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solares hill

VOL. 18, NO. 3 • KEY WEST, FLORIDA • MARCH, 1990



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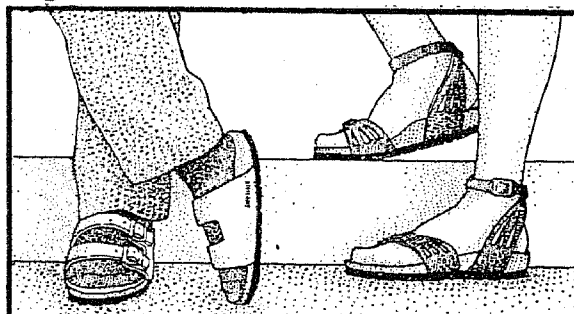
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EDITORIAL

In her article, "The Backcountry: Mother Nature's Cinderella," writer Barbara Bowers uses the term *incompatible* to describe the relationship between this quiet environment and some forms of water recreation. Namely, the finger points at powerboats, airboats, waterskis and jetskis as the noisy, disruptive culprits.

As tourism in Monroe County increases, so will the number of these water-bound vehicles and, likewise, their effects on nature. Flats guides, fishermen, and other nature enthusiasts oppose the vehicles. They predict obliteration of a natural resource unless protective legislation is passed.

The idea of making the backcountry off-limits to some rings a sour note. Why? they say, What about our rights? It's a free country, we should be able to jetski wherever we please. You know -- life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness ...

It's not a bad argument, and it would have probably ended the problem then and there, say, 20 or even 10 years ago. But today, we -- academicians and citizens and, believe it or not, politicians -- have a much more sophisticated understanding of the complexity and delicacy of the balance of nature. Ultimately, we now see, our inalienable rights hinge directly on the quality of our environment. Without clean water and a healthy system of sealife (which is the at the basis of much other life), the pursuit of happiness becomes futile.

On February 11, the Florida Keys Fishing Guides Association, ran a large political advertisement in the *Key West Citizen* which stated: *The Association recognizes jetskis as having a serious impact*

on the inshore marine area. Their indiscriminate use has already destroyed the fish and bird life in several Keys locations. Historically people have come from all over the world to enjoy the shallow water experience of the Florida Keys. The opportunity to enjoy this experience will be lost forever if we continue to tolerate these obnoxious water craft.

It continues, imploring others who feel the same to write their Monroe County Commissioners to take action and either work to initiate a total or limited ban on jetskis. *Solares Hill* supports this action, and encourages citizens to work with the Florida Keys Fishing Guides Association on this endeavor. The association address is: P.O. Box 936, Islamorada, FL 33036.

On land, the issue is Peary Court. The letters-to-the-editor department in the *Key West Citizen* is taking on a battleground atmosphere as opposing sides take aim at one another, firing harder and harder shots. Commissioner Harry "Where there's a will there's a way" Powell says the city can win this fight. Opponents claim it was a losing battle from the start. *Solares Hill* hopes that if, indeed, the Navy can make concessions and relocate the housing project, that they will. Green space is important, socially and environmentally. We're with Harry, here.

Ann Boese

Cover: Photographer Don Pinder shot this around 1968, when the old synagogue at Southard and Simonton Streets went on the market. Pinder captions the photo: "There must be a higher authority than Irvin Higgs."



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Here We Go Again: Spring Break '90

by June Keith

Spring Break '89 attracted an estimated bodyjam of 20,000 students to Key West. This year, officials and businessmen fear that figure may double. If that happens, warns acting City Manager Ron Herron, we are in deep trouble.

Since its formation last spring, an 18-member Spring Break Advisory Task Force has met in seven public meetings to come up with three pages of suggestions for handling the 1990 breakers. Among recommendations addressed to the Key West City Commission in a letter dated August 2, 1989, are the following:

- All existing local and state laws relating to the sale of alcoholic beverages should continue to be enforced.

- Adequate staffing of law enforcement personnel should be scheduled as necessary to handle crowds in the downtown area and at the beaches.

- Arrangements should be made for city crews to clean up the streets and beaches.

According to City Commissioner Virginia Panico, coordinator of the city's ongoing community clean-up, community service workers -- local lawbreakers who perform community service in lieu of jail time -- will work at maintaining the beach and bridge path on weekends during Spring Break.

State Attorney Kirk Zuelch informed the

task force that the courts are considering utilizing a work program in lieu of jail time or fines for law-breaking Spring Breakers.

Last year, Florida Division of Alcohol and Tobacco investigators arrested over 100 kids under the age of 21 for possessing or consuming alcohol. Agents plan to be a lot busier this year.

"What happens to them once we book them into the county jail is not my problem," says Investigator David Banks of the Division of Alcohol and Tobacco. He is also chairman of the task force.

This year, Banks says, there will be two teams of six agents enforcing state laws in Key West. The undercover agents will go to beaches, pool areas and places they might find kids under 21 consuming alcohol.

"We expect to arrest at least 500 kids this year," Banks says. "We're talking between 30 and 50 arrests a day. They'll be taken to jail in handcuffs, fingerprinted, photographed and searched, and given a jail uniform. If they post bond, and it's got to be cash, it will probably only take about four hours for all the processing. If they can't post bail, they'll be taken before the judge, in jail uniform and shackles, along with other prisoners. For most kids, it's devastating."

Buying extra trash cans has been a problem for the city during past peak tourist seasons. For Spring Break '90, beer distri-

butors are providing the trash cans around town and on the beaches. To combat the trash problem, Budweiser Beer promoters will hand out plastic garbage bags on the beach and reward kids returning trash-filled bags with prizes such as hats and T-shirts.

Randy Sterling, director of community services for the city, reported that signs noting various local regulations have been erected at the beaches. Thirty portable toilets are scheduled to be placed on Smathers Beach in time for the Spring Break crowd.

Gary Addleman, chief code enforcement officer, reported that his staff was prepared to periodically check the beaches for unauthorized vendors. Also, sweeps of mangrove areas were planned to check for trespassers, i.e., sleepers. Personnel from the police department will assist in the sweeps.

Addleman urged those with information on code violators to contact his office at city hall, 292-8191.

The task force advises hotel and motel operators to hire off-duty law enforcement officers or private security firms for special details during Spring Break. Further, they are encouraged to strictly enforce capacity limitations. They also suggest that city fire-fighters and city code enforcement inspectors should work with police to address this issue. Businesses selling beverages are urged to serve them in biodegradable cups.

Kathy Woodman, City of Key West

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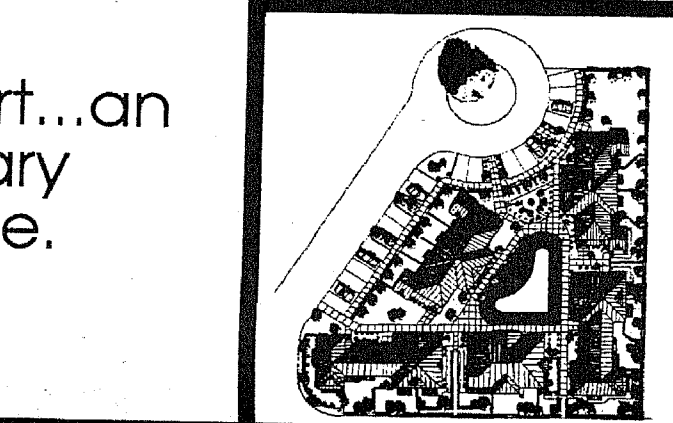

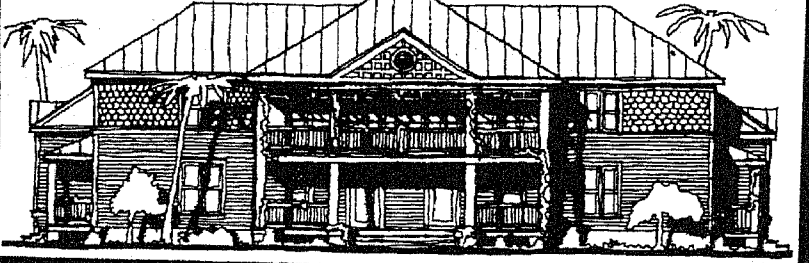
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Citizen Liaison, says off-duty cops are regularly hired by hotels and motels during peak business periods. They wear their City of Key West police uniforms and receive \$17 an hour to wander the grounds.

"Sometimes," Woodman says, "just seeing a cop present will deter troublemakers."

Copies of city ordinances, outlining local laws on the use of city parks and benches, public restrooms and alcohol consumption, should be passed out by hotel, motel and campground personnel to students as they arrive, the task force suggests. Moped rental businesses, it says, should counsel students on laws concerning noise and unnecessary use of horns.

"We haven't heard anything about that," says Robert Ramey, owner of Tropical

Moped Rentals. "We don't discuss horns. But it sounds like a good idea. Of course, you tell kids not to blow horns and that's just what they'll do. It's like trying to tell kids not to come here for Spring Break."

Maryanne Salter, who describes herself as "the mother here" at Tropical Mopeds, says college kids are generally pretty nice to deal with. Last year, she says, Spring Breakers did a lot less damage to their mopeds than most tourists do.

"We give them a test before they go off the lot, to show us that they can drive the moped. Most kids do real well. And in that month [last year's Spring Break], our damage bill was only \$1,600. It's usually between \$2,000 and \$3,000. I found it odd. We had anticipated a lot more."

The task force also recommends that signs should be placed on beaches and the bridge path across the street from Smathers Beach, advising where RVs may park during the daytime and overnight, hours that public beaches are open, where consumption of alcohol is not authorized and any other information pertinent to local laws.

Another of the task force's ideas was to send a letter to major United States colleges and universities. Printed on city letterhead and possibly written by a public relations firm, the letter would advise students in a positive manner "about the enforcement of local laws as well as geographical and environmental restrictions."

Finally, the task force advised city and county staffs to research and recommend a course of action for dealing with unscrupulous tour buses bringing in large groups of students without reservations for accommodations and leaving them for a week, returning to pick them up for transportation to their respective colleges. This has never happened, according to Woodman, but the city's perspective is that it is better to be safe than sorry.

Herron sent letters to the deans of 210 colleges on January 23. The letter, disseminating valuable information about Spring Break in Key West, read in part as follows:

Spring Break in Key West
 Key West is a small two-by-five-mile island which is densely developed and populated. Our public beach area is limited to the south side of the island and is in heavy use during the winter/spring season. Due to these factors, we take very strict measures to protect our environment, citizens and all of our guests who come to vacation here. All students planning a visit to Key West need to be aware of the following:

1. Key West has the highest cost of living in the state of Florida. Our hotels/motels range from \$100 to \$300 a night and room occupancy rates are strictly enforced.
2. There is only one camping facility in Key West proper which is usually 95 to 100 percent occupied. Camping on the beach or

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sleeping in cars is not permitted and is a violation of law.

3. The drinking age in Florida is 21 years of age. Alcohol is not allowed in public areas and open containers are prohibited in automobiles or other vehicles. These regulations are strictly enforced by Florida Division of Alcohol Agents.

4. Alcohol and Code Enforcement Agents closely monitor our nightclubs, stores and beaches to enforce state and local laws pertaining to alcohol consumption, fire regulations and occupancy limits.

5. Recreational vehicle parking is very limited and no RVs are allowed to park on city streets or on any other non-designated public area.

6. The City of Key West will appreciate your review of the above stated regulations and your close adherence to them should you decide to visit our city this year.

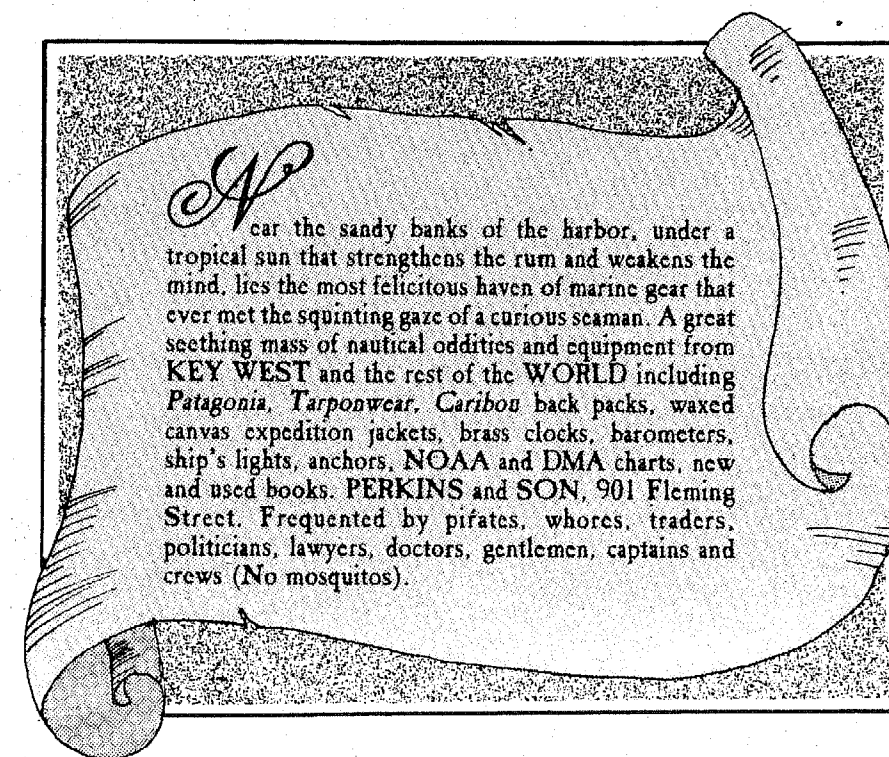
At a task force meeting on February 1, to demonstrate how the news media had distorted the intent of Herron's letter to the colleges, Woodman handed out a United Press International press release dated Jan-

Solares Hill -- March 1990 -- Page 5
 uary 25, 1990. It states:

City officials in Key West normally welcome vacationers, but they're telling the college Spring Break crowd to go somewhere else.

"We're not saying they're not welcome here," says Commissioner Panico. "We're saying they must behave properly here."

Investigator Banks sums up his view of the situation: "This is my favorite time of the year," he says. "I like kids. I don't have any problem with them."



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Keys Backcountry: Mother Nature's Cinderella

by Barbara Bowers

Upstaged by the spectacular living coral reef, the Florida Keys backcountry is truly Mother Nature's Cinderella. Working quietly and unobtrusively, it's a natural beauty whose time has come.

The backcountry is a fragile habitat. The delicate balance of nature there, which relies on healthy rookeries and fish nurseries, has been virtually overlooked and undisturbed -- until recently. Today, back-to-nature and adventure trends in tourism have turned the sedate area into a hot spot. And this has brought change -- both beneficial and destructive.

The good news is an ever-increasing interest in nature and ecology that has sprouted a rash of outback safaris and activities. The bad news is an ever-increasing interest in nature and ecology that has sprouted a rash of outback safaris and activities. No, this isn't a mistake: it's a Catch-22 with no immediate solution in sight.

Look at the incompatibilities between nature tours and nature. The backcountry offers opportunities to bird-watch, turtle-watch, shark-watch, picnic, snorkel, shell, fish, lobster or crab. A person can experience these via powerboat, sailboat, airplane, kayak or canoe. If that's too sedate, one can jet ski, water ski or travel by low-flying plane. Not only do some of the vehicles and

activities disrupt the harmony of nature, some conflict with each other.

"There are so many tourists looking for something different to do," says Jim St. Julian, pilot for the newly developed airboat tours from the Blue Lagoon. "We have to find a happy medium between environmental concerns and people's interests."

Sounds like a simple idea: that is until you examine what you're dealing with on the environmental end. Made up of shallow flats and mangrove out-islands, the backcountry fans as far as three miles from the central core of islands connected by the Overseas Highway.

There are flats and mangroves on both sides of the Keys from Key Largo to Key West. Some of these backcountry mangrove islands are substantial, well above sea level, and at low tide they flaunt fine sand beaches that circle them like gauze skirts. Some are single mangrove shoots -- islands in the making -- just laying claim to their places in the sun separating the Atlantic Ocean from the Gulf of Mexico. All are part of a varied and fascinating aquatic ecosystem that is unmatched by any other place on earth.

Three kinds of mangroves flourish in the tidal zone between land and deep waters. But it's the red mangroves that wed the Keys to the sea. They are as important to the uplands as they are to the reef because they protect the already established land and act as the first link in the ocean's food chain.

Mud flats and seagrass beds surrounding the mangroves house a plethora of worms, mollusks, fish and crustaceans. Exposed at low tide and covered by mere inches of water when the tide's in, the mud flats are feeding grounds for pelicans, osprey, herons and other wading birds. Shallow seagrass beds are feeding areas for numerous species of fish and invertebrates; they



Quiet please: A flats fisherman holds a bonefish, which must be seen first, then silently stalked.

also produce oxygen and serve as nurseries for the likes of grey and red snapper, shrimp and lobster. Sea turtles and manatees eat the grasses. And the grass roots, which stabilize the silty bottoms and trap sediment, generally help keep the water clear to enable divers to see the coral.

Marshall Cutchin, a flats guide who takes fishermen sight-casting for bonefish, tarpon and permit, notes, "It's the responsibility of guides and boat captains to know what effect they'll have on the wildlife."

But marine biologist Curtis Krueger figures everyone should pay attention to the fact that much of the flats area is a national wildlife refuge, and he underscores *refuge* -- a place that provides wildlife with shelter and protection from danger or distress.

Krueger has worked since 1977 for several government agencies in the Keys. He was a marine biologist first for the Corps of Engineers, then for the Florida Department of Environment for two and a half years. His focus on the destruction of seagrass beds has caused him to rank the boating problem, which he says is much worse in the Upper Keys than in the Lower Keys, second only to concern for overall water quality.

DAN MCCONNELL



Land ho: Kayakers cool their heels in the life-giving waters of the mangrove flats.

"Boats belong in deep water," says Krueger, who recently conducted a workshop on boating impacts for the Audubon Society. "There are 18,000 registered boaters in Florida. None has any business in shallow waters where props can destroy seagrasses and leave muddy trails of turbid water."

Krueger says it can take five to seven years before seagrass refills the gap resulting from a conventional prop scar gouged by a small runabout. In some cases, seagrass may never return because currents cut through the scarred area, changing the sediment chemistry. What's more, when an area opens up to more sunlight, the rate of photosynthesis changes; eventually the feeding habits of fish and birds change as well.

"One or two boats is not a problem," says Billy Causey, manager of the Looe Key Marine Sanctuary. "Random and infrequent disturbance is correctable. The problem comes from a lot of boats cutting through the same area." This activity results in flora and fauna destruction.

Mike Robblee has been a seagrass researcher at the Everglades National Park Research Center for seven years. Though his study of the 15,000-acre seagrass die-off in Florida Bay is still young and he's hesitant to draw any conclusions about this "unusual phenomenon" yet, Robblee says that "de-silting seagrass is a natural occurrence. But even walking on seagrass beds can hurt them," he continues. "Though there are a lot of unanswered questions right now, one thing is for sure: when you take the grass away, the shrimp go, too."

We took off from the Sugarloaf Lodge airstrip into the wind coming from the east: Cinderella looks different from the air. In just seconds we were over the flats and mangrove islands on the Atlantic side of the Keys. Our view easily encompassed the span of islands and water from the Atlantic to the Gulf, six miles at the widest point.

From here, the picture was complete. The main body of islands connected to each other by the highway form a backbone. The lesser, undeveloped mangrove islands expand the skeleton to create an irregular shape. And the flats put a thin layer of white meat on this free form that seems to float in a sea of blue.

There are 18,000 registered boaters in Florida. None has any business in shallow waters.

The shallows blend imperceptibly into deeper waters, then back to shoal water again where the reef nudges the surface and forms breakers in the ocean. The color range of blues to greens and pinks to lavenders is subtle, ever present.

"We'll stay close to shore instead of flying out to Sand Key so you can watch for sharks in the flats," said Nick Dunn, a pilot for Fantasy Dan's Airplane Rides. Just then, we spotted a pod of six or eight porpoises in Hawks Channel, which runs between the islands and the reef.

As we approached Key West, our attention focused on landmarks. But when we rounded the Southernmost tip of the island and started our flight up the Gulf side, the shallows and creatures -- dead and alive -- in the water drew our complete attention.

It's startling how clear the water is, and how easy it was to see animals in it from 500 feet. Bleached bones from the two whales that beached last year on the flats mark Snipe Point. The deep water of Jewfish Channel running through the Gulf backcountry looked like a lapis-lazuli ribbon -- the rich, sapphire blue is flecked with

golden sunlight glancing off the water.

But then, in the midst of this incredible beauty, you see the ugliness. Hundreds of motorboat prop scars criss-cross the seagrass beds like macabre graffiti -- as unnatural as magic marker and spray paint would be on the walls of the Louvre. In contrast,

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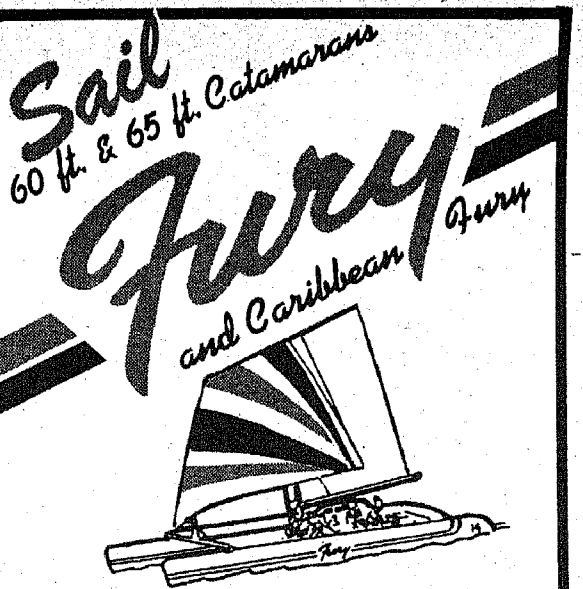
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slow, graceful sharks are everywhere. We quit counting after a dozen.

"The oceanside flats have fewer permit to catch," says Cutchin, referring to a species of fish which is popular because of its ability to fight. (Almost all flats guides require the release of fish caught during a charter.) "One reason is that biplanes and other air tours fly within ten and 20 feet of the water to show their clients big fish."

"The FAA recommends that small planes fly no closer to the water and bird sanctuaries than 500 feet," he continues. "But they do. And the noise spooks tarpon and bonefish instantly."

Other flats guides and fishermen have complained to the airplane tour pilots about this problem, too. Captain Todd Bowen says most have been responsive.

Because many tourists and Keys locals visit the out-islands and flats areas just to get away from civilization, loud noises are particularly intrusive. More importantly, sound disturbances also affect nesting habits of birds and feeding patterns of birds and fish. In the backcountry today the problem is, unfortunately, more than an occasional airplane flying overhead.

"Up the Keys there was a captain of a flat-bottom boat who used to take tourists to the backcountry to go birdwatching," says Kruer. "He'd get within 100 feet of mangrove islands and blast his air horn to scare the birds so his clients could get pictures."

Fortunately, captains like this are offset by captains like Vicky Impallomeni who has been touring the backcountry for years. She can bring her skiff within ten feet of nesting

How can you see nature when the roar of an airplane engine scatters wildlife?



Zoom: Jetskis disturb the backcountry waters.

eagles without alarming the birds. On an afternoon bird outing, the illusive clapper rail hen-pecked its way across a small clearing on one of the Bay Keys less than ten yards from us.

Captain Vicky has been visiting the same nesting pair of bald eagles in a mangrove island in the Gulf for several years. She believes they have become accustomed to her and her boat, which she says is why she's able to approach so closely.

Bill Nevin agrees that some birds adjust to human activity and sound. In his airboat, he brought me within 50 yards of a nesting immature osprey that watched our movement closely.

Nevin, owner of the airboat docked at the Blue Lagoon, says he understands the concern about noise. "We're exploring ways to quiet the airplane engine, and respect the requests of bonefishermen who asked us not to take our tours past a particular point because it's a hot spot for their sight-casting business."

Nevin and his relief pilot, St. Julian, travel the same paths into the mangrove islands in the Gulf on their daily nature tours. But to many, the term *airboat nature tour* is oxymoronic. How can you see nature when the roar of an airplane engine

scatters wildlife minutes before your arrival?

Yet a backcountry tour with Nevin resulted in the sighting of nurse sharks just four feet off our bow -- in four inches of water -- that seemed less affected by the noise than the boat passengers were. Yes, a goodly number of wading birds took to the air upon our approaches, but this also happened when a group of kayakers came too near perching pelicans and eating egrets.

Dan McConnell's "Kayaking the Keys" nature trips are for active nature lovers who want to paddle their way over the flats. The only noises I encountered on this tour was heavy breathing and the reverberating sound of my kayak banging into a mangrove tree as I negotiated the narrow channels inside Saddle Bunch Keys. If spirituality and getting close to nature is your thing, this is the way to do it.

In some Atlantic flats, we could dip our hands into three inches of water to touch horseshoe crabs and study snowflake-like anemones. Starfish studded some bays while spotted eagle rays and multiple species of sharks shared space on a Saddle Bunch flat.

"As far as I can tell, birds do not acclimate to noises," says Everglades Park Ranger Susan Peterson. "They are very protective of their nests, so they might not leave their nests when they're disturbed. But loud noises disperse them otherwise."

Jan Kirwin, a patrol ranger for the Everglades, concurs, saying that airboats using well-established Cypress trails through the Everglades always sent birds in the area on their way.

"The deer in Shark Alley have gotten used to the sound of the park's tram tours and they don't run away," says Kirwin. "But the birds still lift off when the tram goes by. And they always fly away when airboats are nearby."

Except for law enforcement and research, airboats are not allowed in the National Everglades Park. Even then they stay on well-established trails. Still, several air-

boat tours operate on the outskirts of the park in the water conservation area. For many people, it's the only way to see Florida's backcountry because there is no physical exertion, it's a fairly quick trip and it's reasonably priced.

