

The COCONUT TELEGRAPH

MARGARITAVILLE, SEPT. 1985

VOLUME 1, NO. 7

CAPTAIN TONY TARRACINO

"...still so much to be done."

Captain Tony Tarracino and balladeer Jimmy Buffett are two of the best-known legends in the Florida Keys. Tony is the epitome of an aging, weathered mariner, deep lines at the corners of his eyes from staring too long out to sea. Jimmy is the witty, slightly rueful minstrel, proponent of the mellow Margaritaville lifestyle. Each, of course, is in actuality much more than his outward appearance suggests. Nothing makes this fact clearer than the song *Last Mango in Paris*.

Last Mango in Paris is one of Jimmy Buffett's finest story-songs, its characterizations similar in style to those of *The Captain and the Kid* or *A Pirate Looks at Forty*. In it, over a few drinks an old adventurer recalls the ups and downs of his existence.

And where did Jimmy Buffett look to find the basis of *Last Mango*'s adventurer's tales? Into the mind and memories of Captain Tony Tarracino.

Tony came to Key West in the late

1940's, judging it best to make a quick exit from his native New Jersey. He hitched a ride down the Keys on a MacArthur milk truck, and describes the Key West of that time as a miniature Barbary Coast. Tony fondly remembers the crap tables, the whorehouses, the slot machines.

His first morning in town was spent making a few dollars by heading shrimp in the company of several old Bahamian women. Since then, he has been a charter-boat captain, a reputed gunrunner, a movie star of sorts, and owned a saloon.

Captain Tony's saloon has as varied and colorful a history as Tony himself. The ramshackle building has been a whorehouse, an icehouse, the City Morgue, and a wireless telegraph station. These days the bar is a dimly-lit Keys landmark, well loved by local folk and tourists alike. It was at this bar that Jimmy Buffett and Captain Tony Tarracino sat one afternoon and reminisced... and the powerful, reflective *Last Mango*



"...a legend never dies..."

in Paris was born.

The song is about living every moment to the fullest possible extent—and Tony Tarracino is proud to have been a part of it. Speaking to the *Key West Citizen's* Wendy Tucker, Tony said, "I feel honoured... whatever else I've ever gotten, this from Jimmy is one of my real big ones..." But Tony, like the adventurer in *Last Mango in Paris*, is not through anticipating

"big ones."

The afternoon the song was conceived, Jimmy Buffett asked Tony Tarracino if he was slowing down, if he was tired. And what did Tony answer?

"Jim, no, there's so many things I haven't done yet. That's the way I really said it."

That's why we wander and follow la vie d'artiste...

JIMMY BUFFETT'S MAIL-ORDER

A. THE COCONUT TELEGRAPH: Concert schedules, all the latest Buffett news. \$2.00 for a year's subscription.

To order the items below, send your check or money order (Florida residents, please include sales tax) with \$3.00 shipping and handling, to T-SHIRTS: The Margaritaville Store, P.O. Box 1459, Key West, Florida 33041; or call 1-305-296-8981. Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery.

B. MARGARITA GLASSES: Large, long-stemmed glasses engraved with Jimmy Buffett's signature. \$10.00 apiece plus \$3.50 special shipping and handling.

C. BABY MANATEES: Cuddly plush manatee friends, 12" long. \$10.25 each, with part of the price donated to the Save the Manatee Fund.

D. HARPOON MAN: The first solo effort from Coral Reefer Fingers Taylor. Cassette tape \$7.50.

E. FIN HATS: Beware of the sharks that live on the land! Hats are \$16.00 and come in blue, grey, khaki, or white—S, M, L, XL.

