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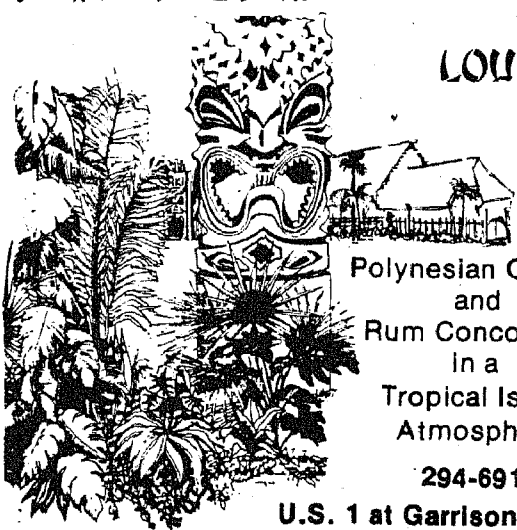
Vol. IV, No. VII

Key West, Florida

August 1979



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From the Editor

Hello --

KEY WEST DETECTIVES did a good job in tracking down the killer of Frank Fontis. Now they are looking for his accomplice who drove the get-away car. Speaking of crime, van owners whose vehicles have been towed to Alex's on Stock Island for one infraction or another, have been complaining about possessions that are missing from their vans when they go back to pick them up. This is something that our local authorities should look into.

I WAS DISAPPOINTED to read that our new city planner started his job by doing work that was contrary to state guidelines. According to newspaper reports, the land use map he was preparing showed housing on the salt ponds despite the fact that the state considers this non-developable land. Perhaps it is a coincidence, but apparently this new planner, Keith Golan, is related to some of the people who own property in the salt ponds. I would hope that in the future Golan would be more careful to avoid making decisions that suggest a conflict of interest.

HEY, MACK DRYDEN is back in town and he is planning another Vital Signs comedy revue starring Jamie Alcroft and Sam Weyman. It will run from August 31 to September 3. Don't miss it!

MORE NONSENSE at South Beach. The concession is closed again, back rent is owed, and Ron Stack, City Manager, advises me that the City Attorney is initiating foreclosing proceedings against the lessee. I would hope that someone local would get that concession who remembers how pleasant that beach used to be when people could get simple good food there. We seem to attract a type of promoter who has grand schemes for the beach but a decided inability to follow through on his plans.

THIS IS BEGINNING to sound like a column of grievances, but the proposed bicycle ordinance is absurd. The bike seems to be a symbol of what's wrong with the world for some people in authority in Key West, and every step short of banning them from the streets of the city would seem to be under consideration. What galls any right-thinking person is that now is the time that the city fathers should be exhorting the people to take to our bikes and leave our cars at home. Will someone in his right mind on the City Commission (Alton Weekley, for example) please speak up about the absurdities inherent in the wholesale busting of bikes for petty infractions?

THE OLD ISLAND Restoration Commission is getting its lumps these days. It has no back-up from the city. There are guidelines to follow in new construction in the historical zone. Neither Billie's Restaurant nor the Title Company adhered to these guidelines, but it looks like nothing will be done to force compliance. Let's get some more teeth into the OIRC.

THIS APPEARS to be a bit of a rant and I don't want that. It is, of course, a beautiful day and, well...maybe one more thing. I was thrilled at the response of the community to the proposed Navy Base Re-Usage Plan. Calmly, individually and collectively, the people of Key West demanded a plan that would be in the best interests of ALL the community and not a plan that would appear to benefit just a small portion of it. The two public meetings held thus far on this plan have brought out large numbers of our citizens who have voiced their objections to the plan. Carry on. See you next month.

Cover artist this time is David Wegman.

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Three Sisters of Key West

by Phoebe Coan photo by Richard Marsh

THIS STORY IS like a mosaic. It is about three sisters of Cuban heritage, born on this island. They represent a cross section of Key West and American consciousness. Each of them is an old friend of mine: Charo Skaggs, Emma Cates, and Grace Duffey. There was a fourth sister, Laverne, who died of leukemia at age 26 in 1970.

All three forward-thinking sisters are in their 50's. They exemplify glowing health, strong spiritual feeling, and devoted parenthood.

I SPOKE FIRST to Charo, the oldest, on Virginia Street, where her former court reporting business was. Her son and his family still reside here. It was at this same spot that I first encountered the sisters, when Charo and her second husband, Gene, held meetings for the Theosophical Society nine years ago. Charo was pointed out to be the one with the best memory, so I interviewed her first about their childhood. "I remember being taught to walk. A faceless adult behind me, holding my arms above

up to being resident manager of a bank in Marathon.

"Mother died of acute appendicitis (no antibiotics in those days) when I was 12. Aunt (Tia), who had always lived upstairs with her husband, Berlin Sawyer (see Malcolm Ross's story on him in Solares Hill, July 1978) had long been like a second mother to the family. She took over the care of us four girls and our father. Tia had never had children of her own. She claims the reason for this is karmic. She had been informed by a psychic that it was due to her neglect of her children in another time."

TIA ALSO HELPED raise her own sisters (one, Angelique, still lives with her), and she helped with great-nieces and Laverne's three children as well. Tia wanted a "proper upbringing" for all her girls, and they got it.

However, after what Emma called "psychic disturbances" at the Packer Street house bothered her Aunt, the family group moved over to Fleming Street a year after Estella's death.

"Tia oversheltered us, and the reason we all grew up to be such individual free spirits was, I believe, because of this," says Charo.

Emma feels that the strictness of her childhood upbringing helped her to manage her own brood more effectively and also led her to be a very strong person.

"Supervised neglect," Charo calls her method of child-rearing. She also believes in Kahlil Gibran's idea that your children simply come through you, and you should not expect them to be a rubber stamp of yourself.

GRACE, THE YOUNGEST sister, feels that she was somewhere in between and considers herself mostly a "softie" with her kids.

Tia geared the curfew to the streetlight, and Charo says the children were only allowed girlfriends in the neighborhood. Their friends also had strict parents. All attended the old convent.

"Emma (the middle child) was the most rebellious," reports Charo. She didn't like first grade. Every morning, Tia cut roses from their mother's rock rose garden for Emma to bring to the teacher -- thereby motivating the little one to attend. And every morning after delivering her offering of roses, the little one stubbornly returned.

"I remember so well, it went on for weeks," says Charo with a twinkle in her eye.

CHARO SAYS SHE'S the only sister who kept her nickname (Rosario being her real name). She has been the most career conscious sister, I am told.

When their father remarried after



Sisters Emma and Grace

Each is, of course, unique, and each wears a beautiful gold diamond ring, gifts from their aunt Celia Sawyer (Tia), who brought them up after their mother's death. All three received a strong influence of psychic energies from Tia, who was and still is a spiritualist. There is the noble Spanish accent in each, but they also seem very cosmopolitan to me.

my head," she says.

"We were all born at 1113 Packer Street. On one corner was the old Fausto's, and across the street was the original Molina's Bakery.

"My father, Oswaldo Carrero, and my mother, Estela Hero, were both born here. He was a streetcar conductor and bread delivery man who took an accountant's course in his spare time. At the time of his death he had worked himself

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four or five years, the girls stayed with Tia (at her request). He moved to Miami and joined the Navy in World War II, but always maintained a close emotional bond with his girls.

"Spanish is such a rich language. In Spanish a man like my father is called 'un hombre sano' -- a man without malice, an honorable man, a gentleman," says Charo. "Dad had a terrific sense of humor," reports Charo. "Even when he was into civic organizations and very busy in Miami, he would still call long distance to tell me a good joke."

CHARO REPORTS the girls fought a lot while growing up. "The usual garden variety type of fights, but we have always been good friends."

They used to put on shows in their huge back yard at Packer Street, dressing up in old shawls, feathers, heels and jewelry. They'd do song and dance routines for a one-cent admission. They also played Parcheesi and Kli-Kli (an island game) and did a lot of reading also.

ALL OF THE SISTERS married shortly after high school. "That's how we left home," says Charo. "You didn't just run off like they do today."

Charo was first married to Hector Barroso (a Key West musician still) for two years. She gave birth to a daughter, Bobbie Dot. Later she worked for her uncle, Sheriff Berlin Sawyer. Emma worked for him also. In 1945 Charo married Gene Skaggs, who was in the Navy here. Young Gene and April (now in Tennessee) are her children from their 29 years of marriage.

Charo was first introduced to theosophy by a winter visitor, and ended up having the meetings at her place for several years thereafter.

"All my kids were heavy into theosophy through osmosis. We lived it." Now she finds that Unity fills her needs.

"I had never been impressed by the churches until theosophy put it all to-

gether," says Charo. "Many beautiful and interesting people came through our doors because of theosophy."

"I'm excited about my future now," says Charo. "My children are raised, and there is a free channel of love with them. The anticipation of the unknown intrigues me. I just make short-term plans now."

I THOUGHT IT INTERESTING that all three girls were raised in an atmosphere of psychic energy. Tuesday nights the aunt would always hold a seance in the parlor. Different mediums and sensitives would attend. Many times messages were brought forth from the dead mother giving directions to her daughters through Tia. Reincarnation, astral projection and other phenomena were nothing new to their tender ears, though they never attended seances themselves.

Says Emma on the subject: "We know the dead are here and have been around, but they are not necessarily authorities on my life. I prefer to see the God within myself."

Both of Tia's parents had been mediums, and she herself had been nourished on the psychic. Berlin, however, was not a believer in such stuff.

AS TO HER OWN sensitivity, Charo says, "I have a lot of empathy for people. I can get into their heads. You take on their problems, and this can then become too much for you."

"I have always asked questions. I never accept anything. Our children had a freedom of choice."

Her son Gene (who happened by at this moment) said that theosophy felt the most natural to him, and that it answered his questions. "You gotta have faith. But that doesn't answer all your questions."

Charo continued, "Life is the ups and downs. Every day is like a lifetime. I believe in the wheel (reincarnation)... If not this time, you will have another chance. Eventually you will reach per-

fection and return to the source. I don't believe life is just punishment and reward. Feeling good is important, too."

AMPARO EMMA CATES changed her name in grade-school, where she asked to be called Emma, and it stuck. She is often seen at Mother Nature's Bounty, a health food store on Duval Street.

She was married for 20 years to Cecil Cates and then for a short time to Bob Windisch, a local artist. Her children by her first marriage were Cecil, Scott, Craig, and Kevin.

Emma lives at what she calls the "family commune" on Fleming Street. Tia and Angelique live downstairs, and other younger relations live in the large house next to the Cross Animal Clinic also. Teenaged Bridgette, Angelique's great-niece, who is interested in the "natural ways" of life, and her baby, Chris, live there also.

"I am flowing more now than I ever used to," Emma says with her youthful spirit.

She teaches astrology at Florida Keys Community College and lectures upon request to many groups. She does baby charts (which she loves to do) and readings when time and energy permit. One can read her monthly astrology prognosis in Solares Hill.

EMMA IS A MEMBER of the San Carlos Institute and is on its Board of Directors. She belongs to the Latin American Chamber of Commerce and has always had vitality and flash. She is a naturally energized person. She likes a little Cuban coffee, too. She says she is never fearful, for life is not to be feared.

Emma claims that her convent education stood her in good stead and helped her take command of her family after her divorce. "I was always the disciplinarian, anyway, so it wasn't very difficult."

She can remember walking on the veranda of the old convent building and

loving being there.

HER INTEREST IN health foods began long ago when she became a mother. She had been reading Prevention magazine. It was Emma and her two sisters who, through this budding interest in natural vitamins and grains, began the first health food store in Key West. It was named Chemril (after each sister) and was located first on Josephine Street and later on Bertha Street.

Later on the business was sold to Joanne Crocker, a new resident, who taught Emma much about astrology. Emma shared her knowledge of health foods with Joanne.

EMMA BELIEVES ONE needs a holistic approach to good health nowadays. Herbs are as important as the vitamins. "Natural foods, vitamins, massage, yoga, good mental health, an enthusiastic outlook about life, and the ability to rejoice in your life and your temple (the body), are all essential to well-being."

She likes to eat what is germane to the area: fish, fruits, and fresh vegetables from Homestead.

Emma says it is bitterness that wrinkles a face. Your face tells your life. Your inner life is reflected there by what you think and feel.

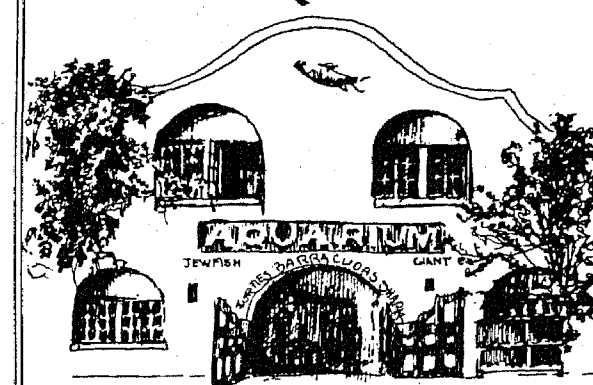
She enjoys most of the people coming into her store and finds them usually into a higher consciousness. Her attitudes are healthy. She is a bridge between people.

EMMA ALSO PURSUES an interest in the Urania book and has many discussions about it. She has a reawakened interest in the Christ consciousness. "The Trinity is the most occult thing I have encountered."

The best areas of her life revolve around her children and six grandchildren. "Put down four stars there," says Emma.

She has always tried to instill self-respect in her children through a love

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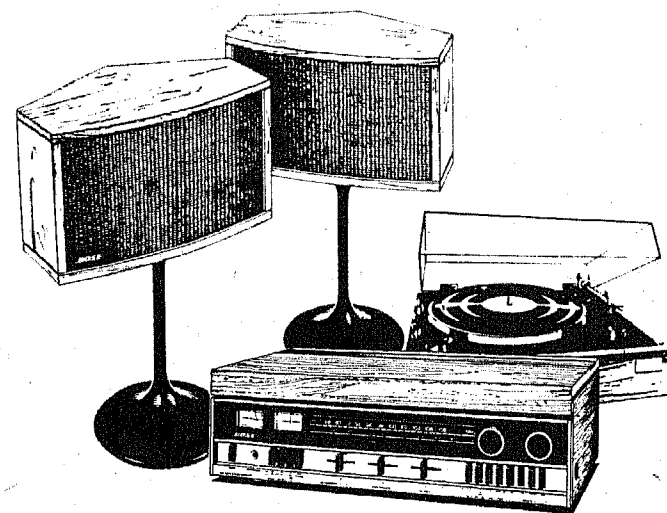
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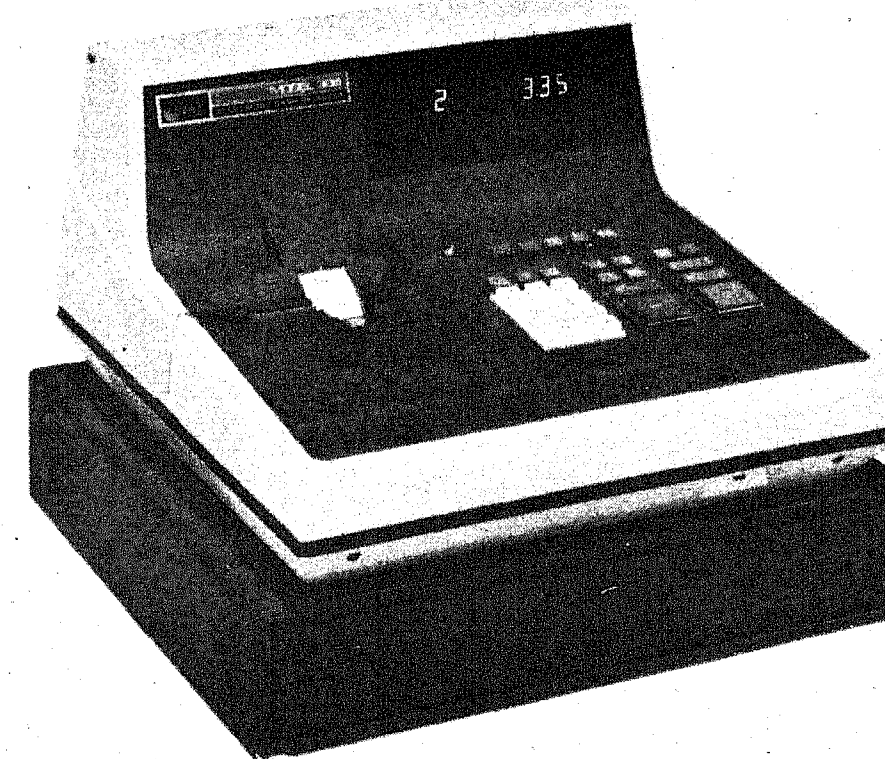
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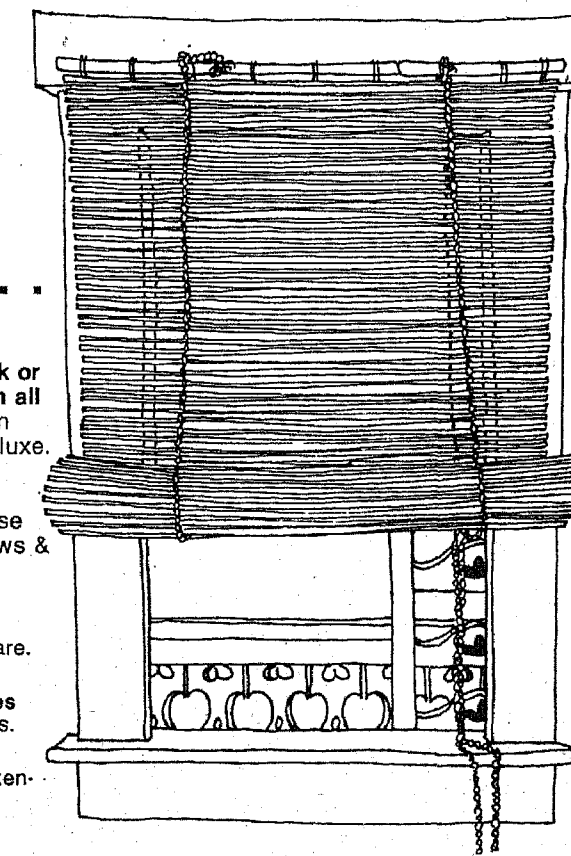
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But I digress. Or do I? Remember what a letdown it was when you found out that the thrill was gone with the girl, that nuclear power won't save the world, that Gomer Pyle was a... oh, the pain. Betrayal! Naivete! Such harsh realities we live.