More active people have been visiting the flats on jet skis, which have become an even more controversial mode of transportation than airplanes, airboats and motorboats.

"In an area of Broward County, between West Lake and Hollywood, jet skis have been banned because of the wildlife in the environmentally sensitive shallow waters," says Lieutenant Gray of the Florida Marine Patrol in Marathon. "We in Monroe County don't have any restrictions except those applying to safety."

Jet skis operate similarly to airboats in that they skim across the surface of the water and do little damage to seagrass beds when they're moving. But take-offs require two to three feet of water. The jet stream that forces the weight of ski and skier up onto the water can have the same effect as a boat propeller in shallower water.

"It seems to me there's a conflict of interest between jet skiers and naturalists," says McConnell. "The noise drives wildlife away, and it drives me crazy."

Conflict of interest? Happy medium?

The backcountry ecosystem fuses conflicts of interest every day -- it's called the balance of nature. Those in tune with this phenomenon can adapt their own behavior to circumstances, while those who don't upset all the balances and create destructive chaos.

Stars & Stripes Key West is a new catamaran business which started up in mid-March. Don Kincaid, Tom and Denise Jackson and Dennis Conner plan to charter their

sailboat for activities including backcountry birding, shelling and picnicking.

Another kayak business is opening soon at Geiger Key. And new jet ski companies seem to pop up overnight.

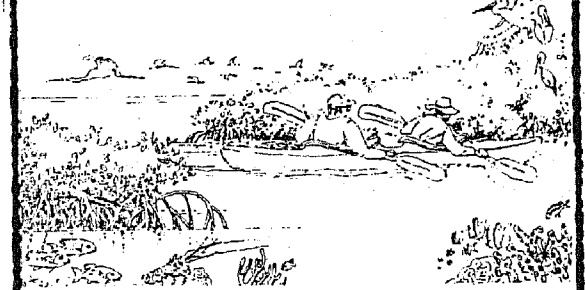
"It's hard to say if we have more new water-related businesses than we had three years ago," says Pam Koss, executive director of the Key West Chamber of Commerce, "or whether we have the same number, but with different ownership."

Controls beyond the safety boating regulations of the Florida Marine Patrol don't exist to protect the backcountry. There is no restriction on the number of businesses that can operate tours destined for the flats and mangroves. Neither are there restrictions on where or when you can go into the backcountry. The only rules: common sense and respect for nature and other people.

Because ethical behavior, self-education and cooperation are terms people interpret differently, and which can become thinly stretched when ever-growing numbers of people try to interact, movements are afoot to define what our interaction should be. Kruer and the Audubon Society, for instance, have developed a four-point proposal for the use of boats, which includes expansion and improvement of channel markers in state waters, except in the backcountry. Seems there's a lot of controversy about making easy access to the channels only a few already know how to navigate. But one of the issues in the proposal calls for identification of important nesting areas so no one has access to them.

Unless Cinderella has a Fairy Godmother who will wave her magic wand, the law of supply and demand will continue to prevail. It's a principle Mother Nature knows well -- and one Cutchin sums up rather succinctly: "We'll know when the birds have reached their limit of accepting human intrusion. They'll be gone." [E]

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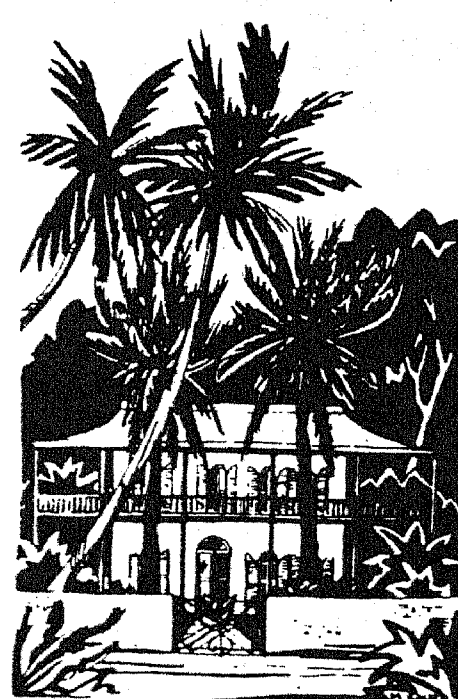
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Relax, It's Only Our Future

New Land Use Plan plagued by disputes, time crimp

by Geddy Sveikauskas

Start with a complex but vitally important question: the future of land use in the Keys. Recognize the dispute between two struggling interested parties, Monroe County and the State of Florida, the latter of which has designated the county an area of critical state concern. Add a difficult time frame: after a series of well-publicized conflicts between the two levels of government, the state gives the county a year to prepare a new land use plan and requests monthly updates to the state cabinet on the progress of that plan. Blend in the likelihood of financial sanctions if the county doesn't deliver on what it's promised the state.

The stakes are high. What kind of future should the Keys plan for? Who'll be making the decisions?

University of Florida experts are predicting that Monroe County will increase in population in the next two decades only as much as it has in the past decade. Many planners, community leaders and conservationists, pointing to the limitations of infrastructure and environment with which the Keys must contend, claim that even these halved projections are unrealistically high.

Talk to the local real estate people and you get a completely different picture. They will point out that Key West is in the process of adding 1500 new residential units.

And Key West is for them a relatively slow market. "Up the line [up the Keys, that is], however," concludes John Cole in a recent *Florida Keys Magazine* article, "especially in those markets nourished by South Florida second-home buyers, the year has defied the stodgy national economy and boomed along at a race-car pace. And there is every indication the ride will be even faster in 1990."

What do you do when different people see a different reality and you don't want any of them mad at you? Well, it's a good time to bring in the consultants. That's what the Monroe County Commissioners did to get a handle on their land use plan update.

You'll remember that the county frittered away the first few months of the year the state had allowed, posturing that the state had to pay for preparation of the revised Monroe County Comprehensive Plan. The funds were finally provided October 1.

County Planning Director Donald Craig, anxious to get a quick start, suggested an emergency request for proposals. That was illegal, the county attorney said. An extension of an existing contract was a legal way of getting a consultant on board quickly, and so Craig hired BRW, a firm for which he had once worked. Commissioner Doug Jones, who hadn't been keen on the county doing anything without state financial support, didn't like that. But the BRW contract was extended to include \$305,000 for work on the comprehensive plan. By now, the county's year had shrunk to about seven months.

The consultants, hell-bent on meeting their deadlines, went their consultant way and started accumulating basic data. When they made their first public appearance on February 1 with little more than the numbers they had been sent away to gather, their performance spurred severe criticism from the county planning commission.

"My personal feeling was that the thing [the plan update] was somehow stalled," says Milton Mravic, chairperson of the planning commission. "I think we should clean up the one we've got."

Mravic says he was concerned the consultants were trying to fulfill the letter of the law and not paying attention to its spirit. If he is going to put his name on something,

Mravic says, he wants to feel proud of it. That's not the way he felt about the consultants' first report.

Craig defends BRW's preliminary effort. He contends that the planning effort did respond to the intent and not only the letter of the law. He says the planning commissioners are confusing the drafting of a zoning ordinance, which involves nuts-and-bolts regulations of land use, with the comprehensive planning process, which appropriately involves data-gathering and goal-setting.

"The consultant wanted feedback on the population level and on the levels of service," says Craig. "You have to set up a population level, and that drives the rest of the plan."

At any rate, Mravic says he went to Commissioners Doug Jones and Wilhelmina Harvey with his concerns. At around that time, Commissioner Jones asked for Craig's resignation on the grounds that Craig's personal resume had been printed at county expense. After looking at his alternatives and talking with County Administrator Tom Brown, Craig did resign. "The public perception was more important than the reality," he says.

The commissioners asked Brown to come up with an alternate route to the consultants for completing the comprehensive plan; it was one of Craig's last tasks to draft that program for the county. The county commission then decided to accept the resignation of the consultants. "The commission didn't have the guts to stick with the program," Craig says.

With the state deadline looming ever closer, there was no time to bring in another brace of consultants. So the new strategy involved bringing in an outsider to direct a refocused effort and having him work with a group of planners, some in the county's employ and others from elsewhere. The new team will have four-and-a-half months to complete the plan from soup to nuts. They have a budget of \$225,500 for six months (plus \$140,000 more in existing staff assigned to help). Confidence has been expressed that they can do the job professionally, will have plenty of time to respond to public opinion, and will be able to satisfy the state of their good-faith intentions.

This is the Monroe County approach. Sound like a recipe for success?

"It was stupid," says Don Craig. "The contents of the plan won't be radically different because they've been put together by the staff rather than the consultants. Now you have to create the same level of expertise. That's losing ground, that's not effective government." There's no time for the new junior planners being brought on board to learn much about the county and be effective in their work, Craig claims.

County Administrator Brown bears the responsibility for making the new high-stakes strategy work. He has juggled the county's overextended planning staff to bring additional county resources to the

effort. After the county commission gave BRW the ax February 13, Brown invested his personal authority in the plan update.

Brown's new project leader, Robert Baggs, is understood to enjoy the confidence of state Department of Community Affairs officials. Baggs, who came on board in Key West February 23, will direct an 11-person staff which will probably be headed by in-house Project Coordinator Meaghan Gallione, until recently a relatively junior planning staff person. Negotiations are under way to lease space across the street from the Little League field on Northside Drive.

Apart from the fact that the abrupt change will consume time that the county, given the degree of historic antagonism between itself and the state on land use questions, can ill afford to waste, there are advantages and disadvantages to the strategy. An outside consultant can sometimes be more objective in analyzing a problem because he or she does not have a prior investment in a particular solution. Nor is an outside consultant


as subject to political pressures. On the other hand, an outside hired gun is sometimes less than sensitive to the uniqueness of a particular situation. Monroe County certainly does not lack for uniqueness.

Whether successful or not in meeting state expectations of a revised Monroe County Comprehensive Plan, the work produced by July 15 will mark only the beginning of a new phase in responsibility over the control of land use by the county. Land use is moving from being on the periphery of county concerns to being a central political and organizational question. And all the state-bashing in the world will only postpone the day that the county will be forced to face the politically painful land use choices it must make.

Unfortunately, the making of choices, the last and most important phase of the comprehensive planning process, is going to be taking place under severe time pressure. Brown has moved the completion deadline up to the hour the state sanctions will take effect (90 days after the plan's

Solares Hill -- March 1990 -- Page 11 completion was scheduled). Under Brown's new schedule, the requirements of the plan will be completed July 15. Hearing will occur in August. Final transmittal to the state must occur by September 1.

On February 22, two reports, one on solid waste and the other on recreation and open space, were received by the county from its now ex-consultants. These, which are understood to be better done than were BRW's earlier efforts, will be discussed by the planning commission on March 1 and by the county commission on March 27.

The reports on housing, drinking water, drainage and natural groundwater aquifers will be discussed by the planning commission on March 15 and by the county commissioners on March 27. According to the schedule, the planning commissioners will discuss the reports on traffic circulation, intergovernmental coordination, sewerage, and coastal zone management and conservation on April 12. The county commissioners are expected to discuss the same topics April 17. 

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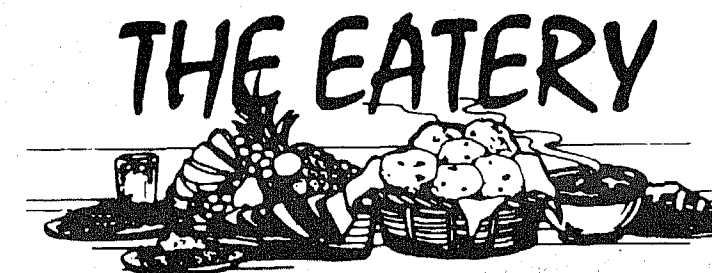
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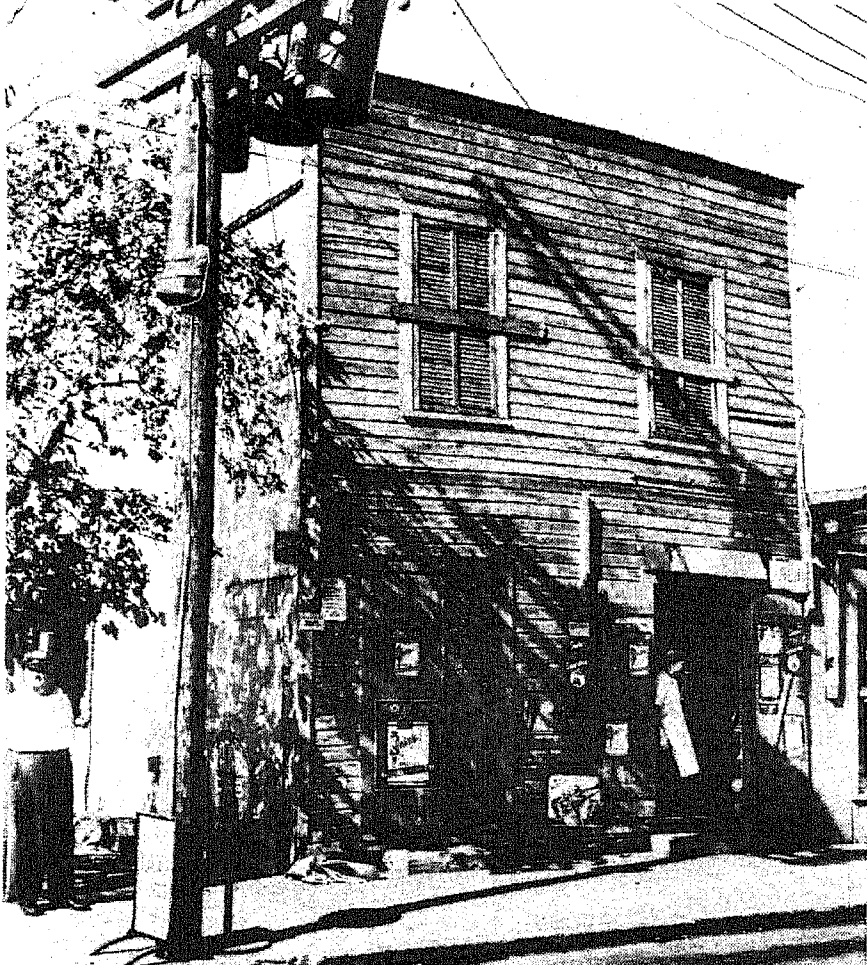
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A STAPLE: Conchs ate turtle on a regular basis, and butchers were able to sell every last scrap of meat. The best cuts, however, were shipped to New York and sold to restaurants, which was how the old turtle kraals down on Thompson's dock made money. Key West's cannery processed bouillon made from a turtle base.



THE LAST DAY: This old Cuban store stood on Fleming near Duval where the Island Bookstore is now. As was typical for local businesses, the store's walls -- inside and out -- were plastered with cigarette and beer advertisements. Pinder bought candy and dry goods for his grandmother here when he was a boy. "Everybody had credit," he says. Pinder shot this photo on the afternoon the store closed its doors -- for good.

SLEEPIN' ISLAND

Don Pinder's Photographs of Key West in the '50s

Photographers like Don Pinder, the Conch artist who worked for the *Key West Citizen* for 35 years, are hard to come by these days. A clarity, a sharpness distinguishes his work. It shapes a remarkable consistency -- a factual foundation that supports the opinion that Pinder's view of Key West is realistic. His selectivity is based on composition, not slant or adjustment. In essence: what it is -- or was.

Boxes and boxes of photographs battle for space in Pinder's Stock Island home, where he's lived for 28 years. He's planning to produce a book. He could, if he wanted to, produce a dozen books -- maybe more. But luckily for *Solares Hill*, he agreed to rifle through and pull out some of his favorites -- the picks from his portfolio.

Smoking cigarette after cigarette and always ready for a cup of coffee, Pinder reluctantly hands over one photograph at a time from a stack of about 20. "These are from the '50s," he explains. "This was when Key West was still undiscovered and there wasn't all this hullabaloo. We had a tourist season three months out of the year. They came for the fishing and the weather."

Pinder calls the Key West of that decade *the sleeping island*. He says it was a time of slow movement and gossip: "Everybody knew everybody, and everybody knew everybody's business." Pinder recalls a concerned neighbor peeking at him through the blinds when he was a boy, coming home late to his Petronia Street residence.

It was at the old homestead where a school-aged Pinder began taking photos in 1938. His mother moved him from the bathroom out to the wash house and finally into the garage, after he stained a load of laundry yellow with processing chemicals. Though this interest led him to a position on the daily paper, Pinder has taken his share of commercial photographs. "Babies, architecture and weddings," he recalls. "Thousands of them."

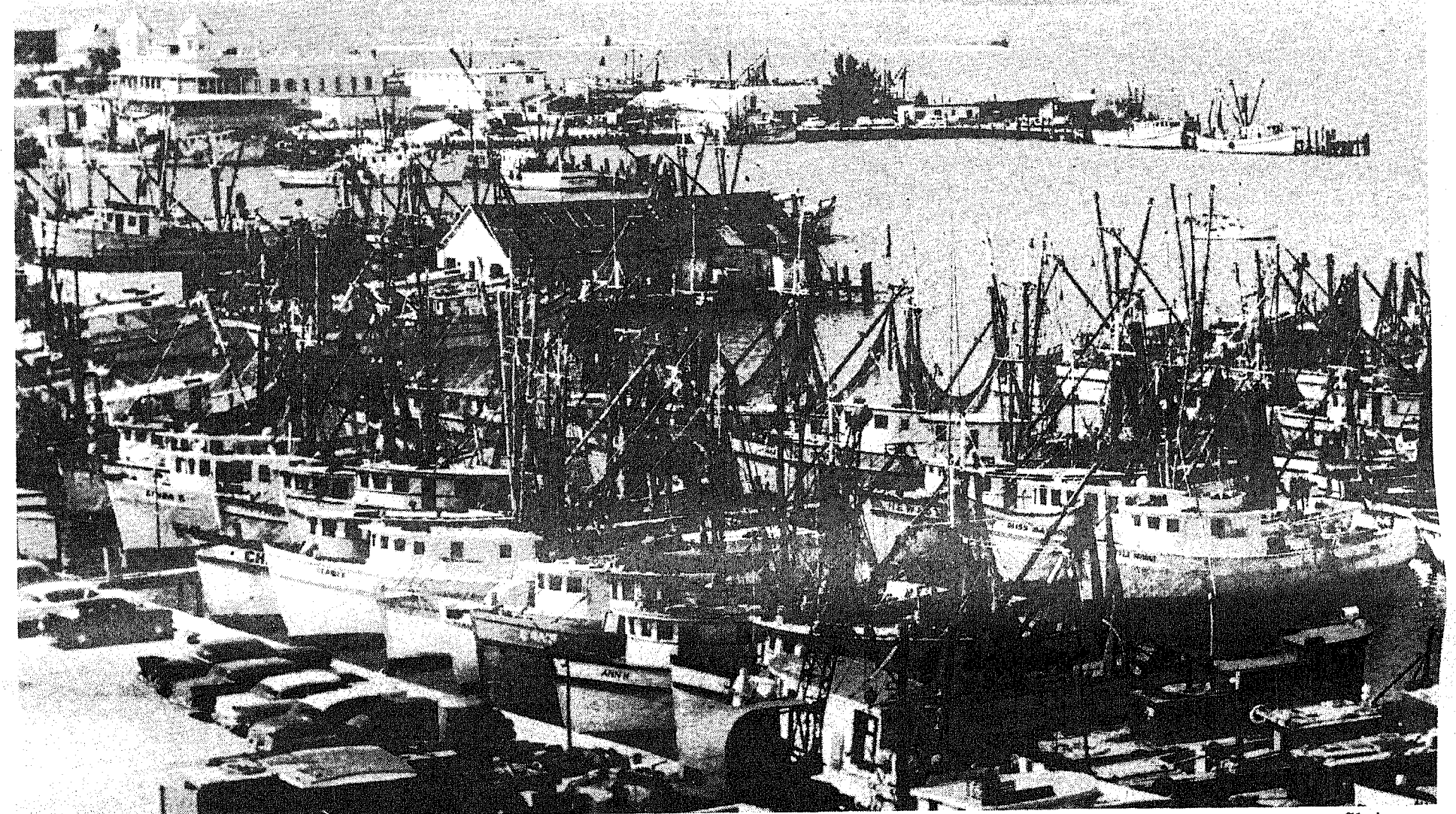
Now retired, Pinder doesn't hesitate to voice his views on today's Key West. "Well, I don't like it," he professes. "I think it's getting to be overkill. We can't handle what's going on."



— Editor



EXTINCT: This small-boat fisherman -- not the pelican -- was one of the last of his kind. His boat was equipped with a live well, which meant that its bottom was a submerged wooden box with holes in it. Grunts, grouper and yellowtail: he sold his catch u-pick-em style directly from the well. Cleaned and filleted for pan-frying, dinner was fresh and cheap.



SHRIMP FLEET: Curry and Sons Ship Chandlery, now the site of the Hyatt Key West, rests in the center of this serene industrial scene. Shrimping began here in the early 50s; Thompson's fish house is one of the few buildings left from the waterfront.



SIDEYARD: Often there wasn't enough room in the backyard of a Conch house to hang an entire family's laundry out to dry; so a second line was strung along the house's side. One enterprising woman actually ran hers across the street. Since only two or three cars a day passed her house, the idea doesn't seem too preposterous.



SIX ON A STRING: Black fishermen clustered at the end of Whitehead Street after a day's conch fishing to crack open the shells and pull out the tough mullosk. Fishing with hand-line and grabbing an occasional sponge, these men made enough money to support families.

Political Whispers from the Birdcage

Charter Government in the County? It's Possible

by Bud Jacobson

Public outrage over the irresponsible waste of taxpayers' money by the Monroe County Commission's two hired hands, County Administrator Tom Brown and his assistant, Peter Horton, in the recent Career Service Board hearings over the one-day suspension of Social Service Director Louie LaTorre, escalated into cries for a recall petition of all the county commissioners.

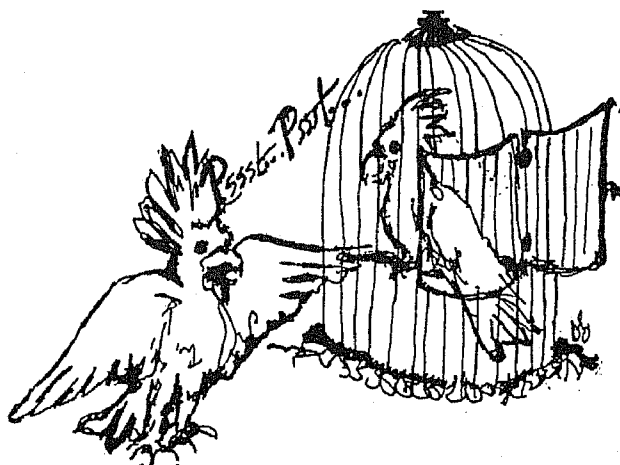
LaTorre was suspended by Horton for "insubordination" when he pointed out a misspelled word in one of the sacred memos authored by Horton, in January. LaTorre lined up attorney Sherri Smallwood, who had also argued for Ron Stack when he was canned and then reinstated with full pay. Smallwood, in two nights of hearings, made Brown "look silly" when he was questioned and caused Horton to grind his teeth, spectators said.

The board put LaTorre back to work and restored one day's pay -- but most of all they charged the legal costs (Smallwood's and a specially hired labor lawyer) to the big spenders, the county commission. The cost for this goof-up: \$70,000. The estimated cost for Ron Stack's: closer to \$100,000.

Brown was given a three-year contract by the county bosses last November, at over \$70,000 a year; Horton, courtesy of Brown's heavy support, rakes in \$45,000. His other stalwart, Don Craig, was dumped by the county commissioners recently in a surprising show of *cojones*. Brown and Horton are still entangled in a legal spat with Tax Collector Harry F. Knight over who has the power to issue occupational licenses and they are likely to lose that one, too.

A political windstorm packed with bombastic gusts and conflicting statements about the glories of charter government (home rule) looms on the horizon of the Florida Keys.

On the outer fringes of the storm clouds are such interesting ideas as the appointment of major county officials, instead of election; moving the county seat to Marathon; and single-member districts where county commissioners would be elected only from



within their districts.

In recent Monroe County Commission meetings two citizens, Edgar (Mike) Hunt of Little Torch Key and John Adams of Marathon, have urged the commission, of its own accord, to place a referendum on the November ballot asking voters whether or not they want a "charter commission" established which would study the matter, hold hearings, listen to the public and then "recommend a constitutional charter document of county government."

So far, the county commission, on a 3-to-2 vote, has refused to put the referendum on the ballot.

Adams and Hunt decided to force their hand and go directly to the voters with a petition. They are moving the petition around and must get the validated signatures of 10 percent of all the voters to get the referendum on the ballot. With a shade over 38,400 voters in Monroe County, according to Election Supervisor Harry Sawyer, Jr., they need 3,840 signatures. Obviously, they'll try for more because of possible disqualifications.

Hunt and Adams, in October of last year, formed the Monroe County Committee for Home Rule and gave the commission an 18-page, single-spaced "action plan" for "creating the initiative for the committee for democracy."

In it, they blast the existing form of county government as, among other things, "a giveaway of their county to well-financed big developers" who "had heard of rampant favoritism, bubbaism and nepotism on all

levels of county and city government ... They charge that "dictatorial oversight by state officials ... usurped the basic rights of the citizens."

The plan stresses several times the "need for reform" which "will mean less bureaucracy and more efficient services." It continues, "at least we can understand the fear of home rule emanating from our elected officials."

The elected official who has inadvertently become the point-man in the opposition ranks is Danny Kolhage, the county clerk and clerk of the courts. Kolhage is a quiet, calm person with years of experience in government; he runs the largest office in the courthouse and is known for his unflappable approach to problems. But on charter government, Kolhage gets fired up.

