TELEGRAPH

VOLUME 4, NO. 6

MARGARITAVILLE JUNE 1988

OUR

ith Jimmy going on tour and another "season" drawing to a close, life here at Margaritaville begins to slow down a bit and assume the laid-back lifestyle so often talked about, but rarely practiced. We thought this would be an appropriate time to acquaint our readers with this whole Key West thing. What's the appeal? When did it start? How has it managed to exist?

Key West, or Cayo Hueso as it was known 200 years ago, was first given to mercenary Juan Pablo Salas by the Spanish crown for "deeds and services performed." In the first documented Florida land scam, Salas sold the island ... twice! In keeping with this creative real estate tradition, John Strong, one of Salas' original dupes, also sold the island twice. A rather inauspicious beginning for Key West. It took 5 years and an act of Congress to straighten everything out.

Lt. Matthew G. Perry, sent by the U.S. on a fact finding mission in 1822 reported that, "... heretofore, the Florida keys have been the resort of smugglers, New Provi-

dence wreckers, and in fact of a set of desperadoes who have paid but little regard to either Law or Honesty . . . "The more it changes the more it stays the same. Key West's history is an economic roller coaster, from being the richest city per capita in the nation, to being surrendered to the federal government as a result of 80% of its' population being on relief. During it all the illicit activity referred to by Lt. Perry in 1822 continued. Prohibition, the bane of the 20's, passed relatively unnoticed in Key West. Smuggling; guns and rum, was a popular pastime. Tourism came and went, then came and went again defeated by hurricanes and WWII.

In the 70's, Key West was infamous as a drug port. Marijuana was the drug of choice, not the more serious cocaine. Pot was fun, cocaine, deadly. Phil Caputo, Pulitzer prize winning author and Key West resident describes marijuana smugglers as "a less malignant lot." Seems everyone knew someone involved in smuggling; shrimpers, charter boat captains, policemen, firemen, attorneys, judges, and on and on. Reputations were made and destroyed, and the whole town assumed a laissez faire attitude toward smugglers and smuggling. In a 1978 interview with the Miami Herald, Jimmy Buffett said, "Key West goes through phases. It's been proven in history too many times. She's been up and down too many times. If it's going too pretty now, something will come along and change it."

Much has changed over the last 10 years. Tourism is the number one industry in Key West. Smuggling continues, but much less conspicuously. Organized crime has taken hold, the "week-end warrior" is no more. There still exists, however, a certain romanticized ideal of the smuggler. I refer again to Phil Caputo, writing in *The* Florida Forum, "I met one of these high sea brigands after he had singlehandedly sailed an 85-foot Baltic trader from Belize to Key West. I don't want to romanticize these people, so I'll put it this way. If I am going to share a drink and conversation with a crook, I prefer the company of a man who can run through a hole in the reef at night without running lights to that of a yuppie plotting a securities swindle in a New York fern bar.'

THE MORAL TO OUR STORY: "Key West is a place and a point in time," Buffett has said with affection. "It's got that magic."

See the colorful personality of our island in a parody of 50's travelogues, The Key West Picture Show. Available through The Coconut Telegraph.



CAFE CUT UPS

his months celebrity appearance is brought to you by GBS. Ed Bradley, correspondent for the highly acclaimed 60 Minutes news program and long time JB friend (CT Aug. '87), blew into Margaritaville and treated the crowd to his own rendition of the blues classic "60 Minute Man." Get it?





