

Interview With Mayor McCoy see p.6

solares hill

"The highest point in Key West"

Vol. 1, No. 10

Key West, Florida

November, 1971



Amchitka

Editor & Readers
SOLARES HILL
812 Fleming St.
Key West, Florida 33040

People,

My name is Janet Wood and I'm angry; I'm really angry. And, having no where else to direct this anger, this pen and paper will have to serve as my release from an overwhelming sense of impotence.

On the afternoon of November 6, 1971, my well-informed, omniscient government set off another nuclear bomb, against the warnings of ecologists and the laments of many American citizens. The government's defense of this action: something about improving our national defense system.

Well, I'm not a nuclear physicist or a General privileged with High Security information, but I am well aware of the destruction nuclear testing has and will create. And I am also aware that, not only the United States, but several other countries now have the power and, apparently, the mentality, to over-kill and over-kill and over-kill this earth. Yet the testing goes on and on and on.

It is not only the fact of actual nuclear testing that is upsetting, but equally absurd is the fact that our government, the great experiment in democracy, virtually offers her people little if any say in these bomb tests and many other vitally important issues.

Did you have a vote on monies spent for the Space Program, the SST, the Oil Depletion Corporate Income Tax farce, the Wage and Price Freeze, etc.? No, you most certainly did not. And, in each instance, the government defends her actions by nebulous rhetoric such as "protecting her citizens."

Well, it is time for a re-evaluation of the definition of protection. What protection will our government find for a polluted, mutated ocean; unbreathable air; and un-productive, tired land? But, most importantly, what protections will our government offer her people from the insanity of the government's own actions?

I'm tired of the weak, fuzzy rhetoric of politicians and power mongers. The hierarchy, the power players of this and other countries must put their chessboards away and open their minds and hearts to the peoples of the world. Reality is not a game and people are not pawns to be used at the whim of the hierarchy. No one, no life, not even one little island called Amchitka is replaceable.

The Government of the United States was based on the premise of the individual's sovereignty; the individual's God-given and governmental-given right to choose his own destiny. I ask for a return to this premise; a return of governmental power to the people.

Janet Wood



ANNOUNCING THE ARRIVAL OF
KEY WEST, THE OLD ISLAND

A thirty-two page color booklet written by Michael Prewitt, photography by Charles Munder and Jerry Miller, designed by Jerry Miller, cover by Suzie de Poo.
On sale December 1, 1971.

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TOBER

What is Tober? It's what makes us say "That's Key West and I'm glad I'm here."

Tober is Rex, back at the helm, leading his conch train in a chorus of "Hail, Hail the Gang's All Here" on the way down Duval Street.

Tober is all those ripe sea grapes out in front of the Library.

Tober is Dorothy Raymer being made a member of the Rotary Club.

Tober is the store announcing its grand opening with a For Sale sign in the window in the seven hundred block of Duval.

Solares Hill is a community newspaper published every two weeks, except during the tropical summer when it appears monthly, from the slopes of Solares Hill, Key West's highest peak, by Solares Hill Publishing Co., 812 Fleming St., Key West, Florida, 33040
Subscription price: \$5.00 for 26 issues.

EDITORIAL MICHAEL PREWITT ART DIRECTION JERRY MILLER
EDITORIAL "DANCING BILL" HUCKEL PHOTOGRAPHY LEE BALLARD

With a little help from our friends ...

Jim Coan, Barbara and Siddhartha, Georgia, Becky, Bill, The Dating Game VC, Jane, Janet, Darlene, Mario, Sue, Ann, August Plinth, Slide-rule Sammy, Steve, Aunt Helen, SFC, Jr., No. 12. Peter and Susan, Heather, Donna, Kathy, Squirrel, Jeani, Brenda and Pink

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Election Notes

ELECTION NOTES

1. We wrote this letter to the Key West Citizen after the election. They did not publish it.

To the Editor:

The word from Front Street to the Ramada Inn is that this campaign and election have been the dulllest in years.

Dull?

Key West is half a million dollars in debt and up to its nose in a sewer problem. Blacks feel oppressed in the mini-park; whites feel harassed on Duval Street. Sidewalks crumble. Grown men play Keystone Cops on gaily painted orange and yellow trolleys and trains.

How can our three ring municipal circus be called dull?

The Key West Citizen is largely responsible for this yawning apathy with which our election has been met. In a town with so few outlets for public information, the Citizen has a vital role in informing the public of important problems and events. This campaign and election have been neglected by your paper.

Candidates should be interviewed by your reporters. There are vital issues in this election and the electorate should be informed as to how the candidates respond to these issues. Granting advertising space is not enough.

Editorially you have a responsibility to tell us, the voters, what are the important issues of the campaign and to register your opinions on the correct approach to these issues. You report on our public bodies every day throughout the year. At election time your perspective is essential in helping us shape an informed opinion on the campaign issues.

In the last three weeks your editorial page has run those ho-hum canned editorials from your newspaper syndicate. They have nothing to do with Key West. Surely you are not so understaffed that you cannot interview the candidates and write a series of editorials that discuss local Key West issues and not debates in Little Ferry, N.J..

Respectfully,

Michael Prewitt

2. Of course the Citizen's non-coverage fit right in with the candidates' non-campaigns. For the most part no issues were raised, no problems were discussed. We have managed to sleepwalk through another election without facing any of our problems.

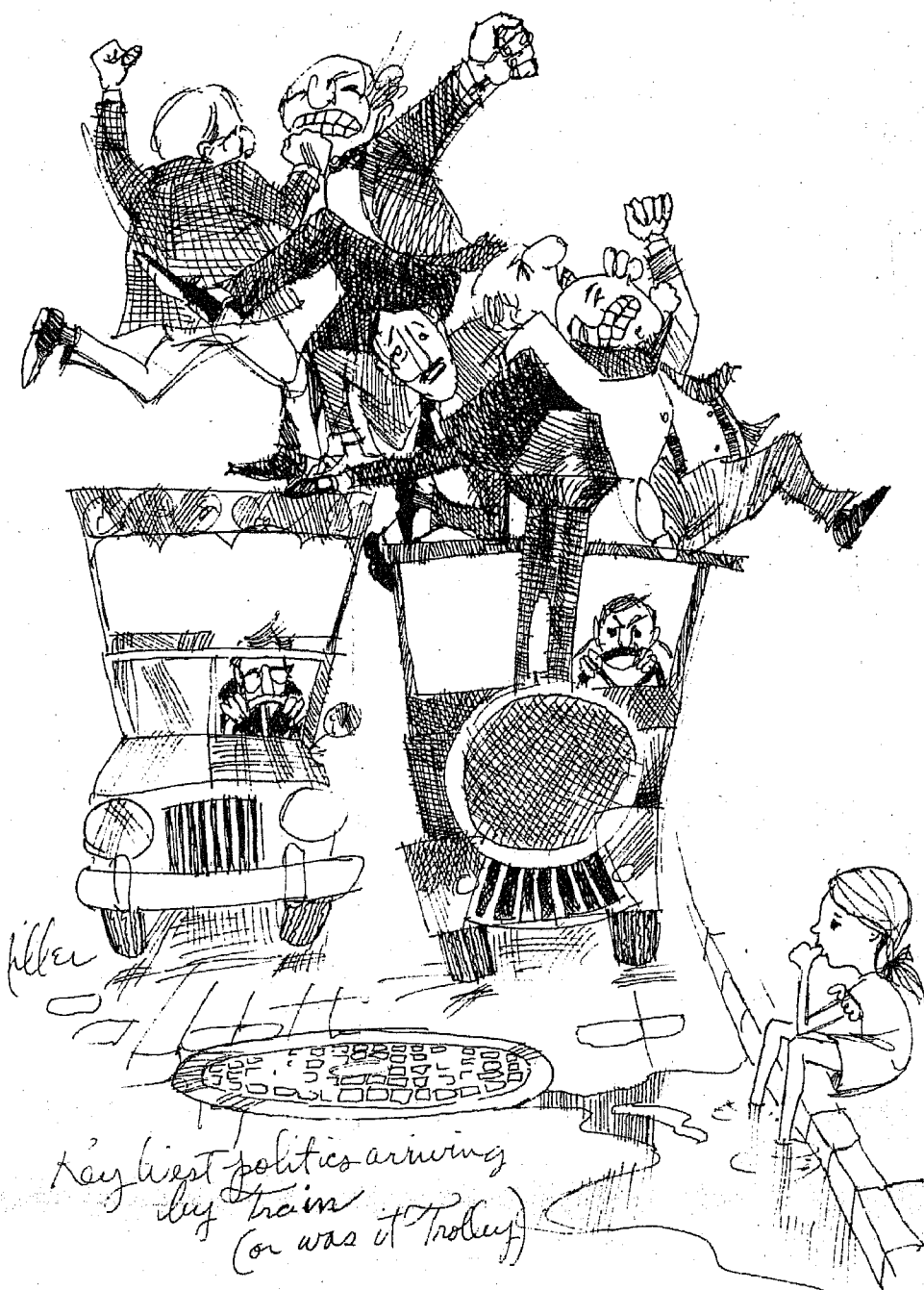
3. Mayor McCoy in his interview (see p.6) speaks openly about the City's problems. But for a planner and manager, he presents few concrete plans or goals. What will you do first, sir? Raise the sewer rate? Staff the Community Pool? Apply for a street sign grant? We expect more from a planner than a legal pad full of ideas. Set some specific goals and deadlines for the Commission.

You say you will try all other sources of revenue before resorting to a utility tax. Give us a specific date by which time you will have adequately surveyed the revenues problem. On that date make a decision about the tax.

