how his mind worked (what am I saying? A team of neurologists couldn't figure out how his mind works. They'd have to catch up with it first), we decided to do a comedy bit for a Bo

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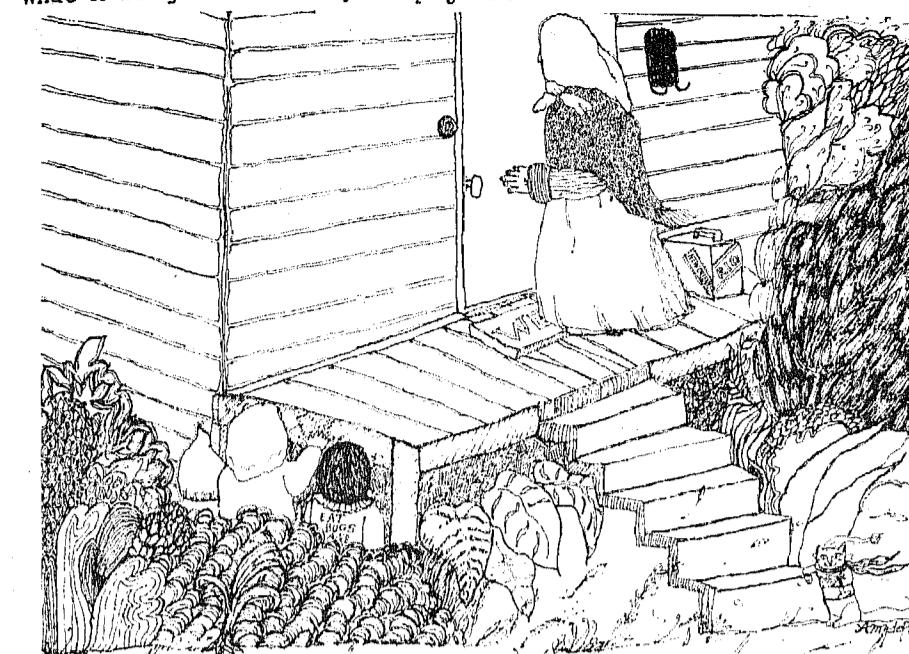
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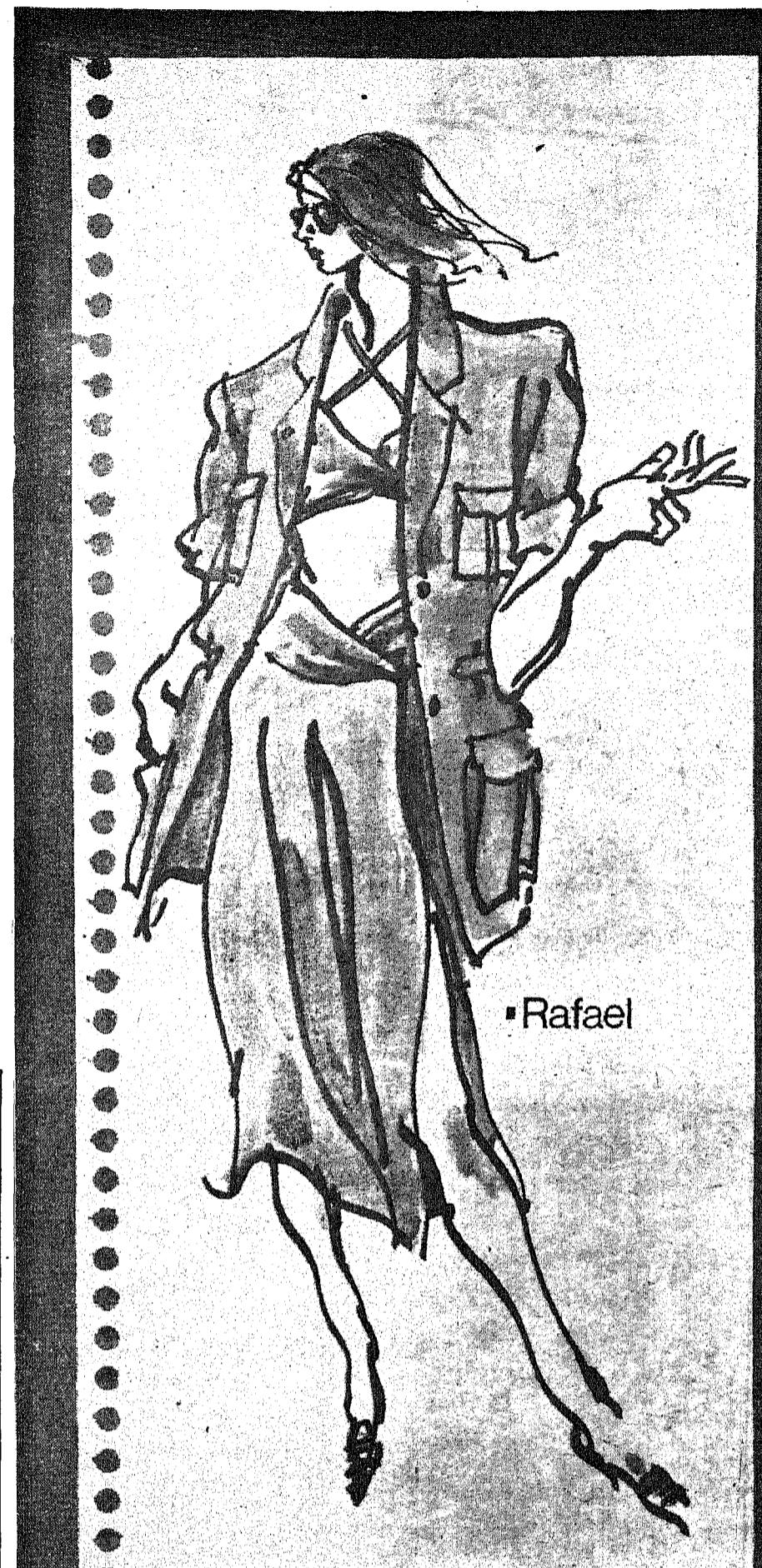