But there still is one thing to be counted on in this world, so don't despair. There really is a reasonably priced, relaxed restaurant in Key West serving a truly creative menu — *The Orchid Tree*! So the next time someone tells you that Duke Snider was not a duke, nay, not even a viscount, bury your tears in a great meal. *The Orchid Tree*.

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tempered with discipline. "I tried to make each one feel special and important. You should never give your children guilt or put them down. They need a lot of reassurance and love."

"I have never been fanatical about anything," says Emma. "I'm eclectic. The pearls are there."

Emma has always been bright. She graduated from high school at 16 to work for her uncle, Sheriff Sawyer, and was married at 17. For a time she helped her husband run his construction business, and was good at it, too.

I WAS LUCKY enough to catch the youngest sister Grace Duffey, who was visiting from Kendall Lakes, during their Sunday family get-together. Grace was very Buddha-like. Her voice had the sound of clarity one can achieve after consistent meditation. It is the sound of spiritual detachment.

Emma was very stately in bearing, her thick silvery hair fluffed at the crown. Tia was shy, despite her affinity for all the young people there.

Grace and I sat on Tia's porch to talk quietly. They had all enjoyed a home-made tamale lunch, prepared by the two aunts from fresh corn the Duffeys had brought from Homestead. The last time I had been with Grace was when she had been packing up, selling and dispersing all earthly belongings to join the Divine Light Mission in 1974.

GRACE HAS FOUR children: Ray, Mary, Stewart, Michael. She said she found the old quaint Key West not as peaceful as she has remembered.

Small things mostly she remembers. Like the brown paper wrappings she used to wrap her hair in BC (before curlers) when she was a youngster. She felt that the strictness of her upbringing was part of the Latin way. She felt it to be extreme.

Girls had to wear undershirts and socks, even in the heat. "Momma sewed all our underthings, and it took her all the summer to ready us for school."

"We had many parent figures, and each had a pet. Tio was closest to Emma, Tia to Charo, father to me, and mother to Laverne. Mother was the disciplinarian and used physical force when necessary. Dad was the softie. He'd talk to you quietly, and by the time he got done you felt lower than a worm. You just wanted to do better."

"If I had it to do over again with my kids, I'd probably make the same mistakes. I don't believe there's really anywhere where you are given practical training for motherhood," says Grace.

"We used to play tennis on the street in front of the house on Fleming Street. Once in a while a car would come by, and we'd tell them to take another street."

NOWADAYS, GRACE AND RAY are managing an apartment complex in Kendall Lakes. She feels that the past five years have been very speeded up. There have been many changes in her life. "These have been the most beautiful five years. Ray and I are closer as a result."

"The guru has helped me find the peace I never could find in anything else. I feared the psychic, for I didn't know what's on the other side. Since receiving knowledge from Maharaji, I don't have those negative experiences. It is unnecessary. It was a stage I went through. I don't really understand it and I'm not interested in it really."

TIA HAD SAID that Grace was the most psychic of all the sisters.

"You have to find the universe within yourself. You have to untap the prime energy, the primordial vibration which is a love beyond anything."

Tia had told me: "We are here to suffer and to learn to perfect ourselves. We pay for our wrongdoings of the past. But eventually we will reach the light."

From all three sisters, I get a sense of the nobility of women, and of the deep need for spiritual feeling that can exist in a soul.

OPINION

APATHY! THE MOST representative form of government that man has been able to devise is disintegrating because of apathy. The apathy can be verified by our ineffectual results at the polls.

Are you satisfied with your government on any level? Do you feel your vote will bring you honest government? We vote year after year, but somehow we never seem to get what we all want — honest government. And, of course, many people have stopped voting.

DO YOU REALIZE that only 46% of the registered voters went to the polls last city election?

Do you realize that only 64% of the people who are eligible to vote have registered to vote?

Do you realize that this means that fewer than 30% of the eligible voters are participating in our democratic system? An election can be decided by a majority vote of 15%.

Fifteen people of every one hundred people are calling the shots for the rest!

THE PROBLEM IS NOT with the democratic system but in the manner in which we elect those who will govern. Dollars produce votes. It takes lots of dollars to win an election. Many successful candidates become politically indebted before they can get in.

On a local level, why would some candidates spend several times more than they can expect to receive in pay? Why? You know why. I know why. What I don't know is why we sit around and let this continue to happen. How can we stop it? How can we get honest government? This would seem such a simple and basic necessity.

SOME LOCAL FAMILIES justify their attempts at getting on the inside of the political system because they know that if they don't some other faction will.

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We have at present many concerned citizens groups fighting City Hall, blow by blow, issue by issue. It would seem much more effective to solve the problem at the source.

We have often had one or two honest people on our City or County Commissions, but the majority vote has always seemed to be interested in the welfare of the few who already seem to fare well.

If we really want honest government, it does no good to have two who can be out voted by three. What we need are three honest and capable people devoted solely to the best interests of the people of Key West and Monroe County.

THERE ARE THREE City Commission seats open in this coming November election. The town is beginning to buzz with politics. Can this person beat that person? Is A going to run against B? A may run, but can A win? The end result will be more of the same.

There are capable and honest people out there who would never think of running for office, because they would be completely ineffective on a three-two basis and would just not put up with the "politics." Some would be happy to serve if the majority vote was non-political and interested solely in honest government.

IT IS FOR this reason that I suggest searching out these possible "non-political" people and running three honest candidates together. If you vote for one, vote for all three. Three candidates holding hands for honest government! Much of the apathy has come from the inability to know whom to vote for. We've rarely had a real choice. Would you go out and register and vote if you knew you really had a choice? Can we give the people a choice?

WHAT DO YOU THINK? We are interested in your reaction to this idea. Further development will depend upon your re-

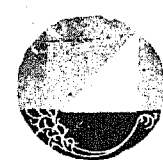
continued on page 14



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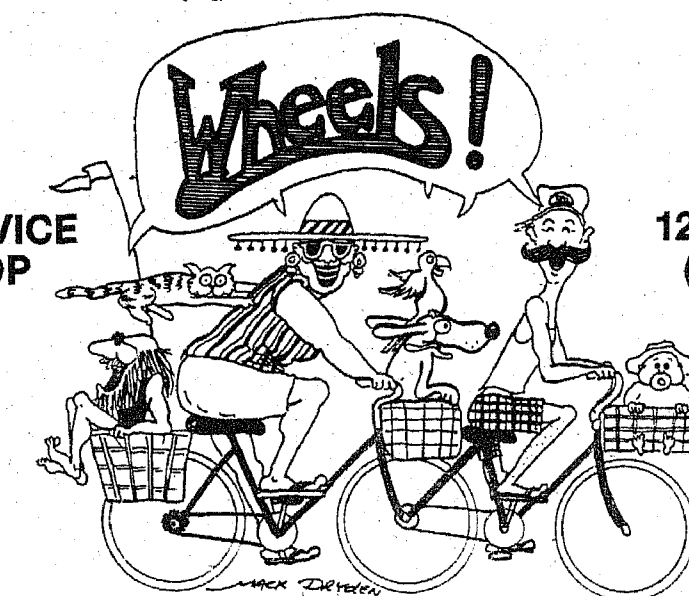
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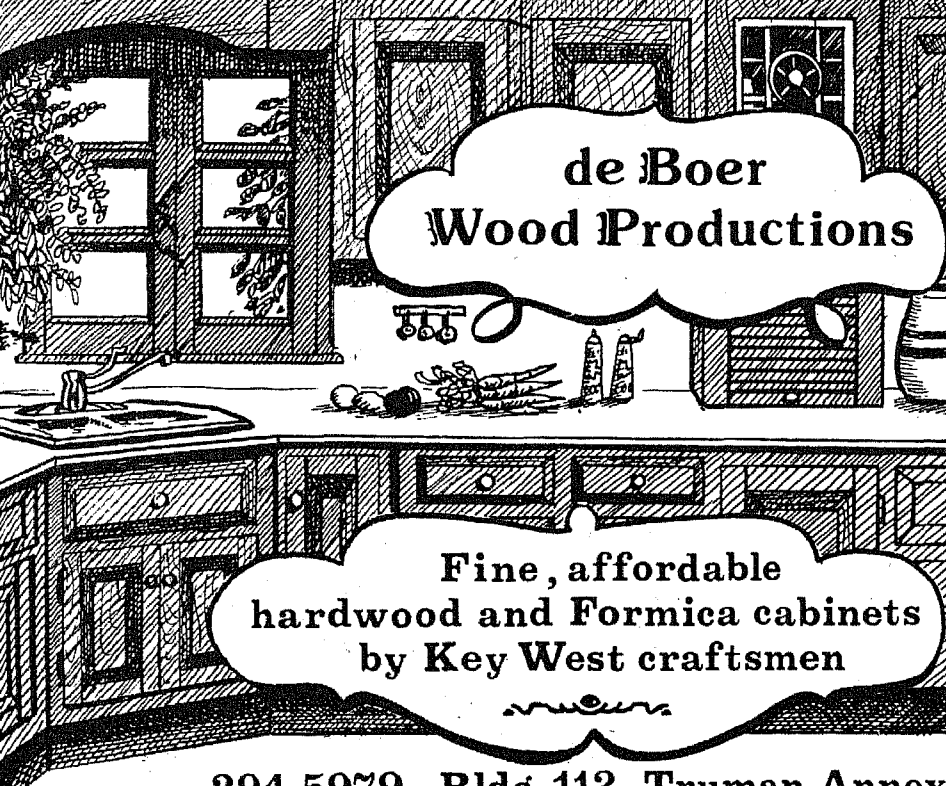
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notes and antic-dotes

by Dorothy Raymer

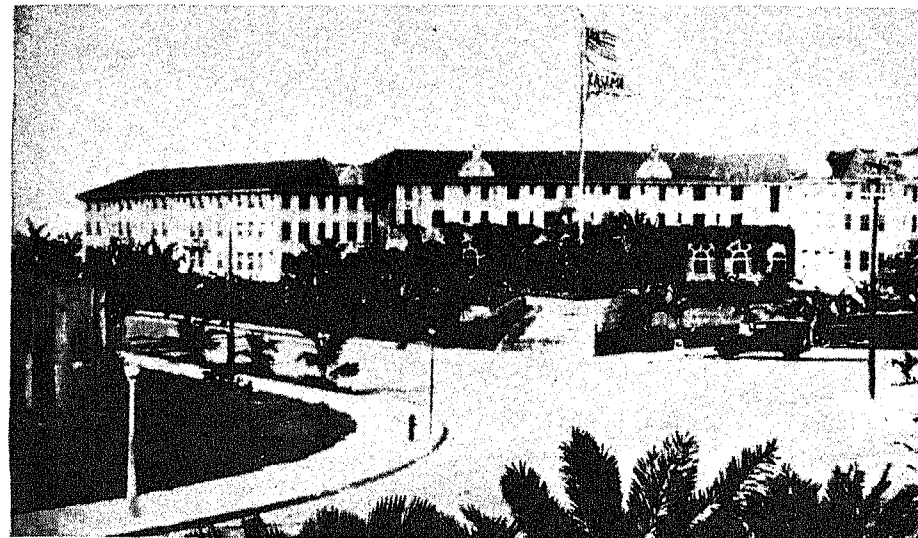
Photos courtesy of Monroe County Public Library

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-THREE years ago, the original deed was issued for the land on which the Casa Marina Marriott Inn is located.

P.C. Greene, one of the island's pioneers and farseeing speculators of real estate, back in the past when such investment was buying, selling and trading uninhabited plots of earth, sold 22 acres to William P. English, in December 1846.

The price was \$300. The section of property involved then was considerably larger than the current roughly triangular 6.5 acres, which is part of the original tract, with present boundaries of Reynolds Street, Seminole Avenue and a part of Flagler, with a long stretch of waterfront bordering the Atlantic Ocean.

TEN YEARS LATER, in 1856, there was a transfer of the par-



The Casa Marina years ago

cel from William P. English at a sheriff's sale of the estate to James Rowe. Monetary value was \$299.

The value gradually crept up to \$400, and then followed a complicated series of exchanges of ownership of the land, and a steady advance in evaluation of the estate, although the original tract diminished in acreage.

Actual start of the erection of the Key West resort was in 1918, when World War I was going on. But the construction was halted by the War Industries Board shortly afterward, and consistent construction did not take place until 1920, when work again began.

Ernest Cotton, Division of Engineers of the Florida East Coast Railroad, reactivated the building process after the World War I restriction was eased. A descriptive report, dated January 4, 1920, noted "an elegant tourist hotel was being erected." Later, a historic name-plate, dated October 7, 1919, for the Florida East Coast Hotel, was taken from a locomotive boiler and presented to the State Division of Archives for exhibition in the Museum of Florida History at Tallahassee.

WEALTHY HENRY FLAGLER, who masterminded and financed the Florida East Coast Railroad system, and the FEC extension to Key West, also planned a chain of luxury resort hotels along train routes and at strategic cities. The one at Key West was to be the final location like a jeweled stud at the end of the linkage.

Although Flagler did live to see the completion of the railroad and made one trip over the seas to Key West in 1912,

he was already blind, failing in health, and was not alive when the last of his empire dreams became a reality.

THE ARCHITECTURE DESIGNATED for the hotel was Spanish Renaissance, with a tiled roof, arched windows, colonnades, loggias and tropical garden setting. The building material included native coral rock, thick cement walls, and an interior of mahogany, cypress and other enduring hardwoods. A private beach and 200 rooms for guests, as well as splendid public lounges, spacious dining facilities, ballroom, and an impressive lobby, were incorporated into the architectural design.

The job went rapidly, and landscaping of the surroundings kept pace.

A New York State man, Peter Schutt, took charge of the gardening and eventually became superintendent of the entire project. Subsequently, Schutt became manager of the new hotel. He had had such experience in Nassau and was accustomed to tropical planting and care of grounds. The hotel became noted for its beautiful lawns, flower borders and flower beds, the clipped hedges, shrubs, vines, palms, and shade trees. The initial task was undertaken in 1920 by the enterprising Schutt.

A MIAMI NEWS STORY, which may have been based on rumor, had it that President-Elect Warren G. Harding and his wife attended an exclusive party at the Casa Marina on January 3, 1921.

But the official record states that the grand opening was on January 3, 1922. A society page account reported: "After dinner, the patrons entered the beautiful ballroom and dancing to the music of Professor Thornton was enjoyed until after midnight. The ladies were beautifully dressed."