4. For at least two years we have been in a quiet drift.

Almost certainly the new Commission, if they act responsibly, will raise taxes. Let us hope the Commission can win the respect of the town. The downward spiral toward bankruptcy has started. The City couldn't come up with the money for the Conch Train.

There are no bucks for the new Commission to pass. All we can ask is that the new Commission face the real problems of the City and not be distracted by personal and petty issues.



When I campaigned for City Commissioner, I advocated a utility tax to help bail us out of this financial jam we find ourselves in. I stressed, however, that I was not wedded to the idea of further taxes and that I would welcome any alternate ways to raise this sorely needed revenue. Unfortunately, no new ideas were brought forth during the campaign.

I received this letter from a friend shortly after the election closed. She has lived in Key West and obviously has a warm feel for it. Perhaps, even more importantly, she has some good ideas - especially the one about a Key West Lottery. Certainly the citizens of Key West are no strangers to games of chance and just maybe this idea of a local lottery would be an answer to our money needs - certainly a less painful answer than more taxes.

Even if these ideas can not be used, they reflect thought and concern about our town. Maybe someone reading this column will have a better idea or ideas - if so, please write them out and send them to us at Solares Hill.

W.H.

Dear Bill,

I just enjoyed reading your editorial. Wish we could vote for you. But down, down people. on doubled rates and more taxes. That just makes more inflation. Another source of income? Why not a lottery!? New York does it, so could Key West. As much as Bolita is popular so would Conchs love a city run lottery. Lots more fun than taxes.

There is another thing I thought of while reading "Voters and Taxes in Key West" (I seem to be in a disagreeing mood) "that we are supposed to be a tourist town" may not be right. Key West is really perhaps too small to accommodate enough vacationers to really make it pay. But Key West doesn't encourage any other industry. P.S. You did ask for suggestions in your The fishing industry is dying, it need not article.

Amy Windisch

Individual Action

Before the Environment Is Destroyed

What can I do to halt the pollution of air and water?

What can I do to help stop the drain on our nonrenewable resources?

What can I do to help ease the pressure on our living resources?

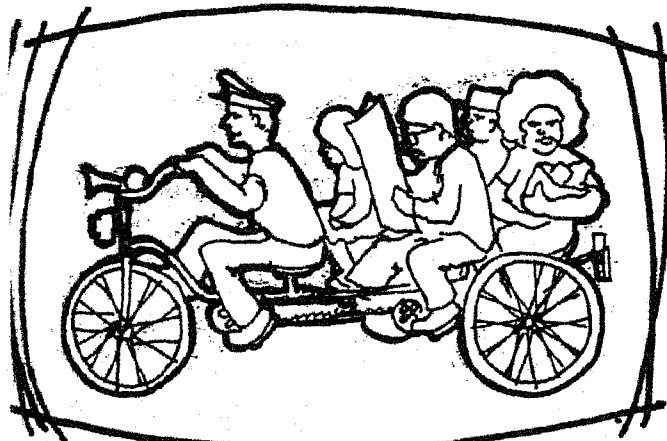
As the significance of our "environmental crisis" becomes increasingly clear, more and more people are asking these questions. The answers are not easy to live by in a society that places high value on personal convenience, in a society where individuals tend to assume that "they" are doing something about it all. Solutions to these problems will depend largely on each individual's willingness to accept his or her responsibility to change his own life style - to accept the challenge of living with a new code of values.

POPULATION

The fact that human beings are multiplying far too rapidly to maintain any kind of reasonable balance within the system that supports us is, of course, the fundamental problem. Large families may be "natural," but we have, through our technological advances, overcome many of the "natural" factors that would limit our population growth. Living within a largely controlled environment demands that we control our numbers as well.

CHANGING HABITS

Changing habits is never easy, especially when there is no immediate visible benefit from the change. The temptation to accept what is easiest is particularly strong when everyone around you seems to be doing just that with no apparent ill effects. But individual efforts, like individual votes, do make a difference. Survival of the earth as we know it depends on finding the right answers to the problems facing us today, and each person, each family, is either a part of the problem or a part of the solution.



NON-POLLUTING
MASS TRANSIT

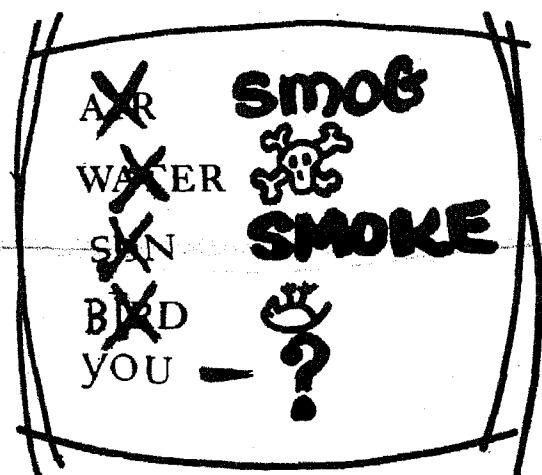
THE AUTOMOBILE

The automobile is a double threat - it consumes petroleum products (one of our rapidly disappearing nonrenewable resources) at an astonishing rate, and it is the single largest contributor to air pollution. When you buy a car look first for efficiency and long use. Keep your engine clean and in tune. Use lead-free gas if possible.

A system has been developed to convert standard engines at relatively low cost, to run on natural gas. This system cuts exhaust pollutants by over ninety percent, reduces engine wear, reduces operating costs, and is well worth investigating.

Of course, the surest way to limit fuel consumption and exhaust pollutants with your family car is to limit your use of the car. Share rides. Ride a bicycle. Walk. A car is a very expensive means of transportation - it is not a toy.

One of the most effective means of curtailing consumption and pollution by the automobile is an efficient mass transportation system. We have the technology to develop such a system now. Opposing new highways and parking facilities will help to make such a system a high priority issue. Inner-city driving is seldom a pleasure - as it becomes increasingly difficult to drive in the city, the need for a reasonable alternative will become more obvious. Development of a rapid mass transit system will be doubly effective if we insist upon use of some of the funds presently earmarked for highways. Here, the individual action that is going to count will be political action - but before going any further into the role each person must play in influencing community and legislative decisions, there are other areas where the individual can exercise his power as a consumer.



LAST CHANCE

CONSUMER ACTION

When buying electric appliances careful consideration of economic use is imperative. Know how much electricity an appliance will use before you buy; there is often a great difference in the efficiency of similar products. Don't buy electric gadgets just for the fun of it. The companies that promote "all electric living" are the same companies that insist we must accept increased consumer "needs."

New evaluations of potential pollutants in products on supermarket shelves appear frequently, and there is no need to include here long lists of detergent phosphate contents, alternatives to hard pesticides, or timetables on breakdown of various biodegradable products. As up-to-date lists and data on new products are published, read them, save them, and use them when you buy.

There are many excellent specific suggestions for concerned consumers in *The User's Guide to Environmental Protection*, published by Friends of the Earth/Ballantine Books and also in Betty Ann Ottinger's *What Every Woman Should Know - and Do - About Pollution: A Guide to Good Global Housekeeping*, published by EP Press, New York. Generally, rules to keep in mind while shopping include avoiding "throw-away" containers whenever possible, avoiding products with unnecessary plastic or cardboard wrappings (packages within packages, etc.), avoiding colored paper products (dyes pollute), avoiding gimmick containers (unnecessarily complex packaging - aerosols where simple refillable sprays will do the job - containers that insure waste as part of the product), looking for easily recycled packaging (aluminum rather than mixed-metal cans), and looking for returnable (reusable) bottles. Speak to your neighbors and the store manager about bulk purchasing (for instance, wine in barrels); if enough customers seem interested, stores will often buy in bulk for those who wish to bring their own containers.

HOUSEHOLD WASTE CONTROL

While it is desirable to grow your own vegetables, save organic house and garden scraps for your own compost piles, and generally adopt a "back to nature" life style, for many this is impractical, if not impossible. Still, there are efforts everyone can and should make to maintain a household that places the least possible strain on the environment.

Even with careful, conscientious shopping an accumulation of cardboard and plastic containers and nonreturnable bottles and jars is inevitable. Reuse them. Think up new uses for them. If you can't use them, find someone who can; it may be an old mayonnaise jar to you, but to someone else it's a needed specimen jar. Making decorations and doll furniture from old salt boxes or stiltz from coffee tins may not be your "thing," but to a teacher at a daycare center, or to a children's ward at a hospital, these "trash" items are tools to work with.

Many items that can't be reused can be recycled; newspaper and aluminum cans are two obvious examples. Depots for collecting trash for recycling exist in many neighborhoods now. These depots will increase in number and expand in the types of products they accept as awareness of the economic value of "trash" develops. These recycling depots are not only valuable aids in economic waste management and resource preservation - they are valuable educational aids. They can inform an entire community of a problem, of an economically feasible solution to the problem, and can encourage others to start following a more responsible course in their own household. Saving your newspapers and aluminum cans and turning them in for recycling will be an inconvenience until depots are more centrally located and in full-time operation, but the results are well worth the effort. The same basic rule that applies in encouraging a sound family budget, a stable economy, and in controlling inflation applies in running an ecologically sane household: in purchase, in use, and in disposal - don't waste!



IDEAS FOR REUSE

EXPANDED PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

While efforts within individual households are important, the magnitude of the problems, and the degree to which industry and government agencies contribute to these problems (or lag in contributing to the solutions) extends the personal responsibility of every individual. There is an urgent need for voters to be well-informed, for them to know how to become effective participants in their government. Volunteers are needed for everything from scientific and legal research to talking to school groups, from typing to monitoring hearings. There is a need for every person to know where his or her talents can best be used.

