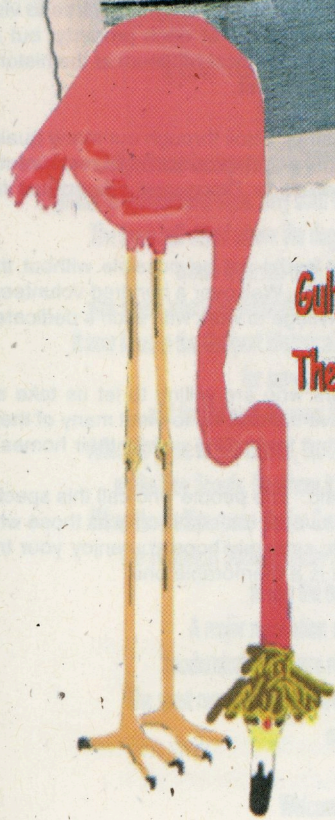


Gulfport's Pink Flamingo Home Tour

Views of a Vintage Fishing Village



Sponsored by
Gulfport Chamber of Commerce
The Gulfport Historical Museum
The City of Gulfport

March 25th, 2006



Dear Friends,

Thank you for joining us for the Third Annual Pink Flamingo Tour of Homes. On behalf of our home owners, the Gulfport Chamber of Commerce, the Gulfport Historical Society and the City of Gulfport, our community extends a very warm welcome.

This year's theme "Views of a Vintage Fishing Village" harkens back to the early days of the 20th Century when Gulfport was indeed a thriving fishing community. Over the years, much has changed, but the character and charm remain. Today, our community treasures our unique bohemian style and friendly small town atmosphere.

The Pink Flamingo Tour of Homes seeks to showcase homes which have been transformed with charm, imagination and flair, proving that modern lifestyles can fit quite nicely into the comfortable surroundings of yesteryear. This year's offerings come in many sizes, but we think you'll be most surprised at how truly livable even the most modest of these homes can be.

Your pink wristband grants you entrance to the homes and free rides on the Trolley. Feel free to visit the homes in any order you choose. The Trolley does not stop in front of each property, but at centrally located sites. Public restrooms are located at the Gulfport Historical Museum at the historic Gulfport Casino and at other locations marked on the map in this booklet.

We invite you to visit Gulfport's Historic Downtown Waterfront District. Stroll through our many quaint shops and art galleries. Enjoy lunch at one of our many exceptional and diverse cafes or restaurants. Ask shop keepers and your waiter for the "Pink Flamingo Specials or Discounts" offered just for today.

The Tour of Homes is genuinely a community wide event and would not be possible without the combined efforts of the Chamber, the Historical Society and the City. Well over a hundred volunteers are needed each year and it has been and continues to be my privilege to work with such a dedicated group of people.

Most importantly, our appreciation goes out to the home owners who are willing to let us take an inside peak at their slice of Gulfport's magical charm. You will have the chance to meet many of them today and we encourage you to express your appreciation to them for inviting us into their homes.

Much of the spirit of Gulfport's Vintage Fishing Village days remain. The people who call this special place home today share the same bond of pride and unabashed love for our community as those who cast nets into Boca Ciega Bay nearly a hundred years ago. We sincerely hope you enjoy your trip with us through yesterday and that your day in Historic Gulfport is a memorable one.

Kind regards,

Michele King
Committee Chair





The Gulfport Historical Museum, 5301 28th Avenue South

Gulfport was incorporated in 1910 and soon after, the citizens decided to build a town hall and a church. Similar in architectural style, they both were square little structures with shells of virtually indestructible heart pine.

The town hall stood where the dog park is located today and was later moved to the present city complex, where it served until 1953. The church, originally on the other side of 53rd Street, was saved when the Methodist congregation outgrew it and was relocated to its current site in the 1950s. It now houses the Gulfport Historical Museum. Built for a cost of \$1300, the doors opened on August 15, 1913 for services held at "times convenient to the trolley schedule,"

and for the next 40 years it saw most of the town's marriages, christenings and funerals. After the move to this corner, the building continued to provide a home for many civic organizations such as the Boy Scouts, for whom it was the original Scout Hall, the Red Cross, and the Civil Air Patrol. When the Multipurpose Senior Center was built in 1983, some of the city services were transferred there.