Unfortunately, the list of notables present was deleted, and the news story was just general in content. It would have been fascinating to read what local and out-of-town people were present.

AN ILLUSTRATED BROCHURE of the Casa Marina -- no longer called the FEC Hotel -- in 1937 shows a view of the sea from the interior looking out through the colonnades and the outdoor roofed patio on the oceanside of the inn.

The brochure of more than 40 years ago lists such 'attractions as trap and skeet shooting, croquet, putting, bathing (now called swimming), cycling, tennis, fishing and Sunday afternoon tea on the tennis pavilion. Tea dances were very much in vogue then, and doubtless dancing was also one of the pleasures, at least in the 1920's and early 1930's.

In season, late fall to April 1, a daily Pan Am flight from the mainland of Florida brought travelers to Key West in an hour and 20 minutes. The trip by car and ferry boat was described as "fine for 40 miles of road to Matecombe Key, and then by fast and commodious ferries taking four hours."

Another means of access to the island from the north was to entrain at Tampa and then go on to St. Petersburg, where a P. and G. steamer left St. Pete on Wednesday afternoons. The ship crossed the Gulf of Mexico and arrived in Key West the next morning.

THE ROSTER OF all the Casa Marina's owners and partnerships is too complicated and long to include here. There were many changes through the years. But in respect to basic operation and function for the public, the hotel remained the same type of luxury-trended habitat until 1943.

By that date, the United States was well into World War II. The government leased the buildings for Navy housing. This was the consistent condition until after the close of the war, in 1945. When peace was established, the resort reopened in its former regular hotel status.

In the postwar interlude, the hotel continued to be a place of relaxation for renowned persons from the crisscross roads of various careers, including politics. Previous to this,


continued on page 20

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editorial

by Bill Westray

AQUEDUCT AUTHORITY CUTS WATER HOOKUPS FOR NEW DEVELOPMENT

"FROM NOW ON until the new pipeline is built, we are going to limit new hookups for new development to water for not over FIVE living units per year," declared Florida Keys Aqueduct Authority (FKAA) Executive Director Dennis Wardlow in an interview with Solares Hill last month. "We will honor those commitments previously made for up to 20 living units per year," Wardlow continued, "but for new or uncommitted applications the five-unit rule will apply. That was the decision of the FKAA Board of Directors at our last meeting, and I intend to

hookups made within 60 days after a permit is granted or it automatically expires. He said that many of the 1200 fall in that category and that he plans to get letters out to permit holders soon, advising them that their permits are cancelled.

"Thereafter," said Wardlow, "we will limit any new development to water hookups for five new living units per year!"

ASKED ABOUT SOME projects that had been previously given commitments for water, such as the 136-unit Coral Isles Condominium project at Bertha and Atlantic in Key West, Wardlow said he would honor former Executive Director Claude Gehman's

"WE WILL LIMIT ANY NEW DEVELOPMENT TO WATER HOOKUPS FOR FIVE NEW LIVING UNITS PER YEAR." DENNIS WARDLOW, FKAA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

strictly enforce it. It applies to apartments, condominiums, townhouses, hotels, motels and any other kind of multiple family development."

AT THE LAST FKAA Board meeting in July, Wardlow expressed concern about outstanding water permits for over 1200 living units that hadn't been connected yet. This could represent an increased demand for about 300,000 gallons per day (GPD) of water which FKAA can't deliver and this was one of the reasons for the five-unit rule. Questioned about these 1200 permits, Wardlow said, "Some of them are dead -- they'll never get off the ground -- but some are valid and will have to be met." Wardlow went on to explain that FKAA has had a policy that construction work must start and water

commitment for that project up to 20 units per year... "which was the policy in effect when Gehman made the commitment last November."

We talked about potential demands of many other developments, such as a Crawl Key project of 900 plus units near Marathon, the Edwards/Gautier 200-unit hotel in Key Largo, the Tittle 64-unit Coral Harbor Condos in Plantation, the HUD low-income 60-unit project in Key Largo, the 200-unit former Aldersgate project in Key West ready at long last to accept occupants, and with the new owners, Casa Solana, making noises about additional major building on the Aldersgate site. Pier House is talking about expanding, and the proposed large motel on the site of the old marine railway on Front Street in Key West is lurking

around the corner.

WITH THESE PROSPECTIVE and proposed new developments, coupled with new businesses and normal single family and duplex residential construction, we see new water system demands of up to ONE MILLION GALLONS PER DAY before the new pipeline is even started. Strict enforcement of the five-unit per year rule until substantial new water is at hand is the only way to ease this demand without robbing present residents.

Efforts are being made to push an additional 250,000 to 300,000 GPD out of Florida City to Cross Key, but even if successful, it will barely keep up with the present need. Water for new development can only be supplied by depriving present residents. It does no good for a developer to say that he's going to pump from the pipeline to his own storage tanks only at night. When total system demand exceeds total system capacity, by the day, by the week or by the month, some customers will be without water. The developer who pumps into his own storage tanks at night will preclude that amount of water from going into FKAA storage tanks at night, where it could be used the next day to supply all consumer's needs. AND WHEN THE TANKS ARE DRY AND THE PIPELINE PRESSURE IS LOW, WHO DOES WITHOUT -- THE LITTLE GUY NEAR THE END OF THE ROAD!

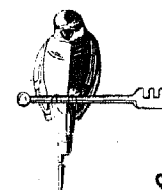
FKAA HAS FINALLY reached agreement with the Florida Department of Transportation (DOT) over the question of repayment of the pipeline enhancement costs of about \$4.8 million for the larger pipeline sizes DOT is installing on the new bridges. FKAA will start repayment on October 1, 1979, with a first installment of about \$250,000, and then every quarter thereafter for the next four years will pay DOT about \$288,000 for a total of over \$4.8 million. This decision precludes the necessity of seeking additional Farmers Home Administration

(FmHA) loan funds, a possibility that arose when FKAA officials earlier suggested paying for the pipeline enhancement out of the \$52.3 million pipeline replacement loan.

There still remains the problem, however, of where the \$288,000 per quarter, or \$1,152,000 per year will come from. Wardlow suggested that it could come from saved maintenance funds after the new tubes are installed in the Desalination Plant. This doesn't sound feasible to us. FKAA has been projecting savings of only \$1,719,000 per year by complete shutdown of the Desal Plant, after the new pipeline is built. In actual fact the Desal Plant cost \$3,090,045 total or \$174,170 per month during last fiscal year. For the first five months of this year its cost is up to \$226,404 per month, which projects at \$2,716,848, or \$626,803 over last year. This increase occurred after about half the tubes were renewed. We do note that water production from the Desal Plant is up substantially so far this year compared to last year, but water from this source costs over \$4.40 per thousand gallons to make, plus cost of distribution and administrative overhead, which produces a deficit for every gallon made and sold by desalination.

REALISTICALLY, WE SEE only one way to pay the \$1,152,000 per year to DOT, and that is by increased revenue from increased water rates. Based on last year's total sales of 2.29 billion gallons of water, we calculate that a rate increase of slightly over 50 cents per thousand gallons would be required, starting October 1, 1979. Questioned

KEY WEST GLASS WORKS

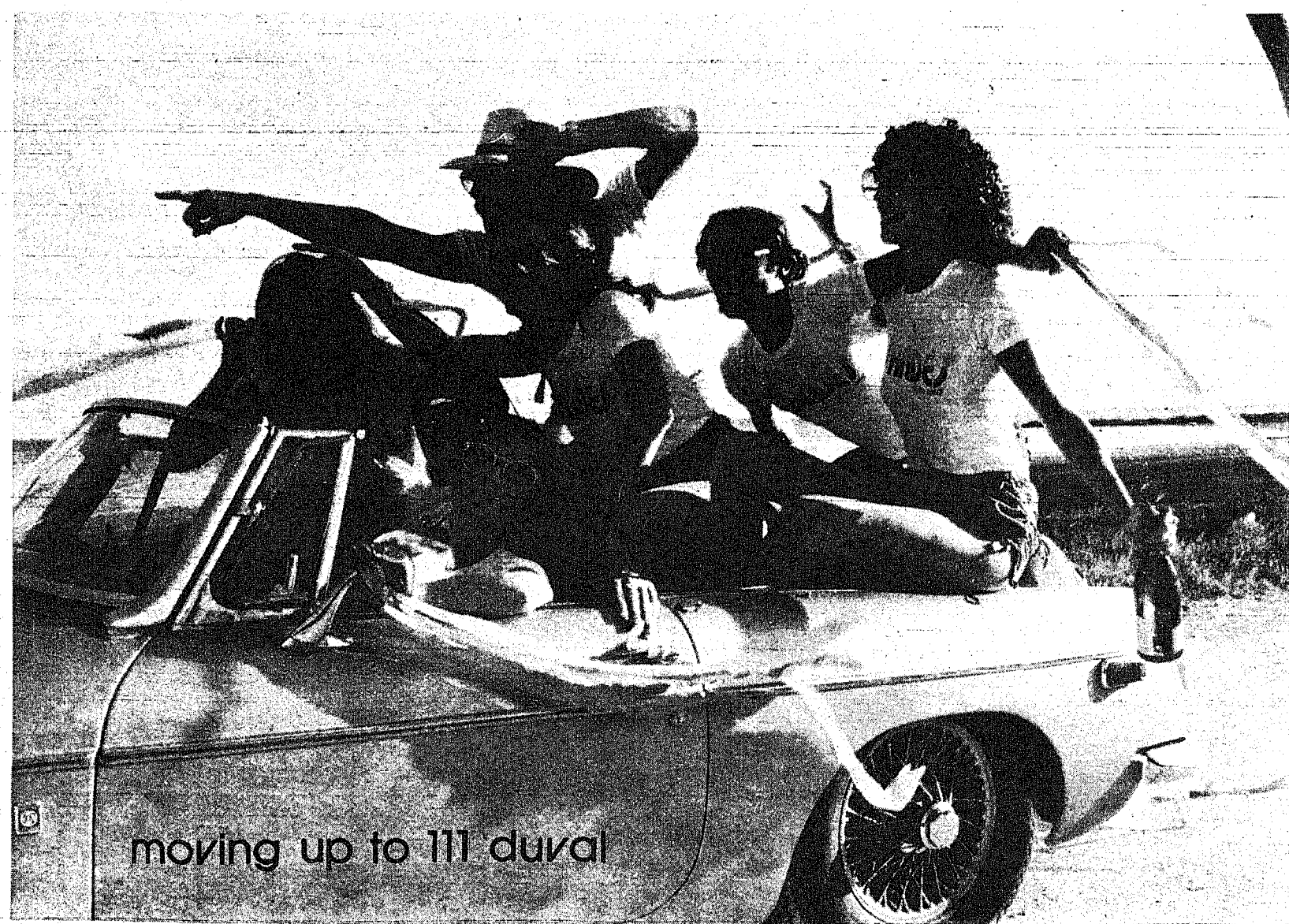


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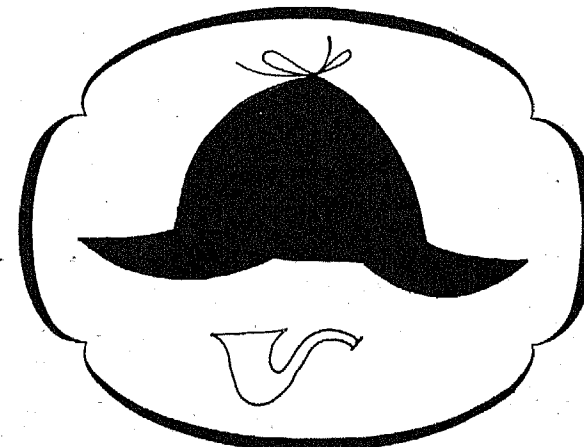
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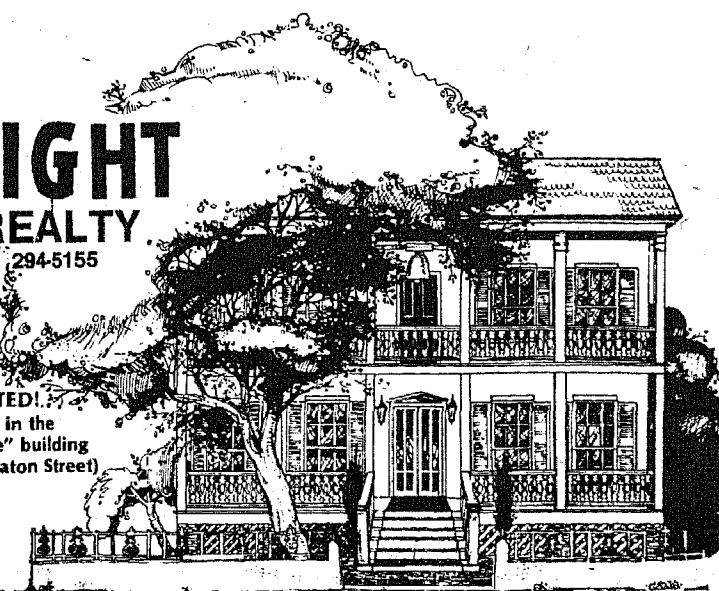
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BROWN IN OIL. SET ASIDE. ADD CHORIZOS,
ONIONS, GARLIC, PEPPER. COOK 5 MINS.
ADD TOMATOES. COOK UNTIL LIQUID HAS
EVAPORATED. ADD RICE, STIR, ADD
BUIOL & WATER & COOK UNTIL WATER
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about this possibility, FKA Board Member Ed Jackson declared, "No way...no way" will we have a rate increase." Nevertheless, when the preliminary annual budget for 1979-1980 was released at the Board of Directors meeting on July 26, all of the unit cost data for water production and water sales as well as estimated production and sales quantities for next year had been left blank. Although estimated gross income schedules were given, no supporting rate structure was provided.

ONE OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS of the consulting engineers who prepared the pipeline feasibility study, Black, Crow & Eidsness (BC&E), was to retain three pumping stations on the new pipeline. The FKA staff altered that recommenda-

FIRST WE WERE TO SAVE \$181,000 PER YEAR BY SHUTTING DOWN THE MARATHON PUMPING STATION, AND NOW WE CAN SAVE \$100,000 PER YEAR BY KEEPING MARATHON OPEN. SOMEBODY WAS WRONG!

tion and said they would shut down all five intermediate pumping stations and save \$681,000 per year. We argued that it would cost as much more to pump that water from Florida City alone as could be saved, maybe more, but then Director Gehman said it would cost nothing more and the entire \$681,000 per year would be saved. Now, according to Director Wardlow, the design engineers, Greenleaf-Telesca, want to keep the Marathon pumping station because they say they can save \$100,000 per year in pumping costs at Florida City, by using the booster station at Marathon. So first we were to save \$181,000 per year by shutting down Marathon, and now we can save \$100,000 per year by keeping Marathon open. SOMEBODY WAS WRONG!

The present basic water rate of \$3.55 per thousand gallons (M), coupled with the fuel adjustment (FA) of \$.87/M

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causes a current rate of about \$4.42/M. Covering the repayments to DOT will, we believe, raise the rate to nearly \$5/M. During the referendum election, FKA officials promised that they could save \$681,000 per year by shutting down all the booster pumping stations, \$1,718,000 and \$319,999 more by Desal and R.O. plant shutdowns, thereby save all the F.A. cost, plus \$.66/M in other saving and reduce the water rate to \$2.89/M. We argued at that time that those promised savings were phoney, and were being used to "sell" the oversized new pipeline. We argued then that any savings would be more than offset by increased costs elsewhere, which were being ignored by FKA. The indications are that we were right, and that by the time the new large pipeline is built, our water rates will approach \$6/M.

ONE COMMENDABLE FINANCIAL action of the FKA Board and Executive Staff occurred in July when the members journeyed to New York to negotiate the final details of the interim construction loan. FKA has signed FmHA guaranteed notes for some \$41,900,000 at 6.5 percent to provide construction money. However, pending actual need for this cash, it has then been able to reinvest the \$41.9 million at 9.61 percent for nearly one year producing a profit of about \$1.2 million. The profit can and will be used to pay the engineering fees of Greenleaf/Telesca, in effect giving us engineering service for free. Sharp bargaining by FKA Treasurer Joe Balbonin during the final hours of negotiation with the New York investment firms resulted in an increase in interest from 9.49 to 9.61 percent, which resulted in an additional profit to FKA of \$67,000. Good show!