GROUP ACTION

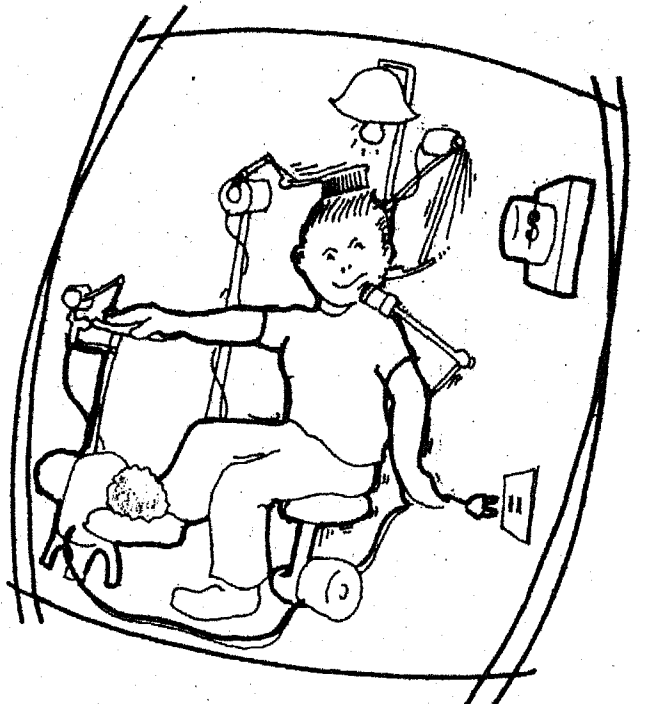
The best way to become and stay well informed is through one or more of the national or local conservation-oriented organizations. All of these groups need and deserve support. Find those whose range of interests seems most compatible with your own concerns and join them. If you haven't the time (or energy or inclination) to become really active within these groups, join anyway. Your financial support is essential to their being able to continue their work. Individual or family memberships are seldom expensive and should be a part of every person's budget.

EDUCATIONAL ACTION

Improving basic knowledge of our environment is important at all age levels. Through the various conservation groups, or through your PTA, you can find out what conservation courses are being taught in your local schools. Are they making full use of resources available through the country? Through the state? Through private organizations?

"Environmental education" is, or should be, a part of nearly every study area, from personal hygiene and basic science courses through geography and civics. Talk to teachers. Talk to principals. Push for a total program of knowledge of man's interaction with his environment - on the individual level, on the neighborhood or community level, on regional and national levels, on the whole-earth level. No matter what field a youngster will go into, this understanding is as essential as the traditional "three R's."

There is a need for both general and detailed studies in so many areas that teachers and students from high school age through graduate school can provide a real service through taking on environmental study projects. Gaps in our information exist in a surprising number of fields. Equally important are the gaps that exist between gathering the scientific data and making it available to the general public. Closing these gaps increases the total of available information and provides valuable experience for the students involved.



CONSERVE ELECTRICITY

POLITICAL ACTION

Increased individual involvement in the legal and political aspects of environmental problem-solving and problem prevention is the most effective weapon we have. Knowledge of your government is the first essential. This begins with knowing your representatives at all levels of government. Find out what stands they've taken on specific environmental issues.

Find out what their voting record has been. All candidates are "for conservation" and "against pollution" - but what have they actually done when faced with a conflict between environmental integrity and an immediate economic boost for their constituents? Many initially sound bills for protection of natural resources have been passed by "conservation-minded" legislators only after they have effectively rendered the bill useless by watering down in committee. Find out who the "good guys" and the "bad guys" are and make your votes count.

On many issues government representatives depend upon hearing from their constituents before making a firm decision on how to vote on an issue. They know that people who care enough to send a personal letter (as opposed to a form letter or a carbon copy) and sign their names are those who care enough to vote. Letters may be detailed evaluations of the pros and cons of an issue or they may simply urge support or defeat, but every letter counts. Don't make the mistake of writing only to those you feel are friendly to the cause - chances are their votes will be with you anyway, and many of those with "bad guy" reputations are looking for ways to improve their image. *The Voter's Guide to Environmental Politics*, another Friends of the Earth/Ballantine Book, is an excellent reference on citizens' political action. Many of the factors that influence decisions are out of the control of the average citizen, but everyone can and should write and let their wishes be known.

ACTION ON ISSUES

When a community is faced with a specific environmental threat it is important to know how to go about fighting it. What pertinent laws are already on the books? Do they provide for strict enforcement? Is new or improved legislation really necessary? Or is the problem one of poor administration or enforcement? What officials will be most responsive to public pressure on the issue?

Know who has authority to make or enforce decisions. Know the chain of command within whatever government structures are involved. If you feel those on the local level will be (or have been) unresponsive, try to get a favorable stand at a higher level.

Find out where and when citizens can make their complaints or recommendations heard. Check with other concerned groups or individuals and try to coordinate your efforts. Be sure you have a solid argument based on scientific or economic fact when you present your case to those who will make the decision. If studies on the specific issue at hand do not exist, initiate them. Find friends qualified in whatever areas are involved and ask their help in preparing testimony.

Having solid facts to back your stand is most important. Emotional pleas for preservation of natural beauty have very little influence when the opposition starts a push for growth and development as an "economic boon to the community" or harps on the "prohibitive expense" of proper waste control.

When all the factors are considered, preservation of a unique area, careful land-use planning for remaining open spaces, and strict waste control laws are economically sound measures and make good sense in terms of long-range benefits to the community. Such arguments cannot be easily shrugged off by those making the decisions. Further, a sound argument set forth by reliable persons generally gets good press coverage. In a situation where citizen groups or concerned individuals often find themselves facing well-paid professional public relations men, this is very important.



OFF TO PAY THE
ELECTRIC BILL

LEGAL ACTION

Many problems can be solved through developing public awareness and using this pressure to encourage government action, but in an increasing number of instances, solutions can be found only through the courts. This type of action can range from formal objection to block potentially damaging land-use proposals (many of which must receive judicial approval) to filing suit against a major corporation or governmental agency for failure to comply with existing legislation.

In many instances groups can call on attorneys from their own membership to handle a case at cost, or to assist in preparation of a case. A few individual attorneys and law firms are willing to volunteer their services in cases involving environmental protection, but court action can still be extremely expensive. While few individuals can offer cash to help meet court costs, organizations often can.

Not everyone is qualified to research the legal aspects of a case involving environmental law, or to gather the necessary evidence to support such a case, but it's often surprising how much a concerned, informed citizen can contribute. It is an exciting type of action to become involved in for someone really willing to work.

PERSONAL COMMITMENT

Becoming involved in the movement for a better relationship between man and his environment is a personal commitment that cannot be made casually. Awareness of this relationship will make a difference in every aspect of your daily routine.

If you have the time and energy, it is possible to find yourself in a position of some influence in the decision-making process. Unfortunately, many effective workers are lost at this point. The temptation to avoid what may be a losing fight is particularly strong after a major success. But the work that needs to be done cannot be done without "rocking the boat." A firm stand on principles is occasionally a popular stand - where the leaders can become instant heroes. But such heroes must be willing to do battle for equally important but unpopular causes as well.

Whether the individual action you undertake is limited to your own household or extends to a total career-level involvement, your true effectiveness will be limited only by your willingness to sacrifice personal convenience or public image for responsible action and integrity.

Judith Voliner Wilson
Illustrations by Dick Bruce

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University of Miami Press

What Now, Mister Mayor?

An Interview with Sonny McCoy

Interview by Michael Prewitt



On November 2, 1971, Charles "Sonny" McCoy was elected Mayor of Key West. Mr. McCoy is a third generation Conch. A graduate of Key West High School, he holds a degree in Architecture and City Planning from the University of Florida. Mr. McCoy is now a partner in an architectural firm with offices in Miami and Key West. As an architect for many public bodies such as the Monroe County School Board, our new mayor has had a great deal of experience in public administration.

Although he claims he is not a politician, Mr. McCoy brings to the city government a background in planning and management which will prove vital in pulling the city out of its present fiscal crisis.

SOLARES HILL: Let's talk about your debut in politics. In 1969 you ran very well against Mayor Cobo and lost by 69 votes.

McCoy: That's right. Well, I was a real novice. My decision to run came after trying to persuade other people, much more competent than myself, to manage the City of Key West.

But when a person decides to run for politics, he's an open book to everyone. He has to be a politician prior to being a statesman. He has to get elected. There are very competent people in Key West who would make excellent city administrators, but they hesitate at the prerequisite of being a politician. Unfortunately that's the system we have.

In any case, I was unable to talk these people into running. And they said, "You're always trying to push us to run, why don't you."

I said, "I'm not a politician, I know nothing about politics. All I'm concerned about is good representative government."

So they said, "No one starts as a politician, but you do have a background in engineering and city planning. Those aren't the managerial tools, but you run three businesses. An engineering firm is a difficult business to manage and you have other enterprises which you manage. You seem to have the tools to go into government."

But I still felt very reluctant. I went home and I spoke to my family. I have a little bit of family in Key West, it goes back several generations scattered around. And I asked them essentially one question: Do you feel it would detract from the image of the family if I ran? And they said, "Well, if we have anything to hide maybe it should be brought out in the open anyway. So regardless if we have anything to hide or if we don't have anything to hide, go ahead and run for government and what will happen will happen." So, with this fortification from my family, I went to qualify to run

for the Mayor of Key West. Being a complete novice I wasted an awful lot of time, but I must have done something just a little bit right. I did get in the run off in a field of five and I came within 69 votes of winning the election. Well, I was very flattered that people even thought that much of me. This was a victory for myself.

