

The COCONUT TELEGRAPH

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... SO THEN MOSES SAYS, "NO, HE THINKS HE'S ARNOLD PALMER!"

There are those who consider golf a professional sport, those who desperately try to convince themselves, and others, that it is a legitimate form of exercise. Then there are those who consider golf a farce, an inane activity designed primarily for those who literally have nothing better to do. To Jimmy Buffett and former Kansas City Chief Ed Podolak, however, golf is a reason to hold a party. Earlier Telegraph reports have discussed the big guy's penchant for golf, and like so many of his other interests, the main thrust behind this one is to have fun. This brings us to the 1988 Buffett-Podolak High Country Shoot Out. The High Country Shoot Out is an annual pseudo-golf tournament held in Aspen, Colorado to raise money for the non-profit Flagship Foundation

organization. A \$500 donation is a prerequisite for participation in the tournament. Instituted in 1984, The Flagship Foundation, chaired by Jimmy and Ed Podolak, dispenses all proceeds from the annual golf classic to local (Aspen) and national charities.

This year's version featured 192 players, among them, Jerry Jeff Walker and Ed "60 Minute Man" Bradley, as well as a number of Ed Podolak's NFL friends and foes. The golf course is closed to the public for a day, and a less conventional attitude

toward the game is assumed. Fortunately, this is not another typical "celebrity event"; there is no advance publicity of any kind, and no media is allowed. Past beneficiaries of funds from the Flagship Foundation include hospitals, schools, various environmental research groups, and the Peace Corps.

RETURN TO AUSTRALIA

Jimmy returns to Australia this month for a southern sweep of the country from Brisbane to Perth, with stops at Sydney, Newcastle, Adelaide, and Melbourne along the way. JB's last stop in Australia was a February '87 tour which coincided with the America's Cup race. You may recall that Jimmy performed an invaluable service toward the 'Stars & Stripes' victory by writing "Take It Back", the single that inspired Dennis Conner and the U.S. crew. "After you badgered us to death at Newport with

'Men At Work', Dennis asked me to come up with something equally as nerve wracking." (The Australians had played "Land Down Under" incessantly after their America's Cup victory in 1983.)

The America's Cup is history (unless you count last summer in San Diego) but Jimmy's relationship with the Aussies continues to flourish. All concerts in Feb. '87 were sold out, several within hours. This surprised everyone, including Jimmy, who told reporter Ray Purvis, "I was hoping Australia would go well for us. Some friends who were sailing said, 'You ought to get over there', but I never expected anything like this." This year is expected to be the same. With only seven concerts in six cities, tickets may be difficult to obtain, and as Stephen Amos wrote in THE AUSTRALIAN Feb. '87, "Beg, borrow, or steal a ticket to Jimmy Buffett. Steps should be taken to ensure he does not leave the country."



Jimmy, Ed Podolak at the 1988 High Country Shoot Out.



Ed Bradley, Jimmy and Hunter S. Thompson.

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H O M E L E S S

CONCERT FOR THE HOMELESS

On Sunday, October 2nd, Jimmy and the Coral Reefers performed at the New Orleans Artists Against Hunger and Homelessness. Steve Garbarino of the TIMES PICAYUNE discussed the concert, and points of interest, with Jimmy. "That Buffett is still doing so well has disturbed some fans — like the author of a recent SOUTHERN magazine cover story billed as The Cult of Jimmy Buffett: A decade after his biggest hit, Buffett still inspires a devout following. A former fan won-

dered why," Buffett shrugs off the article and the 'former fan'. "I didn't want to hang out with him, so I hurt his feelings. He wanted to be Jimmy Buffett's best friend, and he just wasn't cool."

"Buffett's yearly return to the New Orleans Artists Against Hunger and Homelessness concerts should dispel any doubts that he is money hungry. I'm of the mind that you give something back, and make an example for other people, so they won't be so greedy and apathetic."

"He owes a lot of his success to New Orleans, luck, and hard work. My musical roots have always come from New Orleans and the Gulf Coast. I first

started playing music here," Buffett says he knows what it's like to be needy in New Orleans. After dropping out of the University of Southern Mississippi, he moved to the city where he 'took whatever jobs were available.' He bartended at Gunga Din — the Bourbon Street stripper bar — and a place called Sloppy Jim's, no longer in existence. Sometimes, he street-sang on Bourbon Street to earn a few bucks. "They were great and enjoyable times that attached me to New Orleans forever."

"Buffett says the concerts for the homeless are worthy causes because, unlike many of the massive rock & roll ben-

efits, 'you know where the money is going — to those who need it.' Not toward concert expenses. Altogether, the three previous concerts — which have featured Linda Ronstadt, The Neville Brothers, Allen Toussaint, Paul Shaffer (Late Night with David Letterman), Rita Coolidge, and Jimmy Buffett — raised \$114,000."

(Ed. Note: Jimmy Buffett returned to the University of Southern Mississippi and received a B.S. degree in journalism in 1969. As a result, he no longer finds it necessary to "street-sing on Bourbon Street to make a few bucks.")