The Historical Society, under President Catherine Hickman, petitioned the council for permission to use the building as a museum, which was granted in 1984.

A major renovation of the building was completed in 1998 when the municipal "modernizations" were removed and the interior returned to its original configuration. The most recent additions are a storage room, the replacement of the cupola, and construction of a patio showcasing exterior artifacts.

Welcome, The Gulfport Historical Society volunteers



5314 28th Avenue South

We found our house in a real estate catalog 16 years ago and, after a quick 5-minute tour, decided to buy it over breakfast and closed the deal at the Tru-Value Hardware store. We bought it from the estate of the immediate previous owner, Jerry D'Anello, who died from AIDS in 1989.

We've never had any regrets over the quick decision.

The house was built around 1946 and sold to its first owners, Hulett and Margaret Gate, by 1948. Mr. Gate was a retired U.S. Customs agent, who raised eyebrows in town by paying the \$1925 price with a bag of cash. The Gates were also noted locally for naming their children for various construction projects.

One son, Al, may be the person who wrote "Em & Al, 1969" in the cement slab in the carport. Whoever they were, we felt them looking over our shoulders for the first year or two we lived here.

We've made many improvements, including central air and heat, a new screened porch and, most recently, a new kitchen.

Yes, we know - it's still small. But it's big enough to entertain, which we love to do, frequently. We think of it as our beach cottage, even though we're three blocks from the water.

Or sometimes we think of it as our transplanted Key West house.

More importantly, we think of it as home.

Welcome, Roger and Michael



2920 53rd Street

Located in the Robuck Park subdivision, the "Ashford" model Sears kit home was built in 1927, one of the first in this area. Kit houses were ordered from a catalog and shipped by train with the precut lumber and materials ready to be assembled upon arrival at the property. The "Ashford" model commanded the princely sum of \$2800 making it one of the more expensive kit homes.

The two-story Dutch colonial was first owned by Joseph and Emma Dancer.

After Mr. Dancer's death in 1934, Emma remained another 30 years.

A native of Switzerland, she often summered in Europe but was always back in Gulfport for the winter social season.

An elderly niece inherited the house from Mrs. Dancer and lived there until 1969, when, unable to maintain the property, she returned to Switzerland.

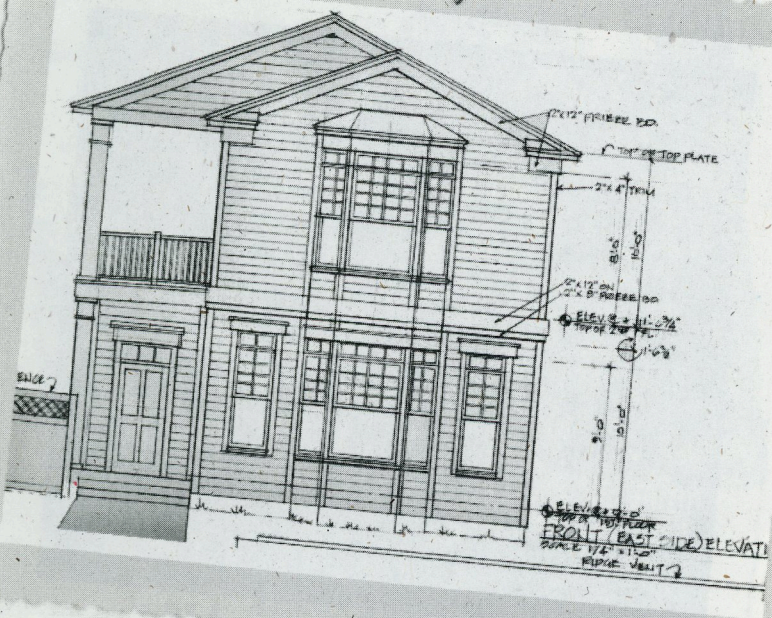
The home had been vacant and overgrown for two years when we bought it in 1971.

There was just something about the house that grabbed my face and said,
"Look at me, here I am!"

I found an old family bible with the Dancer's names and was stunned to learn that their gravestone was the one next to my grandparents, where as a child I had sat and played while my mother tended her parents grave site.

It's taken us years of renovation and upgrading, always keeping in mind the integrity and history of this wonderful property. It is now once again the treasure Alvah Roebuck meant it to be.