Well, about a year ago, my friends came to me again, they said, "Now you must run again." I said, "No, I've run." I proved that I will put my money where my mouth is. So I have run, now let's find someone else. Well, this always seems to be a problem - getting someone to run. So, in May I made the decision I would run again; I did run again, and this time I was successful.

SOLARES HILL: Since you first threw your hat in the ring in 1969, you have obviously stayed close to the city's and the commission's activities over the last two years. I wonder if you might reflect on that. What did you learn from them? What have they done successfully, you feel? What have they failed to do that you've learned from, that might help you in your term?

McCoy: I, somehow, cannot say I thought it was a fruitful two years. I was disappointed that many of the things that I felt could be accomplished were not accomplished. Now, by the same token, in two years I may reflect back and find that I have performed no better than they did. This is a real fear that I have.

SOLARES HILL: What specific areas do you feel that they may have been remiss? What problems are we left with now?

McCoy: Well, we have a deadline for a sanitary sewage system and a storm sewer system. We're required to have a system by 1974 or there will be a big penalty applied to the City of Key West. This is federal law. We're going to have to abide by it, we're going to have to do something. Two years have slipped by with no evidence of progress toward the system which we must have in just three years. We've lost two years, we've done very little on it. There have been some improvements. But very little has been set in motion in the last two years towards the achievement of the system that we have to have by 1974.

SOLARES HILL: Aside from the sewer question, what other areas do you feel have not received as much action from the present commissioners as could have been hoped for?

McCoy: We'll give them some credit. They have made a great effort to realize a ferry system between Key West and the Yucatan Peninsula. This is such a logical linkage in the Caribbean. They have been making an effort in this direction, so I would say that this effort has been important. They have tried to cooperate with all the groups that are doing so much with the cruise ship, Sunward.

The native Cuban dances are coming back. I think this is wonderful; this is a nostalgic image that I have of old Key West. I can remember Duval Street being blocked off and the congo line going down Duval and me seven years old getting on the end of it - me and another 600 kids. These things are happening again, so they haven't been completely standing still.

But I find that the commission has done very little as far as tourism is concerned. I think that we've almost made a step back, in tourism.

Now, this is a very harsh criticism I realize, but I'll head it out anyway. I don't believe that the commission created the image of government that makes the people feel responsive to them, and that the people are proud of. I feel that they have been neglectful in this area.

SOLARES HILL: One area that certainly has distressed me is the amount of time spent on these petty ordinances dealing with the

tour train and trolley. The major focus of the commission over the past six months has been these ordinances. It's the question, really, of fiddling while Rome is burning. Given the financial state of this city and given the other problems this city has, why have we spent so long on this train-trolley question? Is that the kind of thing you're talking about?

McCoy: Well, you said it all. If I wasn't completely honest with myself, I couldn't do anything but agree with you. Of course I concur. This is the very essence of what I'm talking about.

Maybe I was a little too subtle in my campaign. I talked about planning, not politics as usual on a petty level. Too much of the energy of the commission, the legislative body of this city, is devoted to petty issues and not the sort of issues that can help the people to achieve the fulfillment of their dreams and their desires. But what you said of course is the very essence of it.

SOLARES HILL: Let's try to forget about that. Of course we can learn from it, but here you are at the beginning of a term as mayor as the leader of a new commission. What are your plans? Planning is one of your major interests. It is exciting to have a man conversant with planning and long and short term goal setting. What are some of your specific short and long range goals for the city?

McCoy: We can get down to all the specific items; we can go on and on. I have a legal pad that's chock-full of all the things that I want to do. Some of these things are a little far-fetched, some are within reason and we will realize I hate to go off in a whole list of promises. In the campaign I made absolutely no promises. When we have a completed plan with all the answers to all the questions, then we'll explain it fully to the people.

These programs that I will bring before the people during the next two years will be completely thought out. I want all of the little bugs and everything cleared up. I want the people to understand what's happening. I want to present a complete program to them with all the answers available to them, so that they will know exactly what we're doing and hopefully concur.

SOLARES HILL: You have mentioned that one way to relieve this city's financial straits is the use of state and federal monies. We discussed once before a situation that came up in Marathon which you worked on. I wonder if you would describe that to explain some of your familiarity with the appropriating of state and federal monies?

McCoy: Our company acts as architects and engineers for the school system of Monroe County. There was a requirement of sewage treatment plans for the two new elementary schools that we have designed in Key Largo and Marathon. The two schools required sewage treatment plants, costing about \$100,000.

Well, the School Board was pretty tight. They had a major building program going on and had extended themselves to just about their limit. So prior to discussing this with the Superintendent and School Board members, I contacted people at the Air and Water Pollution Commission of the State of Florida. They, acting as agents for federal grant monies and loans from the state were encouraging. They said there were laws on the books providing for assistance to governmental agencies to provide any phase of water and air pollution protection.

So, I made several phone calls to Tallahassee and discussed this program with them. I went up there, showed them the drawings we had, then asked if they would give a tentative commitment of a 45 percent federal grant and a commitment for a 55 percent state loan which

would require no initial outlay by the Monroe County School Board System. They gave me reasonable assurances it would be accepted. Then I contacted the Superintendent of the Schools and School Board members and explained what I was doing. Naturally, they heartily concurred; they did complete the application and sent it off. We're now pretty well assured of the entire cost of building the thing with no initial outlay of money.

SOLARES HILL: And you're saying that had you not personally been familiar with how to get federal and state monies the School Board would have gone ahead and made the outlay of 100 percent of the funds trying to use local funds?

McCoy: Well, it's reasonable to assume this since nothing else had been done.

SOLARES HILL: Now back to Key West. How about state and federal monies to staff the Community Pool on Thomas Street? We set up a community pool, a city facility, on Thomas Street, which we're at present unable to staff because the city just doesn't have enough money to hire the staff necessary. Are there state or federal monies available to help staff the pool?

McCoy: It's absolutely amazing the programs that are set up by the federal government to assist in most facets of the social life. There are recreation programs. There are sewage programs. There are water and air pollution programs. Ecology is a big item now. Federal and state monies go to almost every facet of life within a city and the progressive cities are depending upon this.

We have just passed, or agreed to tax the corporate incomes. Now this is going to bring a great influx to the state.

SOLARES HILL: I think the projection there is 100 million dollars revenue annually. Will this money filter down to local areas?

McCoy: I think it's incumbent upon the mayors of all the cities in the State of Florida to see that we get a portion of this to do the things that are necessary for the municipalities themselves.

In addition, all county expenditures must be, by law, expended evenly throughout the county regardless of whether it's incorporated or unincorporated. In the past too many county monies have gone to the unincorporated areas at the expense of the incorporated areas. Well, I think that the counties now will have to spend more of these monies within the incorporated areas like Key West.

SOLARES HILL: Is there a department head at City Hall right now who handles liaison work with state and federal agencies?

McCoy: Well, I think the responsibility will be placed in the comptroller's office. This seems to be the logical contact point. The city manager, of course, cannot be ignored in a situation like this. He will be also participating. Hopefully the comptroller, the city manager, and the commission will work jointly on the securing of additional monies since this is such a major item. Essentially we'll leave responsibility to the comptroller and the city manager.

SOLARES HILL: Well we've come to the subject of finances of the city. I've got to ask you a couple of hard questions. First, Commissioner Key feels that one of the first items of business when the commission reconvenes will be raising the sewer rate. How do you feel about raising the sewer rate at this time?

McCoy: It doesn't make any difference how I feel or how I don't feel. The entire budget is completely out of kilter. We have a general revenue budget of about 1.8 million dollars for the city. And we have to steal from the general revenue money to pay these sewage bonds.

SOLARES HILL: I understand this is illegal.

McCoy: It is illegal. I don't think the commission has any right to make any decision on it. The sewer rates will have to be brought in line with the expense of the sewer system.

SOLARES HILL: Now to the second question. In the general revenue area we're going to have to raise more money. We're half a million dollars in debt. And the present 1.8 million dollars just isn't enough to perform the essential city services. Do you feel a solution to this can come purely through state and federal monies? Or do you feel that such utility tax may be necessary to raise the monies necessary to run this city well?

McCoy: No, the utility tax is going to be one of the last resorts. We will have to explore all other sources of revenue. We will have to explore the efficiency of what we're doing now to make sure that we are satisfying the needs of the city to the fullest possible degree. Then, if everything else is found wanting, the need for a utility tax may come into being, but it will only be as a last resort.

The Federal Government is going to have to divert money to the problems of municipalities. I expect to get some of that. The State, with a new corporate income tax, is going to have money. Some of this is going to have to be diverted to the municipalities. The county money is right now required to be distributed evenly to incorporated and unincorporated areas. This is another source of money. Within this framework and the 1.8 million dollar budget that Key West has, we're going to try to satisfy the needs of the islanders. Without additional taxes.

SOLARES HILL: I'd like to get into a couple of problem areas which have been bothering the city for the last couple of years. Mr. Staak has identified a specific group of young people in this town, young blacks from the ages of 15 to 21 who have dropped out of school and see no real future for themselves in employment. They are the ones who seem to be getting into a great deal of trouble. Mr. Staak feels this is a number one priority city problem. Do you have any ideas on how the city might respond to this group?

McCoy: Who cannot agree with that? No one. This is a large social problem that isn't unique to Key West. Hopefully we will correct it. Here again there are tremendous federal programs that point exactly at this problem. I'm not that well-versed in sociology. There are a lot of people here in Key West who are much more qualified than I am on the programs. But if we have the right people who have logical answers, I'm going to encourage them strongly and I'm going to do whatever I can. I know that the mayor is supposed to be all things to all people, but unfortunately I'm not.

