

BELIZE: A ZOO STORY

by Sunshine Smith

Shooting an album cover with Jimmy Buffett is much more than a job, it's an adventure. Actually, just being his friend is an adventure. There is an intensity to every aspect of Jimmy's life—drinking, eating, singing, writing, even sleeping. Anything new is an adventure to him.

For instance, having a drink is an adventure when you climb a coconut tree and gather green coconuts, then machete the tops off for a refreshingly potent gin and coconut water. Very tasty after a long and dusty day of shooting ten rolls of film at the Belize Zoo for the cover of *Flordays*, Jimmy's latest album to be released June 1st.

Why Belize—and perhaps more important, why the Belize Zoo? Well . . . it seems that Jimmy was in Belize several months earlier cruising down a river looking to hook a snook or two (they ARE fish, you know).

Jungle foliage hung low over the river. Jimmy was fascinated by the monkeys leaping through the trees and the iguanas hanging from the branches. This scenario prompted him to write about the monkeys and iguanas listening to a song, "a most uncapable audience he played to all night long . . ."

The imagery from this song got

stuck in Jimmy's brain—and when something gets caught in that man's mind, no ration of rationalization can budge him from his intended course of action. Thus the Belize Zoo was the only possible location for the cover shoot.

When we arrived, zookeeper Sharon Matola and her assistant, Tony, helped us assemble the stars of the zoo to model for *Flordays*.

Not long after, I found myself holding onto the tail of a five-foot snake named Thunder & Lightning, keeping him in position for photographer Jim Shea during the photo session—and incidentally preventing him from devouring a colorful, inquisitive toucan!

After four and a half hours in position, the animals—Sparkle Plenty the spider monkey, Frank the iguana, Scarlet the macaw, Rainbow the toucan, Arthur the green parrot, and Ishabel, the nine-month-old jaguar who loves chewing on human ankles—got tired of being stars.

The toucan lost interest in being lured by bananas to change his position, the monkey was no longer interested in Jimmy's song, the snake was losing patience with me for tugging his tail, and Frank the iguana was just plain bored.

Then—the mosquitos blew in.



"They're biting the bottoms of my feet!" came an anguished cry from Jimmy. I feverishly sprayed mosquito spray on the soles of Mr. Buffett's feet, trying to prevent this distracting discomfort.

Now, if you've ever worked with photographers, you know that they don't know when to quit. 'Just one more shot' turns into one more roll, and 'one more minute' turns into thirty and finally the person being photographed starts losing his photographic charm.

Meanwhile, I had become distracted trying to remember the song about "the line broke, the monkey got choked, and they all went to heaven in a little row boat." Snake

Thunder & Lightning must have felt my distraction, for he took a lunge—not at the bird, as one might expect, but at the monkey sitting on Jimmy's shoulder. That snake snapped at a little monkey foot that looked like a hand to me.

The monkey, not realizing which front the attack came from, spun around and slapped the toucan right off his branch. Then she turned and BIT Mr. Jimmy Buffett on the hand with a sharp monkey bite.

With that, the animals scattered, except for Frank, who was still bored. End of that photo shoot.

Yes, working for Jimmy is an adventure. I'm glad I signed on.



Do you have a Caribbean soul you can barely control?

Jimmy Buffett's Caribbean Soul T-shirt Line can help! Each fine, 100% cotton screen-printed tee sports an air-brushed design based on one of Jimmy's songs . . . wear the fantasy of a Buffett tune, and the music is with you all day long.

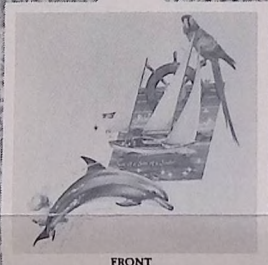
It's an escape to that laid-back lifestyle we all dream about—the colors are tropical pastels like ocean aqua, sunrise yellow, conch shell pink, coral, cool white, sand, hazy purple, driftwood grey, and Key West khaki. All shirts are \$12.95, and come in sizes S, M, L, and XL.

SON OF A SAILOR: From Captain Kidd to Robinson Crusoe, the legends come down . . . there's a little of the old salt in all of us. This shirt combines that vivid seaman's companion, the parrot, with the Jolly Mon's dolphin and the glory of a brigantine in full sail . . . wearing it, you'll always feel a favorable wind at your back.



