

A CONVERSATION WITH JIMMY BUFFETT

Recently, Jimmy Buffett shared some of his favorite memories and perceptions in an interview with writer James Plath. We have reprinted the following portions of the interview which was originally published in Plath's biannual journal of the arts, CLOCKWATCH REVIEW.

Jimmy on his musical background: "My musical influences were originally all black rhythm and blues from New Orleans. It's all I listened to . . . and still my favorite kind of music. And when I started playin', I started playin' folk music. So it was a combination of lovin' black music and playin' folk clubs — it wasn't country, and it wasn't hard rock. And then, of course, the Beatles. Those were my biggest influences: good writers, great 'thick' music . . . I always call it that because there's a lot of Bible to it. And

growin' up on the Gulf Coast where I did, that's what everybody listened to."

On his love affair with the ocean: "In the old Adventures in Paradise series — with Gardner McKay on the Tiki — that was the ideal life, particularly to a boy growing up in Mobile, Alabama, whose grandfather spent so much time in the Pacific. I was infatuated by the stories he told. My grandfather was in the merchant marine, and he was a sailing ship captain up until the Twenties. He used to tell me about all these Buffetts we have in Polynesia, which I recently found out to be true . . . so I have this whole fascination because of him."

On his friendship with the late Steve Goodman: "Goodman always had a tendency to bring out the tacky vaudevillian in me. I mean [he was] the master of bad jokes. The

collaboration things that we did were a lot of fun because he's a great friend . . . and again, I think that when you're writing humorous things it's like telling a joke. You need somebody to bounce things off of."

On writing Frank and Lola with Goodman: "I heard he was in a leukemia ward in New York, and I was in a cab callin' all the hospitals — they wouldn't give me any information — and I thought, goddamn, I'm gonna find out where he is. And I went to a friend's house to make more phone calls and there was

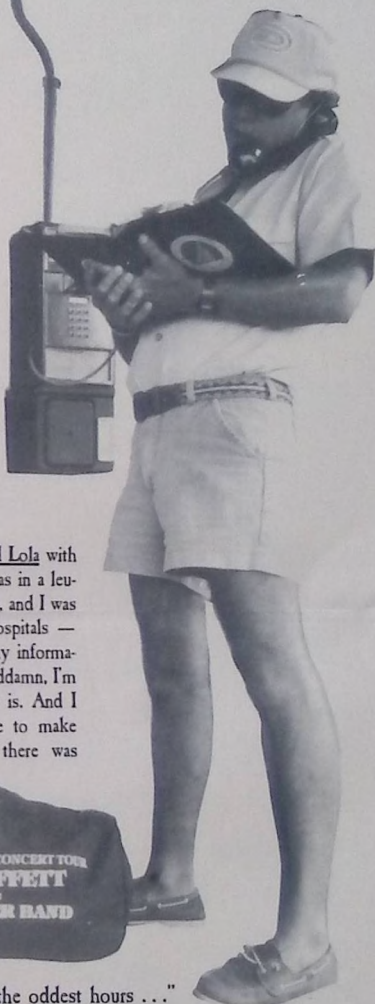
"He would call me at the oddest hours . . ."

Goodman sittin' on the bed. And I said, 'God, I thought you were dead already' and he said naw, he had just gotten out. So we sat up and drank a couple bottles of champagne, and started the song right there. Then he had to go back in, and I thought the best thing to do for him was to get his mind off this shit. So we wrote the rest over the telephone. And that's the last time we wrote together. But goddamn, could he get on the phone. He was heavy into working on the song."

On being Incommunicado: "I remember when Jimmy Carter was President, they were tryin' to find me for some reason, and one of the guys who was workin' for Carter said, 'Jesus, we were on Air-Force One

tryin' to track you down. The Signal Corps is supposed to be able to find anybody in the world in twenty-four hours . . . and it took them forty-five hours to find you.' And I said, 'That's perfectly fine with me. I can get the hell out of Dodge. You give me forty-five hours and a flight and an American Express card, and I can lose myself. I know places where they'd never look for me.'"