"It is not," Kolhage argues with some emphasis, "representative government when you take away from the voters their right to elect the tax collector and the county clerk, and have those two positions made appointive by the county administrator who is himself hired by the county commission and whose name never appears on any ballot."

At the time the subject was broached to the commission, Commissioner Mike Puto had the resolution prepared by his secretary which would have okayed the naming of a charter commission. He was firmly on the supporting side, as was Commissioner John Stormont. As firmly on the "no" side, however, were Commissioners Wilhelmina Harvey, Gene Lytton and Doug Jones.

Since then, Puto appears increasingly sensitive about his re-election chances and has backed away from his own resolution. Two men in Marathon, it is said, have drawn a bead on Puto's commission seat.

He is also skittish about his gaffe of last year when he wrote a federal judge in Miami asking for leniency for a couple of young druggies -- the letter was on county stationery. The druggies are presently upon the rockpile "making little ones out of big ones," as the saying goes.

Who are the political heavy hitters in the county who favor the idea of charter government?

Sources in the county building and the courthouse nod toward the administrator

Tom Brown and his prized assistant, Peter Horton, Stormont, and some county workers in Marathon.

Time now to get real: who else will be on the election block this year?

Lytton, who lives on Bay Point, is rumored to be at risk to a resident on Sugarloaf Key, but there's some question about whether the guy wants to live in the county year-round.

Rumored contenders in the ring against the incumbent commissioners include: versus Puto -- Earl Cheal in Marathon, Mary K. Reich and Mickey Feiner, at Key Colony Beach; and versus Lytton -- a guy named Jack London from Sugarloaf Key and A. McElroy from Cudjoe Key. Reich ran unsuccessfully against Stormont. And there are some who say Feiner's only kidding.

State Representative Ron Saunders, now in his third term, occupies a key power seat. But his personal and somewhat secretive style is so modest as to render him nearly invisible. This is in sharp contrast to past legislators from Monroe County like Bernie C. Papy, Billie Freeman and others.

Saunders stumbled into a political pothole in late December. It was not overly publicized when he was named among 14 other legislators who apparently suffered from memory loss when it came to listing gifts received over a two-year period from lobbyists for the Gulf Power Company. Legislators are required by state law to list "all donations over \$100," and if they don't they can go to the lockup for 60 days and pay a \$500 fine. Nothing was said, and it is

expected it will all blow over harmlessly.

Saunders has critics who say he's counted more in the Republican ranks than in the Democratic. There is considerable speculation in the courthouse that when Tom Pelham, head of the Department of Community Affairs, moves back to private life, Saunders will be tapped by the governor to replace Pelham and move to Tallahassee -- something Saunders would like. Thus, a free-for-all run for his office would open up.

"I'd like to see it," said one county official.

School board members Robert Padron, Lee Ganim of Key Largo and Ruth Alice Campbell of Marathon are up for re-election, as are mosquito board members Raymond Archer of Key Haven and Joe Pinder of Islamorada. Campbell holds the record for the longest time in elective office of any official in the county -- close to 30 years.

The lawyers, though, are seen by observers as the most active group this election year.

Circuit Judge Ignatius Lester will move into retirement, joining retired Circuit Judge Helio Gomez. County Judge Sandra Taylor, say the legal sources along the street, will make a run for Lester's bench, thus opening her chair to prospective candidate attorneys Merrill Sands, Susan Burnham and Sherri Smallwood.


Sands served for some years as the county's parole and probation officer. Smallwood represented Ron Stack when he had some kind of minor scrape with Brown and Horton. She won her case against the

county and Stack went back to work. But Brown will not be in Smallwood's corner if she runs for judge -- more's the pity!

Also in the fray, whispering sources claim, will be attorney Susan Vernon, wife of attorney Jim Hendricks, and a close friend of Sheriff Allison DeFoor who, it is rumored, will actively back her. Thus, a formidable campaigner she will be.

Circuit Judge Rick Fowler ends his first six-year term this year and will be up for re-election, as will County Judge William Ptomey in Marathon. Circuit Judges Richard Payne and Jeff Overby were elected in 1988 and will continue to serve.

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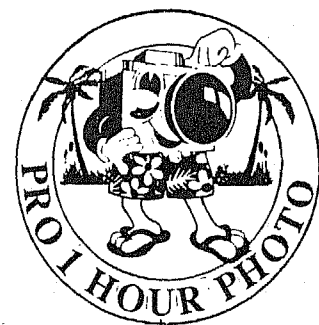
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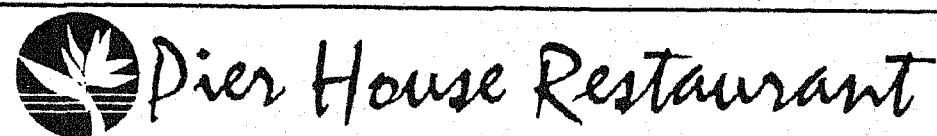
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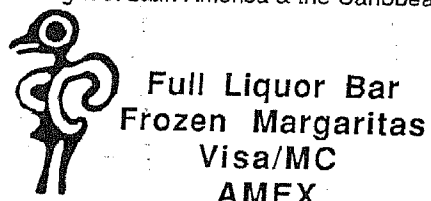
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Community Notes

Check ups. The Florida Keys Health Fair 1990 will be March 10, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., in two locations: Key West High School and Big Pine Methodist Church. Medical school students from the University of Miami will join local physicians to provide residents with free screening tests and health education programs. All tests and services are free except at-cost lab fees for blood tests (under \$20) and mammograms (\$66). New at this year's health fair will be a pediatric clinic, offering school physicals and immunizations. For more information, call 296-3166.

Lend a hand. Florida Keys Community College seeks volunteers to work in the library for three to five hours a week entering microcomputer data. Experience is helpful but not necessary. Call Larry Berk at 296-9081.

Shine a light. The Monroe County Interagency Drug Rehabilitation Task Force, after almost a year of planning and obtaining funds, announces that its Lighthouse Program is now a reality. The comprehensive, residential, drug-treatment program is capable of handling up to 13 adolescents. Parents or agencies may refer a youth by calling 294-5237.

Hold the line. City Electric System will begin construction in late March on a second 60-kilovolt transmission line between the US-1 substation on Stock Island and the

one on Kennedy Drive in Key West. Scheduled for completion by August, the line should improve reliability of electrical service in Key West. Construction will include replacement of wood poles with self-supporting concrete and steel poles.

Tax help. IRS-trained, volunteer tax aides will offer counsel and tax preparation free of charge through April 13 at Monroe County Public Library, 700 Fleming Street, Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Sugarloaf Fire House, MM17, Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.; and Big Pine Senior Center, Key Deer Boulevard, Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Bring 1988 tax return and relevant 1989 records. This service is sponsored by AARP and is available to taxpayers of any age.

Behave yourselves I. Holiday Isle in Islamorada, the Keys' most popular Spring Break destination, will welcome Spring Breakers with a few new rules this year. Holiday Isle owner Joe Roth says he doesn't expect the rules, which resort management is planning to fully enforce, to negatively impact the popularity of his resort with Breakers. New rules include registration of all guests, curtailment of loud music in rooms and eviction for sitting on, climbing on, hanging over or throwing items from balconies.

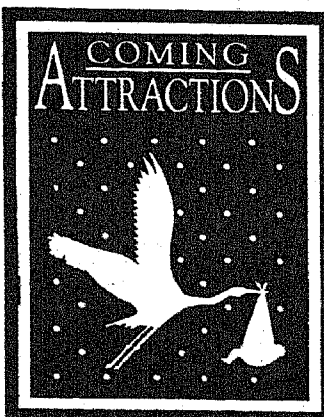
Behave yourselves II. Monroe County school bus drivers comprise the latest group to join the sheriff's office Mobile Crime Watch in the Keys. Trained by Crime Watch Coordinator Deputy Emil LaVache, they will watch for and report burglary in residential areas. Bus drivers will not interrupt their routes, confront suspects or get involved in any actual crime-fighting activity. They will call school district dispatchers from bus radios to report criminal activity.

Bucket brigade. Part-time commercial fishermen unable to meet new state-mandated income requirements for obtaining a restricted species endorsement on salt-water products licenses, may wish to join with other fishermen who are in the same boat, so to speak. The Bucket Fisherman's Association has been formed to protest this situation. Contact John Traum, chairman, at 745-3887 after 1 p.m., or 1-800-432-4358.

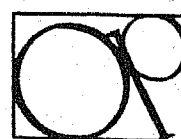
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Metropolitan Community Church, 1215 Petronia Street in Key West, has added a second Sunday service. The new, 9:30 a.m. service has the same structure and content as the regular 11 a.m. service. Fellowship time is from 10:30 to 11 a.m. All interested persons are invited to attend.

Cease fire. The Monroe County Sheriff's Office places emphasizes firearm safety. The three basic tenets of safe gun use are: 1) know how the firearm operates; 2) always follow safe handling procedures; and 3) store firearms and ammunition properly. It is a fact that thousands of people every year -- many of them children -- are killed accidentally in the United States by firearms. For more information on gun safety call Deputy LaVache at 296-2424.

Project ReefKeeper wins one. Reacting to a formal rule-making petition by Project ReefKeeper, the Florida Department of Natural Resources is drafting new regulations that could result in greater protection of coral habitats from beach renourishment. Lonnie Ryder, environmental administrator for the DNR Division of Beaches and Shores, notified Project ReefKeeper that initial rule development would get underway sometime this month.

Submitted for your approval. The Group Tarot Experience, an adventure in higher consciousness, will blast off from Island Wellness. The three sessions, March 11, 25 and April 1, from 6:30 to 9 p.m., promise to shuttle participants to "the planet

of unconditional love." Sessions will be conducted by Parisian psychic Urja. There is a \$12 fee per session. Reserve early, each session is limited to 15 cosmic trekkers. Call 296-SELF.

Recycling update. Three increasingly popular Florida Keys Recycling Program drop-off sites are in place. They are located on Industrial Road on Big Pine Keys, Aviation Boulevard in Marathon, and at MM106 by the Key Largo Animal Shelter. Volunteer program Recycle Key West, located at Peary Court on White Street near Southard, is also experiencing a dramatic increase in use. Recycle Key West operates on Wednesdays from 2 to 6 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Lower and Upper

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Keys sites are open daily from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.; Marathon site is open daily from 8:15 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.

Brain food. This month Florida Keys Community College offers courses, including shipwreck mapping, understanding wines, basic scuba diving and small business record-keeping. A shipboard operations course will entail a weekend sail aboard the *MV Yankee Freedom* to the Dry Tortugas. Many courses earn college credits. Call Annabel Brooks, director, at 296-9081, ext. 283.

Fed facts. Thousands of federal government publications are shelved and available for public perusal at Florida Keys Community College's library, which has been designated the only federal depository in Monroe County. Any county resident bearing two pieces of identification and all college students may use this resource.

Bookish bucks. At the Tourist Development Council's monthly meeting in January, board members voted to allot \$11,200 from its budget to cover preliminary expenses of the 1991 Key West Literary Seminar, scheduled for next January 11 to 14.

Calling all vendors. The Key West Preschool Cooperative is now reserving tables for its annual Arts, Crafts and Food Fair, which will be April 7 in Bayview Park. The event will include an Easter egg hunt, raffle and live music by the Johnny King Band. Interested craftspeople and food vendors should call 296-4097.

Crime pays the sheriff's office. Title to a Key Largo canal-front property seized in a drug raid has been awarded to the Monroe County Sheriff's Office by Circuit Judge J. Jefferson Overby under civil forfeiture proceedings initiated by the sheriff's office. The lot and trailer, valued at over \$75,000, will be sold at public auction. Proceeds will be used to purchase equipment to be used to combat drugs.

Who you gonna call? Eight members of the Monroe County Sheriff's Special Response Team (SRT) joined SRTs from Homestead and Sweetwater and Florida City detectives in two drug raids in the 14th Street area of Florida City. The February 2 raids resulted in 39 arrests, confiscation of over \$13,000 worth of cocaine, crack and marijuana, seizure of two vehicles, two weapons and \$500. The Monroe County Sheriff's Office has signed a mutual aid agreement with other law agencies, establishing the legal precedent for raids across jurisdictional lines.

Take a TIP. Bobby Gerber, food and beverage director for Holiday Isle Resort and Marina in Islamorada, has become certified as a trainer for TIPS (Training for Intervention Procedures by servers of alcohol). This program was developed by the Health Education Foundation, Inc. in Washington, D.C., to teach alcohol servers acceptable standards of practice for serving alcoholic beverages. Gerber is available to train area alcohol servers in TIPS. Interested parties can contact Gerber at 1-664-2321.

Livingroom gets funds. The first fundraiser for The Livingroom, held recently by the Persons With Aids (PWA) Coalition of Key West at Number One Saloon, raised more than \$1,700. The Livingroom, 816 Fleming Street, is a meeting place especially for persons with HIV Spectrum Disease. In this comfortable setting, meals, support group meetings and other events are offered.

Just say yes. Due to the enthusiastic response to the first Healing Yes Seminar in January, the Foundation for SHARE will offer its complete two-weekend program in March. The first weekend, March 16 to 18, is for those interested in utilizing active meditation, self-discovery processes and group sharing in order to live more fully. The second weekend, March 23 to 25, will be an advanced program for those wishing to continue the learning process. Tuition is \$125 per weekend, with scholarships available for those who are disabled. Call 292-1985.

Literary strolls. Key West novelist David Kaufelt will join other local guides to conduct walking tour of literary sites in Key West, sponsored by the Key West Literary Seminar. The one-hour guided stroll provides an intimate glimpse into past and present writers' haunts. Tours are offered each Sunday through April. Tickets are \$10, and special group rates are offered. Call 745-3640.



Key West Hosts Mayors' Convention

by June Keith

For the fourth year in a row, the United States Conference of Mayors met in Key West last month for its annual Mayor's Leadership Institute. USCM's Executive Director Tom Cochran is mad about Key West, crazy about the Pier House. He has promised to continue making Key West a regular stop on the MLI tour.

His staff agrees that holding a Key West conference during the icy Northeastern winter stokes up mayoral enthusiasm. The USCM is based in Washington, D.C.

This year, the Key West MLI attracted 29 mayors. Many were accompanied by their families. The three-day event was restful and somewhat educational for participants -- many of whom had never before visited the island.

During Presidents' Week, traditionally one of the biggest for tourism here, Tom McClimon -- managing director of USCM's office of program development -- and I squeezed our way through the crowds at the El Siboney Restaurant to feast on pork chunks with *moro* and sappy-sweet plantains. He's been attending the conference for nine years.

"Key West is changing," Tom said, as he dug into his rice and beans. "Can you tell that your town is changing?"

"The crowds are getting bigger than

ever," I replied.

"It seems that the focus of your tourist promotion, the kind of tourist you are trying to attract, has changed," Tom explained. "What I see now seems to appeal more to John and Susie Middle America and their kids. I used to think Key West tried to appeal to more unique sorts of people."

"There are lots more T-shirt shops this year," Tom said, regretfully. "There's a T-shirt shop where Shortie's Diner used to be! Duval Street is looking more and more like Bourbon Street -- a lot of tacky T-shirt shops and sleazy bars."

"But people still flock to New Orleans," I said.

"They do," Tom said, hastily adding that Key West certainly has its share of positive attributes -- like perfect weather.

"A group of us walked from the Pier House to Louie's Backyard for dinner and then back to the hotel the other night," Tom said. "And we were impressed at how safe and quiet your streets are. We didn't even see a cop or a police car the whole time!"

I asked Tom about Mayor Tony Tarracino's much-publicized speech, which was to have taken place in Washington, D.C. at the USCM's midwinter meeting in January.

"That was a strange situation," Tom said carefully. "The *Miami Herald* office in D.C. kept calling to ask what time the Key West mayor was giving his speech to the USCM,

and I hadn't heard about any speech. So I kept telling them I'd get back to them."

There was no speech, per se. Perhaps the confusion arose when the USCM staff assured the mayor that he would be able to promote Key West to other mayors at the meeting, just as other mayors may promote their cities or pet projects to the assembly.

Such complications do not bother the USCM staff. They're used to publicity-seeking mayors, and they find their more colorful members to be good entertainment. On the last night of the conference, Mayor Tarracino entertained a group of participants at Captain Tony's Saloon.

Here are the topics that mayors from all over the country discussed at the Key West MLI: what to do with garbage and how to start up recycling programs; serious concerns about fire and police department union negotiations; how public safety, particularly where there are unions, is demanding a bigger piece of every city's pie; drugs and related crime. The mayor of Boynton Beach, Florida, mentioned the possibility of hiring G. Gordon Liddy, of Watergate fame, to advise his city's police department on how to deal with the drug problem.

"The problems are the same all over the country," Tom said. "The degree to which they exist may be a little different, but the trends are the same."



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The Buttery, 1208 Simonton Street, is praised by *Gourmet*, *New York Times* and *Bon Appetit* as one of the great restaurants in South Florida. The Buttery is truly a must-stop for the gourmand in Key West. A complete bar and wine list complement the distinctive Buttery menu, with nightly specials. Open for dinner nightly; reservations are suggested. 294-0717.

Cafe Exile/Cafe Tropic, 700 Duval at Angela Street. A European streetside cafe known for its eggs, burgers and alfresco ambience. Serving until 4 a.m., weekends until 5 a.m. Phone 296-0991.

The Eatery, 1405 Duval Street on the beach. Open 7 days a week, serving bountiful buffets. Breakfast 8 to 11 a.m., Lunch 12 to 4 p.m., and Dinner 5 to 9 p.m. Visa and MasterCard accepted. Phone 294-2727.

El Loro Verde, 404 Southard Street, is more than a Mexican restaurant. El Loro Verde presents innovative yet authentic variations of both Mexican and Caribbean dishes. Popular for its cafe atmosphere, El Loro Verde now features a full liquor bar in its new dining room. Phone 296-7298.

Emma's Seafare, at The Reach, Simonton Street on the Ocean. Open 7 days a week for breakfast, lunch and dinner. This is a room that radiates the sun and sea. Dine indoors or on a terrace that overlooks the Atlantic. The menu features fish and more fish, prepared 105 different ways. Phone 296-5000.

Flamingo Crossing, 1105 Duval Street. The local's favorite dessert spot features fresh-made-daily ice creams, sorbets, honey yogurts, sundaes, shakes and all-fruit *vitari*. Also enjoy Florida Keys Finest Key Lime Pie all in a tropical garden setting. Open Sunday from noon to 11 p.m.; and midnight Friday and Saturday. Phone 296-6124.

Gringo's, 509 1/2 Duval Street, open seven days, noon to midnight. Authentic Mexican cuisine and cocktails, featuring the house special -- jumbo Margaritas.

Henry's, 1500 Reynolds Street. Open 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Located in historic Casa Marina Resort serving Continental Cuisine and Key West's most popular Sunday Brunch. Reservations are suggested. 296-3535.

Holiday Inn Beachside, 1111 N. Roosevelt Boulevard. The Hemingway Cafe offers a relaxing view of poolside gardens. Daily lunch and dinner specials of native seafood cuisine

make for an exciting and versatile menu. Breakfast, 7 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., Lunch 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., Dinner 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. Angler's Paradise Lounge features frozen tropical drinks, bar menu and individual size pizzas. Large screen TV and partial open-air gathering place. **The Lazy Conch**, a beach bar, is located on the private beach.

Holiday Inn, La Concha, 430 Duval Street. A downtown landmark with three restaurant choices. The **Rainbow Room**, open 7 to 11 a.m. for breakfast, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. for lunch, features seafood items. The **Top**, with its spectacular views of Key West and sunset, serves drinks, appetizers and desserts. **Crazy Daizey's** is a streetside cafe and fun spot specializing in paella, Frogmore stew and sandwiches by the inch. Phone 296-2991.

Larry's Ice Cream, 1075 Duval Street within Duval Square. Open seven days: Sunday through Thursday, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 11 a.m. to midnight. Truly gourmet ice cream in scrumptious flavors and fresh-fruit frozen yogurt. Experience a variety of treats inside or out including ice cream cakes and pies. Phone 294-2301.

La Trattoria Venezia, 524 Duval Street, open daily. Featuring Italian and French cuisine. Dine in an elegant European atmosphere complete with Italian music and friendly, warm service. 296-1075.

Lighthouse Cafe, 917 Duval Street, open for dinner 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. Specializing in wonderful South-

ern Italian and seafood dishes, served in a beautiful garden setting or cozy indoor dining room. Reservations suggested. Diner's Club, Visa. Phone 296-7837.

Louie's Backyard, 700 Waddell on the Atlantic Ocean, open from 11:30 a.m. to 2 a.m. Featuring international cuisine in a restaurant ranked among South Florida's best. Dining inside or outdoors on the water. Enjoy cocktails on the Afterdeck Bar. Phone 294-1061 for dining reservations.

Nick's Coastal Cafe, located in the Hyatt Key West at 601 Front Street, open daily, serving lunch and dinner. For waterfront dining and the best Italian cuisine, call 296-9900 for reservations.

Pier House Restaurant, One Duval Street. *Travel & Leisure* said the Scampi in Amaretto was well worth the trip. The *New York Times* called it "Key West's premier restaurant." Reserve a table with a waterfront view. 296-4600.

Turtle Kraals, Land's End Village, foot of Margaret Street. Harbor view dining for lunch and dinner. Great hamburgers, seafood and check out the music. Visa, Mastercard okay. Phone 296-4008.

Yo Sake, 722 Duval. Open for lunch 12:00 to 2:30 p.m., dinner 6 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. Neo-Japanese inside or torchlit garden dining; traditional Japanese and original island creations. Full Sushi Bar. 294-2288.

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Just the Facts

by June Keith

Take This Job

Applicants for the job of City Manager for the City of Key West have until March 1 to get those cover letters and resumes in. So far, well over 100 applications have been received from just about every state in the continental United States, says Patti Green, administrative assistant in the city manager's office at city hall.

Until recently, experience in managing a city was required, but not anymore. The city commission has redesigned the qualifications, dropping the clause requiring "previous city managing experience," and now requires this instead: "seven years of progressively responsible administrative experience." The change was sponsored by Mayor Tony Tarracino.

Richard Witker, Key West's most recent former city manager, spent two years at the job before relocating to Boca Raton for a position as assistant city manager. By the time he left, Witker's base pay had

increased to \$74,170. His starting pay at Boca Raton is \$70,000, plus benefits. Witker says the Boca Raton package is better than the one he had here.

The city paid Witker \$5,000 to cover his moving expenses from Ohio to Key West in December of 1987. Currently, by the way, newly hired cops get a \$3,000 relocation check. Witker was also given a head start on vacation and sick leave, to prevent him from starting his new job in Key West without a safety net of accumulated pay. But he never got around to using it; so, in December, 1989, he collected a check for \$15,000 -- the buyout of his accumulated leave time.

Traditionally, replacing a city manager in Key West takes about six months. First, advertisements must be drawn up and placed in national publications. Cost of the current advertising blitz is about \$2,000, says Green.

A City Manager Selection Committee has been appointed by the city commission. Appointees on the current committee and their respective appointers are Dave Vincent, Commissioner Sally Lewis; Mike Dively, Commissioner Jimmy Weekley; Sunny Francis, Commissioner Harry Powell; Dr. Shirley Freeman, Commissioner Virginia Panico; and Peter Rosasco, Mayor Tony Tarracino.

From the applicants, committee members must choose no more than eight and no less than four candidates. Our city commission will then select our next city manager from that batch.

Ron Herron, hired as assistant city manager weeks before Witker announced his intention to leave, is now wearing the city manager's hat. This means he must struggle with his work as well as the managerial responsibilities of acting city manager, without the benefits of hands-on experience or training from the departed city manager.

Tricky Business

Coming up are opening sessions of contract negotiations with the three unions

representing city employees. Those unions are: Police Benevolent Association; Teamsters (white and blue collar); and the Firefighters Union.

Negotiating contracts with unions is tricky business, according to City Finance Director David Fernandez. So far, it is unclear just who will represent the city's interest on Key West's bargaining team. Bargaining takes hours and hours of meetings for up to five months. Customarily, contract negotiations are within the purview of the assistant city manager. But Key West does not, at this time, have one of those. He's sitting in for the city manager.

Fernandez says union negotiators are sharp lawyers who, in part, prepare for the bargaining table by sending accountants to comb the city's books, looking for places money might be deferred to personnel.

"The millage rate in Key West is at 5.03 now," says Fernandez. "They'll say we have a 10-millage cap and that we can increase taxes and pay personnel more."

City Personnel Director Louise Henderson and Finance Director David Fernandez are both waiting to hear which one of them will be in charge of the delicate arbitrations and just when those sessions will begin.

Believe It or Not

Monroe County Commissioners closed a multi-million dollar deal with the Wackenhut Corporation in mid-February, giving the security firm their first shot at running a county jail facility. Wackenhut took over the management of the Monroe County Jail on February 15. Sheriff J. Allison DeFoor II estimates that taxpayers will save about \$800,000 to \$1 million a year by turning the job over to the private sector.

Wackenhut will charge the county about \$5 million a year for their services.

As reported in January's issue of *Solares Hill*, two firms responded to Monroe County's invitation for proposals from private firms to run the jail. The other bidder was CCA, a firm with tried-and-true experience in running jails. CCA was the firm with the overwhelming support by the majority of the county's Jail Selection

Committee and by jail employees.

CCA's proposal offered the opportunity for taxpayers to save at least \$6 million over the course of the contract. The three county commissioners who voted for Wackenhut -- Mayor Stormont, Harvey and Jones -- cited excessive lobbying by CCA as their reason for not supporting the less-expensive and more experienced firm.