Director Wardlow says the bid plans and specifications by consulting engineers Greenleaf-Telesca should be ready by January or February 1980. How long it will take to build the pipeline after that remains to be seen. The feasibility study by engineers Black, Crow and Eidsness estimated anywhere from 18 months to 34 months from bid time. So we are talking about a new pipeline in August 1981 to December 1982. And, if the large 36"-30"-24" pipeline is overdesigned and underfinanced as we have contended all along, then additional delay for redesign, or for a new loan application and another referendum, must be added to the schedule. So add another year. Ken Durr, President of the Upper Keys Citizens Association, has forecast that the new pipeline is five years away -- he could well be right!

WE WISH TO EMPHASIZE once again that all of our cost data was derived from FKA's own engineering study in 1976. The BC&E report projected costs to 1978 and then forecast 7% per year inflationary costs thereafter. All of our costs reflect this 7% annual increase; FKA's figures to the public and the FmHA do not.

To conclude, we applaud and support Dennis Wardlow and the FKA Board of Directors for their decision to limit new development projects to water for five living units per year until a schedule for additional water is firmly and reliably established.

We urge the FKA Board to transmit this decision clearly and unequivocally to the Monroe County Board of Commissioners and to the Key West City Commission.

We applaud the board for its sharp bargaining with its construction loan money that will produce the interim profits from interest differential.

We appreciate the candor with which Director Wardlow responded to our questions at our last interview -- it was a pleasant change and should prevent misunderstanding in the future.

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SETTING THE STORY (IF YOU'LL PARDON THE EXPRESSION) STRAIGHT

by Richard Marsh and Larry Davis

BEN MARTIN, a former feature editor of the New York Herald-Tribune, is an experienced and usually capable writer who has lived in Key West for the past few years. He wrote an article published in the December 1978 issue of the magazine, Palm Beach Life entitled "Gay Key West," which has enraged Key Westers because of the distorted view it presents of the gay presence here.

Those who know something of local history will be warned by the second paragraph that the rest of the article is not to be trusted. Referring to the Union occupation of Key West during the Civil War, Martin says:

"Once mustered out, many of the former occupation troops returned to the island as civilians, where in time they became the ancestors of Conchs, as Key West natives are called."

THIS IS ONLY the first of many half-truths. Of course, any child born in Key West is a Conch, regardless of where his parents came from, but Martin implies that Yankee soldiers and/or their families were the original Conchs. What a distortion of the proud Bahamian Conch origin of the old Key West families!

"Key West has traditionally been a family resort," says Martin. Writing for local tourist publications may have convinced Martin of this, but, not to deny that since the deliberate enticing of tourists to the island began in the 1930's many families have vacationed here, Key West has traditionally been the refuge of pirates, smugglers, soldiers of fortune, and homosexuals attracted by the Navy's presence, as they are attracted by the Navy's presence anywhere. Martin claims that the recent increase in gay tourists who have been attracted by Key West's current "in" status will scare

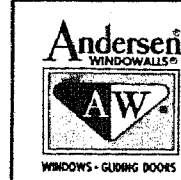
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"With the chauvinism that marks many minorities, Key West homosexuals habitually refer to (Tennessee) Williams as 'America's greatest living playwright,' conveniently overlooking Neil Simon,..." Martin infers that Williams holds that honor only among Key West gays and that Simon is passed over merely because he is not gay. Martin himself conveniently overlooks something: Williams is considered to be 'America's greatest living playwright' by a great many people in and out of Key West who are not necessarily gay. Simon may be an entertaining writer of topical comedy, but he is no competition for Williams.

ABOUT THE MONSTER, Martin says, "A heterosexual who wanders into the joint is greeted with all the warmth with which a black would be embraced upon entering the Union League Club." Yes, the Monster is predominantly gay, but ever since it opened a few years ago it has been favored by many heterosexuals for the garden decor, the sound system, the lights, the food, the free movies. After all, some straight people have taste also, and they seem to feel comfortable enough with the ambiance to return.

MARTIN SAYS that rich gays have created such a demand for the charming Conch houses in Old Town that real estate prices have soared, and he implies that the rich gays have begun to "take over the black section, a block or two at a time" to accommodate the "wave of the future."

"This raises a question," Martin says: "Has any minority, particularly one whose life style differs radically from that of the majority, the moral right to change the basic character of a community?"

Martin has missed an important point here, but in the process has accidentally

raised a very important question, one that is being hotly debated this summer. THE MINORITY whose life style differs radically from that of the majority, and which is trying to change the basic character of Key West, is the wealthy. Regardless of whether they are gay or not, it is their greed that threatens to ruin Key West, not their sexual preference.

It is true, as Martin says, that "one reason for Key West's inflated real-estate prices is that it has become the 'in' place for trend-conscious homosexuals." Another reason, of course, is that it has become the "in" place for trend-conscious straight people. Still another reason is that local property owners have only recently begun to realize that selling a \$6000 house for \$20,000 gets them nowhere, since they cannot buy a house elsewhere in Key West for less than \$30,000. And there are other reasons, so why blame the real estate crunch only on the gays?

THESE ARE ONLY a few examples from Martin's one-sided article that tries to put all the blame for Key West's current problems on the recent gay "invasion."

Palm Beach Life refused to print a rebuttal offered by Larry Davis, and so Martin's article has gone unanswered in the pages of the magazine.

Solares Hill has provided space for this rebuttal so that the record may show that Martin's article has not gone unchallenged.

OPINION continued from page 7
sponse to this article. So if you care, write and let Solares Hill know it!

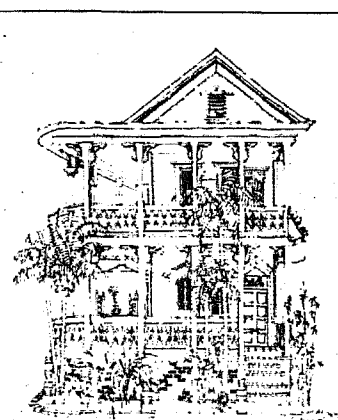
If you know of someone you feel would be a good commissioner -- let Solares Hill know.

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Summer Of Discontent: THE NAVY BASE CONTROVERSY

by Richard Marsh photo by Kathleen Hargreaves

ALL THROUGH THIS long, hot summer, Key Westers have been meeting in twos and threes, in handbills, in dozens, and in roomfuls. It seems as if a veil of apathy has been lifted suddenly from the eyes of some, and they are seeing clearly for the first time what others have been talking about for years.

Their skin colors are black and white and all shades in between, and their various economic backgrounds can be lumped into the category of "non-wealthy." They are united in anger at what they perceive as a calculated, cold-blooded attempt to make a few rich people richer at the expense of the majority of the citizens of Key West.

THE MOST SUBTLE accusations leveled against local elected and appointed officials include non-responsiveness, ir-

responsibility, incompetence, evasiveness, twisting of facts and figures, indifference or downright rudeness to the public. Those who are the most subtle are generally those who are taking a close look at the deeper workings of local government for the first time, and perhaps they are making allowances for oversights and honest mistakes. Some of them hope that if the officials have their failures pointed out to them in a calm, reasonable manner they will make an effort to do better next time.

But the old guard -- those who have been looking over the shoulders of local officials for some time and have faced them down and even won on occasion --

have seen too much of local political history to not know the difference between human error and human greed. They do not hesitate to say that the people are being lied to again, and they point to proven past lies to support their accusation.

IT HAS LONG been the accepted strategy for local government officials to put off any public action on controversial issues until summertime, when many of the politically active and knowledgeable Key Westers are away on vacation, or just returned or just about to leave. While the forces of the "rabble-rousers" are scattered, it has in the past been relatively easy to ram through an ordinance or a decision that might be opposed by the people's watchdogs.

So it was no surprise to local ob-

continued on page 19

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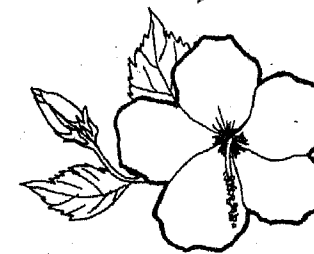
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The Secret of Indian Key Part II

by Lee Rohe

Solares Hill apologizes to our readers and to Lee Rohe for a lay-out mistake in June's issue. This caused several paragraphs to be transposed in the first part of this article.

PHYSICIAN AND BOTANIST Dr. Henry Perrine was another distinguished visitor and resident of Indian Key. Perrine had been known widely for medical work in the yellow fever epidemics of Natchez, Miss., and in the Mexican Yucatan. He was responsible for introducing quinine into the United States as a yellow fever cure. The doctor himself had even survived cholera and yellow fever attacks by his own methods of treatment. Appointed U.S. Consul to Mexico, he there began an intensive study of tropical plants and their medicinal and commercial value.

While still in Mexico, Dr. Perrine convinced Washington that the large area of South Florida would lie useless unless experiments were undertaken to find profitable agricultural productions to attract a population. Small landholders were favored for homesteaders because they would defend the vulnerable Florida peninsula against foreign attack. In 1838, Congress granted Perrine and his Tropical Plant Company a six-square-mile area of land to use for experiments and large-scale plantings. But, before the doctor could begin his work on the South Florida mainland, he was forced to take refuge at Indian Key until the current Seminole War ended.

AWARE OF PERRINE'S influence in Washington, Housman wasted no time in playing the generous host to Dr. Perrine and his family. A fine house was offered as their living quarters. During the next two years, Perrine cultivated an experimental nursery on the key and made many plantings on the mainland. As a result, many tropical plants are mistaken today as native to Florida. Florida's so-called "wild lime belt" is



Sisal tree at Indian Key

the end-product of a handful of Yucatan lime seeds brought over and planted by Perrine. Also a consequence of Perrine's work is the thousands of sisal hemp plants now growing as far north as Jupiter. Arabian Coffee thriving "wild" throughout Florida today is yet another example. The list goes on. In all, more than 200 varieties of tropical plants were im-

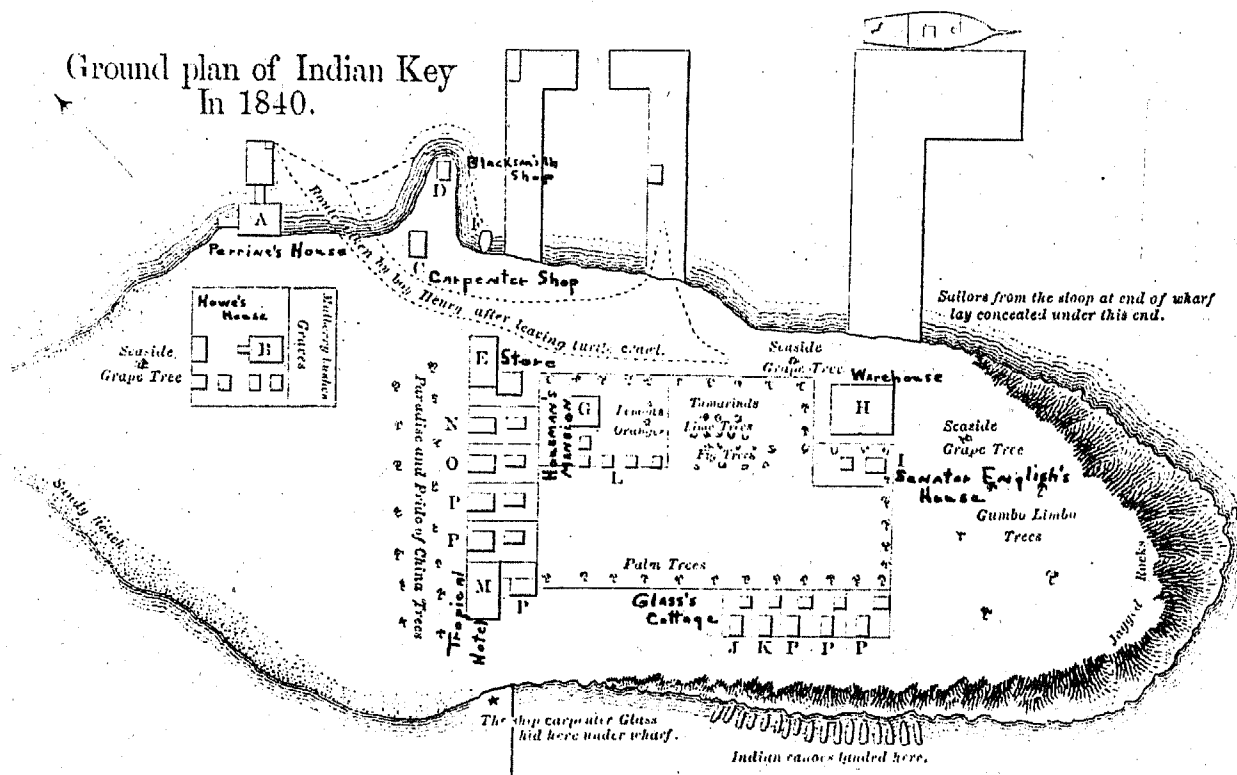
ported to make Florida supreme as a tropical agricultural domain.

Perrine must have been regarded by some on Indian Key as an eccentric. When naval officers from nearby Tea Table Key Naval Station came to pay a visit, Perrine would lock his daughters in their room. As a joke one evening, some of the sailors who had been drinking rowed up to beneath the daughters' window and began a serenade that sounded not much better than a wounded sea cow. The doctor awoke furious and chased them off with his rifle.

AS LIFE CONTINUED on Indian Key, Housman's autocratic rule over the new

signee, he was supposed to represent the owner's interest in the wrecked ship or wrecked cargo. But, as was typical of Housman, he would often be in collusion with the salvors.

BY 1840, HOUSMAN was in serious financial trouble. Perhaps it was his financial problems or an attempt to regain favor of local Conchs that prompted him to write a remarkable letter to the Florida governor. The Second Seminole War had been in progress for nearly five years, and there seemed to be no end of it in sight. The Indians proved to be



county grew stronger. He was now a political boss, and no advantage was missed. In salvage cases decided at Indian Key, he had virtually a "blank check" from the arbiters. His high-handed rule began to cause local concern when it was rumored that he had imprisoned four men in one of his warehouses. The four were confined in stocks on Housman's authority for alleged "mutinous conduct." They were allowed only a biscuit and water diet with no bedding or mosquito netting.

Nevertheless, as proprietor of the "wrecker's rendezvous," Housman was riding high. His fortune was amassing at the rate of \$30,000 a year. He was fast becoming an infamous living legend up and down the southern coast. It seemed as though things couldn't be better for him, and his vengeance on Key West was at last fulfilled.

But not for long.

IN 1838 THE Admiralty Court at Key West revoked Housman's wrecking license. A jury found him guilty of embezzling cargo from the wrecked merchantman, the Ajax. With the four wrecking schooners out of operation, the Indian Key store, warehouses and hotel were his only other means of income. But this wasn't enough to satisfy the debts incurred in developing the island as a wrecking port. For a while, Housman offered his services to wrecked captains as a consignee of salvaged property. As con-

a more formidable enemy than expected. Employing guerilla tactics, the Indians would attack a military encampment or white settlement from out of nowhere and quickly retreat into the Everglades.

The U.S. Army and Navy had made many expeditions to locate and engage the Seminoles in battle, but no white man knew his way around in the Everglades. With the military's past failures in mind, Housman made a proposal to the governor to "catch or kill all the Indians of South Florida, for two hundred dollars each."

WHILE THE FLORIDA Territorial Government was considering Housman's offer, the letter was published in a Florida newspaper. The news of it spread so far and wide that Chakika, chief of a Seminole band known as the "Spanish Indians," eventually heard about Housman's letter.

Chakika was described in those days as the "largest Indian in South Florida." He stood "well over six feet and weighed over two hundred pounds." He had led many successful attacks against the whites, including the raid on Col. Harney and his force of 28 dragoons. That skirmish took place on the banks of the Caloosahatchee in the vicinity of what is now called Harney's Point in Cape Coral. Chakika's band was known as "Spanish Indians" because they spoke a dialect which contained many Spanish words.

THE SPANIARDS who remained behind

in Florida after it became an American Territory maintained friendly relations with Chakika and the Seminoles. It was a Spanish fisherman named Domingo who lived at Punta Rassa and fished for the Havana market who gave Chakika a hand-drawn map of Indian Key. Domingo had been to Indian Key once as a trader and knew that the island's warehouses contained arms, ammunition and supplies. On the map, Domingo indicated where the warehouses were, as well as from which side to approach the key when making an attack.

Chakika took this information with him to a war council held in the Big Cypress Swamp. The big chiefs were all there: Sam Jones, the Prophet, Holar-toochee and Billy Bowlegs. They heard Chakika out and agreed that the white man known as Jacob Housman was a special enemy of the Seminoles. Just as Harney paid dearly for hanging Seminole prisoners like dogs, Housman would pay, too.