(CLOCKWATCH REVIEW has published original material from Pulitzer and National Book Award winning writers, and features musicians whose lyrics have a poetic, literary quality. The above excerpt is from Volume III No. 2, copyright 1986.)



John Prince, Jimmy Buffett, Jesse Goodman, Steve Goodman.

DEAR

MARGARITAVILLE

Hi gang, I've got a funny story for you from Acapulco.

When last September/October rolled around, I realized snow flurries (read: five feet!) were just over the horizon. So a buddy from work and I decided to go to Mexico. We brought a portable stereo and some tapes — mostly Jimmy Buffett, of course.

Arriving in Acapulco, we hit the hotel pool and snuck the stereo past the great big sign that said only headphone stereos allowed. We grabbed some chaises by three nurses from Detroit because they were pretty and looked like they wouldn't rat on the music. Beautiful day; music discreet — at first. The volume seemed to sneak up every time I said, "Dos cervezas, por favor." I slipped One Particular Harbour into the machine, and the volume crept up again. I was afflicted with a little Polynesian Paralysis by now — like the music was loud, eh!

Suddenly my sunburned legs were covered by a malevolent shadow. The Recreation Manager. A Pool Cop! He looked at me with his steely eyes and I could see the door of a Guadalajara jail cell clang shut. I think I mumbled something about my parents warning me about people like me — or maybe some-

body was singing that. He cleared his throat, and with an Acapulcan accent he interrogated, "Is that Jimmy Buffett?" And the sun came back out!

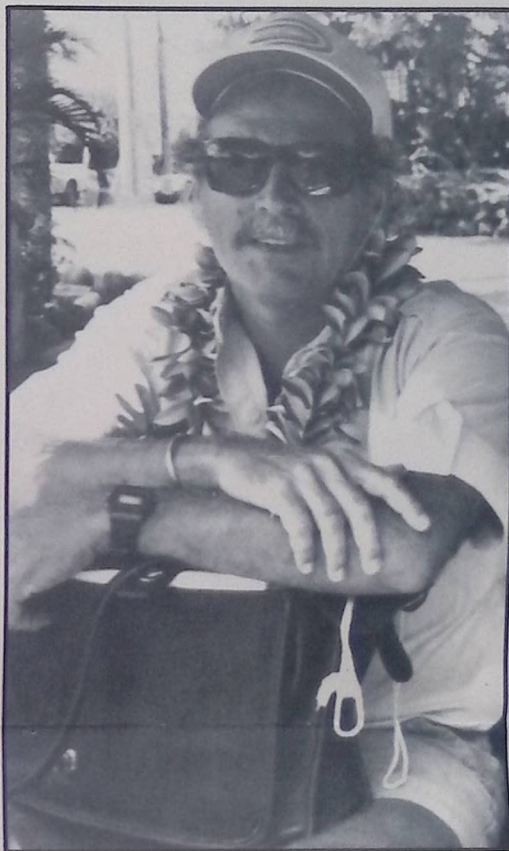
So my new pal, Enrique, scored a nearby chair and sat down, and turned up the music again. With a casual flip of his hand, two rum punches in their Hyatt-mono-grammed styrofoam cups appeared. So we got to keep our stereo and freedom, I got free drinks, I became a minor celebrity at the poolside poolwear fashion show, and even became a personal friend of the Assistant Pool Manager, a real Parrot Head named something unpronounceably Mexican. It sure is nice to have friends in high places. Thanks, Jim.

Another thing, at our last company dance I wore a white sport coat, and instead of a flower or something I stuck that pen with the parrot on it through the little hole in the lapel and into the pocket so it looked like a pin, and I think we may have stumbled onto something here . . .

Well, back to being a responsible member of society. Have twelve or ten for me.

