

The COCONUT TELEGRAPH

MARGARITAVILLE NOV-DEC 1993

VOLUME 9, NO.6

CHRISTMAS IN THE CARIBBEAN

Christmas in the Caribbean,
Snowbirds fill the air.
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
We 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,
Don't you want to make it last!
Christmas in the Caribbean,
We got everything but snow.

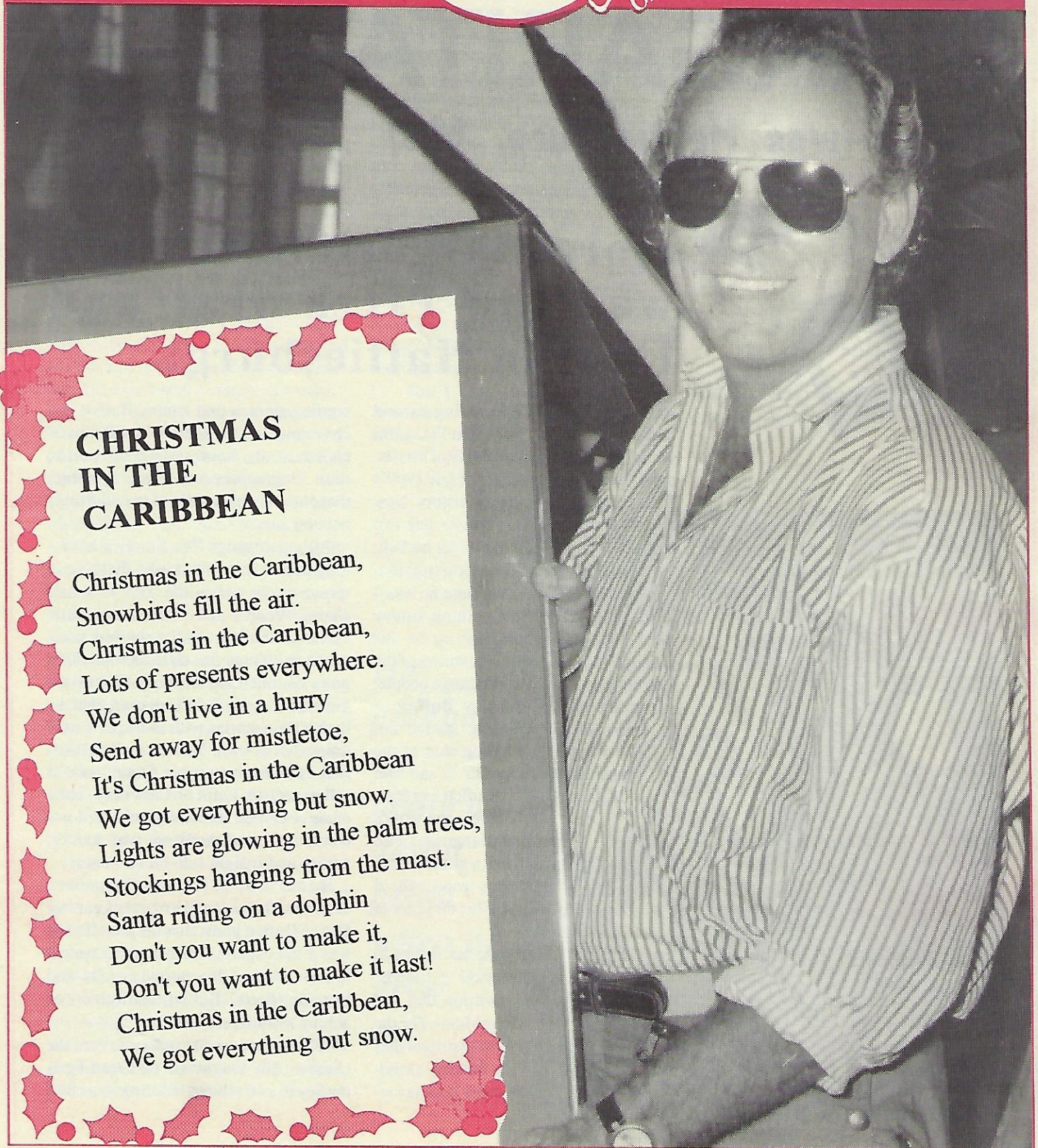
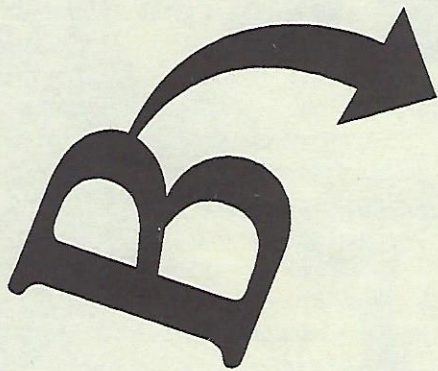