SOLARES HILL: In discussions with responsible city officials about dealing with this young black problem, we've identified two areas where city action may bring a solution. These two priority areas are vocational training or some kind of job availability and recreation. Do you feel that the city might work toward a solution in one of those areas?

McCoy: This will be attacked on many fronts. There are such great deviations in what a city can do for its people. They have to take the lead. They have to provide the tools.

You talked about the pool; the city didn't do anything about the pool. A band of people got together and said that we want to restore the community pool. Fine. They were the leaders in it. They were doing something. Where I feel the city steps into this is to research sources of money for them. If the city can't handle the entire problem themselves, they can go elsewhere to find monies. This is what

the city should be doing, running interference for them.

SOLARES HILL: Are you saying it's not the city's responsibility to staff the pool?

McCoy: No, I say it is the city's responsibility to staff it. The city's responsibilities are great. The city does not always live up to all its responsibilities, but sometimes it can't live up to its responsibilities.

The graveyard is in deplorable condition. The city is responsible for keeping it up. There are streets that are broken; the city is responsible for keeping the streets paved. There are chuck-holes in the roads, the city is responsible for keeping the streets smooth. There are sewer systems that do not function well; the city is responsible for all these things. You mentioned one problem. The city has a thousand tremendous problems. Which do we attack first? Is it the community pool or the sewer system?

Hopefully we can do something about this pool. The community pool is there, it should be operating. The city does have a responsibility to see that it operates. How it can best be done, we will know later.

SOLARES HILL: Another issue which has been a perennial problem is the winter influx of young people. For awhile we called them hippies. This has been a distressing thing, particularly for the Duval Street business man. The appearance that this young population of transient people creates is unfavorable to him and that where there are these young people, other older people don't really wish to shop, to patronize, to be there. This has been a problem for the last several years. I wonder if you have any particular ideas on how to work for a solution of this?

McCoy: Well, I don't understand how I could possibly legislate a presentable person. If a person chooses to dress in a manner that is unacceptable to another person, I may feel a little sorry that they cannot all be agreeable to each other. But a person's countenance cannot be made to change because the economy of the city is not responsive to it. As long as they do not grossly outrage the morality or society, I know nothing that I could say or want to say to alter anything.

SOLARES HILL: We have had a vagrancy law here. Ex-Police Chief James once made a statement to me that this law was used to remove these people from the streets if their behavior was very objectionable.

McCoy: Vagrancy laws, per se, are so ill-defined that you find them to a large degree unusable. There are instances where I understand their usefulness. There's a person who is suspected of a violent crime a hideous crime or something like this, and you want to restrain them for a short period of time. There the vagrancy law has a use. But I would never favor this law's being used to harrass someone unnecessarily. Does that answer your question?

SOLARES HILL: Yes. Probably the most difficult job in our society today is that of the police officer. Is there any help or redirection you feel the commission might give to the police in Key West?

McCoy: Yes. Unfortunately a policeman has a very difficult job. He is very underpaid for the responsibilities that are placed upon him. People malign him, whether or not he is doing a good job. They tend to put him in a group and call him a pig. I'm fully satisfied that there are very competent policemen available, just as I am convinced that there are many in the police department who do not deserve public trust.

But there are many people in law enforcement that have some very fine ideas. Some of these are the softening of the image of the uniform, the indoctrination of the policeman so he is aware that his responsibilities go beyond the strict

a historical progression : beau brummels...ron elliot...stoneground

1963-64-65.....Beatlemania was raging rampantly through the (1) hearts and (2) minds of millions of American and English young media-induced pop freaks. All over, more and more western-cultured youth were coming to identify with the sights and sounds of Beatlemania--the long hair, the mod clothes, and the countless Beatle-imitation pop groups who died and disintegrated with the ease and clumsiness (easy clumsiness) with which they were borne.

1967-68.....Beatlemania had grown up, and out of this mellowing and maturation and the American youth culture's need for American non-imitation heroes came the San Francisco Sound: Jefferson Airplane, Grateful Dead, Moby Grape, Charlatans, Psychedelia.....drug induced freedom..... hippies in Haight.

Late in Beatlemania's period of adolescence the Beau Brummels, just another Beatle imitation, rose from the dead silence of San Francisco with two hit singles, *Laugh Laugh* and *Just a Little*. There they stood on Hurlbailoo decked-out in look-a-like three hundred dollar suits looking, sounding dandy as could be--everything but the English accents.

The shortlived success of the Beau Brummels brought to San Francisco the realization that you didn't have to be from England or LA to make it big...that it could happen in San Francisco. The rest is rock history. By the time the San Francisco Sound had struck, the Beau Brummels were old hat....has-beens.... deservedly so.*

By 1968, popularity for the Beau Brummels, now an obscure twosome of Ron Elliot on guitar and Sal Valentino on vocals, was a thing of a past far gone. Dylan had already made the trek to Nashville which popularized the country-rock sound amongst rock and folk music followers. Artists and groups were making a mass exodus to Nashville to capture that Nashville sound. So when the Beau Brummels went to Nashville to record at the same studio with the same musicians as everyone else capitalizing on the country sound, they attracted no special attention. The Beau Brummels' final album, *Bradley's Barn*, titled after the studio in which it was recorded, was then passed over by most as just another group gone country-rock album. *Bradley's Barn* can now be found in the dime store dollar obscurity bins throughout the country.

Despite the presence of the old Nashville reliables playing on their home court, *Bradley's Barn* is not another country-rock album. The album, as were the Beau Brummels, is beyond categorization. The style and sound is one I've heard only from the combined energies of Ron Elliot and Sal Valentino: Elliot's solid guitar playing behind Valentino's unique vocal approach to originally-styled and strong material. All of this backed by the Nashville crew, who instead of cliched country licks, provide a solid group strength via simple, but fitting, instrumentation.

*One thing that should not be discounted as a factor contributing to the success of the San Francisco scene was the sense of community and togetherness that was developing amongst the youth of San Francisco at that time.

Sal Valentino's voice is primitive--possessing a basic nakedness of primitivity and at the same time retaining the basic melodic textures of nakedness--a style almost Dylanesque, but rich in the smoothness that is lacking in Dylan's voice. Valentino's delivery, Huck Finn-ish relaxed, is the perfect vehicle for his own and Elliot's low-keyed wit and self-reflective lyrics.

Shortly after the completion and release of *Bradley's Barn*, Ron Elliot and Sal Valentino separated to pursue directions apart from those taken by the Beau Brummels. Both continued writing and playing as solo performers on the West Coast, and in 1970 Elliot released his first (and only to date) solo album, *Candlestickmaker*.

Few people cared or realized that the Ron Elliot of *Candlestickmaker* was the major creative energy behind one of the most talented and unique rock groups to emerge from the San Francisco area--an area considered to be the most productive center of rock/youth-cultured music yet to be established in the United States. Because of this and a general lack of interest on the part of the record media, brought about in part by a lack of promotion dollars, *Candlestickmaker* was passed off by most as just another singer/songwriter's musical configurations in an attempt to cash in on the popularity and success afforded singer/songwriters at that time. So *Candlestickmaker* goes down onto the ever-expanding list of excellent (and therefore deserving) works which, for one reason or another, did not make it -- by making it I mean the recognition by those who relate to that certain type of music of that artist's work being of a certain quality with which they, as human beings listening to that music, can identify.

As for the product itself, *Candlestickmaker* captures all of the virtues of *Bradley's Barn* less Valentino's vocal and writing skills, but *Candlestickmaker* contains one very important merit lacking on *Bradley's Barn*, that of excellent production. This is accounted for in that Elliot, in knowing his own capabilities and material best, co-produced his album. There is nothing in excess and nothing is lacking. The backup is usually kept to two guitars (one acoustic and one electric) bass, and drums. The overdone vocal backup, musak-ical horn and string arrangements, and superstar guitar riffs that characterize much of today's "successful" production of solo artists is completely non-existent on this lp.

What the lp lacks in comparison to *Bradley's* -- that being Sal Valentino's obvious presence (Valentino plays tamborine on *Candlestickmaker*) -- it gains in Elliot's vocal delivery of his own material and his total domination of the song-writing chores. Elliot's voice is very melodic, very resonant, very confident -- a voice which reaps of satisfaction and gratification. His writing, now more relaxed, flowing, and straight-ahead serious, has mellowed in the time between the Beau Brummels' finale and *Candlestickmaker*. The musicianship of the backup is superb. Nothing catchy; just mellow and relaxed. Come home at night, light the candles, and reflect on your day's music.

In the summer of '70 Warner Brothers Records, the company for which Ron Elliot and Sal Valentino (both as solos and as the Beau Brummels) have recorded, assembled a traveling musical caravan to travel across the United States, living in buses and

playing free concerts. That caravan became known as *The Medicine Ball Caravan*, and included within were Sal Valentino, performing as a solo, and a group called Stoneground. Somewhere between San Francisco and France, Sal Valentino joined Stoneground becoming the group's main lead vocalist and primary writer.

Four months ago Warner Brothers released Stoneground's first album simply entitled, *Stoneground*. The best adjective I can use to describe this group's music is one that I haven't used since the third or fourth grade when I had to use it in a sentence to prove my knowledge of the word's meaning -- delightful. Stoneground's music captures a certain freshness, vigor, and energy that I haven't heard since the early days of the Jefferson Airplane -- foot tapping, hand clapping, sing-along music pleasant to both the mind and the body.