Derek B. Knights

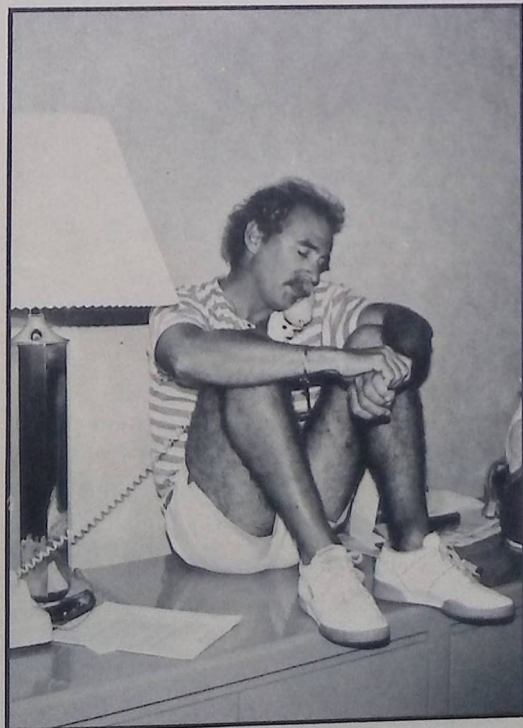
Ontario, Canada



"... a little Polynesian Paralysis ..."

THE PARROT HEAD BLUES

PHOTO BY HENRY DILTZ



"I couldn't find a pay phone ..."

I woke up from a nightmare believing it was true — I didn't have two dollars ... my Floridays were through!

I didn't have an envelope much less a postage stamp to send for future issues — my spirits were so damp!

I couldn't find a pay phone, I didn't have a quarter to call and beg for credit on just one more reorder.

I was down to my last paragraph and down to my last laugh and down to my last issue of The Coconut Telegraph!!!

But I came back to my senses (though senseless they may be) and realized what I had surmised was just a fantasy.

So I'm sending you four dollars to guarantee my vice — two years of nutworthy reading unless you up the price.

— Janet Brice Harrison

Want a subscription to The Coconut Telegraph, Jimmy Buffett's monthly newsletter? Or how about renewing your current subscription? Send \$2.00 to P.O. Box 1459, Key West, FL 33041.

MANATEE BABY: A cuddly plush manatee, 12 inches long ... \$10.50. A portion of the price is donated to the Save the Manatee Club.

MANATEE CHRISTMAS STOCKING: Perfect for a Parrot Head Christmas! \$8.50 apiece. A portion of the price is donated to the Save the Manatee Club.

THE COCONUT TELEGRAPH: The latest Buffett news ... a perfect Christmas treat for a friend — or for yourself! A year's subscription is \$2.00.

CHRISTMAS

CHRISTMAS IN THE CARIBBEAN

It's Christmas in the Caribbean
Snowbirds fill the air
It's Christmas in the Caribbean
Lots of presents everywhere ...

We don't live in a hurry
Send away for mistletoe
It's Christmas in the Caribbean
Got everything but snow!

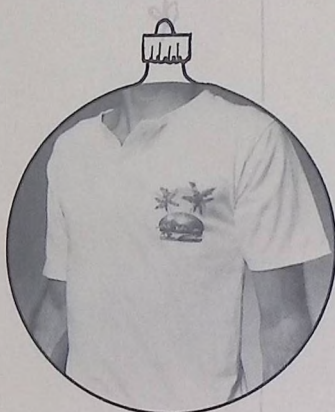
Lights are glowing in the palm trees
Stockings hanging from the mast
Santa riding on a dolphin
Don't you want to make it last ...

— Jimmy Buffett —

LIVE BY THE BAY: Give a Buffett concert for Christmas — here's a 90-minute video full of Jimmy's magical musical madness. VHS or BETA. \$29.95.

CARIBBEAN SOUL

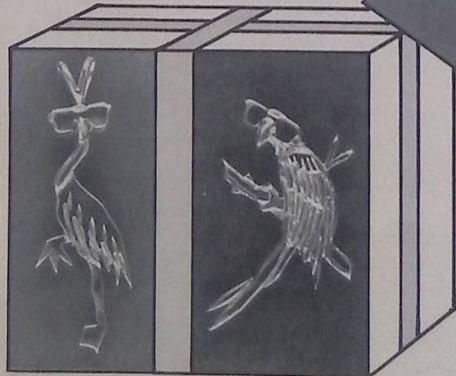
SWEATSHIRTS: Your choice of Cheeseburger in Paradise, Fins, Changes in Latitude, or new Mingo Lingo. Colors are white, yellow, light blue, or peach. Polyester/cotton fleece. S, M, L, XL. \$23.95 each.