Photo: The Allens

B E F O R E MARGARITAVILLE

(there was Hattiesburg, MS)

By Becky Gillette



efore Margaritaville there was the Pizza Hut and USM in Hattiesburg;

Jimmy Buffett, recording star and best-selling author, worked at Pizza Hut while attending the University of Mississippi. Jimmy graduated in the late 1960's from USM with a degree in history. Now USM's most famous graduate has two best sellers and 21 albums under his belt.

The Buffett family has a long tradition of story-telling. From the time he was a small child, there was nothing Jimmy liked better than climbing up on his grandpa's knee, listening to stories of the sea, far away places and strange people.

Captain James Delaney Buffett, a native of Nova Scotia, started out working on a whaling ship at the age of 16. A master of sail and steam, Captain Buffett had traveled widely across the world, spoke several languages with ease and had a gift for relating the many wonders he'd seen during his 60 years of seafaring.

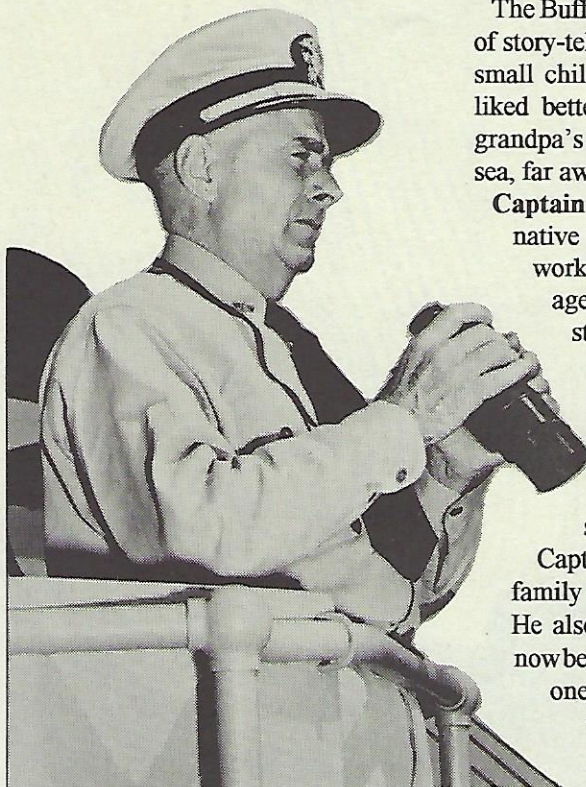
Captain Buffett told his stories to family and a small circle of friends. He also started a tradition that has now been enjoyed by millions. For the one thing that most distinguishes the captain's famous grandson from other popular re-

ording stars is that Jimmy Buffett is a consummate storyteller: with a few well-chosen words, Jimmy relates life stories, mini biographies and autobiographies that entertain and enchant in enduringly popular songs.

Although songs like Jimmy's have a long tradition in folk music, that type of music rarely makes the Top 40 music charts. When Jimmy started his music career in the late 1960's, he was pressured to change his style to something more commercial. Millions of fans are grateful that he didn't change, that he kept telling stories with music in a style uniquely his own, but not easily classified. He's not country or Cajun, rock 'n roll or reggae, Latin or Caribbean, but a creative Buffett musical gumbo that is a blend of all, entertainment with humor, pathos and insight into human nature.

Thanks to songs like *The Captain and the Kid* and *Son of a Son of a Sailor*, most fans of Buffett know that his grandfather was a sea captain. What isn't as widely known is that his parents, J.D. and Loraine "Peets" Buffett, also influenced Jimmy towards storytelling.

"My mother used to make me read the classics. She taught me that reading is the key to everything. Reading as a child



expanded my imagination, and when I grew up I looked at the literature I enjoyed the most and asked why."

"I had very ordinary children who turned into extra-ordinary adults," says Mrs. Buffett, whose daughters have also made the family proud. Lucy is an aspiring screenwriter in Hollywood (one screenplay she's written is based on Jimmy's song, *The Pascagoula Run*) and Laurie, married to novelist Thomas McGuane, is a champion horsewoman.