Passion Plays

At a Valentine's Day county commission meeting, Parvan Bakardjiev's contract with the county to run the Fine Arts Council was extended for two more years. Bakardjiev will receive \$47,000 a year to manage the county's cultural affairs. But, he hastens to add, he is receiving no benefits.

At the same meeting, commissioners passed a resolution to name the Plantation Sheriff's Substation after the late John Spottswood. Spottswood served for 10 years as Monroe County sheriff and for four years as a state senator.

Mayor Stormont voted for the resolution. "Just remember," he said, "when you build

the new jail down here, you might want to name it the 'John Stormont Jail.'"

Commissioner Doug Jones agreed. "And we can reserve a special cell in that jail for you," he added.

A Kinder, Softer Lease

Five days after voting for a new Cultural Preservation Society lease, which would net the city \$40,000 per year in payments from Sunset vendors, Commissioner Sally Lewis announced that she'd changed her mind and introduced a resolution calling for a kinder, softer lease.

Mayor Tarracino, at the same meeting, introduced a resolution appointing Lewis Mayor Pro-tem, a title previously held by Commissioner Weekley.

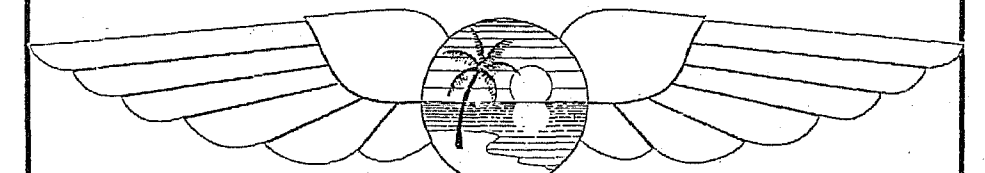
The new CPS lease charges performers and vendors \$2 per night. CPS must pay the city \$24,000 a year to rent the pier and half the cost of garbage pick-up from the Sunset

area. Commissioners earmarked the \$24,000 for pier improvements. Finally, they waived a city policy requiring leasees of city property to buy \$1 million in liability insurance. CPS is required to provide only \$500,000 in liability insurance.

At a special commission meeting on February 26, the resolution passed easily on every point. Commissioners Panico and Weekley were visibly outraged by the many concessions awarded to CPS, but were simply outnumbered by the unswayable voting block of the mayor and Commissioners Powell and Lewis.

"We're bringing in millions of dollars in revenues per year to this city," said CPS President Diana Dodson, after the meeting. "The agendas behind the commissioners who were for more money is, through atrophy, to destroy the celebration to make way for development, in our opinion."

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Fresh fruit and cheese for lunch in the sun on the front porch of the Conch Cafe. The poet, Jim Palm, puts down a slice of Camembert and speaks:

"I don't know how it is in your life, Bill, but there are women: they have a birthday; I never know what to buy them. Their tastes are too personal, too mysteriously feminine for me to know what they will think is hot. All they haven't got enough of are clothes."

"So there I was -- not only her birthday looming up but Valentine's Day, too. So I went over to that place near the Winn Dixie where half the store, the woman in back does peridontistry; the guy up in the front half sells black lace lingerie. I look around. But if I'm afraid I don't know her taste well enough to pick out a scarf or sweater, how am I going to have the confidence to buy her dirty French underwear?"

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"In the end I went over to see Liz Birmingham at Onyin Skins on Duval Street. I've never made a mistake buying something for a fashionable woman asking Liz's advice."

"And then Liz said she had just been home, making a thick spaghetti sauce that has to bubble and stew all day on the back of the stove. But her idea of eternity is a pot of *Spaghetti a la Bolognese* and only one person to eat it. Why didn't I come over for dinner? And she invited Polly Siwek, too."

"After dinner we went over to Elliot's *Mangia Mangia* on Southard to get some drug-strength coffee from a commercial machine. You can't make that kind of stuff at home no matter what it says on the can. We took the *con leches* outside and sat on the little green park bench Elliot has out front, drinking coffee and watching the world go by."

"After a couple of minutes Elliot came out to tell me my former sister-in-law -- first marriage; the one I liked -- was inside, having dinner with an old drunk friend of mine, now 32 days sober and counting. I had thought the guy was dead so I was glad to hear that."

"Then Sally Manx came walking along, saw us out there, bought a coffee and came out to sit with us. 'There's this guy,' she said. 'I'm trying not to fall in love with him. He's too needy; I'm codependent, and we

would end up clinging to each other by the throat like people who drown the lifeguard who comes out to save them. But the old siren songs are playing and I feel myself irresistibly drawn to him. Ah, the thrill of the emotionally unavailable man -- the freedom of going into a love affair knowing it is doomed from the start."

"I knew what she was talking about, Bill. Addiction. She is addicted to falling in love with the wrong guys like I used to be addicted to booze. When I was drinking, I used to pour a drink and say, I hope I don't pour another, and I poured another. I hope I don't buy another bottle, I would pray, and go out and buy two."

"I don't know how the guy inside is doing today with his addiction. My own is still too close to me to hang out with people like that. Maybe it's 42 days for him now and holding. Maybe it's not. But when I got home that night, the neighbors from across the street came over. They are three sisters who were born in that house and grew up there, on Frances Street. One never left home. The other two got married: one got divorced; the other is widowed. Now they all live together, three sisters back in the house in which they were born."

"In the days when I was drinking, they never spoke to me. When I got home last night, they said, 'Jim, did you know your Key lime tree is dropping fruit? We thought you wouldn't mind, so we picked enough to make two Key lime pies, and here is one for you.' That's sobriety, Bill. People give you pies instead of dirty looks and the silence that never ends."

"What was the Valentine you bought your *inamorata*?" I asked.

"I'm not sure I know you well enough to tell you," Jim said, suddenly arch. "But what I got back from her started with the Persian Kiss."

"The Persian Kiss?" I asked.

"Questions like that," Jim said, "let me know I'm right not to tell you any more."

This is the column that asks, What did Jim buy her? If you guess right, I'll tell you in a plain brown envelope what the Persian Kiss is.

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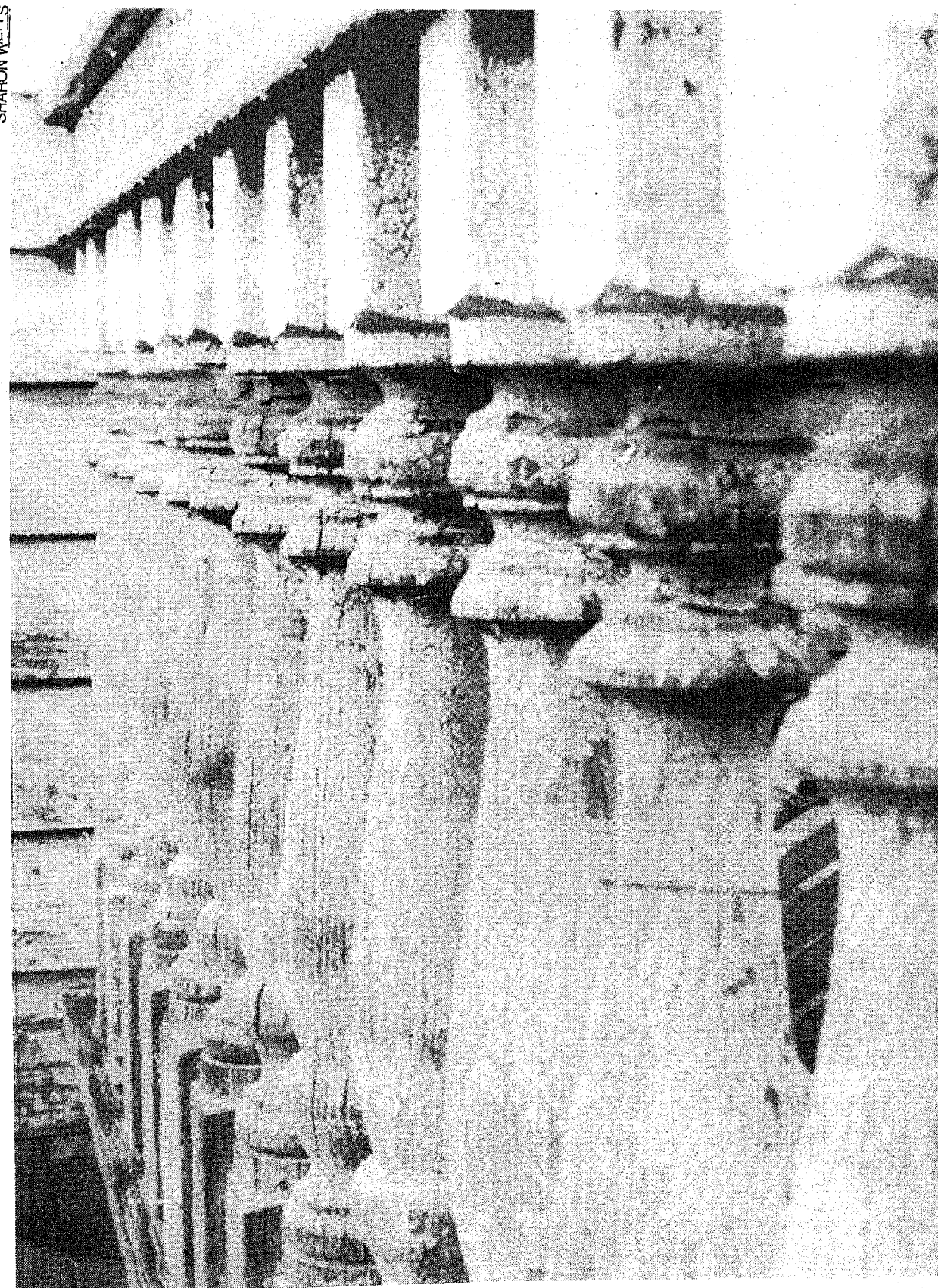
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Home Improvement & Building Guide

SHARON WEIS



INSIDE

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Shutter Mechanics

by Valerie duPree

"What can you say about shutters?" I asked myself as I drove along A1A en route to Historic Shutters & Restoration, Inc. on Stock Island. I could think of only two or three questions to ask the proprietors there.

Needless to say, I was surprised to find myself, just five minutes later, glancing around a huge, barnlike workshop, completely engrossed in what I clearly thought was an "open and closed topic." Shutters are fascinating if you have professionals like Elizabeth DeVries and Matt Stauch to tell you all about them.

DeVries and Stauch call themselves "shutter mechanics," which makes sense when you realize that a shutter is a moving part and must move well to operate well. Whether they're restoring a 100-year-old shutter or making a new one, they split the process. Stauch works on frames, replacing deteriorated cypress with new cypress and setting angles with epoxy where wood meets wood to establish a solid base, while DeVries handles slats, the horizontal sections of wood that open and close.

The craftsmen have created an assembly-line manufacturing technique based on work done by hand and with homemade tools. The tools were created by Stauch and are highly specialized to perform tasks like stripping a portion off the side of each shutter slat to create a peg or smoothing the edges of a peg to make it round.

"Each piece of wood is different," said

DeVries, pointing out the barely discernible bows and resistant grains that give wood its personality. Working on a shutter at the stage where screw eyes are positioned along the back of the slats so the rod which opens and shuts the shutters can be attached, DeVries positions the screw eyes by sight alone. She doesn't use a straight edge because each eye has to be individually placed, taking into consideration the characteristics of each slat. Some shutters have as many as 100 pieces.

Using the assembly system, the team can finish one or two shutters a day -- three a day, tops. With the help of a third person and operating at maximum capacity, they produced 18 pairs in three weeks during one concentrated effort. And this takes into consideration that their jointer machine and drill press stay set at right thicknesses. Nothing but shutters are worked on in the shop.

Stauch is intrigued by the history and nostalgia of his work. "Some little guy put this ornate [shutter] together without the tools we have today," he said, examining an old candidate for restoration. "Shutters are great. They're strong, look nice, allow the breeze to come in, let the sun in or shut it out. They can keep a house warm or cool." Stauch thinks of a home as "wrapped in shutters."

DeVries started the shutter business ten years ago, and used to have a shop on Simonton Street. Over time she and Stauch have pieced together their tools and techniques through the system of trial and error. Though

they researched, they found no information on their craft. Someday, Stauch hopes to write a book on the subject. But at the moment business comes first. Together, Stauch and DeVries have put new or restored shutters on more than 100 Key West homes, including the Oldest House, Curry Mansion, Bagatelle and Artist's House, and new business is steady. The writing, Stauch says, will have to wait.

Stripping: For Fun and Profit

by Valerie duPree

When Heather Ueltschi stripped paint from the doors of the old Q Rooms at the corner of Simonton and Fleming Streets, during early stages of its renovation to what's now called the Marquesa, it was like turning back the pages of Key West history.

Most of Ueltschi's business entails refinishing and spray painting. This service is in demand because many people wish to have backyard wicker and wrought iron furniture redone.

"There were as many as 15 coats of paint on some of those doors," said Ueltschi, owner of Sherri's Strip Tank on Stock Island. "Yellow, pink, red, purple, green -- I stripped off so many colors I couldn't believe it. I'd reach a certain level and there'd be a political bumper sticker or a decal bouquet of psychedelic flowers."

Regardless of the philosophies they once expressed or what went on behind them, the doors cleaned up to beautiful, solid Dade County Pine works of art, complete with detail. And Ueltschi speculates there are thousands of other "terrific" pieces of woodwork and furniture throughout Key West, hidden beneath paint, varnish and stain. What they need, she said, is a good stripping.

"Stripping is a chemical process that takes paint, stain and other coatings off wood, plastic or metal," said Ueltschi. "I have a vat for stripping large pieces and I handstrip small and treasured items. But the vat is the simplest and cheapest method."

Because of the tank's size -- 16'x5'x3' -- few pieces require disassembly. The process is quick and involves no mess or odor. Most jobs are completed in one day. Costs vary according to size and difficulty. Older wood often requires hand stripping.

There are many reasons to strip wood. It

cleans items that were once functional, like shutters, hinges and windows, but which coats of paint have thickened or gummed up and rendered useless. It establishes a fresh surface for repair or restoration. Often, beautifully detailed wood grain lies beneath several layers of glossy latex. Mirrors also can be stripped without affecting the silver. And Ueltschi said wicker strips beautifully.

"Over half of my business comes in partially stripped," said Ueltschi. That's why she specializes in shutters, gingerbread, spindles and doors, which people usually find difficult to strip at home. Ueltschi also offers full refinishing, repainting, restaining and revarnishing services, and she said she can usually return a completely refurbished piece in a few days.

To remove the leftover paint and chemical, a high pressure water wash is used. Then, to paint, stain and apply other coatings, Ueltschi uses an airless spray gun -- the kind auto body shops use to paint cars. The result is a silky smooth finish.

Veneer, particle board, pressboard and plywood don't strip well. Hard woods like mahogany, oak and teak strip best and even the softer woods, like pine, do well. Stripping robs wood of its natural sugars, so Ueltschi advises to follow up the process with a restorative product like tung oil for antiques and a protective coating like polyurethane for everyday pieces.

"The fun thing about stripping," Ueltschi said, "is that it's always a surprise to see what's underneath." Once an antique dealer brought in an old, beat-up chair covered in black paint and left with a \$500 collector's item.



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Construction Boom

If most of the people in Key West's construction trades seem busy these days, it just may be because they are. Or at least that's what the figures the city's finance department collects seem to indicate.

In the year ending September 30, 1987, the city took in \$425,000 in fees from its building department. For the year ending September 30, 1988, the city took in \$596,000 -- a 40 percent increase. And in the year ending September 30, 1989, revenues from permits increased another 21 percent to \$721,000.

Building department officials say they know of no major increase in their fee structure that would account for the revenue growth. They think there's simply more building in Key West.

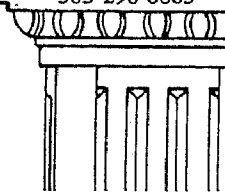
The building department's increased aggressiveness in enforcing the codes may be responsible for some portion of the growth in revenue, of course.

How has the home improvement business been going since the removal of city sewer and water moratoria in the fourth quarter of last year? Very well, it would seem. Total revenue from permits in the October-through-December period in 1988 in Key West was \$126,000, finance department figures report. Total revenue from the same source in the same period of 1989 was \$180,000, a 43 percent increase.

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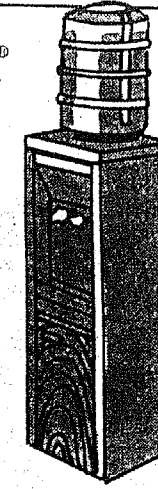
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A Room With a View

Landscaping to expand your living space

by Pete Moss

Solares Hill Garden Correspondent

Historically, landscaping in America was intended to benefit the public on the street, not the homeowner. The grounds of a Victorian home served only for show, a means of impressing the neighbors. Later the typical 1950s suburban house featured a picture window overlooking a broad expanse of front lawn. The view into the window was more interesting than the view out.



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Today, landscaping emphasizes creating a usable, livable extension of the house itself; in effect, an outdoor room. The front yard's role as a neighborhood showpiece has been modified to a semiprivate entrance area, usually including space for off-street parking. Living spaces within the home, instead of facing forward to the street, are oriented backward to the rear garden area. As a result, the backyard transforms from a utilitarian service area into a space landscaped for privacy and outdoor living.

This personal view of landscaping is especially suited to the climate and small lot sizes found in Key West. It encourages a free flow of activity between indoors and out. With an inviting view from every window or open doorway, it promotes an open-air living arrangement with privacy, shade, quiet and recreation all joined to the house. And blending the house and grounds together enhances the utility and pleasure of the entire property, improves its appearance and increases its value.

This concept of landscaping seeks to achieve these main goals:

- **Privacy.** By creating a place of respite from the outside world, the soothing effect of green foliage offers seclusion without confinement.
- **Comfort.** Trees filter bright sunlight and absorb heat. The temperature beneath a tree may be 15 degrees lower than out in the sun. As a windscreen, trees create a sheltered space on their leeward side several times their own height. Thick foliage can effectively suppress street noise.
- **Beauty.** A well-planned landscape offers attractive views from both within the house or anywhere on the grounds.
- **Convenience.** Landscape design should be functional. Paths, walks and entrances should be determined by a logical traffic pattern. Service areas should provide convenient storage and space for utility items.
- **Ease of maintenance.** Choose plant varieties that require less pruning, spraying or watering. Mulches and low ground-covering plants reduce watering and weeding. Include an underground watering system in your plans.
- **Flexibility.** Plants grow and your needs change. You may want a swimming pool in the future. Where will it go? Plan ahead.

Before You Dig

How to begin the process of making a landscape plan? Before you buy the first plant,



experts suggest doing the following: Look out each window of your home and assess what you see. Where are improvements needed? Take notes. Go outside, look back at the house and make the same assessment. Check out what others have done to their homes around town and in house and garden magazines. Visit the homes on the Old Island House and Garden Tours. After doing the above, re-assess your own house and grounds and decide what can be left as is, what should be removed or added and what to include in a plan for the future.

Draw up a plan to scale on graph paper of existing conditions on your property. Include locations of doors and windows, walks, drive-ways, patios, trees, major plantings. Note the effects of sun, good and bad views, and problems needing attention. Next, overlay the existing plan with tracing paper and rough-in possible uses for different functional areas -- open space, decks, swimming pool, etc. When functional areas have been determined, use other sheets of tracing paper to try out various actual designs and landscaping ideas. Experiment on paper, where mistakes are free, remembering the basic goals of landscaping covered earlier.

Strategy: Simplification

Since there are so many different plants, trees and building materials for fences, decks and walks available, it is advisable to simplify the planning process. This can be done by

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observing these basic principles:

1. Plan in the abstract. Consider plants and other materials as generalized forms with broad characteristics of shape, texture and color. You need not specify plants and materials by name at this stage of the planning process.
2. Keep the design in scale with the house. Very large plants and garden structures will overwhelm a small house.
3. Keep it simple. Too many focal points and/or plant varieties are distracting, while repetition of similar shapes, texture and colors tends to be pleasing.

When you have arrived at a well-considered version of your plan, it is time to visit a local nursery and talk specifics. Your nursery professional will be able to recommend plants which meet your design requirements and are suitable to our climate. There are many excellent nurseries here. Most of them will contract to install plants they sell, or you can do it yourself.

For more information on landscaping, plant varieties suitable for our climate and soils and planting procedures, contact the Monroe County Extension Service at the County Services Building on Stock Island.

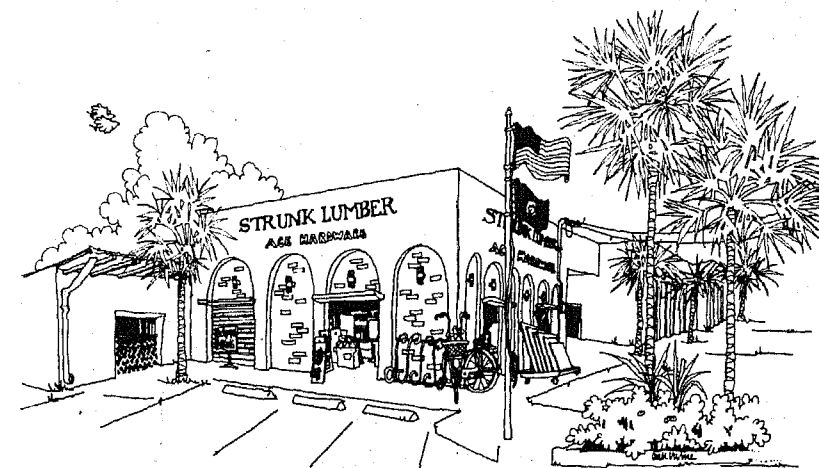
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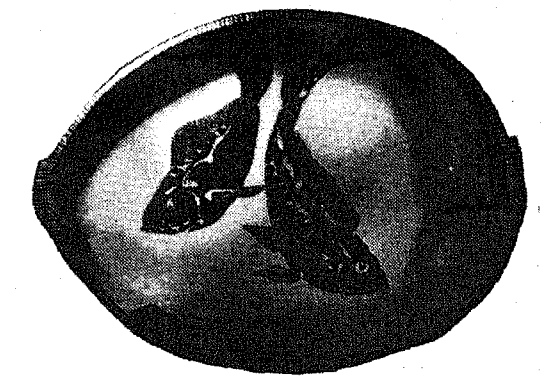
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Catching Rays

How to heat water with solar energy

by Bert Lee

We all know it's expensive to live in the Keys, particularly Key West. And certainly one of the most pervasive costs is energy. Those who sell power tell us its cost is tied to the oil market. But let's be realistic: Was anyone's electric bill reduced when the price of oil went down? At best those drops slowed the rate of increase. Remember the oil crunches of the 70s? Remember the ads with Bob Hope insisting that industry was committed to freeing us from the tyranny of oil, selling nuclear plants, pressing oil from shale, converting ocean thermals and harnessing solar energy? What happened to all that?

Nuclear energy turned out to be mind-bogglingly expensive and more than a wee bit dangerous. They shut down the shale plants because the technique didn't work. Nobody ever tried to build an ocean thermal conversion facility, though it was a great idea. Then, the destabilization of OPEC brought down the price of oil and, glory be, suddenly there was nothing to worry about. But whatever happened to solar energy?

I'm happy to say it's alive and well and shining in the Florida Keys. And quite rightly, for what do we have if not sun? A walk around our island with our eyes fixed on rooftops will reveal that many far-sighted residents enjoy the benefits of this technology.

How Many Gallons?

At present the main use of solar energy is to

heat water. (Conversion of sunlight into electricity is still on the steep side for the average person.) It is estimated that a family of five uses 30,000 gallons of hot water a year. It takes a lot of energy to heat that much water -- 27,490,000 BTUs -- and when we take into account the leakage inherent in any plumbing system, we can raise that to 30,000,000 BTUs.

Using oil, the cost of heating that water comes to two cents per gallon. Electricity from the grid brings that down to one cent. A solar water system puts the cost at one-half cent per gallon. This means that a solar system can pay for itself in just a few years. And the beauty is that, apart from maintenance and upkeep, it's a one-time investment.

If you find yourself interested in this, there are a few ways to go. You can buy a solar system ready-made, right here in Key West or in Miami. Or, if you feel handy, you can fairly easily put up one yourself.

The technology is not mysterious. I have seen some elegantly simple solar water heaters. And once you understand the principle, your own imagination may lead you to unique solutions. The basic components are: the solar collectors; pump, plumbing, storage tank and heater-exchanger coil; and the differential thermostat that controls the whole thing. The basic requirements are a location in a sunny place -- a roof, preferably facing south, but this can be gotten around -- and, of course, no major obstacles blocking sunlight during most of the day.

Of these components, the most critical one, and the one to which you will be devoting most of your energies, is the solar collector. Essentially, this is a flat box through which water is channeled, either through pipes or between corrugated sheets. Glass on top of the box traps radiation and holds heat inside the panel -- the famous greenhouse effect.

Calculating Collectors

How many collectors you need depends on the number of people in your household. Using the figures given above for water use in a family of five and given close-to-optimal efficiency in the functioning and location of the collectors, you can plan on seven to nine collectors per person. Thus, a family of four will do well with three collector panels.

The cost of a ready-made solar collector consisting of two panels, for instance, will

generally come to more than \$600. You should be able to build your own collectors for \$4.50 to \$5 per square foot. Averaging this to \$4.75 per square foot, your cost will come down to around \$230.

The plumbing components you need are available locally. A 120-gallon storage tank, heat exchanger, should cost about \$350. A circulation pump will cost another \$75 to \$85. Thermostatic controls will come in at around \$50. Assorted plumbing, valves, tubings, fittings and, perhaps, an expansion tank will amount to another \$100.

You're looking at a figure of around \$810. Even figuring into it Murphy's Law of Expanding Expenses, the total won't exceed \$1000. Not a bad investment.

