

The COCONUT TELEGRAPH

MARGARITAVILLE JUNE 1988

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OUR TOWN

With 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 Gayo 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 C. 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 de-

stroyed, 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 "weekend 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."

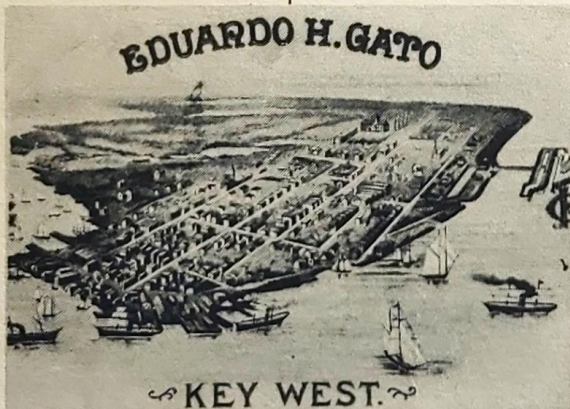
THE MORAL TO OUR STORY: "Key West is a place and a point in time," Buffett has said with affection. "It's got that magic."

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

This month's celebrity appearance is brought to you by CBS. 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?



TALK

COCONUT COMEBACKS

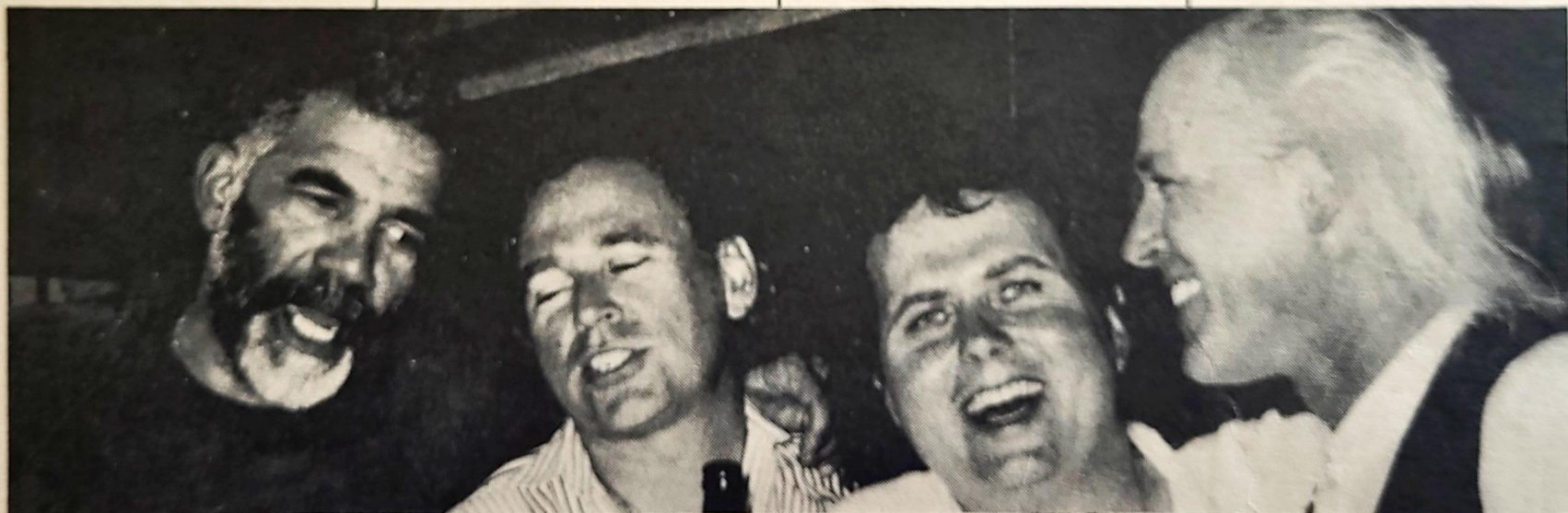
In which we set aside any resemblance to journalistic quality, objectivity and other more esoteric attributes so often associated, albeit incorrectly, to this little rag we like to call The

Coconut 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 Cheeseburger in Paradise?"
Bill Motchan, St. Louis.*

I think Chelle Koster Walton writing in *The Islander* said it best, "Seems anyplace 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 LANCASTER

Ecl Bradley, Jimmy, Mike Utley, Russ Kunkel

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

BULK RATE
POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 225
KEY WEST, FLA. 33040

1988 SUMMER TOUR

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

- July 1 **MANSFIELD, MA.** Great Woods Amphitheatre
- July 2 **LONG ISLAND, NY.** Jones Beach
- July 3 & 4 **RICHMOND, VA.** Kings Dominion
- July 6 **NEW YORK CITY, NY.** Maritime Pier
- July 7 **RAIN DATE FOR MARITIME PIER OR JONES BEACH**
- July 8 & 9 **COLUMBIA, MD.** Merriweather
- July 10 **CHARLOTTE, NC.** Carowinds
- July 12 **MEMPHIS, TN.** Mud Island
- July 14 **CINCINNATI, OH.** Riverbend
- July 15 **DETROIT, MI.** Pine Knob
- July 16 **CHICAGO, IL.** Poplar Creek
- July 17 **ST. PAUL, MN.** Riverfest
- July 22 **BIRMINGHAM, AL.** Oak Mountain Amphitheatre
- July 23 **NASHVILLE, TN.** Starwood Amphitheatre
- 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

- Aug 4 **SAN DIEGO, CA.** Sports Arena
- Aug 5 & 6 **COSTA MESA, CA.** Pacific Amphitheatre
- Aug 7 **MOUNTAINVIEW, CA.** Shoreline
- Aug 9 **PASO ROBLES, CA.** Midstate Fair
- Aug 10 **CONCORD, CA.** Concord Pavillion
- Aug 11 **SACRAMENTO, CA.** Expo Amphitheatre
- Aug 13 **SEATTLE, WA.** The Coliseum
- Aug 14 **PORTLAND, OR.** The Arena

* OPENING BAND "LITTLE FEAT"