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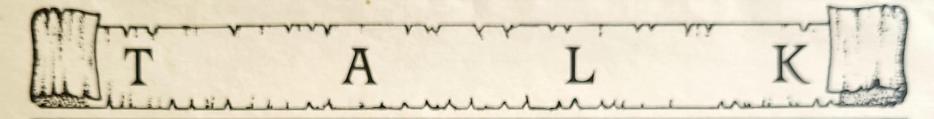
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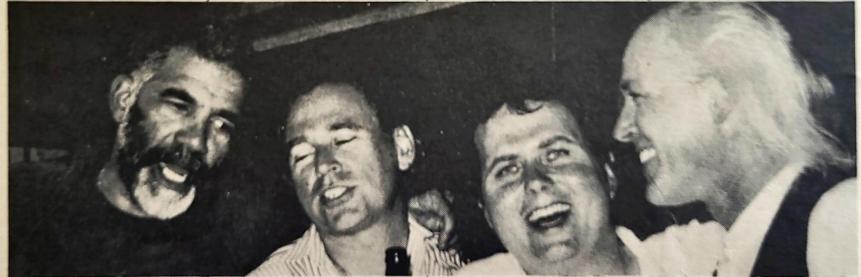
In which we set aside any resemblance to journalistic quality, objectivity and other more esoteric attributes so often associated, albeit incorrectly, to this little rag we like to call The

Goconut Telegraph, and simply answer the queries of pondering Parrot Heads.

"Was there one specific island and / or restaurant that was the real inspiration for the Gheeseburger in Paradise?"
Bill Motchan, St. Louis.

I think Chelle Koster Walton writing in The Islander said it best, "Seems any-place from Jacksonville to Barbados that can slap a slab of Velveeta on top a ground beef patty tries to claim inspiration rights." She's right. Actually the "Cheeseburger in Paradise" is much like "Mar-

garitaville;" anywhere you want it to be. According to Jimmy, "The 'Cheese burger in Paradise' was taken to paradise by Larry "Groovy" Gray and Jimmy Buffett aboard the Euphoria II in 1975, never to be seen again."



PHOTOS BY PATTY LANGASTER

Ed Bradley, Jimmy, Mike Utley, Russ Kunkel

The COCONUT TELEGRAPH

The MARGARITAVILLE STORE P.O. BOX 1459, KEY WEST, FL 33041

1988 SUMMER TOUR

June 24 & 25
 June 26
 June 28
 June 28
 June 29
 AKRON, OH. Blossom Music Center
 MILWAUKEE, WI. Alpine Valley
 HOLMDEL, NJ. Garden State Art Center
 PHILADELPHIA, PA. The Dell

MANSFIELD, MA. Great Woods Amphitheatre * July 1 LONG ISLAND, NY. Jones Beach July 2 RICHMOND, VA. Kings Dominion July 3 & 4 NEW YORK CITY, NY. Maritime Pier July 6 RAIN DATE FOR MARITIME PIER OR JONES BEACH July 7 . July 8 & 9 COLUMBIA, MD. Merriweather CHARLOTTE, NC. Carowinds July 10 July 12 MEMPHIS, TN. Mud Island CINCINNATI, OH. Riverbend July 14

July 12
July 14
GINCINATI, OH. Riverbend
July 15
July 16
July 17
July 17
July 12
BIRMINGHAM, AL. Oak Moun

July 22 BIRMINGHAM, AL. Oak Mountain Amphitheatre
July 23 NASHVILLE, TN. Starwood Amphitheatre

July 23 NASHVILLE, TN. Starwood A July 24 ATLANTA, GA. Six Flags

July 26 NEW ORLEANS, LA. Zoo Amphitheatre

July 27 DALLAS, TX. The Amphitheatre

July 28 HOUSTON, TX. Six Flags

* July 30 & 31 DENVER, CO. Fiddlers Green

SAN DIEGO, CA. Sports Arena Aug 4 COSTA MESA, CA. Pacific Amphitheatre · Aug 5 & B MOUNTAINVIEW, CA. Shoreline · Aug 7 PASO ROBLES, CA. Midstate Fair Aug 9 CONCORD, CA. Concord Pavillion Aug 10 SACRAMENTO, CA. Expo Amphitheatre Aug 11 SEATTLE, WA. The Coliseum Aug 13 PORTLAND, OR. The Arena Aug 14

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