Jim profusely for a good three minutes (leave it to John to milk a small bit for all it is worth). He then hobbled convincingly back down the wooden steps with the expression of a sinner who had just been saved in a tent revival.

BACK HOME, we were allowed full rein to whoop and holler at how marvelously he had pulled off the scam of the century, and once more success went to John's head. He had to try it one more time on Harriet Porter, wife of the illustrious lawyer and pillar of the community, J.Y. Porter, both old friends of his since he was a small boy growing up between Havana and Key West.

We all piled into the car and made beeline for her house on the other side of the island. Once again we were sworn to silence and threatened a great deal if we proved unable to control the tickle of laughter in our throats.

Hiding at the side of her house and fully expecting the sweet smell of success to be ours once more, we watched as John rang the bell. The door opened, and this I swear to you, as God is my witness, the instant that door opened we heard the familiar voice of Harriet say, "Why Johnny de Poo, you old son of a bitch, what are you doing dressed up as an old woman?"



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FROM THAT BIT we went into a medley of imitations of singers, and, not surprisingly, Jamie had them begging for more. His Righteous Brothers and Leon Russell were good, his Bee Gees was funny, but his John Lennon was masterful. He put a rubber band around his head to flatten his nose, put on round sunglasses, tilted his head back, and when he broke into "Here I stand, head in hand, turn my face to the woocool," the audience absolutely roared. It was uncanny.

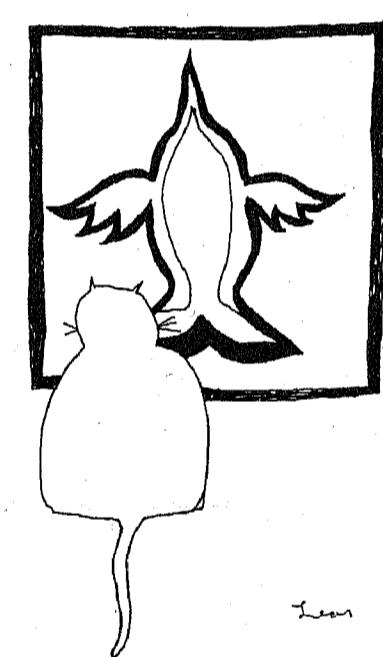
In fact, Jamie was doing his John Lennon over the radio in New York one time when John Lennon phoned in to compliment him. "We both sat there and talked like John Lennon for awhile," he recalled. "It was weird."

WHEN HE WAS in high school he called the president of the New Jersey Beatles Fan Club and convinced her he was George Harrison. "I had to talk to her mother and father, her little brothers and sisters, everybody in the house. They called UPI about it and the story came out on the wire. I guess George was as surprised as anybody."