CHEESEBURGER BUTTON TEE: Short-sleeved two-button t-shirt — 12-Volt Man, Get Drunk, and new Mingo Lingo button tees also available. \$18.00.



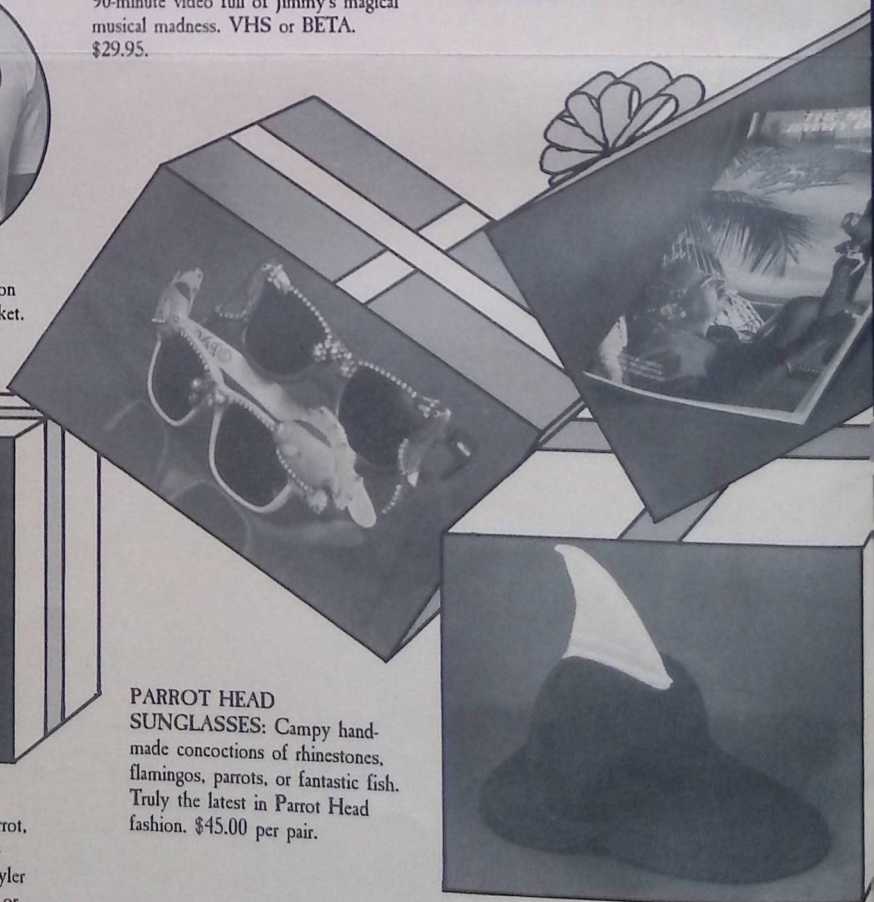
VOLCANO SCRUB: Made of 100% cotton sheeting with front and back design and a pocket. S, M, L, XL. White, yellow, mint, or grey. \$17.00 each.



THE PARROT HEAD GOLD COLLECTION: A laid-back flamingo or parrot, complete with sunglasses! 14-Karat gold, hand-crafted by one of Jimmy's favorite jewelers, Tyler Teague. Flamingo or parrot pendant, lapel pin, or stickpin — \$80.00 each. Available only through The Coconut Telegraph.

PARROT HEAD

SUNGLASSES: Campy hand-made concoctions of rhinestones, flamingos, parrots, or fantastic fish. Truly the latest in Parrot Head fashion. \$45.00 per pair.



FIN HAT: A long-billed fishing cap with a detachable fin ... S, M, L, XL. White, blue, grey, or khaki. \$16.00.

MAS IN THE CARI



GRAND NEW — CONCH POTATO CRUB: For those lazy tropical days ... this crub is comfortable, casual cotton. White, yellow, mint, or grey. S, M, L, XL. \$17.00.