FRONT

MARGARITAVILLE: The mystical land of burning sunsets and soft sighing palms, where the women are as dangerous as the tequila is strong. Ahh, but the risks are worth it . . . dress in a bright Margaritaville shirt when you visit this earthy isle.

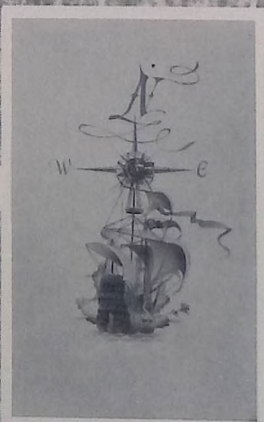


FRONT



BACK

CHANGES IN LATITUDE: All it takes is a good bottle of rum . . . be ready to follow the Jolly Roger through a maze of hot tropical islands whose names flow like music. Drift with the currents through the warmer latitudes of your mind in this colorful shirt.



HURRICANE: A wild rustling through the palm trees . . . waves frothing in to shore . . . branches tossing and twisting in the hard wind. When a storm hits the tropics, islanders board up the windows and rev up the blender—it's the only way to reason with hurricane season! You'll be the hit of the hurricane party in this striking shirt.



ONE PARTICULAR HARBOUR: Let the trapping of the real world go . . . pirate ships and tattered treasure maps lie just beyond the next sandy cove of your imagination. In this bold-hued shirt, become the adventurer you've always dreamed of being.



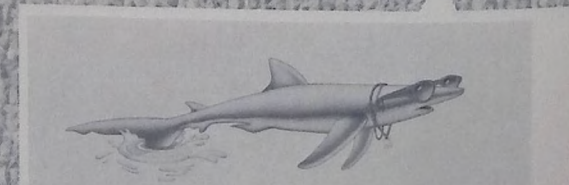
FIN HAT: A must for any Buffett concert, this jaunty, long-billed fishing cap is the badge of those sharks that live on the land. Detachable fin makes it inconspicuous when you want to be incommunicado. Colors are khaki, blue, grey, and white. S, M, L, XL. \$16.00.



MARGARITA GLASS: A fine long-stemmed glass engraved with Jimmy Buffett's signature, especially designed to hold that frozen concoction that helps us all hang on. \$10.00 apiece.



FINS: Diving down into cool crystal water with multicolored fish beside you, exploring mother ocean in the shadow of the fantastic coral reefs . . . suddenly you look up and find yourself surrounded by—fins! But these sharks are different—they're wearing red sunglasses . . .





JB POSTCARD PACK: Send a smiling Jimmy or the Perfect Margarita recipe—perfect! 6 assorted oversize cards for \$5.00.

SONGS YOU KNOW BY HEART: Take a trip back through the music and memory of Jimmy Buffett with this great cruising tape . . . all the best from the gutsy tropical troubador. Cassette tape is \$8.98.

The COCONUT TELEGRAPH
MARGARITAVILLE MAY 1986
VOLUME 2 NO 1

BELIZE:

by Sunshine Smith

Showing an almost complete lack of interest in what her son Jimmy Belzer is actually doing, she isn't being too honest in an advertisement for Jimmy's life-drama, *Belzer*. As a young woman, she was a cheerleader. As a young mother, she was a housewife. As a young actress, she was a star. Jimmy is Jimmy's brother and she's always been a mother in that sense. Jimmy is Jimmy's brother and she's always been a mother in that sense. Jimmy is Jimmy's brother and she's always been a mother in that sense.

Why? Belier—and perhaps more important—was the Belier Zoo? Well, it seems that Jimmy was in Belier several months earlier, staying down a street looking to hawk a snake or two (they ARE big, you know).

The human interest in the monkey was no less than the monkey was interested in human's wing. The monkey was no less interested in human's wing than the human was in the monkey's wing. The monkey was no less interested in human's wing than the human was in the monkey's wing.

The company from this wing said: "Then, the recognition that



They're biting the bottoms of my feet," came an anguished cry from Jones. I feverishly sprayed mosquito spray on the soles of Mr. Batten's feet, trying to prevent this from becoming a problem.

Now, if you've ever worked with photographers, you know that they don't know when to quit. Just one more shot, turns out is one more roll and one more minute, turns out and then, and finally the person being photographed starts losing his patience.

Meanwhile, I had become distracted trying to remember the song about the low bridge, the monkey who choked and then all went to the monkey house. Snake

THE COCONUT TELEGRAPH: For all the latest Buffett doings, the juiciest gossip from The Margaritaville Store, and our monthly mail-order paraphernalia. We've put it in *The Coconut Telegraph* so you'll always know who did this and that! \$2.00 for a year's subscription.