F. PARROT SHIRTS: Vivid Harlequin Nature Graphics T-shirts for true Parrot Heads. \$9.50.

Discover Jimmy Buffett's Caribbean

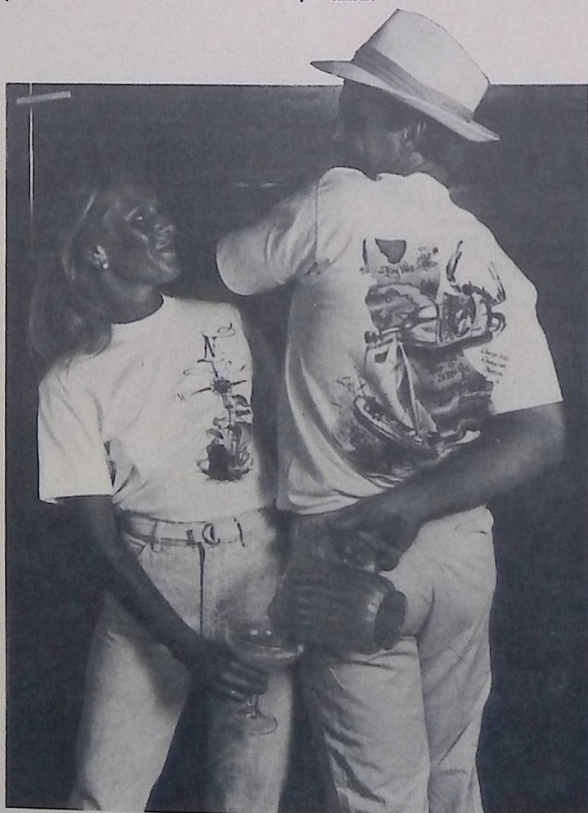
Soul T-shirt line—fine screen-printed cotton t-shirts with colorful designs based on Jimmy's songs. All shirts are \$12.95. Please indicate size and color preferences.

G. MARGARITAVILLE: A collage of tequila, lime, and the woman to blame.

H. CHANGES IN ATTITUDE: Pirate days... galleons and treasure charts.

I. FINS: A bathing beauty surrounded by sharks with red sunglasses.

J. WHY DON'T WE GET DRUNK AND SCREW: A shirt that surely needs no description... □



"Changes in Attitude"

photo by Jeffrey Cardenas

JIMMY VISITS TREASURE SITE

"Today's the day" has long been the motto of treasure hunter Mel Fisher. The phrase symbolized his belief that he would find the wreck of the *Nuestra Señora de Atocha*, a Spanish galleon that sank in the waters off the Florida Keys in 1622. Finally his optimism was rewarded. For Mel Fisher and his tenacious young dive crew, July 20, 1985, was "the day."

They found the most exciting ancient shipwreck discovery of the century—an enormous deposit of gold, jewels, coins, silver bars, and priceless artifacts.

On July 21, Jimmy Buffett took a boat out to the site of this fabulous find, and shared congratulatory champagne with Mel Fisher and the ecstatic divers.

Jimmy had brought his guitar with him. Margaritaville's son of a sailor serenaded the treasure hunters—now to have their own special place in nautical lore—with songs of the ocean. At the divers' request, a grinning Jimmy ended with an impromptu version of "Margaritaville" that they dubbed "Atocha-ville."

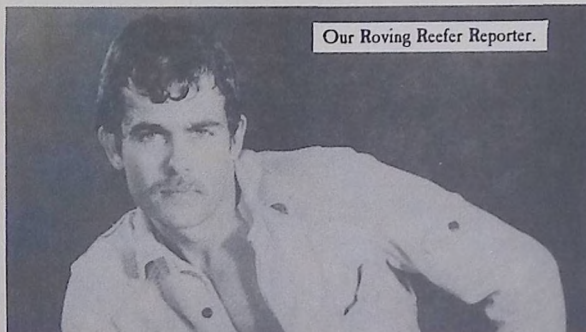
CORAL REEFERS' LATEST 'MADMUSIC'

by Roving Reefer Reporter
Fingers Taylor

The wealth of talent in the Coral Reefers Band has already produced 3 solo albums: Josh Leo's *Rockin' on 6th*, *Playin' it Cool*, by Timothy B. Schmit, and *Harpoon Man*, by yours truly, Fingers Taylor. Now in the works is an album of Caribbean music by the oldest and the newest of the Reefers, Mike Utley and Robert Greenidge.

Although this is the first solo effort by each, neither are strangers to the studio. By 1970, a young Mike Utley was part of the legendary Atlantic Records studio band, The Dixie Flyers, backing such artists as Aretha Franklin, Brook Benton and Jerry Jeff Walker.

His work with Jerry Jeff brought him to the attention of Jimmy Buffett. In 1972, he flew to Nashville to record Buffett's LP *A White Sport Coat and a Pink Crustacean*. Even then the musical chemistry between Jimmy and Mike was apparent.



Our Roving Reefer Reporter.