Welcome, Samuel and Deidre



2931 53rd Street

For nearly 10 years the Falwell brothers have Gulfport homes. Encouraged by friend and life-long Gulfport resident Merton Barrs his legacy of building early Gulfport Homes, instilled their latest venture, "New-construction".

The property is surrounded by many examples of the Alva Roebuck homes and was once the location of one of his workshops. The width of the lot did not allow for the a "Roebuck" type design as originally intended without the removal of existing large Live Oaks. With the insight of Gulfport resident Clint Massey of MassPlan, and long-time contractor friend Clay Kent, a design was created to blend with the styles; character; & charm of surrouding architecture which make Gulfport unique.

A take-off of on a original Charleston-style house was chosen. The origins of which can be traced back to American Revolution.

Examples of thisarchitecture can be found in Barbados; England; Aruba, and of course Key West.

The Charleston designs were spontaneous creations of carpenters; builders and housewrights.

This two story narrow home with its open Piazzas is designed to be placed to one side of the lot.

This allows maximum use & enjoyment of the property--- blending the front yard and back yard together, and affords more privacy.

To our great satisfaction, it also assured the grand Live Oaks could remain and still have plenty of room for gardens and patios.

Welcome, Dave, Doug and Beacher



5319 Delett Avenue South

Alvah Roebuck sold this lot in 1926 to Quincy and Helen Smith, the first residents, who lived there until about 1937, sometimes renting it out to winter visitors.

My friend Bea Reiner, the daughter of Gulfport's only physician, Dr. Lawrence Simcox, lived at 5221 Delett in the late 1920s and remembers the house well.

I first started walking by this house in 1974, when it was abandoned and uncared for; there was nothing but a sickly calamondin tree in the garden, some tiny oaks, and a lot of bare sand. Though I knew it was where I wanted to be, I became disabled and could no longer be employed. Nevertheless, the Quakers and all my friends bought Lizard Hall for me in 1982 for its appraised value, \$21,000.

My home has always been a gift; it could only happen that way. When I first moved in, it was nearly uninhabitable: no working kitchen, no refrigerator and no stove. Since then, my friends and family have helped me with many improvements, all of which have been gifts. I feel like I live in a wonderful museum with lots of paintings, lots of colors and beautiful things, especially my seedpod collection. It is fabulous – I live in a paradise. Come into my home, Lizard Hall, for a few moments and feel what love can do.

Welcome, Christine



5320 Delett Avenue South

This house was one of Alvah Roebuck's first projects, built soon after he arrived here in 1924 and began "painting masterpieces of the builder's art."

James and Daisie Morrison, bought the place directly from him in 1925, when their little street was still known as Havana Court, and none of the town's homes had numerical addresses.

The Morrises, elderly retirees, were prominent Gulfport citizens for the next quarter-century.

They supported many civic causes, from raising money for Gulfport Elementary and the first library, to cleaning up the then-rowdy waterfront and gathering Bundles for Britain at the onset of World War II.

We came here in 1987 after seeing the house advertised as a "charming Hansel and Gretel home."

We have added the front porch and pool and enlarged the kitchen, but otherwise the house was much as you see it now.

With five children, we have thought about a bigger house, but we love it here, and here we stay!

Welcome, Nathaniel and Priscilla



5221 Delett Avenue South

One of several homes in Gulfport built by Alvah Roebuck of the Sears Roebuck Company. This 1925 house was purchased by its present owners in 1998. At that time, the very dignity and personality of this once rambling home was cloaked in a dull gray, hiding spanish charm so typical of architecture of this era.

Restoration began by stripping the 36 French windows and doors of their thick sand-textured paint and 60's brass hardware. most recently, the kitchen has been renovated, now in a Tuscan theme, with cathedral windows overlooking the garden and faux stacked stone arch dividing it from the breakfast nook.

Take notice of the varations in the beamed ceiling and the unusual slate flooring in the solarium. where a watercolor painting of the house shows it as it was before the 1930 addition of that room.

While we admit there are areas of the home yet to restore, you will understand the delay when you step out the back door.

The lush garden was three years in the making with all planning, planting and structures accomplished by the owners. As you stroll along the path notice the painting on the fence behind the hammock. Leaving this magical garden is almost impossibleit seems sometimes.

Welcome, Gary and Beryl



5022 31st Avenue South

With a chance call to a friend to start looking for waterfront property,
I managed to find paradise a day later!