To order, send your check or money order to T-SHIRTS, The Margaritaville Store, P.O. Box 1459, Key West, Florida 33041, or call 1 (305) 296-8981. There is a **\$3.00 SHIPPING & HANDLING CHARGE** for orders of 6 items or less, \$5.00 for orders of over 6 items. The shipping charge for any glassware order is \$3.50. We ship via UPS. Florida residents, please include sales tax. Please allow 4 to 6 weeks for delivery.

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JIMMY'S SUMMER TOUR SCHEDULE

Well, Parrot Heads, it's that time again. Time to don the Fin Hats and Caribbean Soul t-shirts, mix up a big batch of frosty Margaritas, grab your perfect partner, and head out to catch Jimmy in concert.

JUNE 6—St. Louis, MO
Muni Amphitheatre
JUNE 7—Kansas City, KS
Sandstone Amphitheatre
JUNE 8—Oklahoma City, OK
Zoo Amphitheatre
JUNE 10 & 11—Atlanta, GA
Chastain Park
JUNE 12—Pensacola, FL
Pensacola Civic Center
JUNE 14 & 15—Charlotte, NC
Carrowinds
JUNE 17—Portland, ME
Portland Civic Center
JUNE 18—Mansfield, MA
Great Woods Amphitheatre
JUNE 20—Long Island, NY
Jones Beach
JUNE 21—Cuyahoga Falls, OH
Blossom Music Center

JUNE 22—Doswell, VA
Kings Dominion
JUNE 24—Pittsburgh, PA
Civic Arena
JUNE 26 & 27—Cincinnati, OH
Kings Island
JUNE 28 & 29—Memphis, TN
Mud Island

JULY 1—Holmdel, NJ
Garden State Art Center
JULY 2 & 3—Columbia, MD
Merriweather Post Pavilion
JULY 5—Clarkston, MI
Pine Knob Music Theatre
JULY 6—Hoffman Estates, IL
Poplar Creek Music Theatre

Later tour dates will be announced in the next issue of *The Coconut Telegraph*, and as always, those listed here are subject to last-minute changes. Don't hesitate to call us for a tour update at (305) 296-8981.

It's going to be a pleasure and a hell of a tour—we'll see you there!

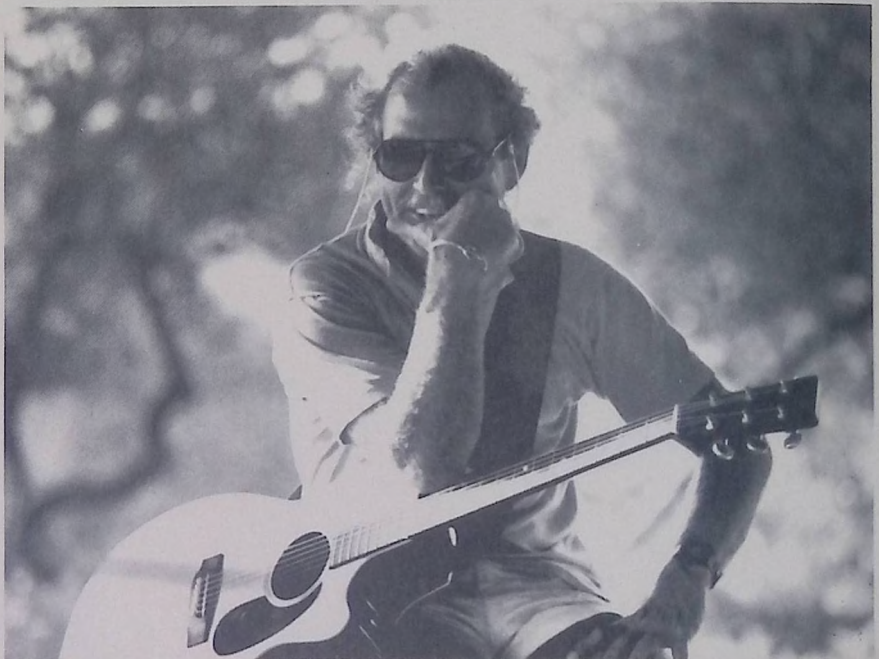


Photo by Henry Diltz

The COCONUT TELEGRAPH

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