Between 1972 and 1982, Mike worked with Kris Kristofferson and Rita Coolidge, in addition to recording with Jimmy. By 1982 he was a permanent member of the Reefers, co-producing the recent Buffett albums and collaborating with Jimmy on numerous songs.

"Tony Brown at MCA called and said he was putting together a 'specialty label' to feature artists who had worked in Nashville as 'side-men' but who he felt were qualified to do solo projects as well," Mike told us in an exclusive interview from the road. "We'll be doing a variety of material, all with a Caribbean feel."

Steel pan virtuoso Robert Greenidge hails from the island of Trinidad, where he has been playing under his uncle's tutelage since he was seven.

Robert has been a Coral Reefer since 1983. Having worked with such major acts as John Lennon, Ringo Starr, Taj Mahal, and Earth, Wind, and Fire, he is largely recognized as the world's premiere steel drummer, and is now a major part of Buffett's "Caribbean Soul."

"We are hoping to further demonstrate the steel drum as an instrument with this record," Robert says. "by showing it in many contexts, from classical to rock."

The Utley and Greenidge collaboration, tentatively titled *Mad Music*, is scheduled for release early next year, and should be a musical treat for Parrot Heads everywhere. Stay tuned to *THE COCONUT TELEGRAPH* for further details!

□

COCONUT CHATTER

by Margaritaville's Own
Rona Ferret

Oh, my friends, we are on tenterhooks here at Margaritaville. What, you ask, has forced us into this uncomfortable position? The story is almost too painful to relate, but your little Rona will try.

It was a dark and stormy night during Spring Break. All was peaceful at the Margaritaville Store—the customers were enjoying JIMMY BUFFETT tunes on the tape deck, and on the rickety front porch, Manny the Manatee Mascot was dozing, as manatees are apt to do. Not until it was time for the store to close did we notice that Manny, a five-foot furry stuffed manatee, had disappeared.

Now at first we didn't worry too much, figuring he had felt a sudden urge to visit his cousin Margarito at the Blue Spring manatee sanctuary.

The days dragged on, and we still had no word from Manny. Finally, we called Blue Spring, and although many of the manatees had been by recently, there was no sign of Manny.

At last the awful truth dawned on us—Manny had been taken prisoner!

My dears, there have been no ransom notes. We have had no messages from terrorists or college students claiming to be behind our Manny's disappearance. Is he injured? Being treated badly? Not everyone has on hand a generous supply of water hyacinths—what is he eating?

Rona begs you, should you have any clue whatsoever as to Manny's whereabouts, to contact her. No questions will be asked—we only want him back safely.

□

DISCOVER FLORIDA'S VANISHING TREASURES

MARGARITAVILLE'S MANATEE ART SHOW

Treasure... gold and silver and fabulous jewels spilling from ancient wooden chests... a vision out of some fantasy world.

The Florida Keys, however, have long been a fantasy world, and September 21 to 28 will find the Keys swarming with treasure hunters.

It's the First Annual Mel Fisher Treasure Hunt, a week of frolic and challenge for divers and non-divers alike. The grand prizes are a \$10,000 emerald and a 363-year-old gold bar recently recovered from the shipwrecked *Nuestra Señora de Atocha*.

But there are treasures in Florida other than those brought up from ancient shipwrecks—the manatee, for example. During Treasure Week, Jimmy Buffett's

Margaritaville Store, long a champion of the manatee, is sponsoring an art show dedicated to the preservation of Florida's many disappearing wildlife treasures.

Featuring wildlife artist Rick Hills, *Discover Florida's Vanishing Treasures* will run September 27 and 28 at the store. During this time Rick will display his beautiful manatee prints, as well as other endangered species artwork. Guests include representatives of the Save the Manatee Clubs and the Florida Audubon Society.

Treasure... the milky gleam of a perfect pearl, the shadow of a manatee slipping through the water. It's all happening in the Keys—don't miss it!

□



"Jimmy with part of Atocha treasure."
photo by Benjamin Curry Bruce

"Mother Mother Ocean
I have heard you call.
Wanted to sail upon
your waters since I was
Three feet tall.
You've seen it all...
You've seen it all.

Watched the men who rode you
Switch from sails to steam.
In your belly you
can hold the treasures
Few have ever seen.
Most of them dreams...
Most of them dreams."

—A Pirate Looks at Forty—