I got a call the other day from a Lieutenant Gonzales of the Key West Police Department, who wanted to know if I own a 1970 Plymouth Satellite, green. "Yes, I do," I said in a quivering voice. "Why?"

"Well, it's parked in Household Needs here at Sears, and we'd like to ask you a few questions."

"Oh," I said, relieved. "How's it going, Jamie?"



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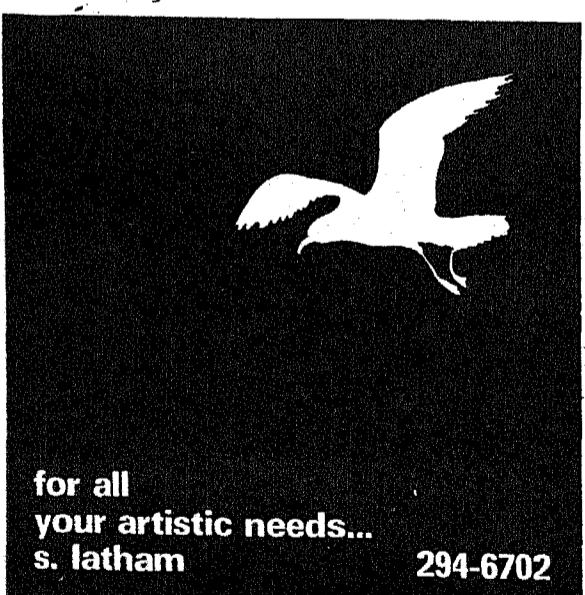
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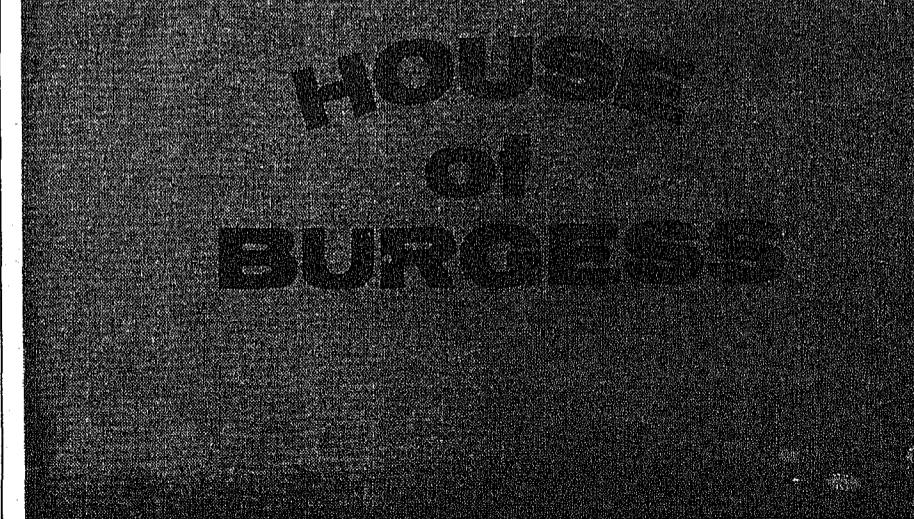
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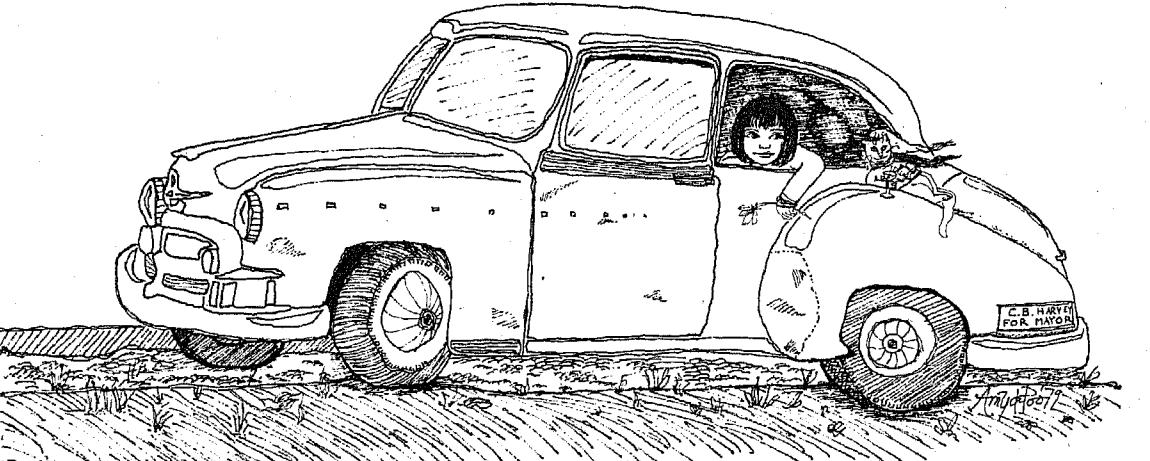
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NEEDLESS TO SAY, it is no fun at all to be caught so quickly at something you had figured for a big thrill to be getting away with. Which only goes to unequivocally prove, you can fool some of the people some of the time, and even fool all of the people all of the time, but you can never, ever, fool an old Conch.