CHAKIKA'S BAND was joined by others. A war party of 134 men set out in August for Indian Key from Chakika's Hammock deep within the Everglades. The summer monsoon season had flooded the sawgrass plains, allowing a swift passage for the Seminoles in their blanket-sail canoes. Down through Shark River Slough, Shark River, and the maze of interconnecting sounds of Whitewater Bay they paddled and sailed. After crossing Florida Bay, the group camped on the leeward side of Lower Matecumbe Key so that their fires could not be seen from nearby Indian Key or the naval station at Tea Table Key. Three days later, the naval squadron left for the West Coast on a routine patrol. On the following day, at 2 a.m. after the moon had set, the war party launched its convoy of 17 canoes. The date was August 7, 1840.

THERE WAS LITTLE wind that hot and humid summer night. The Indians had to be especially careful. Noise carries well across the open, calm water of a still night.

As Housman's island loomed larger, they could smell the low tide on the flats, smoke from dead cooking fires and the intoxicating scent of night-blooming jasmine that carried from Dr. Perrine's nursery. Masts and spars of moored wrecking schooners, outlined against the night sky, jutted above the key's houses and trees. When they landed, the war party disturbed a mangrove roost of wood ibises on the deserted south shore. The birds' strange calling, echoing throughout the island, sounded like high-pitched idiot laughter. A couple of dogs began to bark sporadically in the village, but still no one had spotted them yet. Seventy souls slept peacefully, except for one.

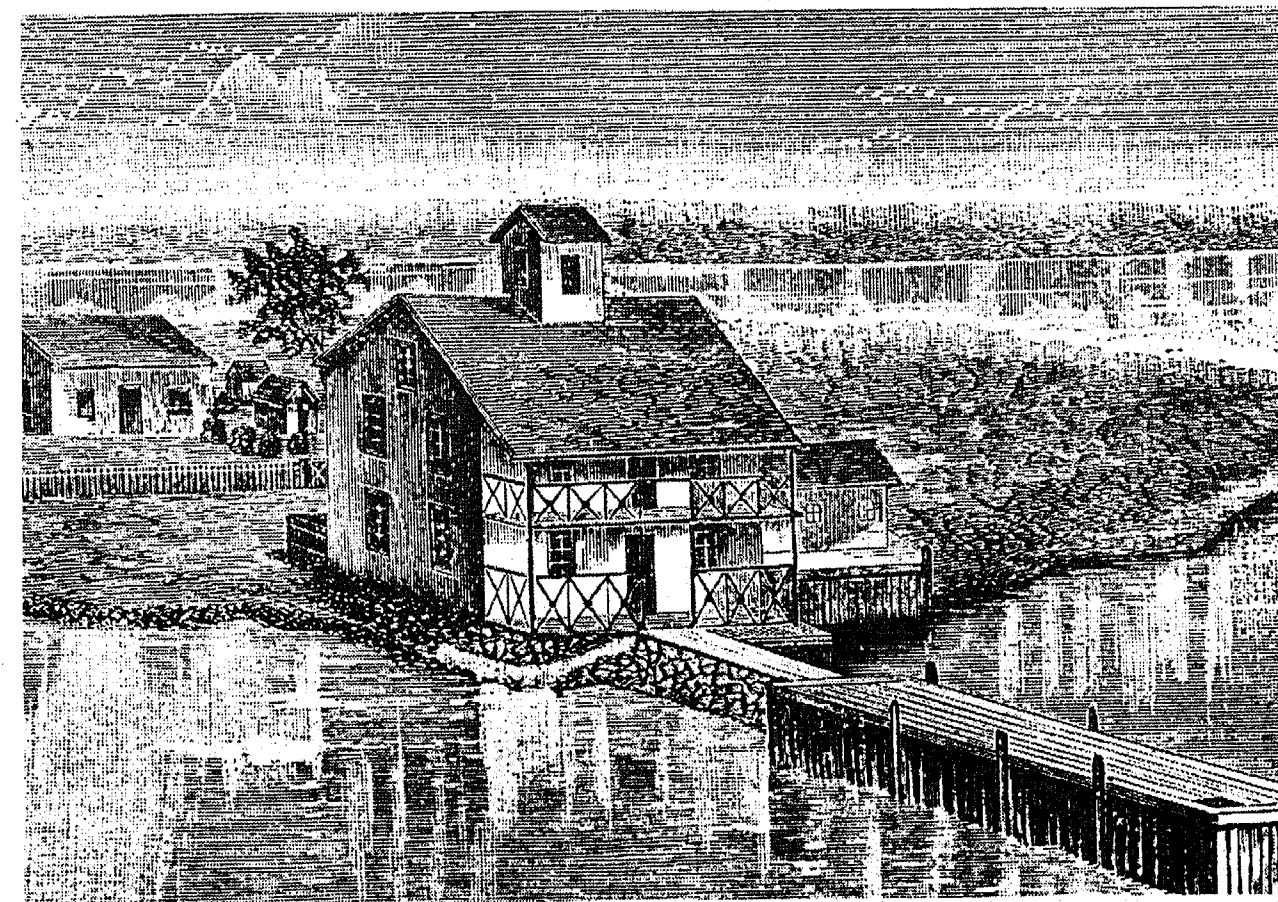
A SHIP'S CARPENTER, troubled by insomnia and taking a walk, came across the Indians. His warning shot ruined Chakika's surprise attack. The Indians planned to surround each house before beginning the attack; the occupants would be trapped and none would survive. By the time the Indians reached the village, many residents had hidden in the water cisterns while others ran for their skiffs and poled away.

Housman awoke to the sound of general panic and Indians crashing down his front door. He managed to bolt his bedroom door just as the Indians came through the front and rushed up the stairs after him. While they were breaking down the bedroom door, Housman grabbed his wife, and the two of them jumped out of their bedroom window to the water below. They made a swim for it to a small boat, anchored around the corner of the key. When they reached the boat, they crawled in and laid down in the bilge until they drifted out of rifle range before poling to Tea Table.

PERRINE'S HOUSE WAS located at an

isolated end of the key. It took the Indians a little longer to find it. Perrine hid his family below the house in a turtle kraal through a hidden trap door. Then he went out to meet the Indians and talked to them in Spanish. He told them he was a doctor and could heal their sick and wounded. He would go back with them if they would spare the rest of his household and leave.

The Indians didn't say anything. They left Perrine and returned to the pillaging and loading of provisions into their canoes. One of Housman's warehouses contained cases of rum. Later, in a drunken fury, they returned to Perrine's house. Perrine rushed up to the cupola and locked himself in.



Perrine house and escape tunnel to wharf

MEANWHILE, THE PERRINE family listened as the Indians chased upstairs, broke the door down and fired one shot that signaled the doctor's death.

The Perrines were still hiding in the turtle kraal when the Indians set fire to the house. Burning embers sifted down through the house's floorboards into the kraal. In order to keep from being burned, the family plastered their heads with mud and water.

All night, the Indians plundered and then set fire to each house. For some that were hiding in the cisterns, it was a terrible death. As the houses burned, the walls collapsed inward, falling into the cisterns. A few of the ones hiding were scalded to death. Some were shot as they fled their hiding place.

AT DAWN, THE dozen or so sick sailors who had been left behind by the squadron at Tea Table Key station had organized. With a small cannon mounted on a barge, the sailors got to within firing range of the key. The Indians manned one of Housman's cannon and returned the fire. When the barge's cannon recoiled overboard, the sailors were forced to withdraw, and the Seminoles gained clear control of Indian Key.

It was early afternoon before Chakika and his warriors left. Indian Key had been reduced to ashes, and seven of its inhabitants lay dead. Housman's years of work and his dream of a wrecking port had gone up in smoke. Too heavily in debt to even consider rebuilding, he returned to

Key West where he sold his schooners and few remaining possessions on the auction block.

JACOB HOUSMAN WAS a broken man when he hired on as a crew member of a wrecking sloop from Key West. He was killed little more than a year later while trying to jump from the sloop to a grounded vessel in heavy seas. When he fell between the two hulls, he was crushed to death.

A NEW YORK newspaper ad in the 1830s depicted Indian Key as "a health resort for invalids." Included in the ad was information on the island's cli-

mate, a table of winter temperatures, and a plat of the Key.

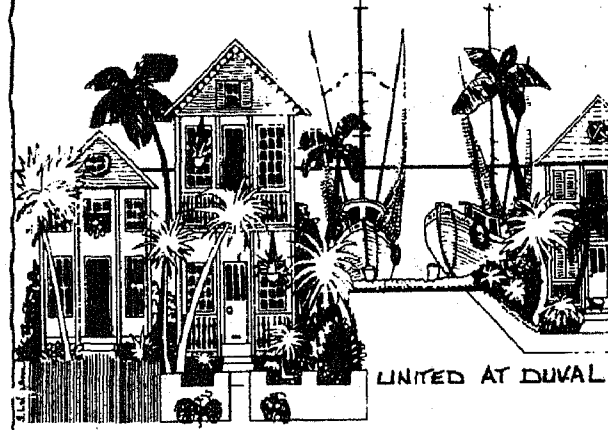
The advertisement was one of the first scraps of material state archaeologist Henry Baker found in Tallahassee archives during his research of Indian Key.

"One of the funny things about that old ad," Baker said, "was that it failed to mention the Seminole Indian war or the fact Indian Key was under daily threat of Indian attack at the time."

But the ad was invaluable, because the plat helped locate the covered foundations of the island's main buildings when the state archaeological team began its excavations.

(We would like to thank the Ft. Myers News Press for permission to use this article and to the Historical Association of South Florida for permission to use these illustrations from the book, They All Called It Tropical.)

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GREENE STREET THEATRE UPDATE by J.P. Bo

MY DREAM TO have the Greene Street Theatre alive this summer is happening. The Theatre is definitely having a successful Summer '79 as evidenced by excellent attendance and high interest.

Our opening Variety Shows on June 15 and 16 were sellouts with plenty of laughs, memorable moments and great music provided by The Crocodiles. The Pier House donated wine for both shows, and, needless to say, that made for even extra enjoyment.

"Play it Again Sam" opened on June 29 to rave reviews. Over 800 people attended the nine performances, with happy crowds for every show.

It's exactly what Richard Magesis, Margo Cone and myself had in mind when we decided to be The Summer Board of Directors.

"Spoon River Anthology" had such a successful mid-July three-night run that it was held over for another weekend.

WITH AUGUST UPON US, we at the Greene Street Theatre can hardly wait for the August 9 opening of "A Thousand Clowns" by Herb Gardner.

For me, there is extra excitement. First of all, "A Thousand Clowns" has always been one of my all time favorite scripts, and secondly, my 14-year-old son, Jedd Bogage, plays one of the leads, and it will be a very proud time for me.

To be perfectly honest, I had hoped myself to play Murray, the lead character in "A Thousand Clowns," opposite my son, but much to my dismay, director Richard Magesis cut me after my first audition. Not all my Greene Street Theatre fantasies come true!

INCIDENTALLY, THE entire case of "A Thousand Clowns" is:

Robert Armstrong - Murray
Jedd Bogage - Nick
Joy Hawkins - Sandra
Fred Gros - Albert
Tom George - Arnold
"Kirk" Condyles - Leo
There will be a total of 15 performances -- Thursday through Monday -- for 3 weeks. The Box Office is located at the entrance to the Theatre, and it is open 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. on all performance days. Phone reservations are accepted by calling 4-5001 during Box Office hours. For group rates or special discounts, please call me at 4-7417.

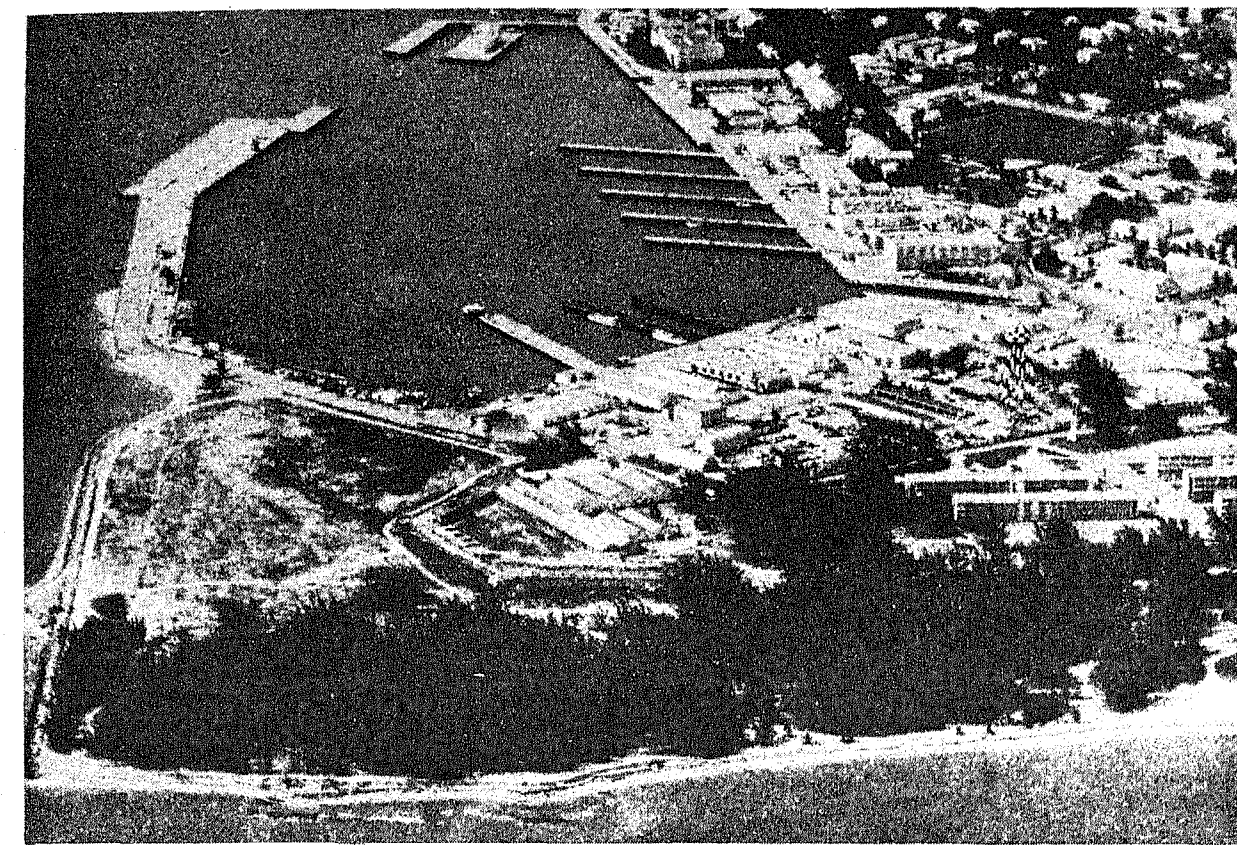
OUR FINANCES ARE such that the planned production of "Bus Stop" has been postponed. However, a Mack Dryden Comedy Special will run in its place on Labor Day weekend.

Please support us during the run of "A Thousand Clowns." We have taken the extra time to make it a superior production in order to give us some leverage to keep the Theatre alive for next season. It seems so senseless to let all these years and efforts -- including my own -- end here with this Summer Season.

Take it from me, the Greene Street Theatre is in a strange and strained financial situation now (what else is new?), and I for one appreciate all the creditors that are letting us continue to operate.

Let's hope for a November or December re-opening -- see you at "A Thousand Clowns."

Summer of Discontent continued from p. 15



Part of the Truman Annex of the Navy Base

local level, groups and leaders are rising spontaneously from all segments of the community and expressing a lack of confidence in the way the people's business is being conducted.

A charter boat skipper in Hemingway's Depression Key West novel To Have and Have Not says, "Down here everybody aims to mind their own business." This is true, and it is why a wide diversity of lifestyles has traditionally existed on the island in relative harmony.

BUT THERE ARE times when the separateness must come together for the

good of each and all. Harry Morgan, the hero of To Have and Have Not, learned a valuable lesson too late, which he explained in a delirious dying speech:

"One man alone ain't got...No matter how a man alone ain't got no bloody *** chance."

In the past several months, individuals who have spoken their minds at City Commission and Key West Redevelopment Agency meetings have been greeted with ridicule and rudeness. There is safety in numbers, however, and a few weeks ago when the city firemen stormed

continued on page 28



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NOTES AND ANTI-DOTES continued from page 9

one of the earliest of this genre was Mrs. Ruth Bryant Owen, daughter of William Jennings Bryant.