The most obviously distinctive thing about this ten member band is the fact that they utilize seven good vocalists--four of whom are women. The formula employed on most songs is that of having one lead vocalist backed at critical points by three of four vocalists. This creates a pleasant variety--this being one of the group's main strengths.

Of the ten songs on *Stoneground*, Valentino wrote five and sang lead on four. The songs on which he participates as either lead vocalist or writer are by far the strongest cuts on the record. With Stoneground's instrumentation being very electrical/very energetic, Valentino's vocals are more forceful and energetic than before. His writing--as cohesive and witty as ever--has gained in vigor and intensity over that of his Beau Brummel days.

Stoneground is San Francisco's favorite rock group, having gained popularity through the many concerts the band has played in the Bay Area. Judging by the group's first album, that is a popularity well justified.

Bradley's Barn--Beau Brummels--Warner Brothers (WS-1760)

Candlestickmaker--Ron Elliot--Warner Brothers (WS-1833)

Stoneground--Stoneground--Warner Brothers (WS-1895)

chris elmore



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Janice

A HODGEPODGE OF THOUGHTS GOING THROUGH MY MIND THIS WEEK

Thoughts of buying a house followed by thoughts of leaving town; seeing a friend I thought of as a brother remove himself to third cousin; getting semi-involved in town politics; finding myself terribly broke and not caring, finding myself broke and caring terribly; putting up Huckel posters and going back later to find them ripped off; listening to the radio to all the election slogans and at first thinking that they're a parody and then realizing that they're not; reading Ann Smith's candidate coverage in the Herald and deciding maybe the radio wasn't so bad; overhearing conversations I wasn't supposed to and feeling angry and guilty all at once; finally riding my bike around town very early in the morning and deciding everything's all right after all; a very romantic decision.

After a while it becomes all too clear that there's little escape in a town of this size. You can hide out or hold out only so long before you become involved. Then, when you start to get involved you find yourself experiencing this low feeling that hits periodically and seems to be linked to the very core of Key West. Maybe it's a clear-sighted look at what the town could be and isn't, or worse, what the town isn't and doesn't want to be. Or maybe for me it's simply cold feet at finally accepting the town, unpacking all my baggage after a year and a half and making it my home.

It's becoming clearer to me that I'm using the town as a step to the next place. I find myself in the same position as a squirrel in the Autumn, running around like crazy to get my nuts in for the Winter and missing all the color around me. And I'm not alone in this, as I see it in so many of the Winter people and in some of the year-rounders too. We take and we take and then we complain that the island has so little to give. Key West is wet nursing too many babies and her teats are running dry. If we take from the island, we must give to the island and very soon we'll all have to make our decisions.

CLASSIFIED

PETS


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Ray's Bike Shop 906 Truman

BICYCLES

Ray's Bike Shop 906 Truman
B + B 822 Fleming Street

SWIFT'S

Camera and Stereo



423 DUVAL STREET

Ace & Ed



From: Ace Pickapart
To: Editor Sol Hill

Dear Ed,

I went whole hog the other day and went out game fishing aboard the *Sandpiper*. Well, the first day out, I caught mackerel, barracuda, 3-1/2 amberjack and the bottom, (better known as Key West Real Estate). The 1/2 jack was the result of my losing a battle with a shark.

The reason I tell you this is we ought to go into the business -- it is so easy, I tell you. Just think, \$100 a day for just loafing around the ocean. I would captain the boat, and you could be the mate; your brother-in-law could row.

I figure the 16-foot boat you bought for \$20 would be enough as soon as we patch the bottom, build a flying bridge, live bait well and fish box. I guess we will need a fighting chair, but for now, we could use one of your lawn chairs.

Just think about all the cash rolling in and let the problems take care of themselves.

The only hitch is that the City wants us on the other side of the light near the overpass, but I feel we could make more money locating with all the other independent charter boats.

We could build a billboard 20 x 40 ft. with neon lights and fluorescent paint and perhaps a couple of searchlights to show everyone where we are.

The only problem we'll have will be that the refuse, beer cans, etc. will have to be dredged out so we can get near the highway and dock. It's getting so bad that the other day I saw a fish beached on the cans and debris -- he couldn't find the water.

In any case, I figure this charter boat thing is so easy we could own a fleet and become rich. We won't return any fish like the *Sandpiper* does, then we'll look like we caught the most. We'll just limit ourselves to bringing in 30-50 gamefish at a time for display like the freebooters, and we will be a hit (after all, there are plenty of fish in the ocean!).

Arny,
(Ace Fisherman)

From: Editor, Sol Hill
To: Arnold Pickapart

Dear Old Man in the Ocean ARNY,

This idea of yours isn't too bad, but I want to be Captain; it's my boat and I'll be the leader; you be the mate, and my brother-in-law can row. My wife said no to using our lawn chair but suggested a portable John; that way it could serve two purposes.

Do you suppose there is room aboard for our hand press? After all, when not fishing, we could print the paper. The only thing is where would we put the shower? Well, I guess it will all work out.

Sincerely,
Ed
Capt. of the 6 Seas.

From: Arnold P.
To: Editor Sol Hill

Dear Ed,

We put the shower next to the galley. The only holdup is we can't get a license; the Coastguard says we will be a hazard to the ocean traffic. They rejected my idea for a 5-deck 16' charter boat just because we don't have a horn.

Well, keep the faith, Ed; we will make it yet.

Arny,
the dejected

Marion Steven's

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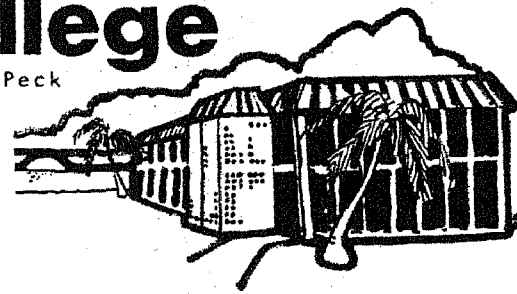
NEW HOPE

LEATHER CO

Simonton at Truman

From Our Community College

Charles Peck



This has been an active month for the college. The Science Club has had two excellent night programs, one dealing with U.F.O's and the other dealing with biological freaks. The United Minority Student Union put on a 'Meet the Candidates' program which was open to the public October 28.

This was followed by a concert called 'Festival of the People' at Monroe County beach, open to the public, on October 30. All the musicians kindly donated their time and talents. It was a beautiful way to spend a Saturday afternoon, lying on the beach, listening to music, surrounded by happy people from all walks of life. In fact, it was such a beautiful way to spend the day that I think it would be a good thing to have it happen more often. I feel that this may be one way of introducing the people of Key West to each other and thusly better our city as a place to live.

This brings me to another point. The elections. Now that the elections are over, I sit back and wonder - has it brought our city closer to the brotherhood and sense of community that is possible?

After putting much energy into this election, pacing the floor, making arm-chair decisions with my friends, and putting forth other equally significant contributions, I sat back exhausted election night without any feeling of accomplishment. I'm sure many others felt this also. In fact, I've begun to feel that the essence of political involvement is the antithesis of involvement in the life process - at least on the level that political involvement is usually seen.

What decided this election, as with most others, wasn't the issues and the candidates subsequent position relating to these issues, but rather the public image which the candidates were endowed with. Not that a public image is a totally negative thing but rather that it becomes negative when it elicits approval or disapproval that is totally disengaged from the reality of the problems to be solved. When this happens the election is reduced to a juvenile popularity contest with all the voters being the losers. The candidates are able to do this only if the voting public encourages it. If the voters demanded a rational, issue-oriented campaign the candidates would have to occupy themselves with this type of a campaign to get elected.

This brings us to the idea that the voters don't want to be bothered with the responsibility of being a democratic voting body. This responsibility means listening to what the candidate says and watching what he does. Then it means thinking through what has been said and done and comparing this to what you think has to be said and done. The result of this analytical thinking should be your voting guide.

But, instead of this, the Key West voting public seems to want to get the whole thing over with as soon as possible by just casting a ballot to relieve their patriotic conscience.

If this situation is to change, and it can, the voting public must face the political world with a demand that it grapple with the issues of today. If we sincerely want to clean up this town, revitalise Key West into the little Garden of Eden it could be, we must speak out and take action.