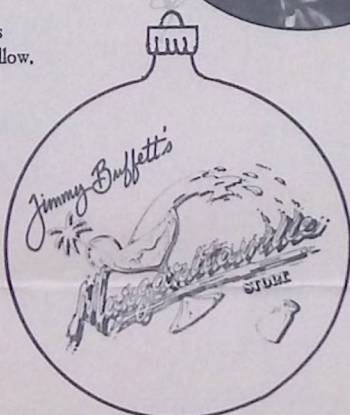
CONCH POTATO CREW-NECK TEE: \$12.95.



HARPOON MAN: Fingers Taylor's fine solo effort. Cassette tape is \$7.50.



CARIBBEAN SOUL CAMP SHIRTS: 100% cotton button-down shirts with handy front pockets. Caribbean Chameleon, Palm Island Parrot, Cheeseburger in Paradise, and Get Drunk designs. White, coral, mint green, yellow. S, M, L, XL. \$30.00 each.



MARGARITAVILLE STORE SWEATSHIRT: White, grey, or light blue. S, M, L, XL. Polyester/cotton blend. \$23.95.



SONGS YOU KNOW BY HEART SONGBOOK: \$9.95.

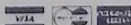
THE SONGS OF JIMMY BUFFETT SONGBOOK: \$9.95.

To order, send your check or money order to T-SHIRTS, The Coconut Telegraph, P.O. Box 1459, Key West, Florida 33041. Florida residents call 1-305-296-8981; outside Florida, call 1-800-COCOTEL. There is a \$3.00 SHIPPING AND HANDLING CHARGE for orders of 3 items or fewer, \$5.00 for orders of 4 to 6 items, and \$7.50 for orders of 7 or more items. We ship via UPS. Florida residents, please include sales tax. Please allow 4 to 6 weeks for delivery. See note below for holiday shipping schedule.

QUANTITY	ITEM	SIZE	3 COLOR CHOICES	PRICE

Florida residents please include 5% sales tax.

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 Signature _____

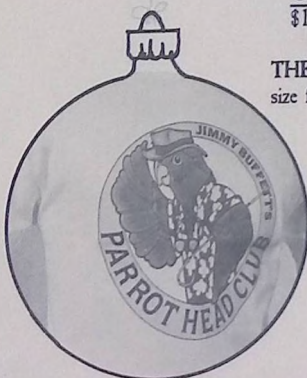


Credit Card No. _____
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ONLY ORDERS TAKEN ON OR BEFORE NOVEMBER 26 WILL BE GUARANTEED DELIVERY BY CHRISTMAS; AFTER THAT WE'LL DO OUR BEST!

BBEAN



SLEEPLESS KNIGHTSHIRTS: Spend a night with Jimmy ... styles are Martinique, Trinidad, University of Margaritaville, Cane Garden Bay, Palm Island Parrot, or Caribbean Chameleon. One size fits all. \$15.00.



JIMMY BUFFETT'S CARIBBEAN SOUL T-SHIRTS: The original shirts with artwork inspired by Jimmy's songs. Crew-neck tees are 100% cotton and come in island pastels like conch shell pink, suntan, mango peach, cool white, driftwood grey, ocean aqua, sand, and sunrise yellow. S, M, L, and XL. \$12.95 apiece.

Choose from Why Don't We Get Drunk and ... Changes in Latitude, Son of a Son of a Sailor, Margaritaville, One Particular Harbour, Fins, Coconut Telegraph, and Cheeseburger in Paradise. **NOW AVAILABLE IN NEW MINGO LINGO AND VOLCANO DESIGNS!!**



PARAKEET PAPERS: For your Junior Parrot Heads. Send for a free copy. P.O. Box 1938, Key West, FL 33041.

MAD MUSIC: Coral Reefers Robert Greenidge and Mike Utley blend steel drums and keyboards. A wonderful sound! Cassette tape is \$9.98.