ADLAI STEVENSON REGISTERED at the Casa Marina when he was in Key West campaigning for Presidential nomination. And of course Harry S. Truman was among the prominent visitors. He once conducted a press conference on the hotel lawn. Years later, the fund-raising dinner for the Truman Library in Missouri was tendered by Senator John Spottswood. The successful event took place in the Casa Marina's dining room.

BACK IN THE late 1940's, when I was entertainment editor for the Miami Daily News, I had my first personal experience with the hotel. I made an impromptu trip to Key West with friends just for a lark. A full moon was perhaps the lure. At any rate, we started out on a carefree drive down the Overseas Highway from Miami, but instead of turning back after Key Largo, we continued down the Florida Keys all the way to Key West, entranced by the moon-drenched scenery of our nocturnal venture.

Enroute, the host-driver telephoned for reservations, and we were lucky to get accommodations since it was near the close of the spring season. I had been to Key West before but had not stayed at the island's famed "bit of paradise."

The cocktail lounge with bar was still unshuttered when we arrived and checked in about 11:30 p.m. As I recall the name of the cozy oasis was still "The Birdcage Lounge," located at one end of the Casa Marina, with the round lounge bordering on an outside dancing patio.

WE WERE DELIGHTED with the atmosphere, and relaxed with drinks after the 156-mile ride from the Florida mainland. There were only a few imbibers in the mirrored room with its glittering chandelier. From our corner table we observed a big, baring chandelier. From our corner table we observed a blonde woman whose face was familiar, although at first we couldn't quite place her. Then I recognized her as Miriam Hopkins, stage and screen actress.

Miss Hopkins and the kingsized man were in deep conversation which began in subdued tones but mounted in intensity and volume into a loud argument. Finally, Miss Hopkins, with all the explosive temperament of a Hollywood star slightly out of orbit, got to her high-heeled feet and threw the contents of her cocktail glass directly into the face of her argumentative companion. With a haughty toss of her blonde mane she turned and dashed up the steps which led to the hotel lobby.

WITH A MINIMUM of confusion, the barkeep mopped off the reddened visage of the man and placated him with a drink on the house.

The man, although obviously disgruntled, turned to the somewhat startled audience and mumbled an apology. "Sorry, but, well, you know these fiery actresses."

Just before midnight we drifted out with the rest of the patrons. When we left to repair to our sleeping rooms, the man with the dampened shirt was having "another nightcap," and all seemed tranquil.

HALF AN HOUR LATER we were in our adjacent bedrooms on the second floor, and having exchanged goodnights, were in preparation for a restful night.

Suddenly the quiet and peace erupted with a tremendous noise, a combined pounding on wood and loud shouting.

I thought there must be a fire and hurriedly donned a robe. I felt the panel of my door to see if it was hot before opening it. Then I took off the nightgown and peered out into the corridor. There, the only blast was of verbal heat. Just across the hall stood the man who had been at the bar with Miriam Hopkins. He was in his shirtsleeves, suspenders looped down over sagging trousers, and was in his stocking feet. His shoes were on his hands and were being forcefully slammed on the closed door opposite mine. The echoing blows were accompanied by bel-

lowed demands for admission to the Hopkins suite.

IN LESS THAN TWO MINUTES a Cuban bellhop and a desk clerk were on the scene. I'm not sure how they accomplished the mission, but with a minimum of struggle the two hotel retainers coaxed the irate disturber away, probably to his own quarters.

The corridor line of curious guests staring from doorways retreated with only an echo of murmurings, and the incident was closed. I, for one, marveled at the skillful handling of the disturbance. The aplomb of the elite Casa Marina was scarcely ruffled, thanks to the alert staff.

CONSISTENT WINTER INHABITANT of the Casa Marina was columnist-poet-writer Nick Kenny of the New York Daily Mirror. He authored rollicking songs and loved to deliver them for entertainment. One ballad which he favored began, "The pirates are still in Key West -- Yo Ho!" Then he boldly named "the pirates" using the names of local politicians and regional VIP's.

Writers for different publications from all over the world were counted among hotel customers. Important international personages kept arriving each year, and the expanding roster touched on show business personalities who favored the sunshine and isolation of the island.

IN THE EARLY 1950's, Ethel Merman, then musical comedy star of "Call Me Madam," arrived and was queen of celebrities at that period. She was not as gracious as some of the others of the glamor circle. She promised an interview for "The Key West Citizen," so the photographer, Al Palmer, who was an experienced reporter and camera expert from Montreal, and I arrived promptly for the press session. At the desk I was directed to the beach club, and then to the solarium on the roof of a side building. Palmer wandered off to the bar and I climbed the solarium steps.

Imagine my surprise, and Miss Merman's too, when I opened the door at the top and stepped out into a sort of roofless arena where there were couches and cots in profusion. On each one lay a partially draped lady sunbasker. I stood bewildered until I heard an attendant address one of them as "Miss Merman."

I clutched my clipboard and Miss Merman clutched towels. There was a frantic exchange of arrangements for another appointment same time, next day. I retreated with apology for the unexpected intrusion. But actually it was Miss Merman who had stated her preference for the hour of interview. She explained, "It slipped my mind."

As with most interviewing reporters the motto is "If you don't at first succeed, pry, pry again." So the next afternoon, I was again on deck with hope only slightly dented. Alas, Miss Merman, reached via house phone, shrieked, "I look like a pig! I can't possibly pose for a picture or talk to you today."

So twice disappointed, and having other assignments, Palmer and I abandoned efforts. As a work team we went off to the U.S. Naval Hospital to talk to veterans of the Korean conflict, and nobody called ME "madam," as I wrote in my account of the non-encounter.

THE GREAT BASSO PROFUNDO, Ezio Pinza, who after 30 years in opera became a cinema and stage artist, proved to be the most gracious of all celebrities who rested here. In November 1955, when Pinza was the lead in "Fanny," a delightful musical production, he chose the Casa Marina retreat to recuperate from a bout of bronchial pneumonia. He declared the hotel a "perfect place to relax."

Composer Lew Brown also spent restful hours at "The Casa," and said he was dreaming up a new melody and lyrics dedicated to Key West. He's the man who wrote "The Beer Barrel Polka" and "Sonny Boy." He invited friends to join him at the Casa Marina, which he lauded as "an ideal vacation spot."

Terri Stevens, a smash hit singer who was once with the Desi Arnaz band (pre-Lucille Ball era), and petite Leslie Caron, actress and singer-dancer, enjoyed the hospitality of the hotel, with her husband Peter Hall, English movie director.

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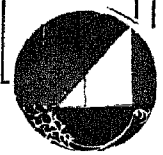
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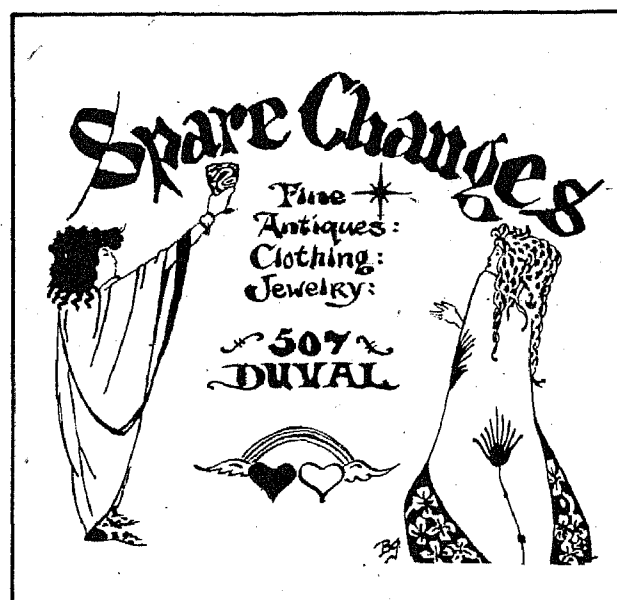
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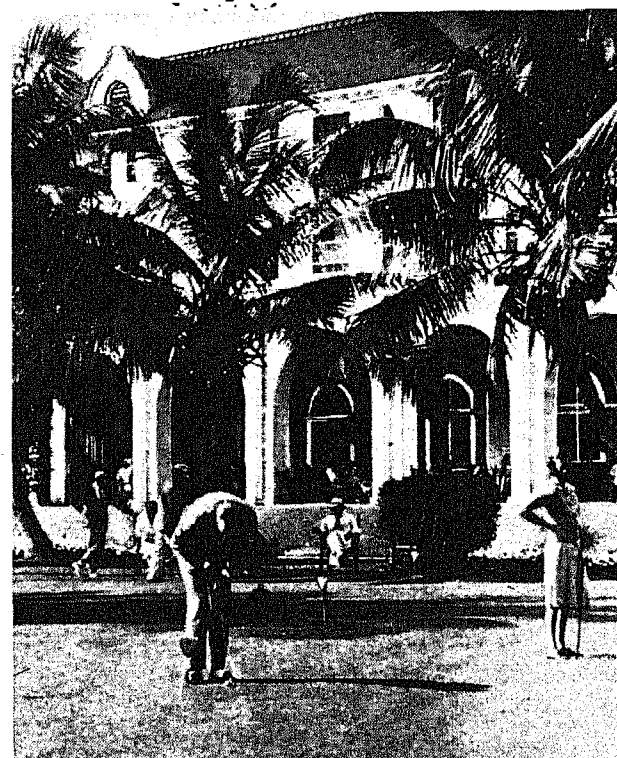


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BOB FELLER, pitcher for the Cleveland Indians, and his family came here for a baseball league conference. Ted Williams, another baseball biggie, visited on trips down from Boston and later from his Florida Keys residence.



Putting on the green

Perusal of old registration books will reveal that distinguished visitors to the Casa Marina include former President Herbert Hoover, who loved the regional fishing. Poets Robert Frost and Wallace Stevens are counted among the literati who also registered.

CecCee Cromwell, the multimillion Dodge heiress, was married to singer Bob Ellis in a quiet ceremony at the hotel in 1952. In fact, they returned for another stay in 1953, coming here from their home and nightclub business in St. Thomas,

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GREGORY PECK AND Rita Hayworth were among the earliest of movie stars to select the Casa Marina for vacation refuge. Later, there was a regular invasion of screen names, among them Richard Widmark, Dana Andrews, Gary Merrill, and Cary Grant.

During the filming of the Tennessee Williams comedy-drama, "The Rose Tattoo," Anna Magnani and other members of the cast were in residence.

Perhaps the greatest influx of movie stars at one time happened in the spring of 1953 when the film, "Beneath the Twelve Mile Reef," was on location in Key West.

The hotel and its spacious grounds overflowed with the cast, camera crew, and officials connected with shooting and its Key West background.

AMONG THE STELLAR cast were Gilbert Roland, J. Carrol Naish, Richard Boone, Terry Moore, Bob Wagner, Harry Carey, Jr., Peter Graves, and many others in the 20th Century Fox Company. There was a spirit of cooperation by townspeople as workers and extras, and the Casa Marina itself received a boost in community esteem.

Perhaps the greatest rapport between the proprietors and the townspeople was established when Jack Alpin owned the property. He and manager Emmet Conniff were in close accord with county and city leaders and with the military. Even some of the naval parties were held at the hotel instead of at Fort Taylor as was customary.

UP UNTIL THIS point, along about 1957, only adults and older residents were concerned with "doings" at the Casa Marina. However, new interests involving the young generation blossomed when dance studios became a part of the hotel conveniences. Youngsters were included in activities, learning acceptable behavior as well as dance steps. Deportment and good manners were taught. The junior cotillions introduced young people to fun, games and the social graces.

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A swimming pool had been added to the attractions in 1955 and was sometimes the center of parties for residents as well as tourists. Numerous balls, fashion shows, banquets, cocktail parties, and other convivial gatherings were programmed, and the Casa Marina served as a true liaison center.

BUT THE CASTRO REGIME, which had advanced in Cuba, curtailed the influx of visitors who were Havana-bound (there was a Cuban ferry operating from Key West), and the financial status of the hotel was considerably diminished.

Max Marmorstein from Cleveland took over when he was appointed receiver of the hotel mortgage foreclosure procedure. He was responsible during the period of litigation when Alpin left and was replaced by Emmet Conniff, formerly labeled as the manager. Conniff then became president of Casa Marina Hotel, Incorporated.

Marmorstein announced in 1959 that the hotel would remain open the year around, but the Cuban crisis heightened, and to complicate the situation further, Marmorstein died.

IN 1962, THE U.S. Army again moved into the picture and the hotel was closed to the public. Barbed wire lined the beach, sentries replaced doormen, and missile battalion troops were quartered in the rooms.

After the Army's occupation term had ended, the Casa Marina was declared out of commission as a hotel. Even mention of it as a home for the elderly was discarded. "The building was branded as a 'termite-ridden firetrap.'"

Undiscouraged, John Spottswood bought the buildings and grounds in 1966 for \$400,000 and decided on potential restoration.

He had a sentimental attachment for the aging hotel (then 57 years old), having worked at the lobby newsstand when he was a teenager. He planned to renovate the historic complex and proposed to move his radio station, WKWF, to the lodging.



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HE DIED IN 1975 before his ideas could be put into practice. Only the outdoor dance patio and the Birdcage Lounge remained in active existence, supervised and operated by Spottswood's sons, Jack, William and Robert.

This portion of the resort attracted local patronage, especially the younger set, and pointed up possibilities for the future.

Mary Spottswood, John Spottswood's widow, sold the estate in April, 1977, and the new investors studied further development.

THE MARRIOTT INN takeover came January 15, 1978. The property encompassed 6.5 acres, the main building with 200 rooms, a restaurant, cocktail lounge, and cabana bar. Renovation measures, new wiring and plumbing, plus the building of new four-story wings began. The partitions of most sleeping rooms in the old part of the hotel were torn out to create larger modern rooms and new baths. A convention hall aimed at group bookings was added to the scheme of improvements.

More than a casual touch of elegance has been preserved in the renovation with a handsome terraced lounge to the left of the central entrance, and in the terraced dining salon, Henry's.

THE CURRENT YOUTHFUL organization of investors, (some local) owners and operators has wisely enhanced and retained much of the opulence of the original deluxe hotel concept.

The present Casa Marina retains desirable and classic traditional aspects. But remember that the luxury hotel didn't make its debut along standard lines, and so should not be referred to as a "Dowager type." The Casa Marina made its debut in the lively period of the Flapper-Charleston and Jazz Era of the 1920's.

It will doubtless continue to "step lively."



The Kangaroo's Pouch

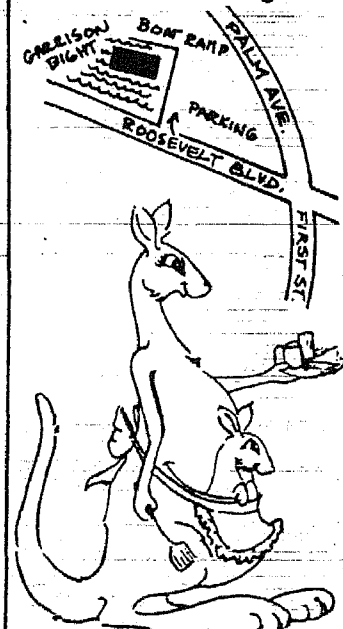
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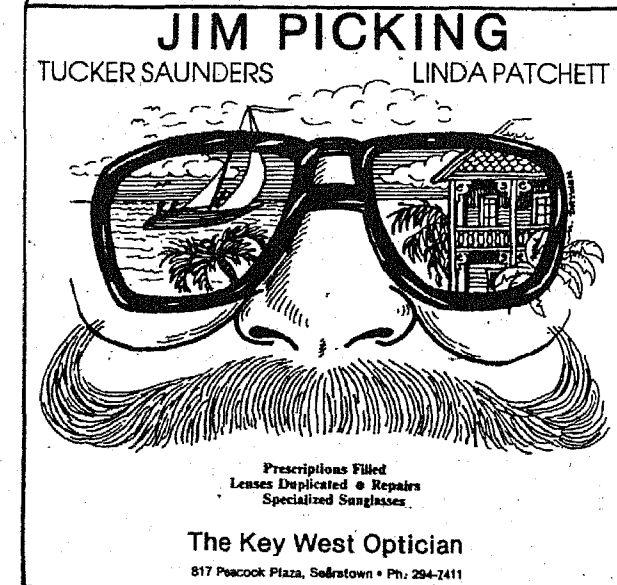
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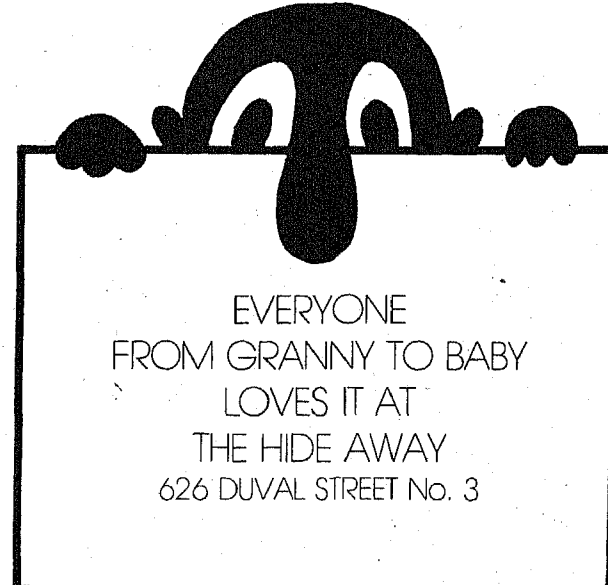


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IN EVERY PERSON'S young life there comes that first turning point, a certain feeling that lets you know your life is changing in some delicate way, an undercurrent moving subtly to direct your fate. I can remember when I first felt my beautiful duty-free life become linked up to the moorings known as responsibility. I can thank only one person for handing me my first anchor -- my older sister, Kathryn. It all came about so quietly and neatly I really was not prepared for what was about to become an enlightened existence: Kathryn got religion.