If anyone allows himself to become a member of a 'silent majority' he has lost his voice in what happens - he has relinquished his fundamental freedom and his very essence as a human being. In other words, when you sit home and pout,

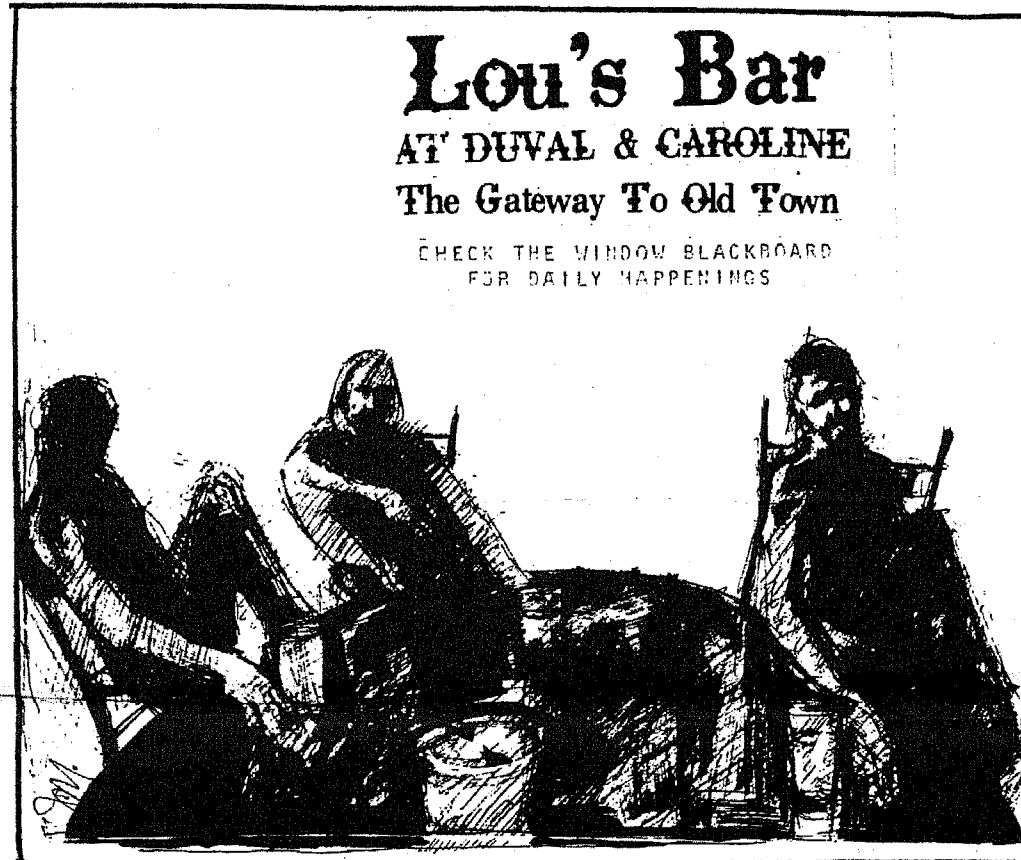
saying "I can't do anything about it and they wouldn't listen anyway" you give up your freedom, your individuality and your American heritage.

Imagination and doubt are the things that separate our consciousness from strict environmental determinism. In fact, imagination could be said to be what distinguishes us as human beings. It is the essence of our inherent freedom.

Are we afraid of ourselves? If not, then let us humanise the political world by infusing it with imagination and doubt. Thus the political world may become responsive to all of us as was originally envisioned by the 1776 revolutionaries.

People! - if this is to be your government, let the government know who you are and how you feel.

SPEAK OUT!



Lou's Bar AT DUVAL & CAROLINE The Gateway To Old Town

CHECK THE WINDOW BLACKBOARD
FOR DAILY HAPPENINGS

Tober is being able to write a long, skinny tober at 3 in the morning before going to press because we have a long, skinny space to fill.

PEACE AND LOVE

Peace and Love, are they abstract things. That fly away on feathery wings? Whenever you reach out and they're not there. Are they floating out of reach everywhere?

Peace and Love, they're needed today. They're never here long, never to stay. Never to help in this world of violence and hate.

Help us, O Lord, before it's too late.

Sherry Quinn

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Editor
Solares Hill
512 Fleming Street
Key West, Florida 33040

Gentlemen,

As one of your original subscribers, I have noticed a definite lack of space devoted to your readers' comments. In all probability, as is the case with most establishment rags, a surfeit of advertising has placed the Business Department in complete control. The resultant 'Tin Ear Policy,' therefore, precludes any possibility of adverse comments being published.

But if Botswana rates a United Nations vote, I should be heard if for no other reason than I paid \$5.00 more than they did.

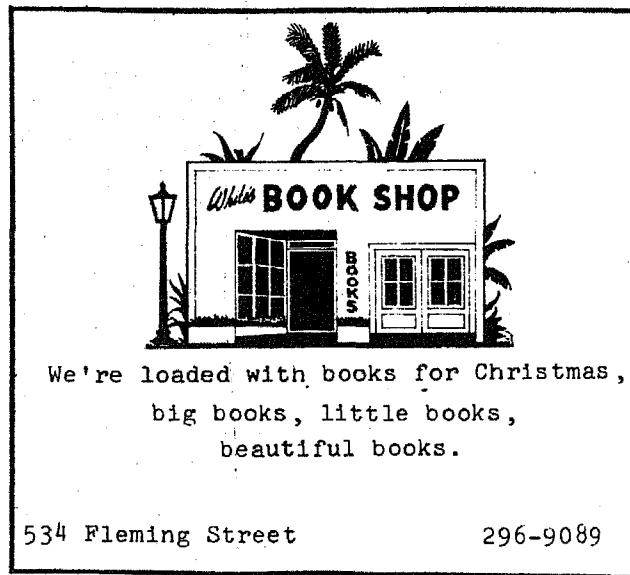
Item #1 - Your insufferable interviews cannot be digested by a mother* let alone a friend. Can't even one staff member write a simple news story or is every reporter a poor man's Hugh Hefner? Solares Hill, in its present form, ranks third in readers' interest trailing only the Bulldog Edition of Pravda and the Sharpsburg Herald.

Item #2 - Why wouldn't a nice girl like Janet Wood own a bra? She had one when she left home.

Sincerely yours,

Harold F. Wood, Jr.

*The word "mother" is used here in the archaic sense meaning one who actually gives birth rather than the more widely used definition now heard in social circles and newspaper guild meetings.



We're loaded with books for Christmas,
big books, little books,
beautiful books.

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GALLERY

A representation of Paintings and Photographs by Jerry Miller, Art Director of Solares Hill.

(top left) "Sweet Jesus" oil 1967

(top right) "Window Collection" photograph 1971

(middle) "Robin" photograph 1971

(bottom left) "The Emergence" acrylic 1970

(bottom right) "Line Play" pastel 1968

INTERVIEW

continued from page 7

interpretation of law, and a greater effort to have a rapport between the police and the people that are most inclined to be in trouble. The specifics on that will have to wait. When I develop the package, I want to develop it fully.

SOLARES HILL: What about long range city planning?

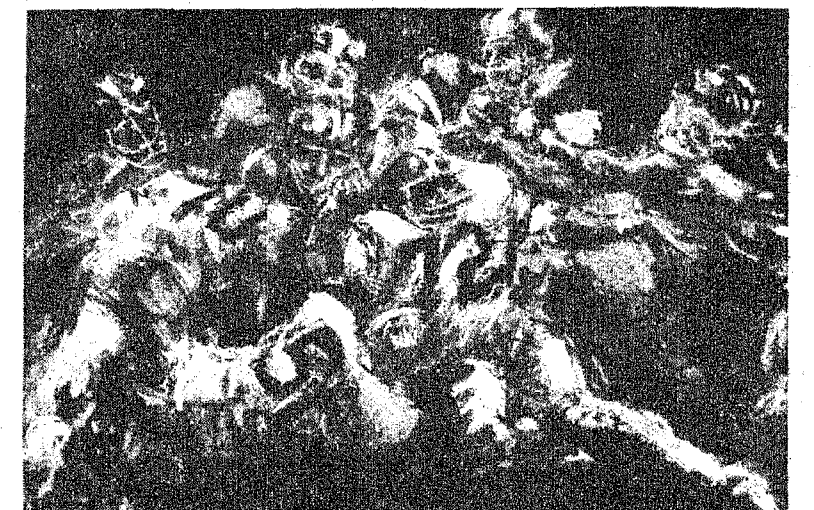
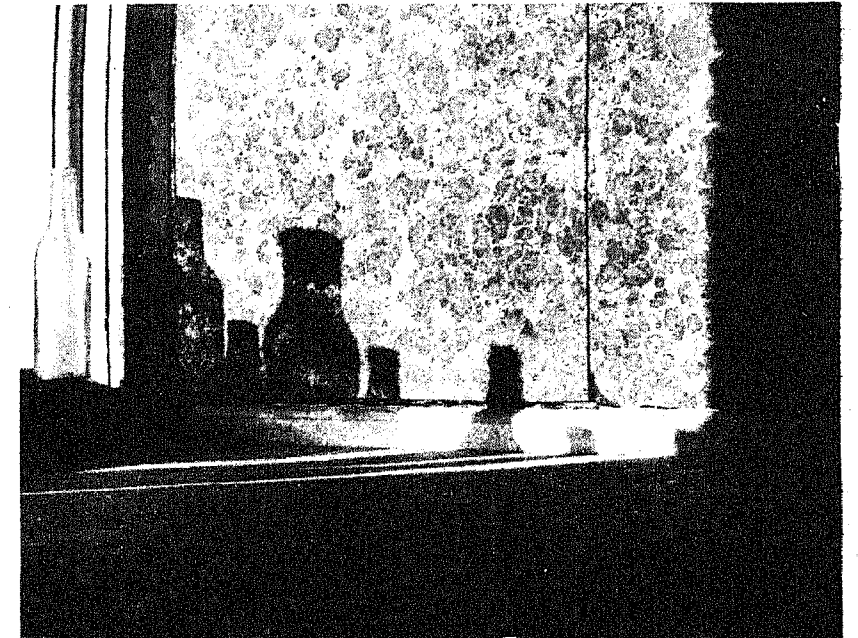
McCOY: I want to give this unique little island the image that the people who come to Key West expect to see here: a colorful island in the Caribbean. This is what it is. It just happens that we're physically attached to the mainland United States. But this island is in transition between the mainland United States and the tropical romantic place we call the Caribbean.

SOLARES HILL: So part of your concept of city planning is to give a city its identity?

McCOY: An identity yes; I'm glad you said that because this is what we're talking about. We have a uniqueness here that you can't find in a city of comparable size. Key West has a geographical location, an historic background and a conchology that's so unique that I think its identity should be preserved and impressed upon us natives and the visitors to our island.