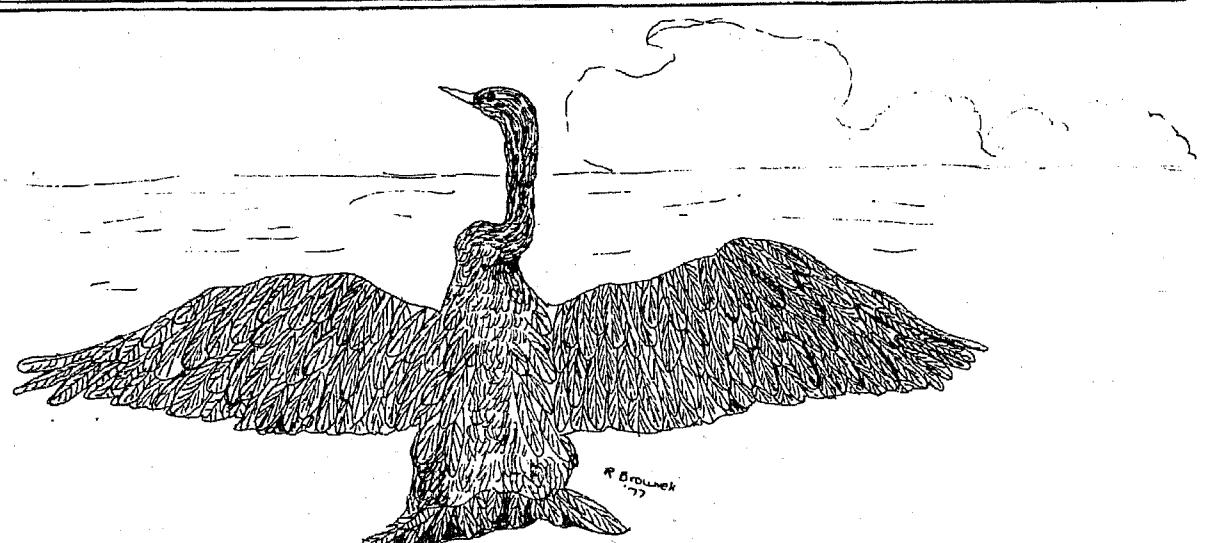
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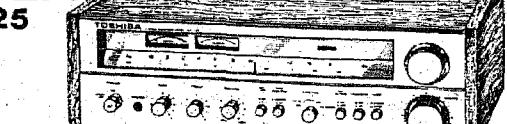
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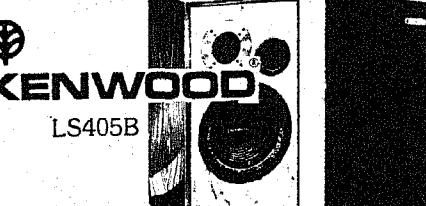
stacking ability and, get this, a three-year warranty that is hard to beat.

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Jupiter in Cancer, retrograde, turning
direct on March 25th
Mars in Pisces
Uranus in Scorpio retrograde
Neptune in Sagittarius, turning retro-
grade on March 22nd
Pluto in Libra retrograde
North Node in Virgo 18 degrees

Most of the planets are retrograde in motion this month, and many signs change signs during the month. This makes for unsettled conditions in most areas, and also many changes will be initiated toward the end of this month that will put many activities in motion.

There will be a Full Moon on March 13 in 22 degrees of Virgo; there will also be a partial eclipse of the Moon on the same date. This aspects the Nadir of the Key West chart. We should be giving more attention to the inner side of the problems that Key West is facing now. This is well favored in our chart, and we should make progress in areas that require soul searching to clear up problems.