Had I only known our neighbors on the corner of Dey and Elizabeth Street were so fervently religious, I would have used any and every diversion known to man to keep her from going to that slumber party on a Friday night where Kathryn was made aware of the rituals of the inner workings of religion, since all children in that household went every Saturday to Bible classes.

MY SISTER LOVED instruction in any form, because once she learned something she was then free to properly inculcate Martha, my little sister, and myself with the jewels of her new-found knowledge. She could trap you when you were at a disadvantage -- in the tub, digging a hole or making a jelly sandwich -- and discuss at length whatever it was she was SURE you had no previous knowledge of but needed desperately to sustain your life processes. There were times when she lectured me that I was positive she believed with all her heart that my arm would fail to grow evenly with the other if I did not immediately absorb her each and every word.

If you tried to edge away from her slowly and dared to make an escape attempt, she would become all the more determined to finish what she was saying by restraining you with her own set of flesh and blood vise-grips: her hands would lock on your shoulders and moving anywhere became physically impossible. But in this case, her mental will became even more formidable than her bodily strength; Kathryn had made up her mind that Martha and I should go to religious instruction classes with her on a regular basis.

MY WHOLE LIFE was changed. My Saturdays were not my own anymore. Saturdays were always my big adventure days and I looked forward to them all through the school week as my own personal possession, an intangible vessel to be sailed wherever I wished. I was the captain of my Saturdays and Kathryn took them all away, in one complete, underhanded swoop. Kathryn had convinced my mother of the needs Martha and I were not fulfilling, and that was that.

Why, I had never even heard much about a church, much less been in one. I couldn't figure out how naturally Kathryn took to all the customs and manners required to become a member of the church, but she loved it and was hell-bent that we would love it too. My mother was very spiritual and always told us beautiful things about angels when we were very small, and I came to hold very favorable opinions about saints and angels, they being very generous entities ready to grant wishes and spare one from injury and harm. I loved the angels and

written and illustrated by Amy Lee de Poo

wanted to talk to them, and did so frequently, and even though they never answered, my mother assured me they were listening. I believed her.

HOWEVER, BELIEVING IN angels and keeping an appointment with them every Saturday are two different things. It was just so painful to be pulled out of bed right before nine (this was almost as bad as having to get up for school, thus making Saturday indistinguishable from any other day of the week, and it galled me to no end to see such a wonderful day be transformed into an arcane horror). Besides, Kathryn performed her reveilles with so much gusto and enthusiasm I suspected perhaps she was being paid by some secret organization whose mission was to ruin children's lives. But no, Kathryn was her own organization and she ran a tight ship. There just wasn't room for any tardy converts in her navy.

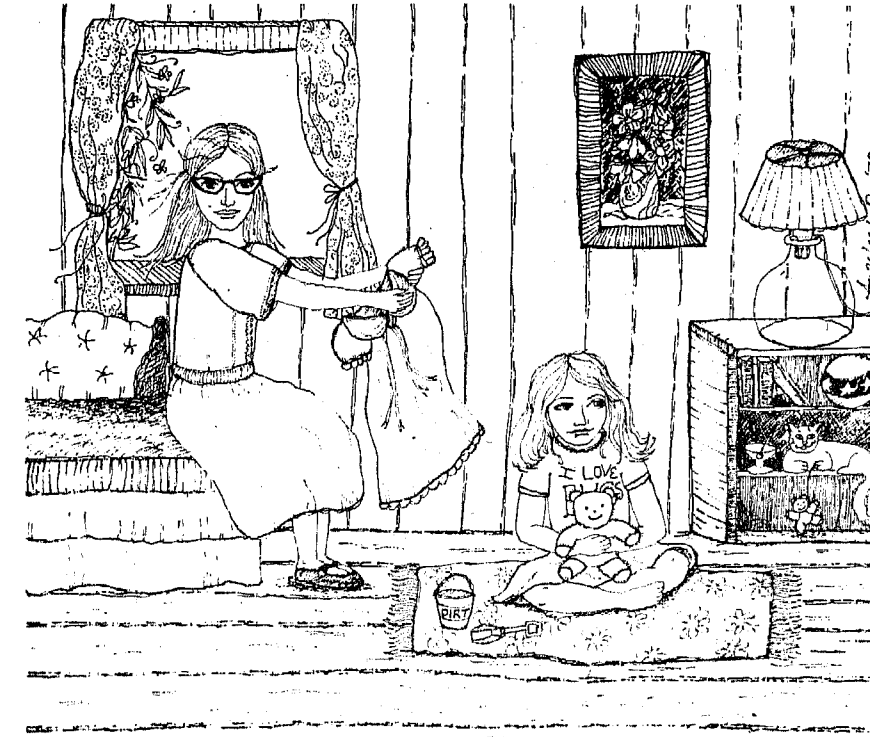
I was by no means the only reluctant cadet destined for active duty on her ship of spiritual awareness. Mind you, my sweet and frail younger sister Martha was by far the more repulsed at the prospect of relinquishing the one day of the week when she could really get down to some serious dirt-flinging and mud-dipping. (It should be noted here this was before she discovered the virtue of going unstuck for an entire day, a condition she came to actively court, and then nobody ever got to use the bathroom.) Martha at first absolutely refused to put a dress on and accompany Kathryn to the first class.

"No. I'm not going. You go. You're

the oldest. Why do you have to drag me there?"

Kathryn had not expected this minor kink in her plans. But refusals never stopped her before, so I didn't expect this dispute to center on yes or no, but rather now or later.

"You are going and you know you're going -- and you're not making me late either, so just put the dress on and let's GO. RIGHT NOW. DAMN YOU, I SAID LET'S GO!"



SPIRITUALITY EVIDENTLY HAD not dampened Kathryn's flair for effective leadership. Since she had already made a preliminary appearance the week before and graciously enrolled us without our knowledge or consent, it was clear that she did not intend to be humiliated or embarrassed by arriving late with two scowling and disheveled sisters in tow.

Kathryn also had the keen notion that the louder her voice became the faster we would shape up, but this was not the case at all. I always waited until she had exhausted her volume and had to resort to hissing vile threats between clenched teeth, a specialty peculiar to her personality. That was some sight to behold -- she moved in real close to your face and uttered these awful sibilant assurances of what injury

mirror, giving me ample time to place my person elsewhere in a hurry. But Martha was littler than I, and her only defense was to plop herself down and refuse to move.

However, in this instance Kathryn had not only God but someone more powerful on her side -- our mother; and there was no disputing her decision that Kathryn was in the right. Having a choice of staying and having your legs tingled with a tamarind branch or receiving heavenly guidance, it did not take long for Martha to put on that dress, but I was the first one down the stairs.

THIS WENT ON, week after week, and Martha and I still could not honestly look forward to going to those endless repetitive classes every Saturday morning. It was getting close to summer, and the weather was becoming unmercifully hot and humid. Our classes were taught by an elderly woman in an old wooden building and while it had tremendous historical value, that did not make it any more comfortable to sit and swelter while your older sister looked daggers through you if you put your head on your desk or motioned to her that you were about to faint from heat exhaustion.

Kathryn had no idea how we suffered, because she thoroughly enjoyed herself, soaking up facts and fantasies here and there, always having the right answer or adding her own suppositions as to why God existed and how important He was to the universe at large.

MARTHA AND I would vie for the seat by the door where one could gaze out at the hibiscus bushes and pretend to be deep in thought over the latest miracle when really we were plotting new ways to "budget" our collection money between God and Eula's Variety Store -- a wonderful small grocery and soda store located on Fleming Street that happened to be right on our way home.

Kathryn frowned on our preoccupation with cherry cokes and we had to be very careful to avoid getting the third degree



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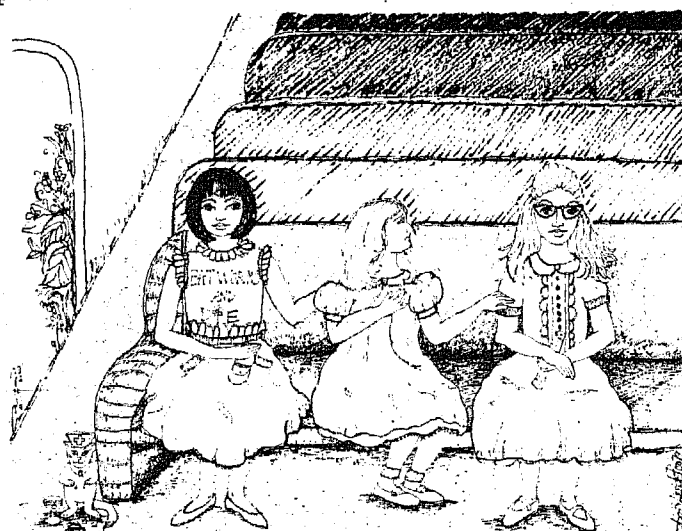
from her on where we got our mystery money, the poor box by the door of the church having benefitted from the loud donation of ten pennies and our filch-mitts having managed to hang onto the not-so-loud quarters. I couldn't help myself and neither could Martha. It got so the only thing keeping me alive during classes was the thought of Eula's and the cherry cokes, and the potato chips and the Hershey Bars and the M&M's peanuts. These things were my only salvation for the longest time it seemed.

It dawned on me slowly that life was not as it used to be and certainly not as it should be. I began to wonder if my former life would EVER return to normal. I missed my cool sidewalks in the morning, where I could sit and think or play with sticks or gaze at the sky and smell the ocean breezes as they drifted in from Thompson's docks. My kingdom had vanished, and I held Kathryn responsible for usurping my crystalline world where trees and light and water had sharp focus and there was joyousness in being alive.

SUMMER ARRIVED, and this made staying up later each night possible. The old re-runs of Alfred Hitchcock were drug-like in their allure for us, and we stayed up all during the week to watch and memorize all the segments so that when one episode again repeated itself we all played the game of predicting what would happen next. Naturally our systems locked into this revised schedule and getting up on Saturday became twice as hard.

Kathryn, with her seniority status, had gotten an alarm clock so that she would be sure and get up early and have time to harass Martha and me into getting dressed in time to walk to classes. Because we weren't used to it by habit, there wasn't any time to eat breakfast, and sometimes I was so sleepy I couldn't even think fast enough to grab a banana on the way out to eat on the way there. It was torture in its purest form.

ONE MORNING, after getting up rather late and just making it in time to be in our seats before the role was called by the teacher, we learned we were to begin learning proper church etiquette by actually participating in a service. The entire class was to walk to the church and go through the complete routine, putting into actual practice what we had



been in training for for months. Since the training had been all vocal, no actual kneeling ever took place. Well, Martha did not take to this at all. Her back just could not stay straight and every time she slumped Kathryn would glare at her and inch over next to her to poke her in the ribs with her bony elbow. This would work for a minute or two, but then back down she'd go looking more slumped and peaked than ever.

I still can't figure out how Kathryn had perfected the art of kneeling without registering some visible sign of fatigue, but she took to it like a duck to water, while Martha and I floundered and spluttered and drowned in our inabilities. Finally, Martha leaned over to Kathryn and whis-

pered faintly, "Kathryn, I can't do it. Please. I don't feel well." Kathryn did not like talking in church.

"Be quiet, will you. It's not that much longer. Sit up and be still."

I LOOKED AT MARTHA and noticed she was looking very pale, totally bloodless in the face and taking on a very waxy

appearance. Poor Martha. I was wholeheartedly sympathetic to her plight because I had not taken nourishment that morning either, and it was only the fact that I had taken the outermost seat by the arched side entrance that prevented me from taking abuse from my older sister.

"Kathryn. I feel dizzy. I didn't get to eat this morning, and my stomach feels terrible."

"Is that all you ever think about? I'll have you know I didn't eat this morning either and I'm not complaining. You better sit up right now, dammit, and stop this foolishness." It's true that Kathryn had not eaten before we left, but the way I looked at it, she could survive a lot longer on what she had stored

than Martha or I.

I WATCHED MARTHA out of the corner of my eye, as she sat there stricken motionless in a translucent pallor. She looked like she needed oxygen very badly,



so I began to fan her with the mimeographed church bulletin. Kathryn did not like commotion in church, as I soon found out. Martha was slumped forward on the pew in front of us and Kathryn leaned behind her and grabbed my wrist. "Stop that immediately. Who do you think she is -- the Queen of Sheba? She's not going outside so you may as well accept it. I'm tired of you two and your constant complaining."

"But, Kathy, she's sick. Can't you see that? She's not faking, I can tell."

AT THIS POINT I thought I heard a small rumble come from Martha's stomach, and she fell backward, her hand clutching her mouth and her eyes bulging out in anticipation of a very unpleasant debut. Martha was about to retch. She lunged toward me, and I jumped out of the way

as Martha ran down the side aisle with some strange viscous liquid running from between her fingers. I followed after her as fast as I could, wishing to capitalize on this fortuitous twist of fate. Of course, Kathryn followed us both

out of the church, right past the poor box, too, without her usual magnanimous gesture of at least three quarters, and this really surprised me. So there we all stood, out in the fresh air and sunshine, as God had intended children to be, while Martha recovered. Kathryn was too humiliated to return, so we decided to walk home instead. Since we missed the collection, we had all this honest money to spend and we went straight to Eula's Variety Store and soothed Martha with a large cherry coke and a doughnut.

Sitting on the wall and savoring my cherry coke and M&M's, I realized that God does indeed work in mysterious ways.