SOLARES HILL: Let's talk a little bit about zoning. Development in much of Florida has taken place very quickly. Condominiums, high skyscraper buildings that offer vistas and beautiful views of the ocean and cities have been built. This kind of development certainly is in opposition in many ways to the quaint two or three story wooden conch house. Our conch houses are on a much smaller scale than is the condominium. I wonder if you have any plans for development in Key West with condominiums or whether you feel we should be much stricter in zoning a much more traditional way?

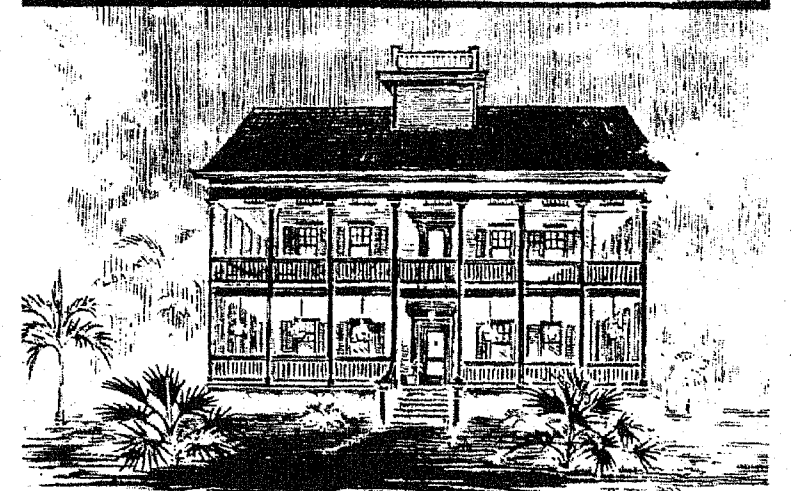
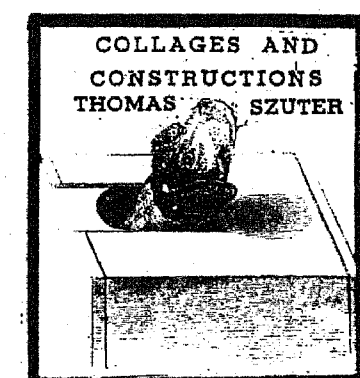
McCOY: Well, very fortunate for the City of Key West there are some farsighted people like the Sawyers, the Bruces, and I could go on and on. These people saw the need to keep the quaintness and the uniqueness of Key West and they established the Old Island Restoration Foundation which has done a fantastic job. And Key West, in essence, is going to have to be a reflection of many things. It's going to have to be a reflection of the old island that it was. But there are needs that can't be met just by an Old Island Restoration. So what in essence we are doing is dividing the island. There is the old island, which is the historic island or Key West. This is the high-ground at the western end of the island where the deep water part is and where Key West began. There's also another part of Key West which would never be an Old Island Restoration area and that happens to be the eastern end. There's a whole southern strip along southern Roosevelt Boulevard where we can have the great views, the highrises and all the amenities that come with the technology and advancement of our society. This is the way a great number of people want to live. So without deluting either I think we can have both.



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WHOLESALE - RETAIL



Unemployment: A Solution

Unemployment is a term which sends shivers down the spine of the top government officialdom as well as the citizenry of Key West. Locally, the problem is tremendous, particularly in view of the number of people who are untrained to work in the local economy and thus, unemployable. Mr. Jeff Knight, of the Florida State Employment Service, says he has over 600 unemployed people in his active files for Key West alone, and there are many more not on file. Despite the magnitude of the problem, there are some encouraging steps being taken to combat it. One such program is "ETC" -- a workshop oriented program sponsored by the Sunshine Center for Human Development in Poinciana Plaza.

According to Miss Pat Suriano, who is directing this adult program, "ETC", meaning Educational Training Center, offers an umbrella workshop atmosphere under which a wide variety of people can receive training. "Broken down to the simplest terms," says Miss Suriano, "we want to train currently unemployable people for productive employment." This is, of course, not a simple goal, for there are many reasons and conditions which make a person unemployable. Thus, the concept of "ETC" in offering new opportunity to these people to develop and use skills is complex.

The initial phase of the program is evaluation in three general areas -- work potential, personal habits and academic level. The components in evaluation of work potential, include dexterity, coordination, gross and fine motor skills, logic, frustration level -- to name a few. Analysis of academic preparedness and personal habits such as cleanliness, sociability, home living habits, motivation are equally important elements which are measured largely by Miss Suriano in close individual scrutiny of her clients. The process takes about the first three weeks of the program.

Once an evaluation of each client is completed, the staff, which includes Mr. Curtis Blair, director of the Sunshine Center, and instructor aides, as well as Miss Suriano, sets about to enroll him or her in a program tailored to his or her needs. A key element in this step is to place these people in an actual working world.

The workshop, therefore, is set up to produce items that are of commercial use to this community. One of the items produced is fishing lures, prepared for sale to the Angler's Service. Production of the lures requires an assembly line activity with a wide range of skills necessary to the completion. Pouring lead into molds, painting and tying the lures, packaging the finished products -- all create a situation where graduated skills are necessary, and an individual might well learn the whole process from beginning to end. These skills once acquired are applicable to a variety of jobs that the individual might fill upon completion of his training. Likewise, the assembling of lobster traps and making of chaffing gear, also done at the Center, provide multiple skill development training. In explanation, Miss Suriano said, "The actual tasks are relatively incidental to adoption of sound work habits such as punctuality, pride in work, attention to detail, ability to work with others, etc."

The key concept in the program is allowing the clients to develop at their own speed according to their own abilities. By creating a situation where they are actually working, graduated responsibilities and rewards are used to encourage the clients toward constructive learning.

Conditioning the participants in work patterns is not in itself enough to counteract the unemployable tendency. Counseling each person so that he can attain a fuller understanding of himself is necessary.

Other aspects of the training process include remedial academics, where necessary. Such skills as basic mathematics and language may be essential to the successful application for and progress in a job in the community. Mrs. Susan Shelly works with the clients in upgrading these areas. In addition, she is head teacher in what is called the Independent Living curriculum. A large house trailer at the Center serves as a training ground for those participants who may be living by themselves later. Cooking, cleaning, maintenance of a home and yard are all included in this aspect of the program.

Pride in one's independence and ability are considered to be essential toward forming an employable person.

"ETC" has been underway for over a year now. The growth of facilities and ideas has been impressive and the plans for the future expansion of the facility into a year-round, full-time workshop are encouraging. The community needs a lot of this type of promise for people who are now "problems" because they are unemployed and unemployable.



Poem

A PIECE OF LEAF
AND A DROWNED FLY

down the water way
of the gutter
a piece of leaf
and a drowned fly
raced like two rafts
of refuse
towards the city sewer
the leaf had the lead
then once again the fly
gave wings to the wind
and for half a block
held a two yard gain
and it looked to be
the first to finish
but the drowned fly
got hung on a twig
and the piece of leaf
was the first to vanish

i am only 24 years old
and for a block of my
life
i watched a race
between a piece of leaf
and a drowned fly

e.g. alexander



The Common Nighthawk

Thurlow Weed

Key West Naturalists' Society

Chordeiles minor is the Latin name for what is known in Key West as the Mosquito Hawk and in Texas as the Bull Bat. In other places it is called Goatsucker of Carolina, Will-o'-the-Wisp, and even Pirmidig. People with careful ears sometimes call it the Pisk.

The Common Nighthawk is no hawk. It belongs to the family of voracious insect-eaters known as Goatsuckers. The bill is tiny (as opposed to the meat-hook worn by true hawks) but the mouth is enormous. The whole front end of the Nighthawk opens, rather like a Jewfish.

Because of the huge mouth and because Nighthawks are often observed zooming around goats, an old folk superstition has it that they milk goats. A more reasoning observer realizes that the birds are simply foraging for insects.

The Nighthawk's feet and legs are insignificant and almost rudimentary (again as opposed to the true hawks, which are equipped for smash-and-grab operations against rabbits and the like). Thus they spend their time on the wing or just sitting. They do not perch well, and when one settles onto a telephone wire or a tree limb it sits lengthwise on it (or diagonally), rather than at right angles as a perching bird does.

In flight (which is about the only time you are likely to see one) the Nighthawk's clearest distinguishing mark is a white bar across each sharply swept-back wing about the middle. The body is a muddy tan, and the wings are so dark as to seem nearly black, especially against the bright clouds of an evening sky.

The body length is about a foot and the narrow wings span about twice that, which makes for a graceful flier. Watch for them darting and swooping about in the twilight hour, announcing "Pisk" from time to time.

You may well observe one of the strangest behavior patterns in local birddom. A Nighthawk will occasionally perform a series of upward swoops. It will "Pisk" at the top of the swoop, drop slightly, swoop a bit higher, "Pisk" again, and keep this up until it feels the altitude is right.

Then it folds its wings back into dual rudders and plummets groundward at re-entry speed. At the last possible instant it spreads its wings for an emergency pull-out and with a shuddering "Vroom" arcs back up like a diver just missing the bottom of the pool.

The twang of the wind in the wings at this suicide velocity has led some people to suppose that the white wing-bars are actually holes which are there for the purpose of making the noise. But, as one writer observed, "...any orifice would greatly impede the bird's flight."

It is this strumming of the wings at the bottom of each highdive that leads to the Latin name, which means "small stringed evening musical instrument".

The Nighthawks are with us these days, as a part of the migration. They nest as far north as the southern Yukon, and winter as far south as Argentina, cleaning up mosquitos and other noxious beasts as they travel from one hemisphere to the other.

The graveyard or any open field is the place to watch for them