Now let's look at the components of the solar collector, top to bottom. The most efficient glazing is double: two sheets of glass with an airtight pocket between them. Under these is another airtight pocket, then the absorber plate. These are critical and there are lots of ways to make them. Typically, it involves a tube running through a sheet; though you can also use two layers of corrugated metal or a single corrugated layer over which the water dribbles freely to be collected in a run-off gutter. Beneath the absorber plate comes a layer of insulation. All is mounted in an airtight box and fixed to the roof by means of flashing.

Book Work

It would be presumptuous to recommend one of these plates over another and impossible to go into the specific construction of all of them in an article of this length. To help make this decision, do some research. The most helpful text on the subject this writer has encountered is *Build Your Own Solar Water Heater* by Stu Campbell with Doug Taft, published by Garden Way Books. It would be well worth your time to order a copy and keep it on hand during your labors.

If you are really ambitious and want to build your own collector plate you can get detailed plans from a number of excellent sources. The Brace Institute in Montreal provides plans for a corrugated metal-type collector. Two excellent texts containing easy plans are *How to Build a Solar Water Heater* by Ted Lucas, published by Florida Conservation Foundation, Inc., in Winter Park, Florida, and Johnny W. Allred's *An Inexpensive Economical Solar Heating System for Homes*, published by Langley Research Center in Hampton, Virginia. Prefabricated plates can be expensive and cautious shopping is advised.

As I said, it is best if the collectors face south. If the roof doesn't face this way and if it is too difficult to build a mounting structure to compensate, you should consider this when calculating how many plates you need. A rule of thumb is that if the collector points more than 20 degrees from due south, you'll need 50 percent more collector area. Generally, though, a little ingenuity will overcome this. Remember also that solar collectors don't necessarily have to be roof-mounted.

Tilts and Slopes

While most authorities believe that the ideal slope of a roof for solar space heating -- not necessarily water heating -- is the latitude of the homesite *plus* 10 to 15 degrees, for heating water the tilt of the plates can be more or less equal to your latitude. You will have to decide whether you want to leave your panels flush with the roof, even if this is not the most

efficient angle, or make tilt adjustments. Keep in mind that lifting the top end of the panel can result in roof leakage or wind damage. A propped collector can act like a sail, exerting strain on the roof and the mounting, and, given enough wind, might be torn away completely, destroying your investment. I advise that it is better to leave the collectors flat, even if it means having to add more panels.

In tailoring a solar collector system to your home, keep in mind that you can increase the efficiency of a collector by the simple addition of reflectors. But, once again, remember that it is best to construct these so they are not vulnerable to wind.

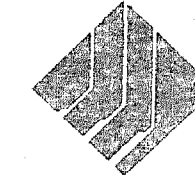
A ready-made system can be purchased right here in Key West from Solar Technologies on Truman Avenue. Howard Finkel has been in business here for over 10 years and has been personally responsible for the better part of the installation of solar water heating systems in the Keys. While such a system costs more than a homemade unit, it has the advantages of being tailored, through his good experience, to this environment. Finkel has also innovated some important techniques of circulating water and keeping it hot in storage longer.

Finally, you may ask, what about cloudy days? Of course, you will need a back-up system. Nonetheless, an inexpensive electric heater to be used only a few times in the course of a year should not discourage you from your solar option. Your investment will still return to you, and double quickly thereafter.

Bert Lee is a freelance writer who specializes in science and the environment.

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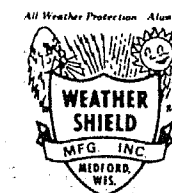
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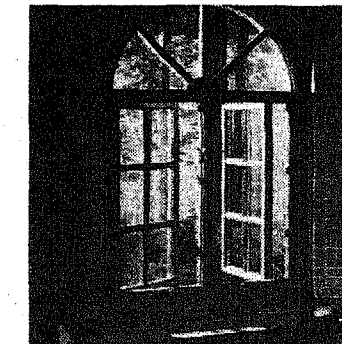
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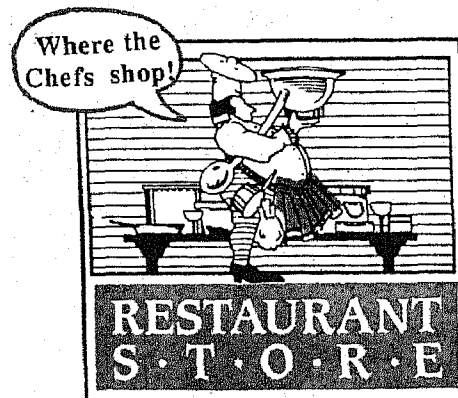
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Uncovering the History of a Conch House

Investigative historical research on your own

by Sharon L. Wells

So you've bought a Conch house. One of those aging, weathered, termite-eaten relics of a time past -- a tottering yet grand old lady who likely needs something of a facelift and perhaps a gentle helping hand in order to persevere into the 21st century. She's built like no other. Handcrafted by builder-carpenters who used no architectural plans, the grand dame has lasted over a hundred years, through storms, tastes and the vagaries of wealth. She's faded, but still magnificent in her bewitching splendor.

The older the house you live in, the more often you have probably asked yourself these questions: Who has lived here in the past? What were they like? Exactly when was this house built and by whom? Was the cupola (kitchen, front porch, extra bathroom or whatever) part of the original structure or was it added later? What was the neighborhood like years ago? And what was on this land before my house was built?

To unearth the architectural and historical roots of your century-old beauty takes curiosity, patience and a general fascination with old

things -- old places, old maps, old people, old photographs. There are many sources for local history. In Key West the public library, local museums and historical societies possess excellent collections.

If you are renovating or restoring an old house, you will benefit from having its structural history at your fingertips. If you are an owner, you will find a well-documented account of your home's past can increase its value considerably should you sell. In any case, the research and written results can provide an interesting addition to your personal library and possibly an important document for the island's history.

How to Start

Begin with a thorough check of Key West's official land records. These documents are maintained in the clerk's office at the Monroe County Courthouse on Whitehead Street. Warranty deeds, mortgage records, probate records, tax records and flat maps that date from the town's inception are maintained on microfilm here. You need to pinpoint the block and lot number of your property in order to trace the records. The deed to your property or information from the Property Appraiser's Office will specify the block and lot number.

Monroe County Public Library, 700 Fleming Street, is invaluable to history buffs and old house lovers, particularly its superb collection of local history materials, genealogical records

and historic photographs. The Local History and Research Department contains one of the most extensive collections of historical reference records in the state. For a start, all of the original, red-bound volumes of the county's deed books are located in the vault there.

The deed book indexes contain property transactions from the time records began being kept to the present. The conveyances are the basic skeleton from which you will flesh out your house's individual history. Recorded in them is the name of each buyer and seller, the date of every transaction, the date the transaction was recorded and the volume and page in the deed books where the original deed for each property transaction is stored.

When you finish with these conveyances, start at the top of the list with the earliest transaction, get the volume and page and look up the deed. Each document contains important and often surprising information. The deeds will give a complete description of the property every time it changed hands. Jot down the name of the grantor and grantee. Early descriptions are particularly colorful and

often contain references to landmarks which may have long since disappeared.

The deeds also provide information about the people involved in each transaction. Addresses, family relationships and occupations are often stated. If the transaction was a sale the price will be recorded. If it was an inheritance, it will list the benefactor's death and the heir's name and the date of the will of the last owner. You may stumble on a lawsuit or legal dispute among them. Foreclosures, mortgages, liens, bankruptcies and auction sales of property -- including slaves -- are also recorded. Tax records, which are of significant value to the researcher, exist on microfilm and in a few

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of the original tax books in the library. The pages that list each property's taxes convey the yearly valuations of the property. An increase in valuation most likely reflects the construction of improvements, perhaps a building, on the site. For the careful researcher who is a good detective, the deeds and tax records are chock full of information, as well as some surprises.

To secure documents relating to the structural history of your house, go to the city's building department on Simonton Street. There is a folder on each building which contains the permits, plans and specifications for renovations and structural changes. The early carpenter-architects in Key West, however, never worked from formal plans. Thus, the original blueprints for a Conch house rarely, if ever, exist. You may discover such things as when indoor plumbing was first installed or where the cistern or outdoor privy were located. But there are few old houses which possess a complete official architectural dossier.

To complete your house's profile, you will want to find out as much as possible about all the people who have been intimately connected with it through the years. These include early owners of the property before the house was erected, the house's builder, an architect, if there was one, and its various owners and occupants. Don't assume that your house was always occupied by the person who owned it, even in the early days. To put faces and life histories to the names from the official records will require the use of a variety of biographical sources. The key is to leave no stone unturned and to fit together the people's lives like the pieces of a puzzle. Check and recheck every fact. It's painstaking but rewarding work.

Types of Documentation

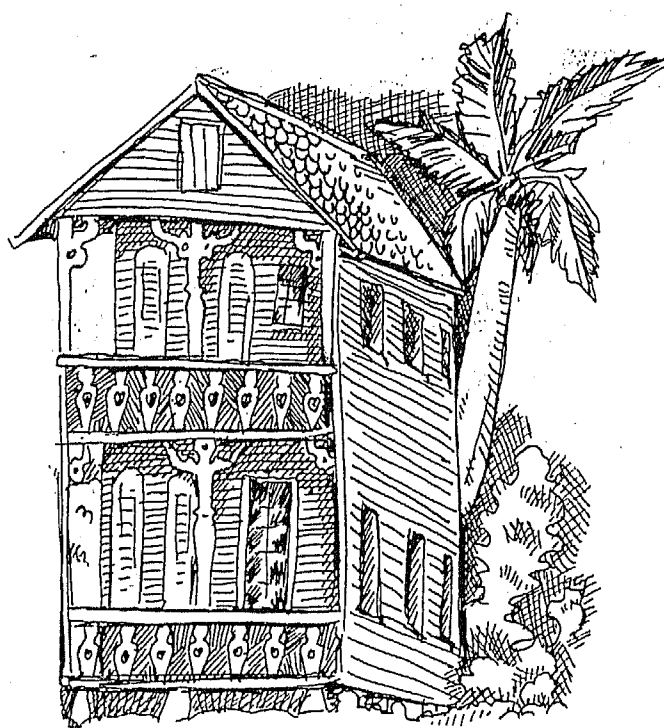
The basic bibliography for Key West historical house research is extensive. To fully document your house, you will need to be familiar with both primary and secondary sources. Primary sources include early maps, drawings of the town, city directories, 19th-century newspapers, diaries, and state and federal censuses. From the censuses, particularly, can be found the names and addresses of each local resident, plus age, occupation, place of



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birth and nationality, marital status and family members. A list of the specific extant primary sources would include: an 1826 pencil sketch, *View of Key West*, by Titian Peale; the 1928 *Map of the Town of the Island* by William Whitehead; the U.S. Topographical map (1850) by Hull Adams; Tilt's 1874 Map of Key West; the 1884 Bird's Eye View of Key West; and the Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps.

The Sanborn maps are particularly significant. They are 22- x 26-inch sheets -- as many as 36 sheets in the 1926 set -- which show the exact footprint of a building on its site. The maps are marvelous because they tell much more if studied carefully. The Key West Sanborn maps were issued in 1889, 1892, 1899, 1912 and 1926. By comparing the information and building footprint, the structure's physical evolution can be gleaned.

Check the Sanborns and you'll find out the building's exterior material -- frame, brick or stone -- and height by stories; the location of porches and whether they were one or two story; the location of outbuildings, sheds, water towers or stables; window types and locations; roof composition -- shingle, slate, tin or composition; location of wells and cisterns; the use of structures, i.e., dwelling, school, store, grocery, tenement, bakery, tailor, pool room, coffee shop, cigar factory, etc.; and the addresses of domiciles.

Additional primary sources for information include: church records -- particularly the records of churches in the Bahamas which

often have records of births of Key West immigrants; Key West Cemetery records; county marriage records; and personal diaries such as those kept by William Hackley and Robert Watson, that provide important insights into specific day-to-day periods. City directories are excellent sources for tracking down the whereabouts and specific addresses of a person. The extant directories include: *Bennett's 1888 Directory*; *Maloney's 1900 Directory*; *Polk's 1906-07 Directory*; and numerous other issues that date from the 20s, 30s and 40s.

Photographs, of course, are the most visual documents that help to authenticate the accuracy of restoration or rehabilitation. Luckily, the library's local history department contains thousands of significant historic images which have been stored for easy retrieval.

Secondary historical sources abound. United States government documents and records of public buildings, published histories such as *Maloney's A Sketch of Key West* (1876) and Jefferson B. Browne's *Key West: The Old and the New* (1912) are of particular note. The records and photographs of the Historic American Buildings Survey conducted in 1968, the genealogical data found in *Kinfolks*, contemporary historic magazines such as *Harper's Weekly* and *Leslie's Illustrated Weekly*, the 1979 Cultural Resource survey of

Key West -- all are valuable for the historic information they contain.

By the time you have collected the land records, tax and architectural data, historical and biographical materials on your house, you will have amassed a number of old deeds, wills, documents, pictures and newspaper clippings. At this point you may choose to write a formal chronological history or you may simply want to assemble the data in a scrapbook.

Historical research recovers the story of a site -- the information relevant to a building, its inhabitants, their lives and property. The clues and facts discovered help to reconstruct the genealogy of a place. The past is far from dead,

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and the scope of research is limited only by the imagination and time devoted to the project.

Sharon L. Wells has been the historian for the Historic Florida Keys Preservation since 1977.

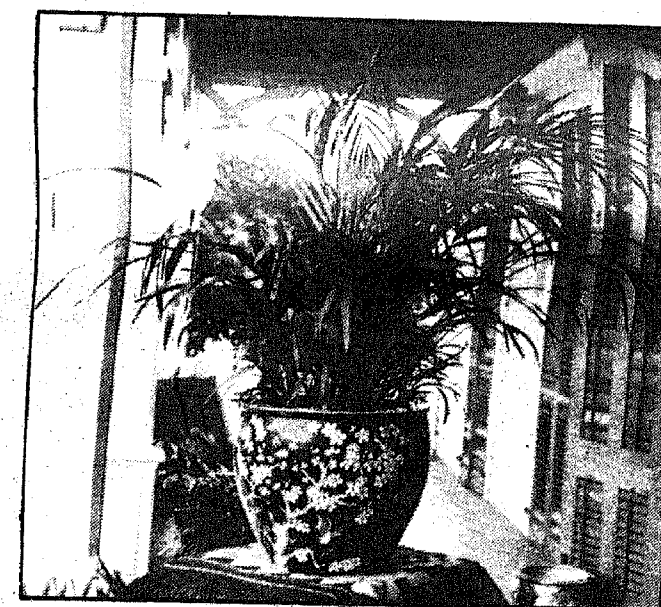
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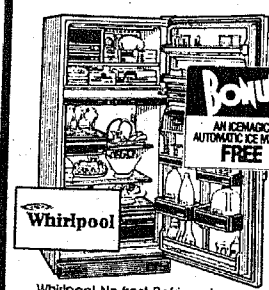
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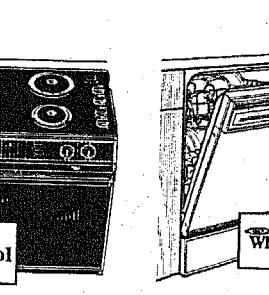
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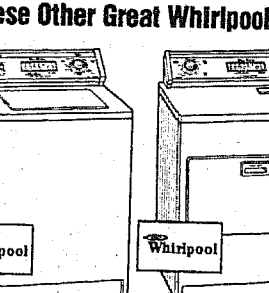
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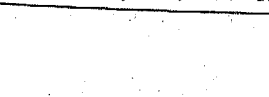
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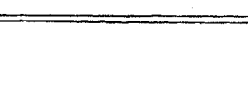


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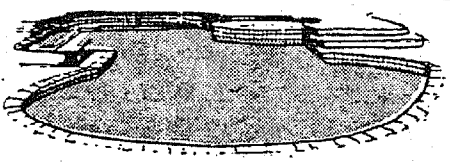


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Nature Notebook

Blackbead: An Evergreen Legume

by Carl Weekley, Jr.

One of the most common native trees in the Keys is also one of the least known. Blackbead (*Pithecellobium guadalupense*), an evergreen legume, is abundant in a variety of habitats from the coastal strand to pinelands and hammock margins. It is a sprawling, multi-trunked shrub or bushy tree that grows to 20 feet. For several reasons, beginning with its botanical name, blackbead is one of the most intriguing of the Keys natives.

The generic name *Pithecellobium* loosely translates as "ape's earring." This is a reference to the coiled seed pod characteristic of the 100-plus members of the genus. But *ape's earring*? If apes wore earrings, why would they look like curled-up bean pods? "Theory is grey," wrote the poet Goethe, "but the tree of life is green."

The second part of the botanical name, the species-epithet, means "of Guadalupe," and implies the broad tropical American range of this species. However, some botanists consider blackbead a separate species endemic to the Keys and call it *P. Keyensis*.

There are two other *Pithecellobiums* in the Keys. *P. unguis-cati* (cat-claw ape's earring) is native. *Cat's claw* refers to the sharp, paired thorns along the branches. It is similar to blackbead in growth habit, but is far less common.

The introduced *P. dulce* (sweet ape's



earring) is, despite its common name Manilla tamarind, a native of South America. This species reaches formidable stature -- 30 to 40 feet. Some of the largest specimens in the Keys may soon be fodder for Navy bulldozers in Peary Court.

Blackbead is a *mosoid* legume, which means that the flowers occur in globular heads, ping-pong ball sized puffballs with several dozen flowers per head. The flower cluster varies in color from shimmering yellow to raucous reddish-browns. The individual flower lacks petals, but 20 to 30 filamentous stamens surround a single pistil. Flowering, which occurs from De-

cember to February, is often profuse. A blackbead in bloom blushes with russets and cream and buzzes with bees drawn to the fragrant flowers. The fruit, a legume two-to-four inches long, curls as it ripens and splits open.

Blackbead is one of three host plants for the large orange sulfur (*Phoebis agarithe*), perhaps the most common of the sulfur butterflies in the Keys. The species is about two-and-a-half inches from wing tip to wing tip. The male is bright orange-yellow; the female much paler and suffused with pink. The female deposits her eggs singly on the new growth; they are spindle-shaped, ribbed and white at first, but turning orange-red after a day or so.

Blackbead is not used as a landscaping plant, but it should be. It is salt-tolerant and low-maintenance; its insects are more fascinating than pestiferous; it produces vibrant color during what some folks call winter; and it attracts birds and butterflies. But it sprawls a bit and, though it can be cut back, it likes lots of room. There is a blackbead at McCoy Indigenous Park which is broader than it is tall.

Blackbead can also be seen at Little Hammaca City Park and just about any upland plant community in the Keys. There are even a few mixed in with the Brazilian peppers along the bridle path across from Smathers Beach. [A]

Tree Frogs: Amphibian Vocalists

by Alisha Sabul

My friend on Big Pine Key told me about the tree frog that lived in her teapot for about a year. Each night the frog ventured out for food, returning to the cozy teapot in the morning to rest. Later, my daughter brought a little green tree frog home, which sparked our interest in these critters.

In the Florida Keys, there are four species of frogs, but only two are tree dwelling. Besides being one of the largest families within the order of Salientia, tree frogs are also one of the most colorful. Most tree frogs are small -- less than two inches long.

There are 500 species of tree frogs throughout the world, ranging from tropical jungles to Canadian woods, and from sea level up to 15,000 feet. They are distinguished by pads, or disks, on their fingers and toes that act like suction cups, permitting the frogs to cling even to smooth, slippery surfaces such as leaves or glass.

Tree frogs "sing," usually during damp weather, or before a rain, and have quite a reputation as "weather prophets." Not easily seen, their location is usually identified first by their trill. Camouflage coloring enables them to hide beneath leaves by day.

The green tree frog, *Hyla cinera*, is about two inches long, but with legs extended it



reaches about six inches. The bright green color, complemented by bright yellow shoulder spots, identifies these as one of the handsomest frogs of all.

The squirrel tree frog, *Hyla squirella*, is the smallest tree frog and more colorful than the green tree frog. Its color range includes bright green, yellow-green, brown, or mottled and spotted. Color changes are caused primarily by environmental conditions, and changes can be rapid.

The best way to identify a squirrel tree frog is by its voice, which sounds like the scolding call of a grey squirrel. Ventriloquistic, the frog produces a harsh or rasping trill. This tree frog is the most common.

You may find one in your home, climbing on screens and windows at night.

The Cuban tree frog (*Hyla septentrionalis*) is also called the giant tree frog. It can attain the size of a bullfrog, for which it is often mistaken, reaching as much as five-and-a-half inches in length. Equipped with long legs and huge toe disks, this species is an able climber. It differs from others in its genus in that the skin along the top of the skull is fused to the bone.

Color variation in this frog ranges from shades of green, yellow and brown to bronze, platinum blonde, silver or ash white in some adults. Smoothly skinned in its youth, it becomes warty with age. The huge Cuban tree frog eats other frogs.

The Cuban tree frog lives throughout the Keys and today it is expanding its residence to the mainland. Its voice is likened to a snore. Dr. William Robertson reports seeing the Cuban tree frog in Garden Key in the Tortugas. Since it is the only amphibian known on these islands, specimens are needed for research.

It was probably introduced to Fort Jefferson by humans. Mr. James Lazell, the author of *Wildlife of the Florida Keys*, believes the Cuban tree frog may be a native in the Lower Keys. Mr. Lazell's most informative book, just published, is recommended for further information. [A]



Michael and Pansie are free spirits. They are in the clover, thanks to their opulent families and their own unflagging appetites for traveling to all the interesting parts of the world. They are in their yacht, *The Nightingale*, that tonight proudly rides the Gulf wavelets just off the Key West shoreline. Actually, they're staying now for a bit at the Galleon in a timeshare sublet. Because Pansie attests to a natural recoil from the culinary arts, they frequently are spotted out dining with smiles of mysterious satisfaction at Key West restaurants -- Louie's Backyard, Mangia-Mangia, Antonia's. And they can't, they *simply cannot*, they say, resist going often out to Bubbali's on Big Coppitt.

This early, warm evening there is a toenail moon. Michael has taken off his shirt and the moon glints off his canteloupe-colored necktie hanging against his copper-toned chest. Pansie's outstanding feature is her mad, unreasonably doctored hair, color of a beet. Pansie always enjoys recalling past food adventures. "Do you remember that cafe in Dublin where we could order chops with a section of the kidneys left on each?" She is thinking, those six Mallory Square bollos in her stomach feel heavy, like the world. Gas.

Michael slacks off on *The Nightingale's* motors, and they dawdle gently around the cheek of Christmas Tree Island. Both see the apparition at once: Through the mangrove limbs, and with the crystal toenail moon shining down, there peers out a little, round, white face. As seen from the yacht, it's as eensie as a pill. They put in. Both come ashore. Pushing back lavishly thick foliage and forcing their way around rubbish abandoned on the unoccupied island, they come upon a cleared area.

Sweetly standing before an orange pup tent is a winsome girl child about eight years old. She has long, fair hair and entralling bluish-white around her turquoise irises.

"I am Little Love," she says. With delicate movements of her toothpick arms, she brings them in as though she were the noblest of hostesses at a ball. Michael and Pansie cross Little Love's handkerchief-sized yard which Little Love has swept down to the earth's skin. Rocks neatly mark the boundaries of her homestead.

Michael and Pansie are seated upon the least awful stretch of a soggy grey sofa that must have floated in. Little Love introduces them to John James -- a big, tatty, brown, down-and-out raccoon sitting in the tent doorway eating a wiener.

"I tried out this and that pet. Goat. Mouse. Oscar fish. Cat. John James here is my pick," Little Love says. John James dispatches the wiener and looks slightly mindful of the blessing. Somewhere deep in the mangroves a dove croo-croos sleepily. Exhausted Christmas poinsettias languish in the cans where they were re-planted.

"Darling heart, are you all alone here?" Pansie's latent maternal instinct is surfacing.

Michael grins tenderly at this occurrence. Little Love is good at conversation. "I am watching over our possessions. My Mom is Lovie. She's off with Lester. They went to Fort Jefferson. Lester is her passionate attachment, she calls him."

Michael and Pansie together ask, "Do you like Lester? Is he good to you?"

Little Love says, "Lester wouldn't squeeze the neck off a fly! When his wife Sadie died he cut off his red beard and flung it in the coffin." Here she gives a dramatic gesture, conveying the depths of Lester's anguish. She adds, "Lester is so big that he breathes up all the oxygen in our tent."

Pansie says, "But aren't you afraid now here alone?"

"No-sir-ee. If the Seven Mile Bridge Bikini Snatcher tries to land here, I've got my mace. 'Sides, I've got my Gramma and Grampa who love me *very much*. Gramma had my tonsils bronzed when I had to have them out. They set on her chifferobe in Panama City. Grampa's little coffee shop is on the beach there. His coffee shop is in the shape of an oyster. We're skint now and Grampa will send help. Grampa doesn't much like Lester, so he calls our island home here Red Russia. How's everything in Red Russia, he always writes on his cards to General Delivery."

Michael glances at his watch that is so pricey it cost more than all of Christmas Tree Island could bring on the market.

Pansie longs to put her arms around Little Love, so alone, with nothing to comfort her but John James, the orange pup tent and the icy, heartless sheen of the Gulf moon.

Pansie taps her emerald ring against her book by Marguerite Duras. It's translated from French and she carries it about to dip into at stops during their travels. Her mind rests upon Lovie and upon Lester. And upon the inherent imperfection of human relationships. Lovie leaves darling, delicate Little Love, a beguiling small girl, so like a poem. She thinks: Can it be that our roads always fork, and that sometimes we take the wrong turn? Perhaps Lovie and Lester are so intimately dependent upon one another that this precludes all other claims. Little Love is left to stand alone against these

greater claims.