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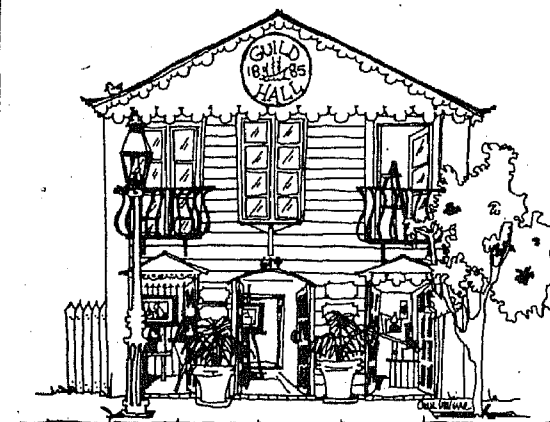
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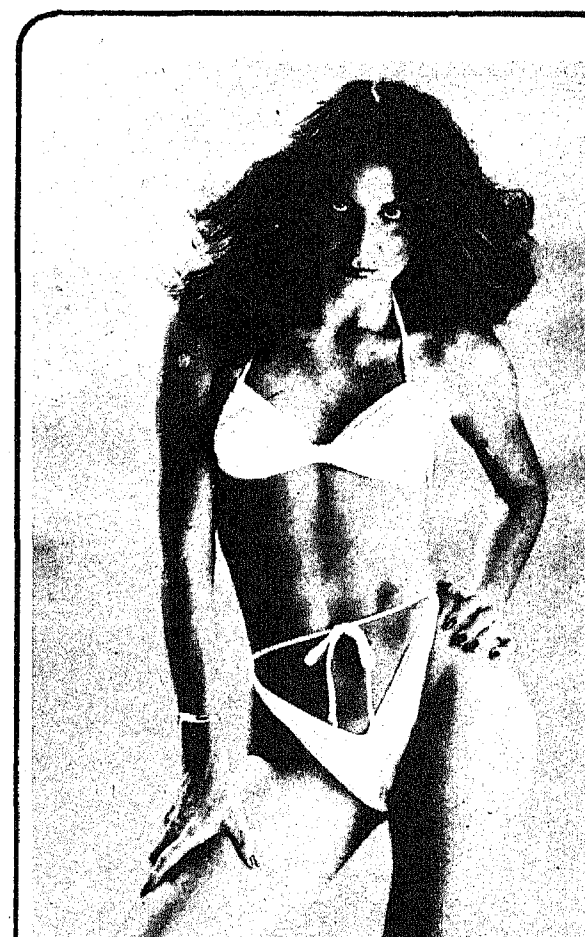
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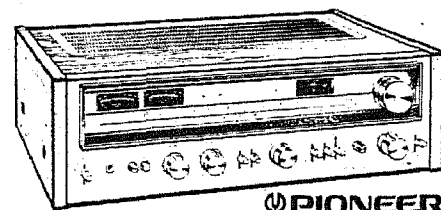
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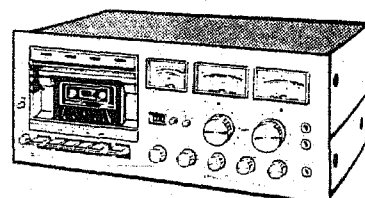
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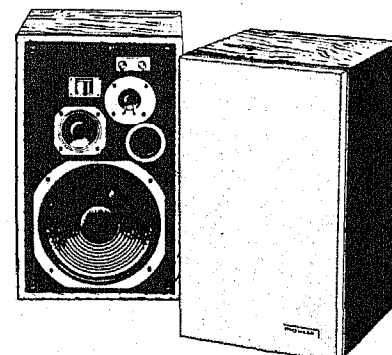
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Summer of Discontent continued from p. 19
 a City Commission meeting in a large group the Commission bowed to the pressure and became suddenly docile and cooperative.

LIKEWISE, AT THE July 23 meeting of the Redevelopment Agency, when individuals and group spokespersons emotionally and vehemently expressed opposition to the Agency's plan to devote an area of the Navy Base to housing exclusively for the wealthy, the Agency members suddenly became polite and attentive.

It was pointed out to the Agency that in past meetings, when only a vocal few opposed their plans, Agency members were surly and unwilling to give much notice to the protesters. Now, with a roomful of angry citizens, the Agency denied any intentions of making the Navy Base a "millionaires' paradise."

IT IS GRATIFYING to note that none of the audience seemed to believe in the sudden apparent change of heart. The people are not fooled by the makeup of the Agency to supposedly represent the various elements of the community at large. It is obvious to everyone that the Agency represents only the business community and intends to base its decisions on what is good for the wealthy few. The people are beginning to realize that the oft-spoken falsehoods are not going to become true simply because they are repeated over and over.

MAYOR SONNY MCCOY and the development interests in Key West have been telling us that everybody's taxes will be lowered by expanding the tax base. They insist that with more people paying taxes, everybody will pay less. What they don't say is that it has been proven that without exception when the tax base is broadened by building more houses and businesses, the cost for the increased demand in services always exceeds the increase in taxes received, and everybody pays more.

The people are perceptive enough to realize that if the housing area on

the Navy Base is taken over by the rich, it will be the rest of us non-rich who will subsidize their luxurious living with our higher taxes.

And now the people have banded together in groups large enough to demand attention and are saying to government officials, "We don't believe what you say, we don't believe that you are acting in our best interests, and we want you to do things the way we tell you."

THE ACTUAL WORDS used at the July 23 Redevelopment Agency meeting were actually somewhat stronger:

"You're going to sell us out."

"We shall not be moved."

"The carpetbaggers have come to Key West."

"You're creating an island within an island -- super-rich surrounded by poor people."

And there were threats of what would happen come this November's elections. Those who were responsible for appointing such a hostile Redevelopment Agency and for allowing plans to get so far as to threaten the well-being of Key Westers, even if they back down now, may find themselves with few friends at the polls. They have accidentally started a brush fire with the Navy Base issue that may not be quenched until the incumbents are turned out in November.

THE PEOPLE OF KEY WEST have risen against a common threat to the way of life they cherish. Groups have sprung up simultaneously from diverse elements of the community, and they now find that they all want the same thing.

The Citizens for the Preservation of the Community represents the residents of the area immediately adjacent to the Navy Base. This is the area that would be swallowed up by encroachment from a wealthy enclave on the Base, and so is in the most danger from the "millionaires' paradise." Since the area and the group are predominately Black, the area is usually referred to as "Blacktown," and the group is called "the Black group," or Roy Grant's group

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LEATHER
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LOFT
 TURN LEFT FROM THE MONSTER, AROUND THE CORNER, TO KING PLAZA

for its most prominent spokesman. The group, however, speaks for the Whites, Cubans, and miscellaneous Conchs who live in the neighborhood.

SAVE OUR WATERFRONT is composed of Key Westers who do not live near the Navy Base, but who understand the far-reaching effects on their lives of what ever happens at the Base. The group, led by architect Tom Pope, is all White, and is often called "the White group" or "Tom Pope's group." While most of the Black group consists of native Key Westers who are frightened by the potential ruin of the Key West they have known all their lives, Pope's group has attracted many new residents who fear that the Key West that they have fallen in love with will disappear.

Locally Organized Group of Independent Citizens (LOGIC) is composed of many of the old guard who have been involved in various battles against the local establishment over the years. Gil Ryder, the spokesman for the group, can be appropriately called the voice of LOGIC. He is one of the few people

who can get up at City Commission meetings regularly to tell the Commissioners where they are wrong without being laughed at. His comments are calm, logical, prepared, and difficult to argue with.

RYDER AND MEMBERS of his group float freely among the other groups to observe and offer advice when it is sought. Another free floater, who is not attached to any group, is Robert Duffy, an attorney for Legal Services, who is primarily interested in the well-being of the low income residents of Key West who may be adversely affected by what happens to the Navy Base.

All of the groups which oppose the Redevelopment Agency's plan for the Navy Base are unified in their insistence that the Base be economically integrated into the rest of Key West by providing "affordable" housing available to local residents to ease the increasingly tight real estate market. Although "Key West for Key Westers" is their major goal, and the main focus of their attention is on the 26 acres reserved for

KEY WEST'S HOROSCOPE

BY EMMA CATES

Sun in Leo, after 23rd in Virgo
 Venus in Leo, after 23rd in Virgo
 Mercury in Leo, retrograde, turning direct on the 10th
 Saturn in Virgo
 Jupiter in Leo
 Mars in Gemini, after 8th in Cancer
 Uranus in Scorpio
 Neptune in Sagittarius, retrograde
 Pluto in Libra
 North Node in 10 degrees of Virgo


THE FULL MOON on August 8th in Aquarius aspects the travel houses of the chart of Key West. Travel to the Keys should be on the increase this month. Air travel will be improving, and the construction on the Overseas Highway will be going forward at a fast pace. The construction of the bridges will not be as inconvenient as expected.


Uranus has now turned direct after being in retrograde motion since February. This should activate the building trades and construction of all types.

An unusual happening will be two New Moons in the sign of Leo. The first New Moon occurred on July 23rd in 1 degree of Leo, and the second New Moon will be on August 22nd in 29 degrees of Leo.

The second New Moon aspects the 4th house of the chart of Key West, and conjoins our progressed Moon, along with the transiting Sun, Mercury, Venus and Jupiter in Leo. This stellium of planets in Leo should bring about a positive and progressive ambience in the area of housing. The 4th house rules the home in a horoscope chart. Hopefully some agreements may be reached and some positive decisions made where there have previously been bickering and divisive action.

Relative to the Navy property use that has become such an item of disagreement among the inhabitants of Key West, we should realize that Key West is a town that is in a progressive cycle. Its future depends on the several factions that comprise our population working for the overall good of our financial future, and a solvent city government, without losing the beauty and flavor that we all love. If sincerity of motive is the yardstick, I'm sure the final outcome will be a better Key West.

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KEY WEST

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 WRECKERS WHARF
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housing, some of the groups also strongly suggest that any industry planned for the Base be slanted toward light, native, "cottage" industry to give steady employment -- and especially self-employment -- to Key Westers.

Unlike the kids of the 1960's, who declined to work within the system to correct abuses and injustices and who did not offer an alternative to the establishment they wanted to see torn down, Key Westers know what they want, as well as what they do not want, and they have shown that they are willing to support their position by speaking up at public meetings, threatening retaliation at the ballot box, and by taking the matter to court. Failing these methods, there are several strategies that are being discussed that could well bring the local power structure tumbling down around the ears of the would-be ravagers of Key West.

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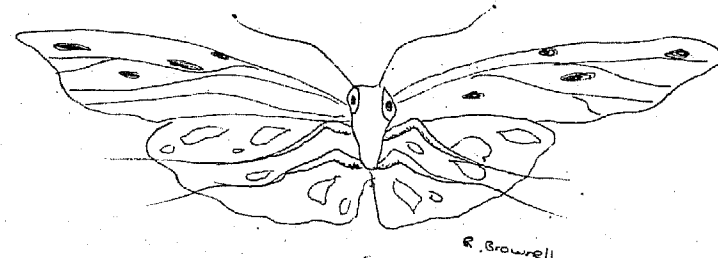
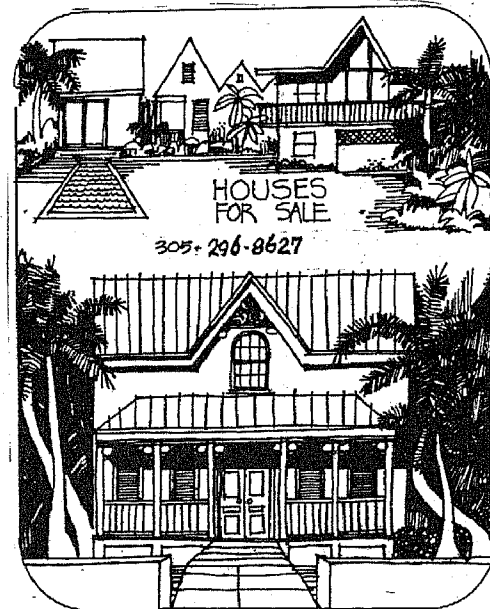
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Anna Fugina (left) presents the first prize plaque for the July 4 Swim Around Key West to Marie C. Martin, who posted the winning time of 6 hours and 17 minutes. Walt Hyla, a local potter and the Art Director of Solares Hill, beams proudly. Fugina inaugurated the annual swim with her solo performance two years ago. Hyla handcrafted individual high-fire stoneware clay plaques for each of this year's participants, including swimmers, skydivers, and auxiliary personnel. The award ceremony took place July 28 at Hyla's new pottery shop on Smith Lane.



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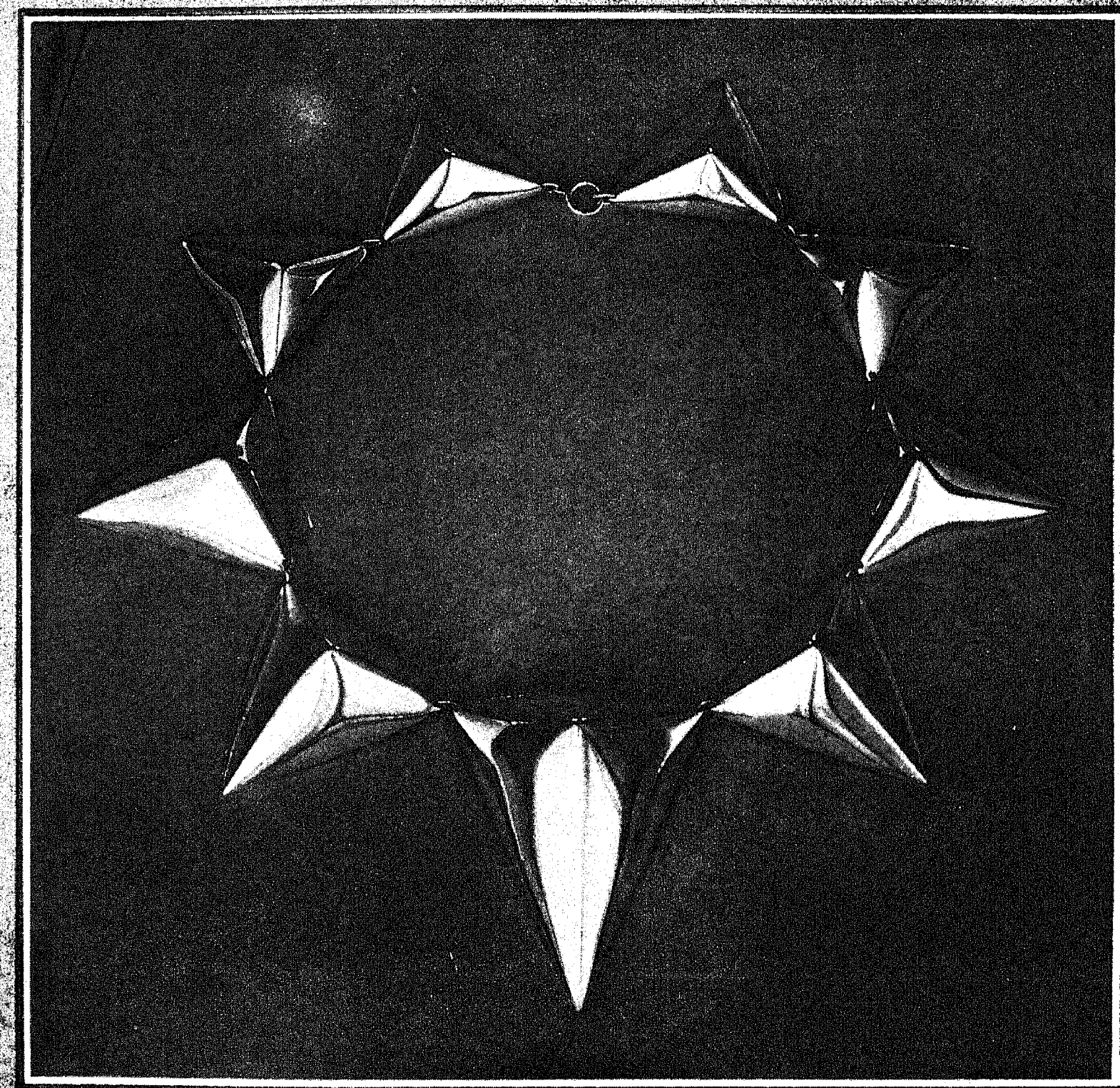
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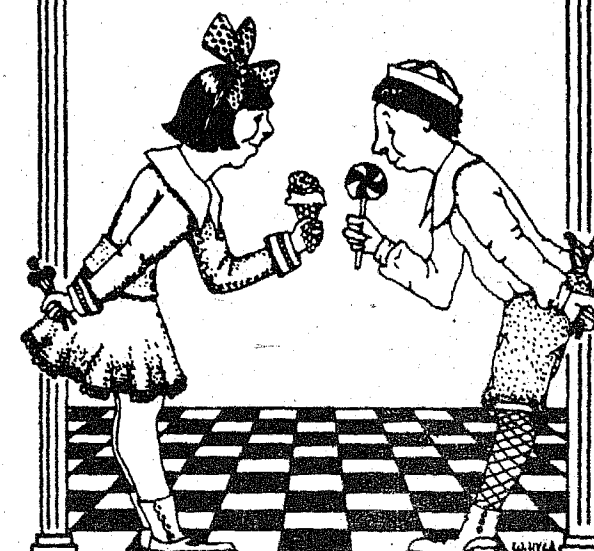
A leisurely tour of the home and gardens of the late Nobel Prize Winner, Ernest Hemingway. The home was built in Spanish Colonial Style of native rock hewn from the grounds with furnishings, rugs, tile, chandeliers brought by the Hemingways from Spain, Africa and Cuba. Luxurious, exotic plants and trees are from all over the world. It was here that Mr. Hemingway wrote For Whom the Bell Tolls, Green Hills of Africa, A Farewell to Arms, The Fifth Column, The Snows of Kilimanjaro, and The Macomber Affair. Mr. Hemingway was the first important writer to discover and make Key West his home. He owned the home from 1931 to 1961.

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