Uranus retrograde in the 6th house sector of the chart of Key West will be like a rerun in the area of employment and work in general. There may be more investigations in the city in this area, and new and better practices may be recommended and even demanded.

The planet of money, Jupiter, will be turning direct on March 25th. This points to a long and financially profitable season for Key West businesses.

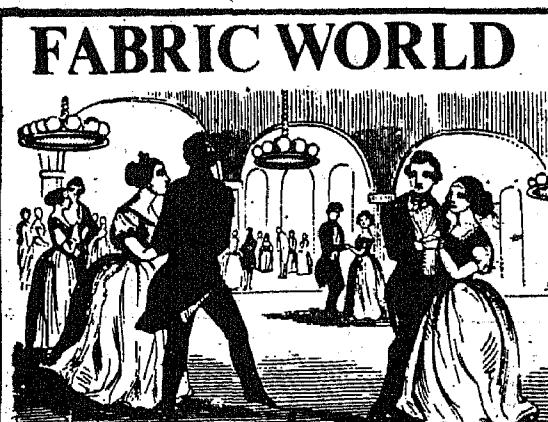
The New Moon on March 26th in Aries will be aspecting the public area of the horoscope, so our media publicity will continue. There is nothing that will slow down the national coverage that Key West has been getting for the past few months. This aspect is particularly strong at this time, trined by the water signs. Key West will continue to be viewed as the "Fantasy Island."

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Bus Humor continued from page 29
 something about you, who would buy it? Park it overnight, and by morning everyone in the neighborhood knows you're putting on weight, you buy your suits off the rack, and you keep a bag of marijuana locked in the glove box. Could get you into trouble.

THE KEY WEST busing problem is certainly no major civil rights issue, and Jackie Gleason will survive another rerun episode of *The Honeymooners* as the bus-driving Ralph Kramden. But before you go on a busman's holiday, here's one more bus joke: Did you hear the one about the group of people riding on a Key West bus? They're riding along, and all of a sudden the bus screeches to a halt about five blocks before the destination.

The driver slips a copy of Dostoevski's *Notes From Underground* into his natty Cardin jacket and informs everybody that they have to get off because they all strongly agreed with question #24: "For exercise, people should, at least, get out and walk some every day."

All the escorts dutifully arise with their passengers, except one who states that her passenger refuses to leave until they reach the prescribed stop. The driver rises confidently and sneers, "Need I remind you, sir, that you also agreed strongly with #37 that states, 'Many times I feel that I have little influence over the things that happen to me'?"

"That's true," replies the passenger, settling even more comfortably into luxurious brocade, "but I also strongly disagreed with #26: 'I always practice what I preach.'"

sh

The Rose Tattoo Lunch Menu

- Appetizers -

Mushroom Canapés
Crudités
Escarole
Jamaican Fruit

- Soups -

Chilled Cucumber
Bahamian Seafood Chowder
Chilled Fruit Soup

- Salads -

mushrooms, spinach, water chestnuts, sprouts
light sesame seed dressing
chilled fruit salad
stuffed salad

- Omelettes -

fresh vegetable and cheese
Canadian bacon, mushrooms, cheese

- Sandwiches -

choice of whole wheat or rye
hamburger with fresh sautéed mushrooms
The Floozieburger
our special blue cheese sauce
turkey, spinach, cheese, sprouts
ham, cheese, ham
roast beef, lettuce, tomato, onion
avocado, tomato, onion, sprouts

The Rose Tattoo Dinner Menu

- Appetizers -

Mushroom Canapés
Crudités
Escarole
Jamaican Fruit

- Soups -

Chilled Cucumber
Bahamian Seafood Chowder
Chilled Fruit Soup

- Salads -

spinach, mushrooms, water chestnuts, sprouts
light sesame seed dressing
mixed green salad
vinegar, avocado, sesame seed dressing