Now keep in mind my vision of paradise was fuzzy that day, because the house was hidden by massive overgrowth
and what could be seen was falling down. The entire property reeked of neglect,
but in my innocence I bought it for the view and the trees.

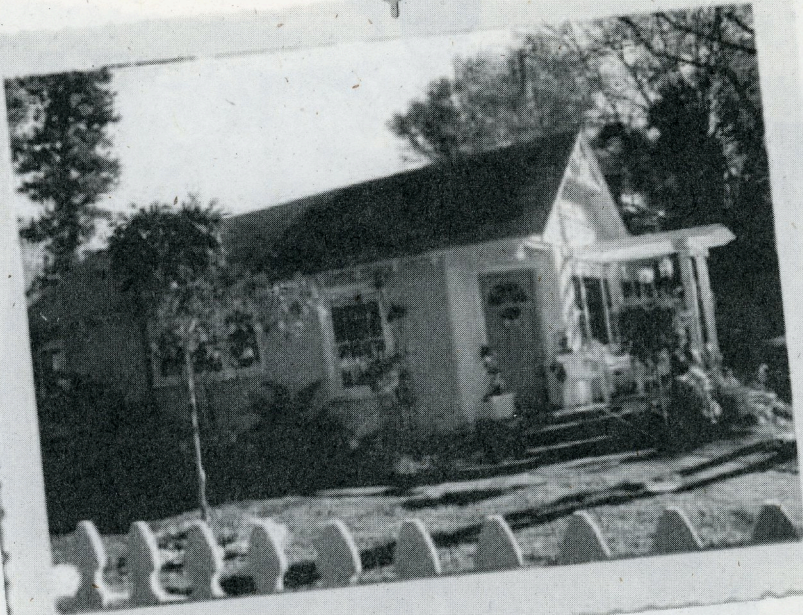
A year of hard work later, I moved in. The house has original heart pine walls and ceilings,
uncovered from years of who knows what, and the floors aren't really level, but character abounds.

I think the house is older than the deeded date of 1920,
for it was one of the cottages built by the Reverend James MacLean,
who came here in the mid-teens and founded the Gulfport Presbyterian Church in 1916.
After his death most of the waterfront cottages were demolished and replaced by new homes,
but this may be a survival from that era.

One early resident here was a quiet English naturalist, who must have enjoyed the classic old Florida yard
(last count 34 palms, 5 huge oaks, a tall skinny magnolia and one banyan).
Maybe he is my friendly playful ghost, who seems to like my improvements!

This is my paradise and I am happy to share it with you for a day!

Welcome, Gail



5015 31st Avenue South

We bought this house to renovate after it was on the market for only a day during a frenzied real estate buying period. Since we were worried someone else would get it, we put in our contract before we even saw the inside.

This and the house around the corner at 3055 50th Street belonged to the Beckhard family. Bruno Beckhard was a Harvard-educated New Yorker who came here in 1931 and took an active role in Gulfport civic affairs. He was the chairman of the town's first planning board and served a term on council;

his financial expertise is credited by many for helping to bring the town out of the Depression.

When his daughter Barbara married in 1935, this house was probably built for the newlyweds. Of all the houses we have fixed up, this one had the most potential and was the most fun.

When we were working on a gorgeous weekend, we could always stop and go across the street to take out our boat!

Welcome, Suzanne

10



3012 51st Street South

Because we lead hectic lives in our year-round home in Pennsylvania, we wanted a place where we could escape the busy routine, yet still be surrounded by our own things. We wanted the house to be a happy, fun, cheerful place for entertaining our family, old friends, and new Gullport friends.

The home we stepped into (the first and only house we looked at) was far from what we envisioned.

For instance, old glass sliding doors led from the kitchen to the back room, which was stacked from floor to ceiling with everything from motorcycles to refrigerators.

It took two months just to clear out the house.

Yet we knew instantly that this would be the house we could transform.

The movie "Frida", which takes place in Mexico, inspired us to create our own Mexican retreat.

We have been tiling ever since, occasionally turning our focus outside, where a metal shed awaits transformation.