Michael has started the low hum of the yacht motors. Pansie goes aboard, looking back, blowing a troubled kiss to Little Love. Little Love stands there beside John James who stares out disdainfully at the waves left in their wake.

Thank God for the marvelous diversity of your creatures, Pansie says to herself. Whatever she means by that. [A]

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Readers Write

The Burgermeister's Beef

Dear Editor:

This letter is in clarification of Mr. Allen Meece's letter in your February issue regarding billboards along U.S. Highway One.

In his letter, Mr. Meece refers to Ed Swift as part owner of a Burger King franchise. I am the franchisee, owner/operator of the two Burger King restaurants located in Key West. Mr. Swift does not own any portion of the franchise for these two restaurants, nor does he have any ownership of the other Burger King restaurants located throughout Monroe County.

Since letters to the editor are so very popular in Key West, I would like to see more attention given to verification of facts on either the part of the writer or the editor before the letters are published.

In response to Mr. Meece's criticism of billboards, we will certainly discontinue the use of these directional signs at such time as they are no longer legal in Monroe County.

Billboards are placed on private property with the property owner's knowledge, consent and receipt of compensation. I suggest Mr. Meece contact the various owners with

a purchase offer and, if accepted, he can then remove any offending billboards located on his newly acquired property.

William E. Sellers
Key West

I Am a Local

Dear Editor:

I awoke with the light, put on my pink neon shorts -- so that the sun-crazed tourists could see this person -- and pedaled swiftly to my favorite local drugstore for Sunday breakfast. Arriving, I fondly gazed at the corner of United and Simonton Streets and made a major decision. If Dennis Pharmacy is bought up by some foreign conglomerate, i.e., Miami *et al.*, I will move.

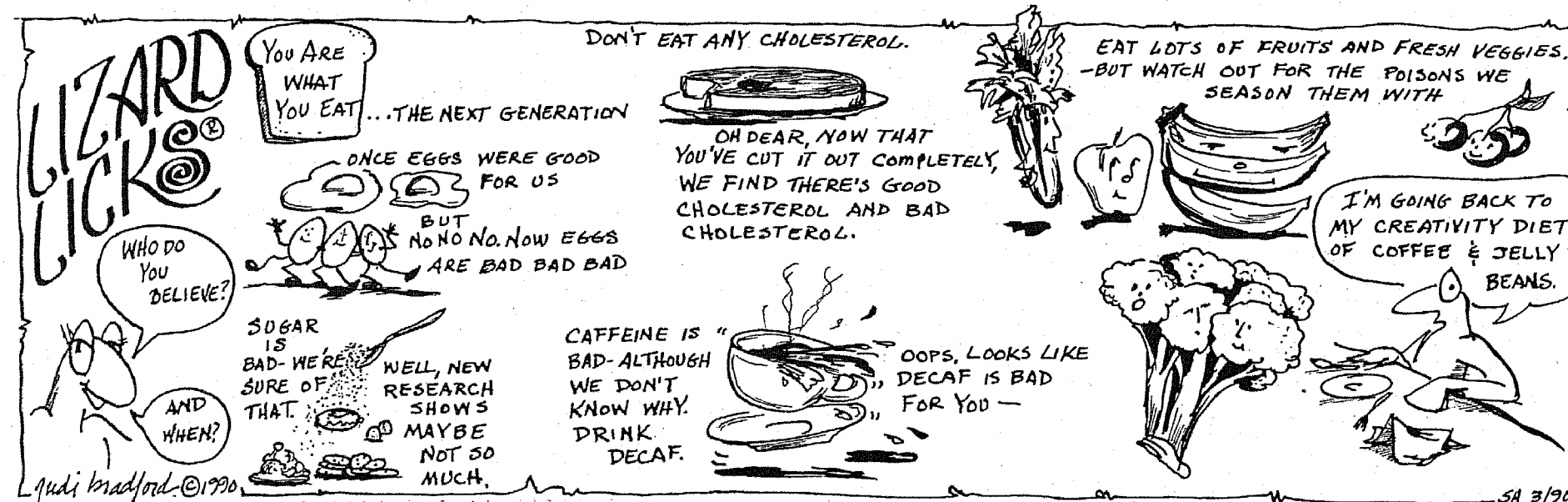
Living here nine years this month, I have witnessed one historic landmark after another dissolve into sweat-flying discos, T-shirt trash traps, karma-crystal booths, high-tech frozen-yogurt counters and adult bookstores housing three-foot-square porno video stalls where, for a mere 25 cents, you can feast your eyes on "sex" for three seconds. And, as a perk, attached to the heavy-breathing graffitied walls are plump rolls of white industrial-strength paper towels subtly but conveniently placed at

finger's length.

I never said I was a saint. But where is Shorty's Diner, Bill's Muffler and Tim's Welding shops, the Fourth of July and Port of Call restaurants, the Picture Show, and the old Louie's Backyard where we sat drinking beer and cheap wine. We talked of nothing ordinary as we became mesmerized by the moonlight bouncing over the gentle black waves.

I am in my studio now, and as I listen to the church bells chime, I await the screeching noises from the Conch trains, trolley cars, kamikaze cabs and the delinquent skateboarders colliding with raw and blistered tourists who smell of sunblock as their warm flat beer hits the littered pavement. In the distance I can hear the constant buzz of the jet-ski invasion, and I envision those muscled macho men, suggestively straddled on their noise polluters, thrustfully tearing up the delicate flats, threatening the limbs and lives of fearless swimmers and divers.

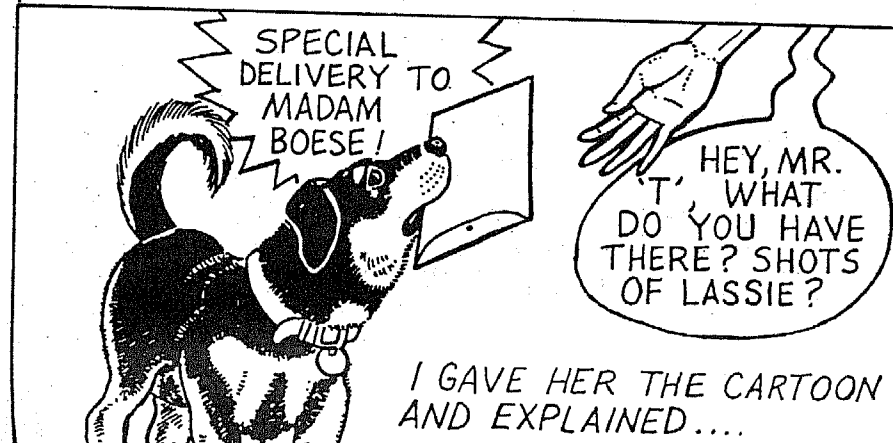
I moan, bemoan and threaten to vacate lest I run over a wandering tourist with my Conch bicycle or shoot BB holes into the steel drums that repeatedly bang out some obscure island chant while I am cutting,



MY DAD IS AN ILLUSTRATOR, MY MOM AN ENVIRONMENTALIST, MAKING ME CONCERNED AND SENSITIVE, WITH A PENCHANT FOR FANTASY. I SUPPOSE THAT'S WHY I'M A NATURAL AS A 'NEWSHOUND'.

DATE: SUNDAY AFTERNOON, FEB. 18. DAD'S UPSET. AS AN ARTIST-ABOUT-TOWN, ONE OF HIS JOBS IS 'EDITORIAL CARTOONIST' FOR THE KEY WEST CITIZEN. HIS CARTOONS ARE RARELY CENSORED, BUT THIS WAS ONE OF THOSE DAYS. APPARENTLY THE 'CITIZEN' FELT... BUT THAT'S ANOTHER STORY. I DECIDED TO ACT.

THE NEXT DAY I WENT TO VISIT MY FRIEND, ANN BOESE, EDITOR OF SOLARES HILL...



placing and pasting my life together. This year I will be in Europe painting my emotions, and then on to India to travel my dreams. But I will return, for they can't take away the warmth of the sun, the cool salty ocean breezes, the pink, magenta and coral bougainvillea with its menacing thorns daring to be plucked, the history that sleeps in the Key West Cemetery, and the spirit that stalks the streets. Most of all, they can't take away my memories.

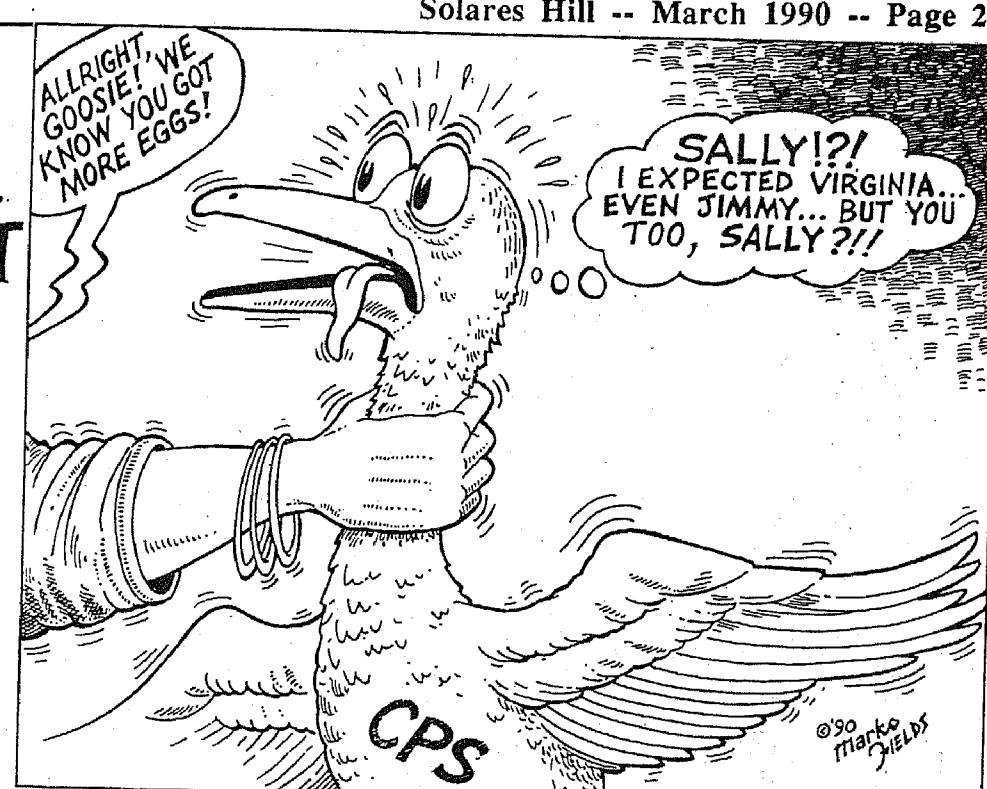
I will also return for another reason. I thought of a creative "money-maker" which may lower our taxes and preserve our Key West heritage with dignity. I will be put on the agenda for the next commission meeting and suggest that the city design a T-shirt after the garbage-truck logo, "We cater parties, free snow removal." I know it is only 11 a.m. now, but I deserve a Margarita

for this brilliant idea. I hope I don't run into any condo-hawking brochure pushers. If I do I will arrogantly turn and say, "No, thank you. I am a local."

Robert B. Marks
Key West

An Editor's Correction About Upper Duval

In a comment in February's *Solares Hill* article on upper Duval Street Bob Kennedy used the phrase "open space" to describe how distances between stores can make a commercial street less attractive for shoppers. In his comments, Kennedy was in no way referring to open space in the environmental sense, a concept he supports strongly. *Solares Hill* did not intend any implication to the contrary, and apologizes



SHE LOOKED AT THE CARTOON AND CHUCKLED, "SO WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL WITH THIS? IT IS, AFTER ALL, HOW THEY VOTED." SHE ADDED, "SURE, TYRELL, WE'LL PRINT IT. BUT TELL MARKO HE OWES ME 'CON-LECHES' FOR A WEEK."

A FEW DAYS LATER A SEQUENCE OF EVENTS TOOK PLACE, BASICALLY RENDERING THE ABOVE CARTOON OBSOLETE.

FIRST, COMMISSIONER SALLY LEWIS REVERSES HER DECISION ON THE 'SUNSET-CPS' VOTE.

to anyone who may have drawn an erroneous conclusion.

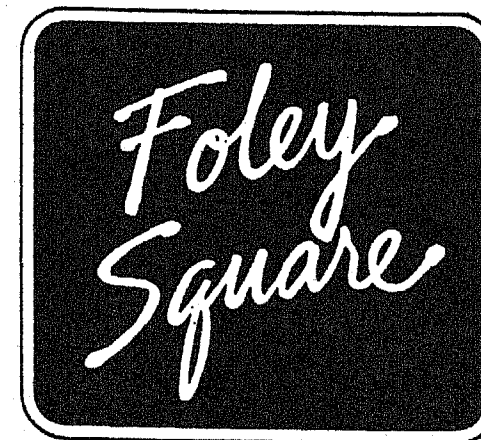
A couple of callers were perturbed the article hadn't mentioned some longtime stores on upper Duval. We omit their names here only because of our concern in not offending still other businesses.

-- G.S.

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Art Circle

Deux Femmes / Deux Artistes

by Judi Bradford

One can be lulled into contentment by pretty paintings -- wonderful landscapes that highlight a special effect of sunshine in foliage or delightful abstracts that juxtapose colors and shapes. Occasionally, however, an artist raises the screen of illusion and blasts the viewer with a powerful vision of life's realities. It is a quick elevator ride to a new perspective on familiar territory.

Key West offers that opportunity at East Martello Museum this month. Dalva Duarte

just opening ...

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and Roberta Marks are exhibiting coordinated works in various media that use visual symbols to express deep human emotions.

Deux Femmes is a group of works with impact. If you are uncomfortable with boiling hot springs of feminine intensity, better bring your blankie along to this show.

Both artists are warm, strong women who make pungent observations through their artwork. Both exhibit and travel internationally. Roberta has a large map of the world with colored pins marking her geographical paths. Though both work on a grand scale to confront universal themes, their images differ. Roberta's works are oblique self-portraits relating to her own haunted anxieties. Dalva describes herself as a *voyeur* into others' lives and torments.

Both have an unerring eye for color and composition, but each has her own working style. Dalva puts herself into every step of the work. She builds her own stretchers for her canvases; she mixes her watercolors from dry pigments. Roberta designs her pieces intricately, then employs assistants for the technical business of her constructions and for the administrative details of slide care and correspondence.

Roberta's constructions are lyrical glimpses into the depths of her personal guilts and agonies. They are accompanied in this exhibit by her poetry. Some present unbearable sadness; others reveal a hesitant

reach for hope and relief. Each piece has at its core a symbol that represents the artist within an environment of stress or trauma.

An empty chair under an interrogation lamp forms the hub of "I wait for you like a young maiden waits for innocent dreams to be wrapped in white ribbons." Above it a raven is targeted, a direct hit shows as a blood-red light in its heart. The tone is furthered by a black mirror, dark fabrics, and a fragile image of an East Indian woman. The starkness of the electric light spotlights the chair.

Roberta counterbalances the weight of these pieces with bright, bold acrylic abstracts. "They afford me physical release," she says. "I feel happy when I do them. I play music. I can think."

Her studio is enormous and filled with objects collected for her constructions. Downstairs there is a gallery, then a big room with large canvases in various stages of completion on the walls. A long worktable, covered with colors, brushes, jars and buckets, waits nearby for the mood to strike that brings the brush strokes to life again. Another long, wide table holds a half-dozen constructions. Lined up with pieces balanced in position and sketches and notes beside them, they await the hand of Roberta's assistant.

Upstairs is another huge room filled with objects -- all impeccably organized in boxes

and drawers and in little groups on shelves. Not a speck of dust rests anywhere; not a thing is out of place. There are bins of wooden checkers; marbles, sorted by size and color; doll-house chairs; stuffed birds; wooden hoops; mirror bits; linoleum swatches from the '40s; yellowed lace. And in the corner are eight feet of shelves crammed with boxes which will contain self-portraits to come.

The most remote area of the restored Conch-house studio has white formica counters and desks for slide reviewing and recordkeeping -- the business of art. It is a formidable environment -- a factory dedicated to reproducing Roberta's dreams and nightmares.

Now step into Dalva's studio. It is a casual pair of large rooms -- one for oils, one for watercolors. It exudes the smells of art -- turpentine, linseed oil, obscure glues.

Finished and unfinished pieces hang floor-to-ceiling on the 12-foot high walls. A rolling staircase allows access to the top-most paintings. Furniture draped with sheets gives the place an air of classicism. And everywhere you look, there are paintings. A series of small still lifes featuring coffee beans look like Rembrandts. Golden light and deep shadows glow under a heavily varnished surface. Against the north wall are fractured figures on a warm cocoa background reminiscent of the Cubists.

The elements of the paintings float together in an atmosphere borrowed from the surrealists. Sometimes they are tied together with a single, thin, straight line that repre-

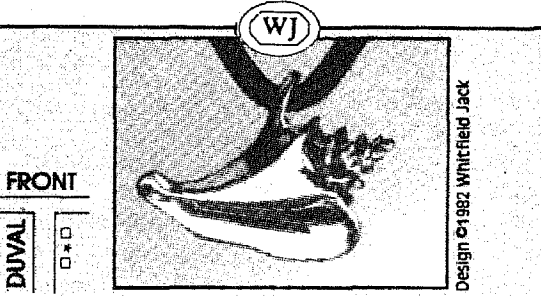
sents the passage of time and its effects.

In "Homage to Brenda," Dalva remembers the death of a friend who seemed happy and healthy 23 days before she died from undetected cancer. The graphic white line in the painting connects insets of people affected by Brenda's life, then travels through the pre-Raphaelite death figure holding a gold leaf globe, and on toward infinity.

Typically, Dalva's paintings are numbered rather than titled. "I don't like to explain or title the works," she says. "They are an opportunity for people to put their dreams into the symbols."

A large watercolor diptych depicts two crouched figures, male and female, crawling into a huge glove. There is a tone of fear; the figures seek protection.

Another series of watercolors is light and



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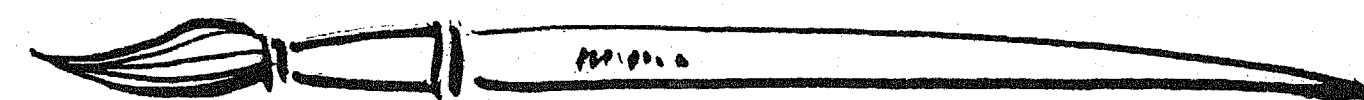
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buoyant - an impressionist's sunny afternoon. Beyond those are the agony-of-war paintings that illustrate the terror and despair of senseless death.

Dalva's diverse themes span the experiences of contemporary life -- the warm contacts, the terrible intrusion of war, encounters with mortality, reflective moments.

Her subjects are laid onto backgrounds that have been worked in layers. They are a complex development of subtleties. Each time the artist returns to them for another layer, things have happened in her life that influence what she does next. The background for "Homage to Brenda" was a year and a half in the making. The layering builds up a structure of geometric shapes. Lights and darks begin to evolve and brush strokes suggest secondary shapes.

Dalva's work reflects the images of several cultures. She has studied in Brazil, France and Argentina. Portuguese is her first language, then Spanish, French and English. She has spoken English for only five years. This is the first exhibit of Dalva's work in Key West.

The twining of Dalva Duarte and Roberta Marks creates a compelling combination of talents. See this show at East Martello Museum and Historical Society, March 6 through April 1. As Roberta tells her students, "Open up. Let out your feelings."

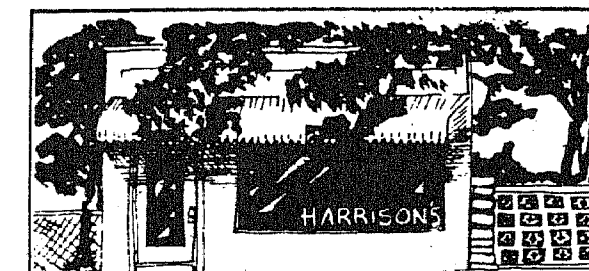
New in Island Art

by Judi Bradford

Ici on parle français. For Francophiles, a new gallery featuring the artwork of French painters has opened in Duval Square. L'Entrepot Des Arts imports contemporary pieces in a variety of styles of two-dimensional media.

Pascal Lemagny and Martine Fontana opened last month, and Martine is now back in Paris selecting more work. Pascal is an irrepressible idealist who speaks of the soul of the artist and the spirit of expression. It's worth a trip to the gallery just to listen to him philosophize.

At 901 Duval Street, rear, Lee Dodez has opened a showroom of his and others' clay work. He teaches advanced ceramics there, in a working studio for his constructions and, temporarily, for Jay Gogin's ornate



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Art Collections Key West • National, international artists, plus Keys works by Matson, Shannon and others. Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 11 p.m.; Sunday 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. 600 Front Street in the Bottling Court, 296-5956.
Art Unlimited • Oldest private art gallery in Key West. First to carry Haitian art. "I go in after it." Daily, noon to 5 p.m. and by appointment. 217 Duval St., 296-5625.

Audubon House • *The Wonderful Waterbirds of John James Audubon*, selected plates from the Double Elephant Folio, *Birds of America*, now through April 30; \$5 admission, children under 6 free, AAA discount. Daily, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. 205 Whitehead St., 294-2116.

Banana Boat Batik • Hand-painted silk and cotton by Key West Attitude. New ceramic work by Walt Hyla: animals, fish, lidded vessels, functional ware, and hanging fish sculptures. Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. 419B Duval St., 296-2380.

Lee Dodez Showroom • Clay work by Lee Dodez and others. Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to noon; weekends whenever. 901 Duval St., rear.

Doll Show • *Dolls in Paradise*, the annual show of the Florida Keys Doll Collectors. One day only, March 3, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Peace Covenant Presbyterian Church, 2610 Flagler. For information, call Padron Doll Shop, 294-3735.

East Bank Gallery • Paintings by local artists, limited edition prints, pottery, jewelry and framing. Open daily from 10 a.m. or by appointment. 706 White Street. 296-2679.

East Martello Museum & Gallery • *Deux Femmes*, coordinated works by Dalva Duarte and Roberta Marks; paintings, sculptures, constructions and poetry. Daily, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. \$3 admission for non-members. 3501 S. Roosevelt Blvd. 296-3913.

Farrington Art Gallery • New watercolors by Errol Etienne. Rearranging sale!

vessels. A small gallery at the entrance shows a good selection of clay ware, both functional and sculptural. Lee brims with generous observations on other artists' work as well as insights into his own.

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MARCH ART CALENDAR

Check our discounts on everything. Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Sunday 12 to 6 p.m. Gallery and framing by appointment also. 711 Duval St. 294-6911.

A Florida Keys Community College Library Gallery • Student Show opens Friday, March 9, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. through March. Open Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.; Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Saturday, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Junior College Rd., Stock Island, 296-9081, ext. 202.

Nancy Forrester • Antique prints of plants and animals: 1690 to 1890. Noon to 6 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday. 518 Elizabeth Street, 294-0015.

Galerie Moderne • Abstract expressionism. Daily, 1 to 5 p.m. or by appointment. 516 Amelia St., 296-3156.

Gingerbread Square Gallery • Carol Sadowski, acrylics on canvas, through March 5. March 6 through 20, mixed media on paper by Ron Clemons. Seven days, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. 901 Duval St., 296-8900.

Great Southern Gallery • Florida wildlife artist Lauri R. Kaihlane showing fish and fowl super realism acrylics, miniature to 30-by-40 inches. Paintings by Tricia Hurt at TIB Bank at Eaton and Whitehead. Call about art classes. Thursday through Monday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. 910 Duval St., 294-6660.

Guild Hall Gallery • Drawings, paintings, prints, soft sculpture, cartoons, printed and hand-painted cards, ceramics, T-shirts, leather bags, photography, painted mirrors, stained glass and ironwork by 16 Key West artists. Daily, 9:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Evenings sometimes. 614 Duval St., 296-6076.

Haitian Art Company • Mini-shows: Madsen Mompremier, Seymour Bottex, Michel-Ange Altidot. Daily, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 600 Frances St., 296-8932.

Harrison Gallery • Works by Helen Harrison, Matthew Lineberger, Cricket Barnes, Ann Lorraine, Nancy Bender, Joe Derr, Sharon Wells and Sherry Read. Tuesday through Saturday, noon to 5:30 p.m. 825 White St., 294-0609.

Is It Art • Hand-painted art-wear, prints and wall-hangings. Open daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Weekend evenings. 913

Duval St., 294-0411.
Kennedy Studios • Graphics, limited-edition prints. Daily, 9 a.m. to 10 p.m., 133 Duval St., 294-5850; daily, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., 716 Duval St., 296-7251; and a new store at 511 Duval St., 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. 294-8564.

Key West Art Center • Members' work. Daily, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. 301 Front St., 294-1241.
Lane Gallery • Paintings by Craig Biondi March 19 through April 8. Daily, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. 1000 Duval St., 294-0067.

L'Entrepot des Arts • Contemporary French and European art. Look for work by new artists late in March. Tuesday through Saturday, 2 to 9 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. 1075 Duval Street, Duval Square. 294-0935.

Lucky Street Gallery • Thomas Mann jewelry and constructions, opening March 15 through April 14. Also, Gary Spinosa ceramics. Daily, 11 am to 6 pm; open until 9 p.m. Thursday through Saturday. 919 Duval St., 294-3973.

Mosquito Coast Island Outfitters • Showing works by Key West artists; sculpture by Tom Joris, back-country paintings and prints by Michael Shannon, and works by others. Daily 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. 1107 Duval St., 296-6124.

Parker Chase Gallery • Oils by Sherrill Chase, select antique furnishings, quilts, collectibles. 1024 Truman Ave. 296-0706.

Plantation Potters • Stoneware and porcelain vessels, lamps. Handblown glass, wooden utensils. All made in USA. Daily 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 717 Duval St., 294-3143.