- Entrées -

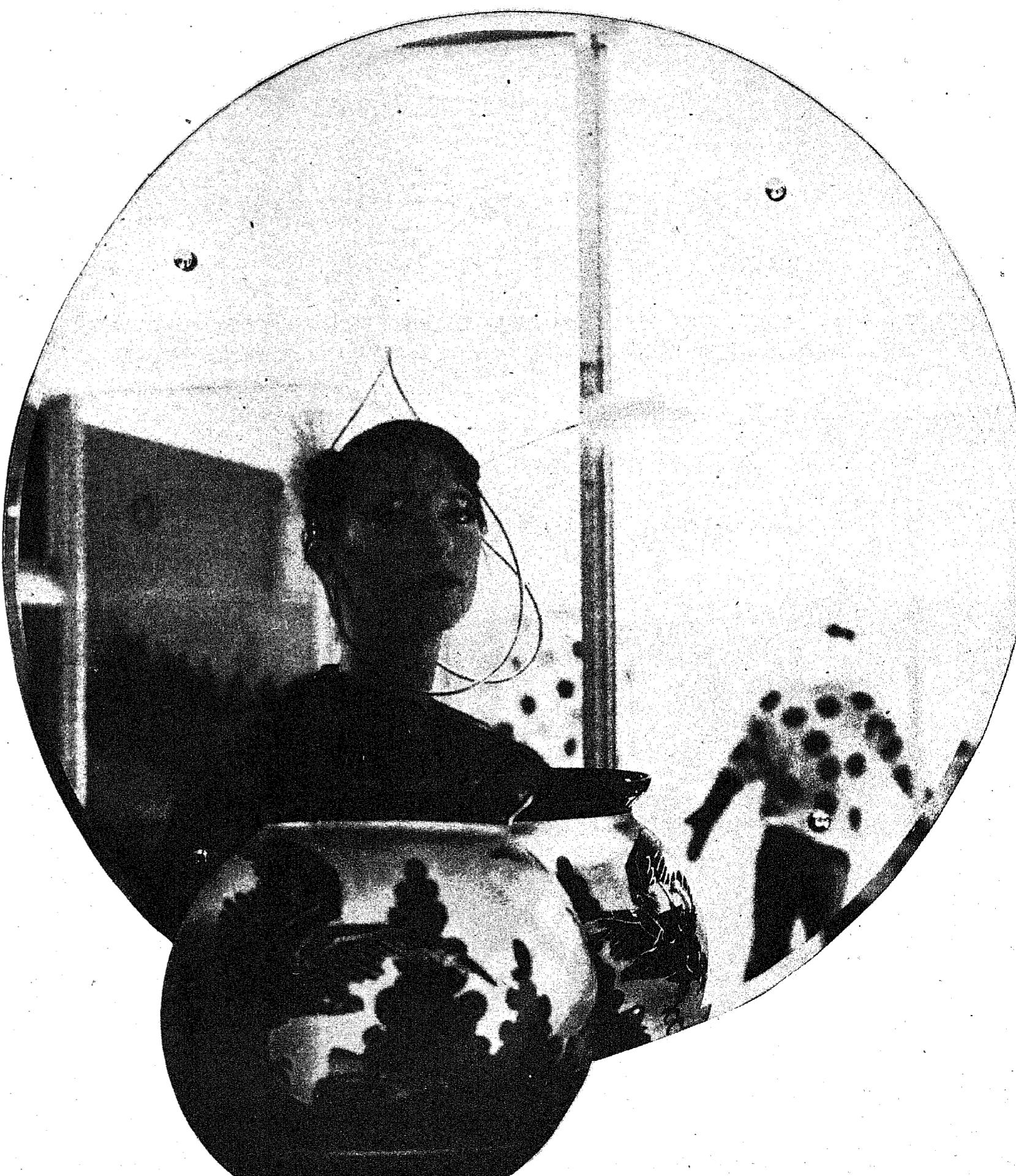
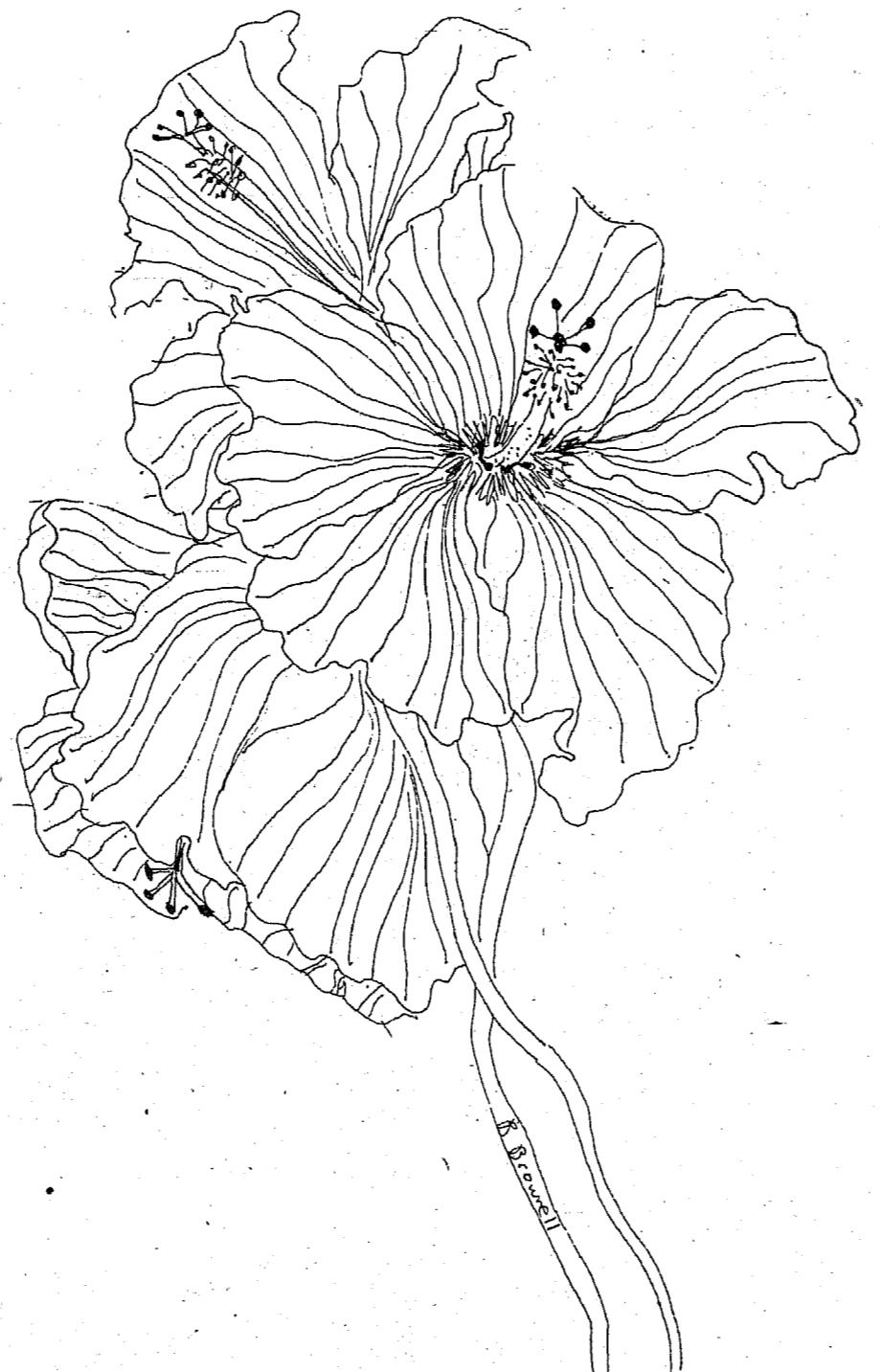
Island Shrimp
when available, fresh
Stir-fried Chicken Szechuan
Filet Mignon, Sauce Bearnaise
Pasta du Jour
Veal Sopranti
Fresh Catch of Today
Vegetable Brochette
entrees served with homemade bread
and chef's vegetables



serving lunch sunday brunch happy hour
mon. - sat. 11:15 a.m. 11:15 a.m. 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.
dinner reservations suggested late night entertainment

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We feature wood. It has survived throughout the ages. With good reason. It is a plentiful and versatile material. Precisely the reason why our products - from cooking utensils to cutting boards - are made from wood. We use American Red Oak and Hard Rock Maple to handcraft our butcher block and parquet tables. Our chairs are European Bentwood and American Oak.

Coffee in a can? Never at Homestuffs! All our coffee beans (and we have quite a variety) are sold by the pound. You can scoop up and grind to your own preference. You owe it to your taste buds to sample our French Roast Cinnamon. We also carry an interesting line of bulk teas for all you tea lovers!

We carry so many styles of glassware and crystal, you'll have a tough time deciding which ones not to take home!

But... we don't stop at the kitchen. We bring our natural ideas to little people too. We offer unique and imaginative line of wooden toys. They are sanded smooth and coated with a non-toxic finish for their safety.

So, stop in and see us. You can warm up sipping some of our "Coffee of the Week" - with our compliments, of course! But most of all, we hope you will "warm up" to us. We at Homestuffs, think you will - naturally!

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