Welcome, Lynn and Betty



52
2707 ~~53~~nd Street

My home was bought "sight unseen" in February 2004,
on the advice of my son Chris who found the house.
It was built in the late 1940s for a couple named Clarence and Marsha Cornman
on property once owned by Frank Abbiss,
who operated a market on the corner of 52nd Street and 28th Avenue.
At some point it was acquired by the Gulfport First Methodist Church, from
whom the last owner had bought it in 1991.
The original wood floors, walls and ceiling were kept intact and refinished.
The kitchen was gutted and redone to keep the cottage look.
My real passion was putting in my yard, which I enjoy year-round here in Florida.

Welcome, Barb



**Peninsula Inn and Spa
2937 Beach Boulevard**

In April 1914, ground was broken for the "thoroughly modern" Bay View Hotel, with lobbies, parlors, dining rooms and two floors of sleeping rooms and baths, as well as its own pumping station and water tower, designed to provide guests with the uncommon luxury of running water.

Advertised as offering "fine fishing and bathing on the shore of Boca Ceiga Bay," the "magnificent new \$15,000" hotel opened on November 12 with a banquet for Gulpport's Board of Trade, a forerunner of the Chamber of Commerce.

The hotel soon became the center of the town's social life, hosting parties, political meetings, and school fundraisers throughout the next three decades, two world wars, the devastating 1921 hurricane, and the Great Depression.

In the mid-1940s it became a "restorium" and later the Cedars Hospital.

Following a recent renovation, the lovely old Inn offers ten guest accommodations elegantly appointed with exotic furnishings from Bali, as well as a relaxing spa and stylish dining at either the Six Tables Restaurant or the beautiful outside gardens and patio. The Peninsula is proud to be a member of the Historic Hotels of America.

Welcome, Karen and Bob



3007 Beach Boulevard

This house, built in 1936 at a cost of \$4500, was virtually unchanged when I purchased it in 1997 from Joseph Mangnani, whose widowed mother Ada Venditti had owned it for over 30 years.

In the 1940s it was featured in the town newspaper as "one of Gulfport's show places."

The porch was enclosed in 1956, its mosaic tile floor preserved intact.

Another piece of history discovered on that porch was a huge dollhouse, built and decorated by Ada herself, which is now in the Gulfport Historical Museum.

The first alteration I made, in accordance with recent zoning changes allowing mixed uses, was to convert the porch and front bedroom into a shop, replacing two windows with an archway and adding a deck.

"Birds' Eye View, Gallery and Gifts"

was open over seven years, until my retirement last September.

This space now houses "LuLu's, A Chic Beach Boutique."

The freestanding garage at the back of the property is also now retail space. Artist Abby Frank, proprietor of "Rubywood, Inc., Art Gallery and Studio," enjoys the openness and particularly the north light.

Most recent renovations include the side deck, a whole new kitchen, and refinishing the original white oak floors throughout the house.

Anecdotally, in planning the floor refinishing,

I asked that the estimate include the bathroom floor, but when the linoleum was removed, the original black and white ceramic tile was revealed - in perfect condition!

Don't forget to say hello to the parrots, Plumber (the green one) and Phloyd (the pink one) on your way out.

Welcome, Beth



5414 30th Avenue South

"Tres Palmas" is a unique restored turn-of-the-century Key West style home nestled in the heart of Gullport's waterfront art district.

Its history reflects that of our town, for it certainly predates Gullport's incorporation in 1910 and may have been built from lumber salvaged from the almost-legendary Waldorf Hotel of the Disston City era.

Charles Thomes, an Englishman turned New Bedford whaler and his wife Elizabeth, a sea captain's daughter, were just the first of several interesting owners, among them an old man whose equally elderly housekeeper was forced to move to another house due to "moral implications," and the barefoot, illiterate but much loved boatman, John "Frenchy" LaJoie. If the home isn't big enough, with its two master bedroom suites and spiral staircase to the loft, there is always the charming carriage house with its beams and slate floor.

Hemingway would have liked the front porch, the multiple arbors along the lush pathways, and the three decks. He might even have enjoyed taking a shower under the stars amidst the palm trees and flowers of this tropical landscape.

Welcome, Christine



**Seabreeze Manor Bed & Breakfast
5701 Shore Boulevard**

In October 2002, I went from being a condo dweller with one houseplant in downtown Washington, D.C. to owning a seven-suite inn with a full tropical garden in a small waterfront artists' community of Gulfport.

This 1920s house had just been lovingly renovated by Lawrence and Patty Burke, who turned a family home into an inviting bed and breakfast.