Rose Lane Antiquities • Pre-Columbian art. Daily, noon to 5 p.m. and by appointment. 524 Rose Lane, 294-2270.

Santa Fe • Southwestern art, jewelry and furniture. Open 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Thursday through Tuesday; closed Wednesday. 219 Whitehead Street. 294-0397.

Whitehead Street Pottery • Stoneware, porcelain, Raku vessels. Daily except Tuesday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 1011 Whitehead St., 294-5067.

rill Chase are nestled among a cozy group of antiques, hand-stitched quilts and mountain weavings at the Parker Chase Gallery at 1024 Truman Avenue. Sherrill and her husband have a similar shop in Canada and have been on Truman Avenue for two months. "Response has been very good," she says. Her work is the only fine art shown there, but it has twice won Old Island Days Art Festival prizes and is featured on the back cover and in an article in a recent *Reader's Digest*.

Stay tuned for more that's new in town, next month.

A Walk in the Woods

Key West Botanical Garden Is Green and Free

by Elizabeth M. Smith

A haven for flora, fauna and people exists in the unlikelyst of places. Situated off Junior College Road on Stock Island is an accessible, 11-acre, natural treasure -- the Key West Botanical Garden.

But for many locals, this splendid sanctuary remains undiscovered. At a recent Arbor Day celebration held here, Mayor Tony Tarracino, who has lived in Key West for more than 40 years, admitted that he had not previously been aware of the garden's existence. Once enlightened, the mayor marveled at the beauty of the garden, the entrance of which will soon be flanked by two *Pseudophoenix sargentii* palms donated by the Key West Woman's Club.

To enter this garden is a primordial pleasure. Offering a return to the roots of our woodland origins, it's a spiritual experience. The garden is dense with trees and shrubs, both native and transplanted. On a walk down the aptly named Jungle Trail toward the Black Hole, the tropical greenery against the stark branches of non-indigenous trees struck an impressive contrast.

Gumbo-limbos are among the most noticeable trees along the path. These are sometimes called "tourist trees" because their red, peeling bark resembles the skin of a snowbird who has roasted too long in the sun. The poisonwood trees seem to want to rub shoulders with the unwary traveler; contact with their beautiful, spotted bark or glossy leaves causes an uncomfortable reaction in some people.

Brazilian pepper trees grow in profusion; their blossoms are particularly favored by the amethyst hairstreak butterfly. The Stock Island tree snail -- a threatened species -- prefers the Governor's plum trees. These snails are very sensitive: even slight disturbances may disrupt their eight-month nesting cycle, which begins in late summer to early fall. The snails are a gastronomical treat for the garden's resident raccoons.

One of two freshwater ponds on the property, the Black Hole is surrounded by red mangroves and buttonwoods. The bark of the latter is raised like a frightened cat's fur; its limbs twist in seemingly impossible directions and curve down to the water.

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Garden of Eden: A relaxed group of *Homo sapiens* mingle among the gumbo-limbos at last year's Key West Botanical Garden party.

where they take root. Freshwater fish inhabit this pond, which is patrolled by scarlet dragonflies.

The garden was established in 1935 by the Federal Emergency Relief Administration in hope of attracting much-needed tourist dollars to a local economy wracked by depression. Originally, it encompassed 55 acres of hardwood hammocks with two ponds. Subsequent encroachment by the golf course and county buildings have reduced it to its present size.

The site was neglected for many years. In the early '60s the remaining space was cleared and re-opened to the public. At the urging of the Key West Garden Club, the city commission declared it a permanent botanical garden and wildlife sanctuary. The Garden Club later assumed the lease on this city-owned property. The Botanical Garden Society hopes to take over this lease when it expires next year.

Three of the trees have been awarded State Championship status. A point system which refers to such factors as circumference of trunk, total height of tree, crown

You're Invited

On March 10, from 12 to 4 p.m., the Key West Botanical Garden will hold its annual garden party fundraiser. Everyone is invited, and admission is free.

This year's party, which will feature a Caribbean theme, is sponsored by Bender-Tanis Real Estate. Infinite Tolerance will make their reggae music. There will be free food, a cash bar, door prizes and a raffle. T-shirts and memberships can be purchased. The Alice Terry memorial benches, acquired with the proceeds from last year's fundraiser, will be dedicated on this occasion.

The garden entrance is located between Bay Shore Manor and the Center of Hope.

spread and physical condition is used to determine champion trees.

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Music Review

Leanna and Bert Capture Rooftop Cafe Crowd

by Christine Naughton

There's a step down to sleep
It's just fall, gently fall
Little darlin' don't you weep
It's just fall, gently fall
We are captured by it all

Bert Lee
"Captured"

There's a new act enhancing the sunset hours on the first floor of the Rooftop Cafe on Front Street. Actually, it's a merging of two of Key West's best musicians, Leanna Collins and Bert Lee.

Locals will be glad to know that Bert Lee has rejoined the ranks of working musicians

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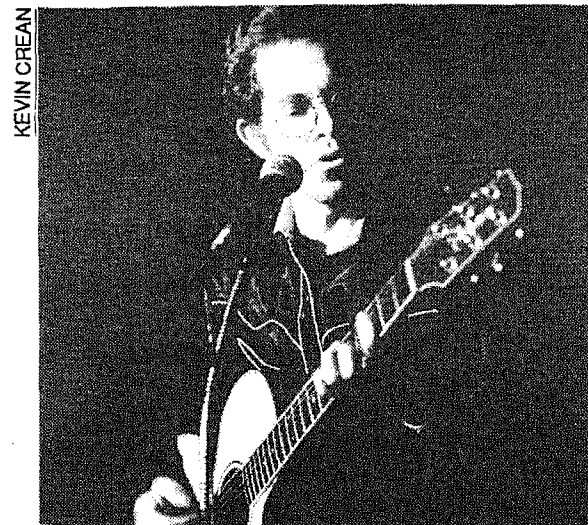
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in Key West. Too often, it seems, a lack of business savvy denies some of our best professional performers the chance to be heard. Hearing Bert play and sing reinforces the fact that this situation results in everyone's loss. Personally, my hat is off to Leanna Collins and the Rooftop Cafe management for recognizing the advantage of putting Bert back to work. It's great to be able to hear him again.

These two are so good together it's a wonder they hadn't thought of teaming up before. Both are excellent guitar players and singers, and their large combined repertoire is a balance of popular songs and some wonderful original tunes by Bert, as well as a few surprises.

On two recent visits to hear the duo, tables were packed with appreciative audiences. Folks gathered outside the open windows lining the room to listen in. The music and the people combined with the open-air feel of the room to create a friendly energy.

With Bert ably handling the lead guitar and Leanna displaying her considerable chops on rhythm guitar and also playing



Intensity: Bert Lee

bass on some tunes, the duo produced a consistently warm, full sound. Their guitar work was well synchronized and they managed to sound rehearsed and spontaneous at the same time.

Bert and Leanna began with John Hendricks' jazz classic, "Centerpiece." After trading lead vocals with the first and second verses, they harmonized on the third. Bert played a thoughtful guitar solo for a chorus, and they took the tune out together with a chorus of tasty harmony.

The duo engaged in some great guitar interplay on Antonio Carlos Jobim's "One Note Samba." Leanna smoothly handled the lead vocal on this one, with a nice guitar solo by Bert between choruses.

"Cow Cow Boogie," an obscure tune once recorded by the Andrews Sisters, was next. This is a sweetly flowing, quasi-cowboy ditty, rollin' along like the wide open spaces. Leanna crooned the lead and Bert responded with another fluent guitar solo. The fade-out at the end was great.

Leanna then left the stage for Bert to ask big-band leader Cab Calloway's musical question, "Is You Is Or Is You Ain't?" This tune is right up Bert's alley -- sneaky blues

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RICHARD WATERWAY



Beyond category: Leanna Collins

lines to play on the guitar, great lyrics to feel and sing.

The duo reunited for their popular rendition of the Beatles' "Day Tripper," and then launched an a cappella vocal lead-in to a rollicking version of Joni Mitchell's "Raised on Robbery." Watching Leanna sing this one was a gas.

Other highlights included a slinky tune called "Someone's Makin' Trouble," by Dr. Jazz, a little-known West Coast band; Leanna's lovely vocal interpretation of Sade's "Smooth Operator;" and Bert's exciting slide guitar solo on Bonnie Raitt's funky "Working on a Love Letter."

Throughout the performance, Bert's guitar solos were exemplary. All made strong and provocative sense and were superbly executed.

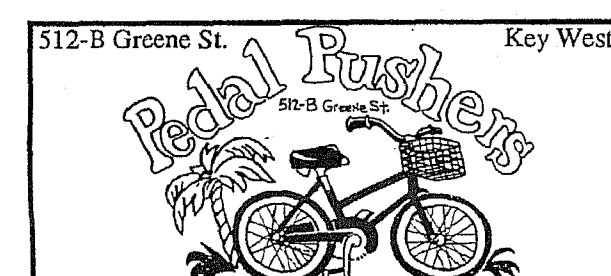
And that ain't all. "Blue Hotel" is a classic example of Bert's fine songwriting skill.

Hilarious lyrics set to a finely crafted melody line tell the story of this wacky wayside inn. Sooner or later, everybody spends a night in a Blue Hotel.

Another tune written by Bert is the ethereal "Captured." Haunting minor changes set the scene for Bert's moving reflections on falling rain and falling in love. The duo's voices blended the melody and harmony like sugar and cream. This is a tune akin to the memory of a satisfying love affair, staying with the listener long after the last chord has been played.

Watch for posters announcing Bert's concert, upstairs at the Rooftop, sometime during the third week of March. This will be a showcase of Bert's newest original tunes, and he will be joined by some wonderful local musicians.

In the meantime, get captured in the tenderest of traps by Bert Lee and Leanna Collins from 6 to 10 p.m. at the Rooftop Cafe. They play together on Friday and Saturday evenings; Leanna appears alone Sunday through Tuesday; Bert appears alone on Wednesday. The Rooftop is at 310 Front Street.



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Film Festival

by Anne Carlisle

A short trip down memory lane and Duval Street may recall to residents who've been here a few years the old Key West Picture Show. It was a hip kind of place where you could drink champagne or beer while watching a film you couldn't see out on the Boulevard. Anything from *My Life as a Dog* to *Blue Velvet* were projected onto the small square screen in a living-room-sized, musty-smelling theater.

Out in the lobby Barbie dolls straddled boxes of Raisinettes and Soviet paraphernalia hung from the walls. It was an eccentric, intimate, exotic, slightly daring place to go -- a little decadent in its funkiness, but comforting. A lovelorn lady or gent could go there every night, if need be, and get a dose of art good enough to put her or him on the mend. It was, you know, a real Key West experience.

Is that sort of experience gone for good? Ask Frank Taylor and he will say it is not. Taylor is originator and organizer of Key West's Annual International Film Festivals at The Reach. The former movie producer has lined up a dozen beauties for this year's festival.

The festival begins Sunday, March 25 and continues through Saturday, offering two films every evening. The pairings are intriguing, as is obvious in Sunday's American bi-coastal openers, *Scenes From the Class Struggle in Beverly Hills* at 6 p.m., and *New York Stories* at 9:30 p.m. In *New York Stories*, three of Hollywood's greatest directors, Woody Allen, Francis Coppola and Martin Scorsese, create a trilogy about life in Manhattan that ranges from a comedy about a lawyer and his mother to a dark drama on art and obsession. *Scenes From the Class Struggle*



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The Misfits, 1961: Those who made this film classic pose in Reno, Nevada. Front row: Montgomery Clift, Marilyn Monroe and Clark Gable; back row: Frank Taylor, Eli Wallach, Arthur Miller and John Huston.

has been called "a mad, pansexual comedy" in which libidos boil, hearts break and love blooms under the California palms.

Monday night's offerings are Germany's magical and heartwarming *Bagdad Cafe* at 6 p.m. and *Handful of Dust* at 9:30 p.m. from the United Kingdom. In *Handful of Dust*, Academy Award winners Angelica Huston and Alec Guinness give superb performances in a handsome adaptation of Evelyn Waugh's novel about a wealthy

family in 1930's England. The Tuesday night viewer goes to Denmark for *Babette's Feast* at 6 p.m. And *Prick Up Your Ears* at 9:30 p.m. tells the riveting story of the tragically short career of one of England's most brilliant playwrights, Joe Orton.

Wednesday night, Taylor will treat audiences to two of the films he produced, *Mystery Street* at 6 p.m. and *The Misfits* at 9:30 p.m. Complementing the work, Taylor will present an informal lecture, "Marilyn

and Other Hollywood Matters," at 8:30 p.m.

Then on Thursday, it's across the seas again to Spain, for *Matador*, a 1988 film from the hot filmmaker Pedro Almodovar. *Matador*, which will run at 6 p.m., is a psychosexual melodrama which depicts a fateful love affair between a lame ex-bullfighter and a criminal lawyer. Almodovar has enjoyed three major international successes, including *Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown*. At 9:30 p.m., *Scenes from the Class Struggle in Beverly Hills* will be re-shown.

The weekend will bring another pair of films from the United States and Spain, respectively, with a 6 p.m. showing of *Sammy and Rosie Get Laid*, directed by Stephen Frears, and a 9:30 p.m. run of Almodovar's *Law of Desire* on Friday.

The closing honors, however, belong to perennial favorite Federico Fellini, who brings his unique understanding of humanity to the shocking satire, *Ginger and Fred*, which will be shown at 6 p.m. Giulietta Masine and Marcello Mastroianni star as an aging pair of Rogers and Astair imitators who are reunited after 30 years for a Christmas television special. *Babette's Feast* will run at 9:30 p.m.

Taylor has enjoyed good response to past efforts and expects to do the same this year. But offering quality film for group audiences is no easy feat.

Putting on film festivals is expensive and they are not always well received. Equipment, if it must be rented, can cost over \$150 per night and another \$50 for the operator. The films themselves cost hun-

dreds of dollars. *Scenes from the Class Struggle in Beverly Hills*, the opening night film, costs \$200.

Tickets for the Annual International Film Festival at The Reach are \$6 per film and are available at the door. The bar opens at 5 p.m. For information call 296-5000, ext. 602.

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RICHARD HELLMAN, PH.D.

Many people who suffer from anxiety, depression or just the stresses of everyday life, often need to seek a professional counseling service for help. RICHARD HELLMAN, Ph.D. provides a full range of counseling services for individuals and families in Key West. His office is located at 513 Fleming Street, phone 294-1469. So often people feel very alone and may feel that they have no one to turn to. RICHARD HELLMAN, Ph.D. provides complete psychological services for adults, adolescents and children. Treatment for substance abuse, marriage and family problems and anxiety can be obtained by scheduling appointments and most insurances are accepted. We, the editors of this 1990 Review, highly recommend that you contact RICHARD HELLMAN, Ph.D. at 294-1469 for appointments and additional information.

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Spreading Roots in Key West

by Louis Harris

I am a new resident of Key West. I built a house here and came here from New York City to live during the winter months for three reasons: the people were right; the climate was perfect; and as a newly functioning globalist, I find Key West may be as convenient to operate from as the middle of Manhattan.

I am neither here on holiday, nor have I retired. I hope to continue to function this winter as the CEO of one of the leading public opinion research firms in the world, as I might from my Rockefeller Center offices. My colleagues in New York, London, Paris and elsewhere might end up cursing the day I chose to move to Key West, or they might feel vastly relieved not to have me grace their presence with my physical self on a daily basis. I am sure that some who cannot normally take up my time with irrelevancies at work will overburden me via a Fax machine -- fair game for such intrusions. But I can also retaliate by simply dropping their empty and meaningless missiles into my wastebasket.

A year ago last month, we came down to



occupy a spanking new house that David Wolkowsky swore would be finished by January 31. We arrived and not only had no finished house, but no Certificate of Occupancy, thus no water, electricity, toilet facilities, or any other amenities we cannot live without. So, we camped out with Margaret Lang, our dear friend and neighbor, for two weeks, and then led a catch-as-catch-can existence for the remaining two weeks of our initial stay in our new home.

Bluntly speaking, we went back to New York doubtful that our new plantings would survive, wondering what the completed house would really be like to live in, and asking ourselves if we had made a terrible blunder in buying into chaotic uncertainty at a relatively advanced stage of life. Much as with old cats -- we transported two such to Key West this winter -- older human beings are more comfortable in older digs. To move can be a serious shock to neural structures growing frail.

Last year, we did come back to Key West in mid-April and again in early October. The plantings which Daphne Bettle had so painstakingly begun took hold and were blooming at a rate beyond any I had

ever seen. The trees we thought would die obviously were surviving; the house felt more settled; the place began to feel much more a part of ourselves. I've always felt the mark of "feeling at home" is to move freely and unconsciously through corridors and rooms, totally oblivious to the passage-ways you are trespassing. Then, it is your haunt, your pad, an extension of yourself.

Now, a new decade, a new arrival, and the house might be five years old, not barely one. Now, we've finally hung most of the pictures and artifacts. My work space is settled; my computer with modem, laser printer, three telephones and Fax machine are all



working splendidly. I am wired for sound.

Coming back to Key West this year has been unmitigated joy. After the freezing climes of the North in December, the warmth of the days and nights here feels so good. The people we care about, such as Trude Lash (how desperately we miss Joe, who was a special mentor of mine), John and Barbara Hersey, Ed and Shirley Block, and many others all are even better to see than usual.

When I call London at 6 a.m. (11 a.m. their time) or Nairobi at 8 a.m. (4 p.m. their time) or Tokyo at 8 p.m. (9 a.m. their time), it matters not whether I am in Key West, New York, or Kiokuck County, Iowa, to those with whom I talk. Space is placeless and, in the new global existence, substance can be dealt with person-to-person without such contextual interference.

So my conditions for coming to Key

West are all being met better than ever; the doubts of a year ago are vanishing. But this hardly explains my pleasure at returning.

In my chosen profession, I am always looking for patterns and prototypes of human attitudes and behavior -- emerging norms, if you will. Then I report the shifts of human frailties and expectations and fulfillments as they exist among the habitants of this land and around the world.

In this context, Key West is not a prototype of anything else. It is not a microcosm of any other place on earth. Instead, it is unique and indigenous unto itself. That is what makes it special to come back to. Socially, people are not uptight, as they often are on Martha's Vineyard and in Manhattan: "Now why do you suppose we didn't get invited to that party?"

No, Key West is laid back, relaxed, but it is also alive and vital. Plants blossom on a cycle unequalled anywhere else in this country. So do, I would suggest, the people I know here. So will, I hope, my own creativity and productivity, as I spend more of my life here. Even my builder, David Wolkowsky, has become a dear friend.

Best of all, Key West is an ideal space for my dear wife Florence and me to relax together as it is often so difficult to do in Manhattan or Pound Ridge, outside of New York, on the Vineyard, in Europe, or other places we get to. So we feel closer and more together. All told, we are feeling at home.

Of course, Thomas Sanchez told me briefly, when we were both stocking up at Big Daddy's the other day, that the Key West he wrote about in his new novel is now out of date. When I asked him what was the new Key West, he said he might write another novel to explain that. And I will have to write another piece to explain what about the Key West exterior, environs, people and settings is so special, as well as the criticisms about what is not so special here. Still, it's good no longer to be visiting, but to be spreading roots in Key West.

Louis Harris is chairman of the international public opinion research firm which bears his name.

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Dining Southern Louisiana Style

In disbelief, I sat transfixed by the plate of perfectly dressed salad greens before me: there, perched atop a crispy leaf, was a bright red ladybug and she was nibbling. Normally, I would have sent her packing. But at this moment I was dining with my brand new husband at the most elegant restaurant my young life had known. It was the 150-year-old Antoine's in the *Vieux Carre* -- incorrectly, the French Quarter -- of New Orleans.

Had she been a tarantula or even a small cockroach, I could have shrieked and then accepted the establishment's apology. But, no -- she was merely a ladybug, unworthy of any sort of ruckus. I didn't want to eat her, and even if I could brush her to the floor, some 250-pound, beef-fed Texan would surely squash her flat.

I pondered the "Why me?" question, and then I turned those expensive morsels over to that brazen creature, hoping the waiter wouldn't notice my special garnish. Frankly, I wouldn't know how to handle the situation today. Maybe consult Miss Manners?

New Orleans was the first stop of my honeymoon. Our entrance into the great city had already been marred by traffic so snarled, we could only sit and wait for our aging MGA's radiator to make its move. We should have known better than to arrive in 104-degree heat on the Fourth of July. But

we were young and eager and hankering after a couple of fried oyster po' boys -- the nation's first subs -- and intoxicating red hurricanes from Pat O'Brien's.

Fortunately, we were longer than usual on patience. Somewhere along that blacktop road through the South, life had slowed markedly and the air became so thick and heavy it was hard to breathe. Trees, with their drooping Spanish moss, loomed darkly, and here and there a white-washed cross on a hillock eerily marked a road fatality. Eventually, the world we were accustomed to slipped away. Then I began to feel the eyes everywhere. And then I began to think about voodoo.

But we weren't after intrigue; we just wanted to eat and drink. So we feasted on jambalayas born of Spanish *paellas* and originally cooked over wood fires, spicy seafood-and-chicken Creoles, platters of swamp "mud bugs" -- *crayfish* to us outlanders; *crawfish* to the locals. We consumed the oysters Rockefeller invented by Antoine's son, and gumbos that are a subject of constant dissension among native cooks -- are they best thickened with African okra or American Indian *file* powder of ground sassafras leaves? We munched all manner of seafood and meat, right down to squirrel *etouffees* -- literally, *smothered*.

We also ate hot *andouille* sausage and ham. In New Orleans, the whole point of a ham is the bone, which, on Monday mornings -- laundry day across town -- is cracked and slow-cooked with red beans into a dark, silky, marrow-rich dish. We had tender steak grillades and grits for breakfast, fried catfish and baked redfish and Gulf pompano *en papillote* (in paper), sweet little river shrimp from the Mississippi, crisp-fried frog legs with *sauce piquante*, eggplants and artichokes and mirlitons (chayotes), mustard greens and pickled peaches, white rice and "dirty" rice flecked with chicken gizzards and livers. These folks eat five times as much rice as the rest of us.

For dessert there were pecan pies and custardy bread puddings with rum sauces and Brennan's famous bananas Foster --

glazed in spiced brown sugar, *flambeed* with banana liqueur and rum, and served atop vanilla ice cream. Finally, there was cup after cup of the strong, dark coffee made with ground chicory that is New Orleans' trademark.

Incidentally, leaving New Orleans without having had breakfast at Brennan's is simply not done, and that breakfast might well include bananas Foster for dessert. In the all-night, Spanish-built *Vieux Carre* -- the original French Quarter was destroyed by fire -- ending breakfast with dessert is as common as beginning it with an eye-opener. That doesn't mean anything so boring as a bloody Mary. We're talking Ramos gin fizzes and potent Bourbon milk punches and the anise-flavored Sazeracs originally made with the now-illegal absinthe. Indeed, the cocktails of the Creoles are a reflection of their cuisine -- complex and sophisticated.

Actually, New Orleans cuisine is basically a blend of two -- Creole and Cajun.

Creole is a word given to the first French and Spanish settlers; in New Orleans, the French were the earlier, back around 1699. Hence, the better-known term *French Creole*. Many of both groups became planters and, in short time, grew rich.

Cajun was the Creole name given another group of French settlers who called themselves Acadians and, though they had arrived about the same time, made their home in Nova Scotia. They were quiet, hardy souls, good at living off the land. But when the British claimed Canada, they were deported. After a decade or so of wandering, they finally came upon the mosquito-ridden, gator-infested swamps of Southern Louisiana. Paradise it wasn't, and the Creoles couldn't even pronounce "Acadian" properly. But the Cajuns were among other Catholics and they were well-practiced at "making do."

When the Creoles stepped ashore, they brought with them a complete set of culinary skills and customs. Soon they had enough money to bring about the grand cuisine they longed for. Alas, they didn't have the ingredients, and turned to the Indians for

instruction in native flora and fauna. When the Cajuns, who'd never been able to afford the luxury of following rules, arrived, they pitched in, helping the Creoles to think in new ways, to invent new dishes based on the old.

The classic example of this is gumbo. French Creoles had been sorely missing their *bouillabaise* (fish stew) for the lack of fish and eels and lobsters from the Mediterranean. But the Cajuns made them a new stew with shrimp and crab instead. Then the Spanish added their sweet peppers; the later-arriving Africans, okra; the Indians, *file* powder. The even-later Germans, Italians and English added touches to the emerging cuisine, as did the West Indians with their sugar cane and its byproduct, rum. *Voilà!* The cuisine now had tradition.

Creole cooking is generally regarded as "city food" because much attention is given to its subtle spicing and presentation which usually separates the components of a dish -- the beans in this bowl, the rice in that.

On the other hand, the Cajun cooking native to the several hundred miles of bayou land bordering New Orleans is country cooking. It is a rustic, one-pot style in which anything that grows in the ground or has legs might be a suitable ingredient. Creole food is spicy but never hot. Occasionally fiery hot, Cajun cooking exuberantly disregards all the rules. When a Cajun dish is called *original*, it's simply for the tourists: all Cajun cooking is original every time it is cooked. Incidentally, the recently popular blackened fish is not Cajun but the invention of New Orleans

chef/restaurant owner Paul Prudhomme. In any event, neither Creole nor Cajun food is French; both are *Louisiana* French.