NEW — COCONUT CASH: For a real Caribbean Christmas, send your friends Coconut Cash! These Buffett bills can be applied toward the purchase of any item in The Coconut Telegraph or The Margaritaville Store. Available in \$10 denominations.

THE OFFICIAL PARROT HEAD BASEBALL CAP: One size fits all. \$15.00.

BRAND NEW — THE OFFICIAL PARROT HEAD SWEATSHIRT: White, grey or light blue. S, M, L, XL. Polyester/cotton blend. \$23.95.



FLORIDAYS MUG: Celebrate with a cold one in our 15-oz. acrylic mug. \$8.50 apiece.

NEW — PINK FLAMINGO PLUNGERS: Funky and functional. \$20.00 apiece. Palm tree plungers too.

MARGARITA GLASS: Serve your Christmas libations in this long-stemmed glass engraved with Jimmy Buffett's signature. \$10.00 each.

COCONUT CHATTER

By Carol Shaughnessy

Parrot Heads, you're terrific — thanks to you, the **Floridays** tour was sold out in most cities. Beer sales were broken repeatedly, too. By the end of the tour in Hawaii, the official Coral Reefer "uniform" was jams, Hawaiian shirts, and flower leis!

Your contributions to our Margaritaville scrapbook have been overwhelming. When the scrapbook is completely assembled (come Monday) it will be on display at The Margaritaville Store. And there's still plenty of room for scrapbook goodies — so keep the **BUFFETT** info coming!

We've received generous donations to the Friends of Florida, JIMMY's environmental fund, from as far away as Australia! Everyone who donates over \$10.00 to the Fund will receive a certificate proclaiming him

or her a true Citizen of Margaritaville. (Sounds like a great Christmas present, doesn't it?)

Speaking of Australia, rumor has it that JB will be there for the America's Cup early next year. In fact, JIMMY and Matt Betton are co-writing a pirate fight song about winning back the Cup — look out down under!

JIMMY has recently bought an amphibious plane and is learning to fly it in Key West. Seems he plans on doing some "fly fishing" — swooping down on the best fishing grounds from the plane and landing to toss a line in the water . . .

He'll take a little time off from fishing in November, though, for a World Tour of Florida. These tour dates came to us by way of the island grapevine, so they could change at any moment. Call us at (305) 296-8981 later in the month for a tour update.

November 5: Palmetto, FL, the Manatee Center.

November 7: Auburn, AL, Auburn University.

November 8: Tampa, FL, the Sun Dome.

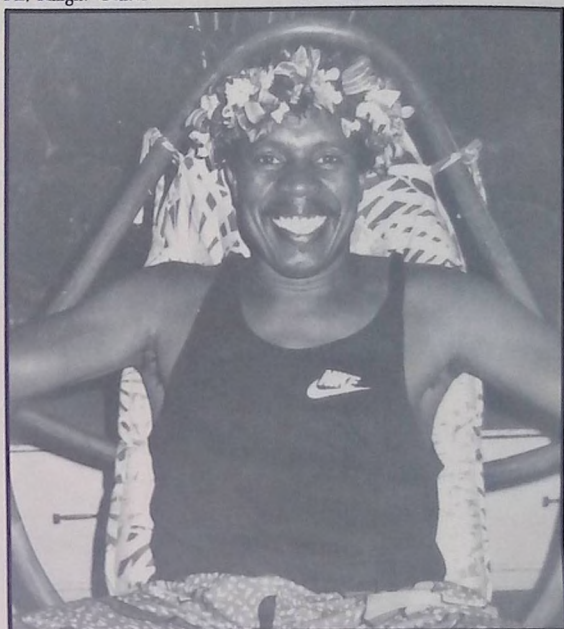
November 9 and 10: Miami, FL, Knight Center.

November 13: West Palm Beach, FL, the Auditorium.

November 14: Tallahassee, FL, Leon County Civic Center.

November 15: Daytona Beach, FL, Ocean Center.

November 16: Gainesville, FL, O'Connell Center.



Sam Clayton in the official Coral Reefer "uniform."

The COCONUT TELEGRAPH

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COMING NEXT MONTH: DIRT FROM THE ROAD!