The Key West-style cottage had once been used as a schoolhouse for the family's handicapped child.

There are many antiques scattered throughout the house, as well as mementos from my travels and previous career in Washington.

There are also several works by local artisans, especially in a small gallery in an upstairs hallway.

Each suite has its own balcony or patio, giving you a sense of privacy unusual for a bed and breakfast.

The theme for the seven suites is tropical, and each room has a name that evokes the decor:

Aruba, Barbados, Bermuda, Belize, Jamaica, Key Largo, and Key West.

No matter where you are on the grounds, there is always something blooming at all times of the year. From bananas to hibiscus, the Manor showcases them all.

Sea Breeze Manor is thrilled to show itself off to the participants of the Pink Flamingo Tour.

Relax and enjoy the combination of sophistication and whimsy.

As the sign says, "Welcome to Paradise," Lori



3101 Dupont Street

We bought this house because it was only one block to the beach and three blocks to the arts district. We were attracted to it because of its cottage appeal, and even though it is small, it has a lot of character. The house was built in 1948, when Dupont Street, originally called Seminole Avenue, ran only up to 30th Avenue.

Dupont was one of the last streets opened in waterfront Gulfport, and this house was one of its first structures.

It was one of many erected here during this period, the beginning of the age of the economical single family home.

With wartime material scarcities over, travel restrictions lifted and new cars on the market, retirees with accumulated savings looking for a quiet place to enjoy the rest of their lives found the town in large numbers.

In 1948, exactly half the houses in Gulfport had been built since 1937, and the population had doubled in those ten or eleven years.

We decided to try renting it for the season one year and that was so successful, it has rarely been empty since.

Everyone always tells us how much they love staying in it.

Welcome, Suzanne



2919 56th Street

Like everyone else, we fell in love with Gulfport's old world charm but when we were looking to buy a home here, Michele had one main criteria:

"It definitely had to be a two-storey property. I am originally from London, England and like most British people, I have to go upstairs to bed!

As luck would have it, this home of our dreams is on two floors.

To highlight our dual nationalities, we proudly display two flags at the front of the house -

Greg's Stars and Stripes and Michele's Cross of St George.

Two small cottages dating back to 1923 originally stood on this lot.

The previous owner extended one cottage into the house you see today and demolished the other, to make way for the fabulous pool area.

There are many interesting features in the house, ranging from the working fireplace which gets a lot of use on the few cold Florida nights, to the hand-painted tropical scenes on the bathroom walls.

However, the focal point of the house has to be the kitchen, which is an extension to the original house standing where a back porch once was.

From the kitchen, double doors lead to the screened pool area, which we use almost as another room. "This is a party house," says Greg "

"The way the kitchen opens to the pool area makes it perfect for entertaining!"

Welcome,
Michele, Greg, and our Boxer, Lucy



2920 56th Street

When I first saw this house in 2003, it was in danger of being demolished to create a parking lot for the Peninsula Inn next door. Fortunately, the owners were asking too high a price to justify leveling the house. Recognizing its historic character in the original hardwood floors, moldings, and fireplace, I bought it.

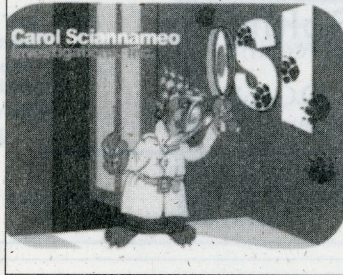
It was painted pink on the outside and was filthy inside with rotten carpet; the front porch was covered with screens braced by 2x4's. The bathroom had carpet over layers of vinyl flooring and cedar shingles around the bathtub. I uncovered an original mosaic tile beneath the flooring. I refinished the fine hardwood floors and have begun stripping all the layers of paint from the beautiful moldings.

Though still a work in progress, this home represents the character of old Gulfport, which I am trying to preserve. It was built in the mid 1930s by Harry Mann, grandson of one of the town's early fishing families, for his wife Addice and their seven children. The Manns, Harry and his brothers, operated a boat ways at Osgood Point, now Clam Bayou. He bought a Georgia fish company and moved there during World War II, while his children ran the local business, but returned after the war and became president of Mann's Seafood. Thanks to the help of a neighbor and friend, Bill Distell, we have painted the inside with colors common to this historic period.