If you long mistily for the great times and food and drink you enjoyed last time in the Quarter, walk over to the Crystal Cafe above La Te Da, at 1125 Duval Street. There, you can commune at its glamorous black-lacquer bar and then dine from the new Creole/Cajun menu that arrived with Chef Wilhelm Bogan, a veteran of New Orleans' kitchens. The fare features such Southern Louisiana delights as spicy freshwater turtle soup with a side of sherry; ribs slow-cooked in Chef Wilhelm's secret voodoo sauce; peppery cornmeal blini with smoked salmon, sour cream and Cajun *caviar* (eggplant); a creamy, Cajun-spiced tortellini with a chilled Cajun crawfish *mousse*; sauteed Basin Street yellowtail with fried bananas and Midori/lemon butter; and an eggplant *piroque* -- the term for the cypress dugout used by fearless swamp travelers -- filled with crawfish *etoufee*. There are also three varieties of thick, crusty, lusty Cajun-style pizzas.

If, however, you'd rather rattle your own pots and pans, here are two of Chef Wilhelm's recipes.

Cajun Jambalaya

6 to 8 servings

1/4 cup melted butter or margarine
2 onions, thinly sliced
2 green peppers, chopped
2 tbsp minced garlic
1 tbsp coarsely ground black pepper

1/2 tsp crumbled thyme leaves
1 tbsp Cajun spice (available at groceries)
4 oz smoked ham, diced
1 lb smoked sausage, sliced
2-1/2- to 3-pound chicken, cooked, boned and cubed
2 large (2-1/2 lb) cans tomatoes

In a large, heavy pot, melt butter, add onions and peppers and saute 3 to 4 minutes. Stir in garlic, black pepper, thyme and Cajun spice. Simmer about 3 minutes. Add ham, sausage and chicken pieces and simmer an additional 3 minutes. Add tomatoes, breaking up with a wooden spoon, and cook over low heat for another 5 minutes. Ladle over hot rice and serve with cornbread.

Note: 2 pounds of shrimp can be substituted for the chicken.

Lemon Chess Pie

5 eggs, well beaten
1-1/2 cups sugar
3/4 cup milk or buttermilk
2 tbsp melted butter or margarine
2 tbsp yellow or white cornmeal
2 tsp vanilla extract
1 cup shredded, sweetened coconut
Juice of 2 lemons
9-inch, unbaked pie shell

Blend eggs with sugar, milk, butter, cornmeal and vanilla; stir in coconut and lemon juice. Pour into prepared pie shell and bake at 350 degrees for about 30 minutes, or until set.

Note: To make Coconut Pecan Chess Pie, add 1/2 cup chopped pecans.

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MARCH CALENDAR

Cultural Events

3/1 • The Boys Next Door, the story of the residents of a home for mentally retarded men, opens at the Red Barn Theatre, 319 Duval Street, behind the Woman's Club. Curtain is at 8 p.m. 296-9911.

3/2 & 3 • Old Island Days House and Garden Tours. Tickets are \$10 for self-guided tour map and Conch Tour Train transportation from Hospitality House on Mallory Square. Tours last from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. 294-9501.

3/7 through 3/11 • Jerker, an unusual X-rated play, is presented by the Waterfront Playhouse at Mallory Square. Curtain is at 8 p.m. 294-5015.

3/9 • La Traviata will be presented by Festival of the Continents at Tennessee Williams Fine Arts Center, Junior College Road, Stock Island. International opera stars will join the Metropolitan Opera and the Broward Symphony Orchestra in this all-new production. One performance only, 8 p.m. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$15 for seniors and \$10 for children. 296-7701, ext. 198.

Through 3/11 • Call Me Ethel continues at Jan McArt's Cabaret Theatre at Mallory Square. This musical tribute to the late Ethel Merman features Broadway star Rita McKenzie in the title role. Curtain is at 8 p.m. 296-2120.

Through 3/11 • El Grande de Coca-Cola runs at the Red Barn Theatre, 319 Duval Street behind the Woman's Club. This cabaret-within-a-cabaret follows the antics of a third-rate impresario. Curtain is at 8 p.m., Wednesday through Saturday. 296-9911.

3/12 • Age of Sail, a lecture by historian John Viele, will begin at 7 p.m. in the Monroe County Public Library at 700 Fleming Street. The lecture is one of a series of free lectures sponsored by the Key West Maritime Society. Open to the public. 292-7903; 294-3180.

3/16 through 3/18 • Happiness Is a Growing Thing, the flower show by the Key West Garden Club, will bloom at West Martello Towers from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

3/21 • Psycho Beach Party opens at the Waterfront Playhouse on Mallory Square. Directed by Rae Coates and choreographed by Cameron Murray, this hilarious play satirizes all those beach blanket movies of the '50s. Curtain is at 8 p.m. Call 294-5015.

3/23 • A Streetcar Named Desire, the immortal play by the center's namesake, opens at Tennessee Williams Fine Arts Center, Junior College Road, Stock Island. Curtain rises at 8 p.m. 294-6232.

3/23 • Gran Ballet Folklorico de Mexico, Mexico's most famous dance troupe, visits Key West High School for one performance only at 8 p.m. Presented by Festival of the Continents, tickets are \$15. 296-7701, ext. 198.

3/23 • Renowned ceramic artist Jay Gogin will present a slide show and a demonstration of his famous raku work from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Chorus Room in the rear of the Tennessee Williams Fine Arts Center. The public is invited to this free event.

3/24 • The 28th Annual Conch Shell Blowing Contest, dockside at the Hyatt on Front Street at 3 p.m. Contestants in several age categories will compete. This free event is part of the Old Island Days Celebration. There is no fee to participate. 294-9501.

3/24 • Third Annual Flagging of the Old Island Armada, begins at 5 p.m. with the blessing of the fleet at the Hyatt on Front Street. As part of the Old Island Days Celebration, boats of all shapes and affiliations parade in Key West Harbor to the strains of Tchaikovsky's Overture to the War of 1812. 294-9501.

Common Good

3/3 • Outdoor Book Sale from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. behind Monroe County Public Library, 700 Fleming Street. 294-8488.

3/5 • City Commission Meeting at Key West City Hall, City Commission Chambers, 525 Angela Street, at 6 p.m. Always open to the public and televised on Channel 5. Call 292-8200.

3/9 • The Politics of Abortion will be the topic of a symposium offered by the Monroe County Coalition for a Woman's Right to Choose, 7:30 p.m. at Island Wellness, 530 Simonton Street. Several pro-choice activists from South Florida will participate. International singer and songwriter Marian Joy Ring will perform at the symposium in celebration of International Women's Day (March 8). Call 745-1111 or 294-1235.

3/10 • The 20th Annual Florida Keys Health Fair will be held at the Key West High School and at the Methodist Church on Big Pine Key, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Students from the University of Miami School of Medicine will join local physicians to provide screening tests and medical advice to area residents. Expanded care this year includes a pediatric clinic with standard vaccinations. Services are free except at-cost lab fees for blood tests (under \$20) and mammograms (\$66). Bilingual staff will offer examinations and advice in Spanish at the Key West location only. Call 296-3166.

3/14 • The Rave Program, a vocational support program sponsored by Florida Keys Community College, will hold a job fair to bring students and community residents together with Keys employers. The fair will take place at Florida Keys Community College campus on Stock Island from 1 to 6 p.m.

3/14 • Children of Triumph, a free teleconference, airs at Florida Keys Community College from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The program displays Florida drug prevention programs and issues.

3/19 • City Commission Meeting, Key West City Hall, City Commission Chambers, 525 Angela Street, at 6 p.m. Always open to the public and televised on Channel 5. Call 292-8200.

The Sporting Life

4/1 • Deadline for entry into the Marathon International Tarpon Tournament, scheduled for May 4, 5 and 6 at Sombrero Resort & Lighthouse Marina in Marathon. Top prize in this release tourney is \$10,000 for the highest point total. Registration fee is \$400 and registration is limited to the first 50 anglers. 743-2250.

Fun For Funds

3/10 • Garden Party by the Key West Botanical Garden Society takes place noon to 4 p.m. in the Botanical Garden on Junior College Road, Stock Island.

3/16 • A Chinese Auction will be held by Florida Keys Community College's branch of Phi Theta Cappa, the national honor fraternity. The auction begins at 7 p.m. at the Key West Golf Course Clubhouse. All proceeds to cover travel expenses to state and national honor society conventions.

3/24 • The 20th Annual Lily Ball will be held at the Holiday Inn-Beachside

Ballroom. This Key West tradition raises funds for the Easter Seal Society of the Florida Keys Center of Hope. Tickets are \$45 per person for this event, which will include live entertainment, a silent auction and door prizes. Donations of items or services for auction are needed. Call Heidi Rosasco at 294-1085.

3/31 • Hurricane Party by the Lower Keys branch of the Red Cross will take place at East Martello Towers between 6 and 9 p.m. The evening's activities will include live entertainment, a variety of foods and beverages donated by area restaurants, and a cash bar. \$20 per person donation. 296-4033.

Always Happening

Adult Children of Alcoholics meets at Holy Innocents Church, 901 Flagler Avenue Mondays at 7 p.m., Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. and Thursdays at 8:30 p.m. 294-8912.

AIDS Help needs volunteers to assist in the office, as well as to be buddies to people with AIDS. Call Ann Weekley, director of volunteers, at 296-6196.

Anchors Aweigh Club, Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous meetings daily. 404 Virginia Street, 296-7888.

Breezeswept Beach Estates Civic Association holds meetings at 7 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month in the Youth Center of Big Pine Key Methodist Church, 872-2861.

Card & Game Night, Senior Citizens Center, Big Pine Key, 745-3698.

Guardianship of Monroe County helps disabled adults and elderly residents in decision-making. To volunteer or for more information call Elizabeth Covino at HRS; 292-6728, Betty Campbell at Florida Keys Memorial Hospital, 294-5531; or Liz Kern at Hospice, 294-8812.

Island Wellness, at 530 Simonton Street, offers a variety of regularly scheduled courses and activities. Yoga, Tai Chi, meditation, rebirthing, metaphysics, gay issues, personal growth and hypnosis are some of the subjects covered. A gay rap and a healing circle are also featured. Call 296-7353 for details.

Just Say No supper club meets Mondays from 4 to 6 p.m. 292-8248.

Key West Worship Group holds two meetings each Sunday at 8:45 a.m. and 3 p.m. The Quaker form of worship is held in silent meditation waiting upon the Lord. Meetings are held in various friends' homes and gardens around Key West. 296-2787.

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meets at Big Pine Methodist Church 9:30 Monday mornings. 872-2148.

Mental Health Care Center of the Lower Keys conducts an ongoing therapy group for manic-depressives every Thursday at 5:30 p.m., with Dr. Elizabeth Saenger. Another new program is Coming with Depression, which meets with Dr. Christina J. Taylor, on Thursday evenings. Call 292-6843.

Native American study and participation group meets every Thursday at 8 p.m. at 1700 Flagler Avenue, upstairs. There is no charge.

Old Island Harmony Barbershop Chorus, Old Stone Church, Key West, meets Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m.

Solares Hill -- March 1990 -- Page 41
Pool & Dart Tournament, Big Pine Moose Lodge, Wednesdays, 872-9313.

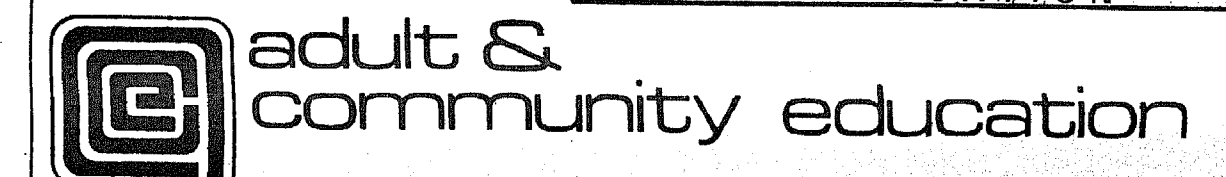
Recycle Key West, sponsored by the Women's Resource center and located in Peary Court off White Street, is open every Wednesday, 2 to 6 p.m., and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. to accept clean, separated glass, newspaper, aluminum and plastic. Volunteers are needed. 294-6241.

Small Business Counseling third Friday of each month at Barnett Bank of the Keys, Tavernier. To make an appointment, call 352-2661. Counselors are members of SCORE.

KEY WEST HIGH SCHOOL

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ADULT BASIC

CODE	TITLE	DAYS	TIME	LOCATION	INSTRUCTOR	CREDIT	FEES
9900000	Adult Basic/ESL	M/W	7-10pm	J-27	Corbett/Cobo/Hall	0	n/c
9900000	Adult Basic/ESL	T/Th	7-10pm	Dr. King Center	TBA	0	n/c
9900000	Adult Basic/ESL	T/Th	7-10pm	J-27	Suarez/Cobo	0	n/c
9900020	G.E.D. Preparation	M-Th	9am-12	Harris	Valerga	0	n/c

ADULT GENERAL EDUCATION

9900000	G.E.D. Preparation	T/Th	7-10pm	Dr. King Center	TBA	0	n/c
9900010	Gen. Ed. Promotion	T/Th	7-10pm	J-31	Church	1	n/c
9900020	G.E.D. Preparation	M-Th	9am-12	Harris	Valerga	0	n/c
9900020	G.E.D. Preparation	M/W	7-10pm	J-31	Oakwood	0	n/c
0108310	Creative Photography	T/Th	7-10pm	C-14	Brogden	1/2	\$13
1501340	Beginning Weight Tr.	M/W	7-10pm	Wgt. Rm.	Evans	1	\$13
2100310	American Hist./Govt.	M/W	7-10pm	J-31	TBA	1	n/c
2002300	Beginning Science	T/Th	7-10pm	J-34	Layhew	1	n/c
0708310	Conv. Spanish II	Thurs.	7-10pm	J-23	E. Kelly	1/2	\$6.50
1001310	English I, II, III, IV	M/W	7-10pm	J-23	Sembert	1	\$13
1205340	Beginning Math	T/Th	7-10pm	J-25	Rodger	1	\$13
1900300	Driver Training	M/W	7-10pm	J-35	McKell	1/2	\$13

LIFELONG LEARNING

9900510	Woodworking	M/W	7-10pm	E-7	Hawthurst	0	\$13
COE0990	Computer Skills	M-Th	9-10:30am	Harris	Santilli	0	\$13

ADULT VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

AC00001	Bookkeeping/Acct.	T/Th	7-10pm	J-15	Papy	1	\$13
ARR0900	Auto Body Repair	M/W	7-10pm	V-103	Aulozzi	1	\$13
AER0990	Auto Mechanics	M/W	7-10pm	V-102	Higgs	1	\$13
HCP0100	Nursing Assistant	T/Th/Sa	TBA	KWCC	Sheddan	1	\$18
OFT0105	Typing	M/W	7-10pm	J-16	Freeman	1	\$13
PMT0801	Welding	T/Th	7-10pm	Welding	Smith	1	\$13

CHILDCARE -- The Adult Education Office is now offering babysitting/childcare services for students attending morning and evening classes. Inquire during registration for further information.

All programs are open to students without regard to race, color, sex, religion, national origin or handicap.

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Business Briefs

On March 17, members of Zonta will present **Radio Zonta Day**. Local radio stations WKIZ and WEOV annually donate 24 hours of radio advertising time to Zonta. The organization then sells the ad time to local businesses and broadcasts the ads on **Radio Zonta Day**. Proceeds from ad sales benefit a plethora of local social service agencies.

Bob Bryan and Jan Durmer, co-owners of **Waterfront Realty of the Keys, Inc.**, announce the opening of their full-service real estate office at 444 Whitehead Street, 294-7515.

New to antique row, at 534 Fleming Street, is the **Adam Peck Design Gallery**, an international folk art gallery. Oriental rugs, Turkish and Afghan kilims, eth-

nic musical instruments, tapestries and toys will share space with Adam's island- and African-inspired furniture. Call 294-3771.

The historical little Conch house at MM 31 on Big Pine Key is the new home of **Blue Moon Trader**, a unique and diversified shop. Proprietors Beth Shirley and Diane Phillips specialize in recycled items found "once in a blue moon." Paper and glass products, new-age items, books, music and local arts and crafts are offered. There is a special children's corner with cooperative games, books, hand-made wooden toys and a selection of music for little ones. Call 872-8864.

America's Cup winner Dennis Conner has joined local entrepreneurs Don Kincaid, Tom and Denise Jackson and Doug Douglas to offer catamaran sailing to the public. With a capability of speeds exceeding 20 knots and a 49-passenger capacity, the 53-foot **Stars and Stripes Key West** offers many amenities including glass-bottom windows, fully shaded and cushioned lounge, sundeck trampoline and stairway to the sea. Visit **Adventure Catamaran Tours** at 703 Duval Street, or call 294-PURR.

The **Portside Restaurant** on Front Street has a full and varied entertainment schedule for the month. Pianimal Barry Cuda appears every Sunday, 5 to 9 p.m.; **Two Guys Having Fun** do so Mondays and Tuesdays, 5 to 11 p.m. Kirk Edwards holds forth Wednesdays, 5 to 9 p.m.; Will Hoppy causes the joint to jump Wednesdays through Saturdays, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Robin Fear plays Thursdays through Saturdays, 5 to 9 p.m. and Sundays 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Joan Craig climbed out of her van in Key West on January 1, after a cross-country road trip. She likes it here so much she decided to stay and opened **Escape From California Gift & Thrift Shop**, 290 Margaret Street in Land's End Village. Joan looks forward to recycling interesting household goods, clothing and miscellany, and accepts items on consignment. Call 296-1040.

Dick Moody at **Great Southern Gallery** is proud to announce that the gallery now offers the services of a Central Florida fine arts press. Artists may now obtain beautiful reproductions of their work. Color separations, proofing, printing and shipping are included in one price. The printing is done on a state-of-the-art Heidelberg press in the four-color process system, utilizing laser. Prices are affordable. Call Dick at 294-6660 for details.

Boot Key Seaport Resort has merged with **Faro Blanco Marine Resort**, which will remain the name of the merged property. Westrac Properties, Inc., which acquired both properties in 1988 in an aggressive acquisition, decided upon the merger for marketing and operational reasons. Faro Blanco Marine Resort is located one-half-mile north of the 7-Mile Bridge in Marathon.

The Upper Duval Street revival marches on. Patrick Pichot, of **Les Bisoux de France**, and Jacques Bordage, of **Baskets a la Carte**, announce that they will relocate their businesses to 1208 Duval Street. The moves are expected to take place in April, following the completion of building renovations.

Members of the local "family" of charter sail, harbor and snorkel trip operators took the champagne sunset sail January 31 aboard the **Sebago** to witness the marriage of M. Schwartz and Michael West. "Without the cooperation and generosity of all these wonderful people," said Schwartz, "we could not have arranged such a nautical extravaganza."

Mickey & Squirt, the husband-and-wife performing and songwriting team, appear in **Nightfall at The Reach** each Tuesday through Saturday, from 5 to 7 p.m. The combo specializes in country music and their own songs. Call 296-5000.

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Sun O' The Beach



The Sun is in the mystical sign of Pisces until the 21st. Mercury will be in Pisces as well until the 19th. Decisions reached on an intuitive level are favored. From the 11th through mid-April, Mars moves to the social sign of Aquarius and many will rally for special causes. Love is subject to tricky changes the last week of the month.

ARIES

Until the 20th, don't commit to long-range projects. Now is your time for personal communion. Just prior to your birthday, old habits rise to test you. Engage in discipline. Social life picks up when Mars, your ruler, moves to Aquarius on the 11th. Friends trigger important projects or help reanalyze goals.

TAURUS

The Sun shines in your chart sector of hopes and dreams. Important prospects may come to fruition. Mars moves to your career sector; you'll exude personal power, perhaps taking on an executive or authoritative role. Colleagues may teach a thing or two.

GEMINI

You're in the limelight, balancing many affairs at once. One twin will indulge in the social sphere while the other plans professional maneuvers. Mars in Aquarius either rekindles your spiritual side or gets you moving -- literally. Pack your bags!

CANCER

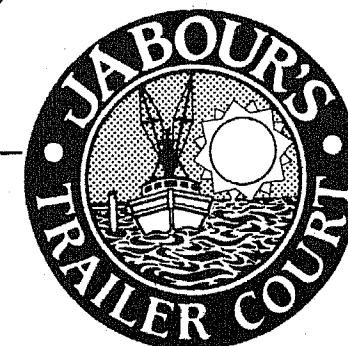
Planets favor travel and intuition until the 21st. The Sun's movement through Pisces emphasizes your own nature. You'll need some financial housecleaning. You may engage in obtaining funds creatively. Professional limelight shines after the 21st.

LEO

The Sun moves through your chart sector of joint finance. After the 21st, you may take a vacation or enter a philosophical state of mind. Mars in your opposing sign causes instability in relationships. For single Leos, this force can bring a new significant other.

VIRGO

If you are single, new potential partnerships flow. You'll intuitively tune into another now. Mars moves to Aquarius where you'll be inclined to juice-fasting or



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health regimens. After the 21st, the Sun gets you to sort out finances.

LIBRA

You need to bring magic and poetry into the work you do. You are unusually sensitive to food and drink now. After the 21st, partnership is highlighted and you will find yourself in a cosmic cha-cha. Mars in Aquarius loosens inhibitions about love.

SCORPIO

If you're not in love, your sense of romance will spill into your creativity. Mars shifts to Aquarius on the 11th necessitating new agreements with landlords or roommates. Around the 21st, the Sun moves to Aries and your focus shifts to work.

SAGITTARIUS


The Sun in the chart angle of home and family makes you sensitive to relatives. Mars in Aquarius after the 11th leads you to phone calls or letter writing. By the 21st, romance will command your attention. Your libido feels the arrival of spring.

CAPRICORN

Though you're accustomed to appearing in control, you need to show some vulnerability. Mars moves to your money house on the 11th. You will energetically opt to collect funds owed you. By the 21st, you'll need to spend more time with family.

AQUARIUS

The Sun in the money sector brightens the financial picture. Fiery Mars comes to your sign for the first time in two years, representing a time of new beginnings and more room to grow. When the Sun shifts to Aries on March 21, this note deepens.



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PISCES

The Sun puts you in the limelight, but Mars in the 12th house of surrender reminds you that you do not control the cosmic current. After the 21st, the Sun illuminates your financial affairs. Love may be secretive with Venus in the karmic sector.



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Sunday, Mar. 4 Noon-4 Barry Cuda 5-9 Full Sail 10-2 Sun Messengers	Monday, Mar. 5 Noon-4 Barry Cuda 5-9 Mel & Tracy 10-2 Bill Blue & The Nervous Guys	Tuesday, Mar. 6 Noon-4 Mike McCloud 5-9 Mel & Tracy 10-2 Sun Messengers	Wednesday, Mar. 7 11-3 Mike McCloud 3-7 Mike & John 7-11 Pat Dalley 11-3 Sun Messengers	Thursday, Mar. 8 11-3 Mike McCloud 3-7 Mike & John 7-11 Pat Dalley 11-3 Sun Messengers	Friday, Mar. 9 11-3 Barry Cuda 3-7 Mike & John 7-11 Pat Dalley 11-3 Sun Messengers	Saturday, Mar. 10 11-3 Barry Cuda 3-7 Mike & John 7-11 Pat Dalley 11-3 Sun Messengers
Sunday, Mar. 11 Noon-4 Barry Cuda 5-9 Full Sail 10-2 Sun Messengers	Monday, Mar. 12 Noon-4 Barry Cuda 5-9 Mel & Tracy 10-2 Bill Blue & The Nervous Guys	Tuesday, Mar. 13 Noon-4 Mike McCloud 5-9 Mel & Tracy 10-2 J.D. Kurrant	Wednesday, Mar. 14 11-3 Mike McCloud 3-7 Mike & John 7-11 Pat Dalley 11-3 J.D. Kurrant	Thursday, Mar. 15 11-3 Mike McCloud 3-7 Mike & John 7-11 Pat Dalley 11-3 J.D. Kurrant	Friday, Mar. 16 11-3 Barry Cuda 3-7 Mike & John 7-11 Pat Dalley 11-3 J.D. Kurrant	Saturday, Mar. 17 11-3 Barry Cuda 3-7 Mike & John 7-11 Pat Dalley 11-3 J.D. Kurrant
Sunday, Mar. 18 Noon-4 Barry Cuda 5-9 Full Sail 10-2 J.D. Kurrant	Monday, Mar. 19 Noon-4 Barry Cuda 5-9 Mel & Tracy 10-2 Bill Blue & The Nervous Guys	Tuesday, Mar. 20 Noon-4 Mike McCloud 5-9 Mel & Tracy 10-2 J.D. Kurrant	Wednesday, Mar. 21 11-3 Mike McCloud 3-7 Mike & John 7-11 Pat Dalley 11-3 J.D. Kurrant	Thursday, Mar. 22 11-3 Mike McCloud 3-7 Mike & John 7-11 Pat Dalley 11-3 J.D. Kurrant	Friday, Mar. 23 11-3 Barry Cuda 3-7 Mike & John 7-11 Pat Dalley 11-3 J.D. Kurrant	Saturday, Mar. 24 11-3 Barry Cuda 3-7 Mike & John 7-11 Pat Dalley 11-3 J.D. Kurrant
Sunday, Mar. 25 Noon-4 Barry Cuda 5-9 Full Sail 10-2 J.D. Kurrant	Monday, Mar. 26 Noon-4 Barry Cuda 5-9 Mel & Tracy 10-2 Bill Blue & The Nervous Guys	Tuesday, Mar. 27 Noon-4 Barry Cuda 5-9 Mel & Tracy 10-2 Satta	Wednesday, Mar. 28 11-3 Barry Cuda 3-7 Mike & John 7-11 Pat Dalley 11-3 Satta	Thursday, Mar. 29 11-3 Barry Cuda 3-7 Mike & John 7-11 Pat Dalley 11-3 Satta	Friday, Mar. 30 11-3 Barry Cuda 3-7 Mike & John 7-11 Pat Dalley 11-3 Satta	Saturday, Mar. 31 11-3 Barry Cuda 3-7 Mike & John 7-11 Pat Dalley 11-3 Satta