Welcome, Todd

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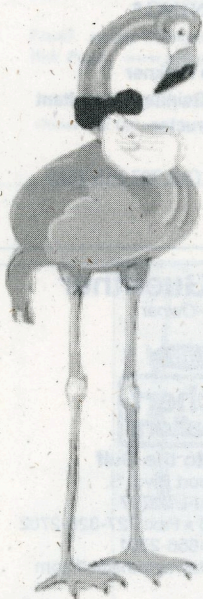
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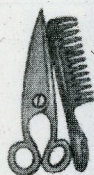
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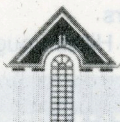
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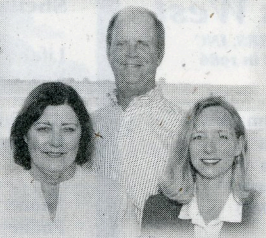
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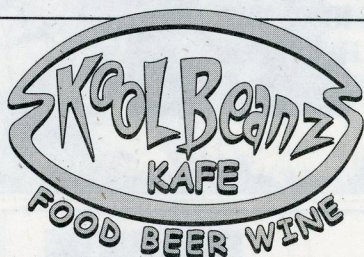


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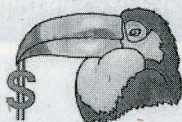
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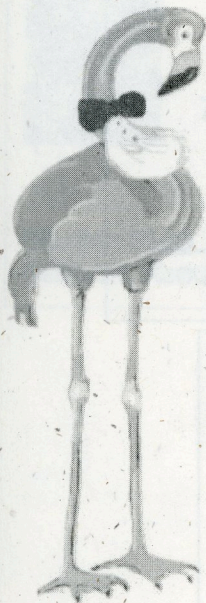


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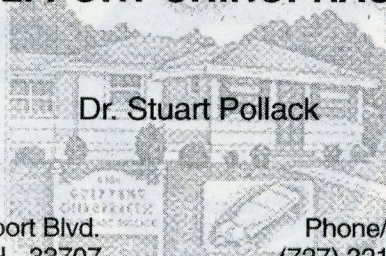
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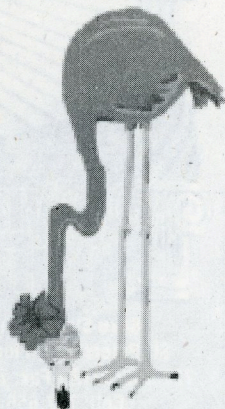
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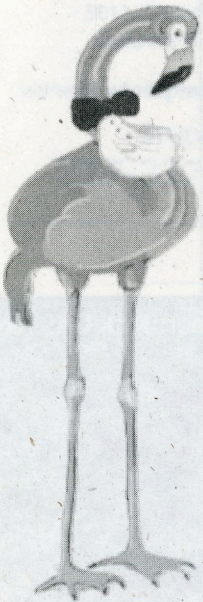
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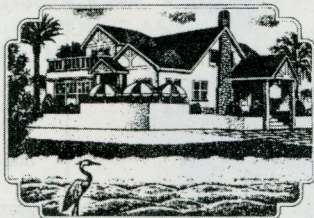
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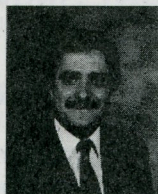
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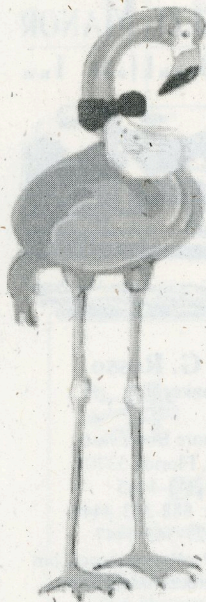
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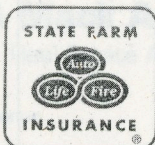
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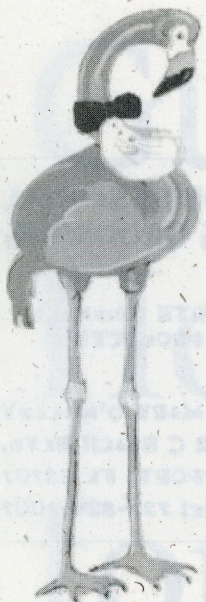
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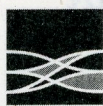
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