Mrs. Buffett says Jimmy wasn't particularly musically oriented as a child. "He sang when he was very young, but stopped when he got into school because he was very shy. He played trombone in grammar school at St. Ignatius in Mobile, but he never even tried to sing in high school. He probably doesn't even remember this, but when he was in junior high we bought him a \$25.00 guitar and started him with guitar lessons in Mobile. He only lasted a couple of weeks."

Another fact from his youth that seems humorous now is that when Jimmy was in the seventh grade, he planned on being a Jesuit priest when he grew up!

His folks are big Auburn fans, so that's where Jimmy first attended college.

"He flunked out," his dad says, smiling. "Well, he didn't exactly flunk out," his mom adds. "He was on academic probation when he left. But Auburn is where he learned to play the guitar, so..."

After Auburn, he attended Pearl River Junior College and then USM. Besides working for Pizza Hut, Jimmy also played folk music in French Quarter bars in New Orleans on weekends. It was definitely not the life of a Jesuit priest; Jimmy was attracted to the wild life of the Quarter in the days when you could buy a six-pack of Dixie beer for 99 cents.

"I was drawn to New Orleans like a moth to a flame," Jimmy says. "It was a melting pot for rebellious youths, a great place to sow some wild oats and go through rites of passage."

It was also, importantly, a place to meet and observe interesting characters, people who would later serve as inspiration for songs. A wealth of his material for his songs and then his book of short stories, *Tales From Margaritaville* has been

drawn from real life. "I don't have to make most of this up," Jimmy says.

He wrote before he performed music, "but women are more attracted to guys with guitars than guys with typewriters." Hence the decision to become a performing artist. Later on, though, he got the itch to write something longer than songs.

"My music career for 25 years got in the way of writing, thank God."

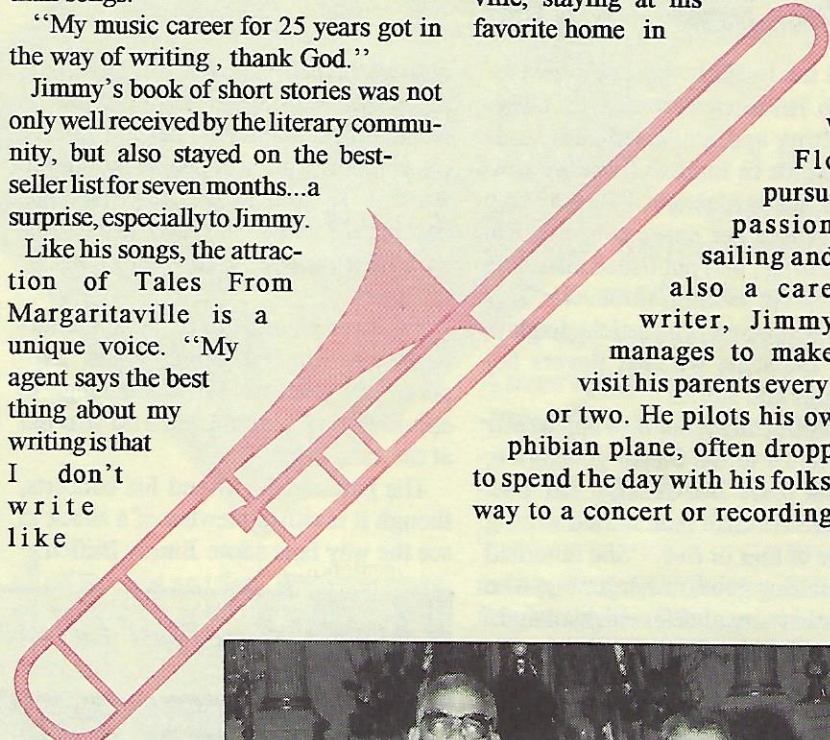
Jimmy's book of short stories was not only well received by the literary community, but also stayed on the best-seller list for seven months...a surprise, especially to Jimmy.

Like his songs, the attraction of *Tales From Margaritaville* is a unique voice. "My agent says the best thing about my writing is that I don't write like

anyone else." He adds that, like most Southerners, he doesn't "have to look far for characters. I just look at my own family."

The Buffetts have remained a close family through the years despite the pressures of Jimmy's stardom. Although busy with concert tours, recording in Nashville, staying at his favorite home in

Key West, Florida, pursuing his passion for sailing and, now, also a career as writer, Jimmy still manages to make it to visit his parents every month or two. He pilots his own amphibian plane, often dropping in to spend the day with his folks on his way to a concert or recording date.

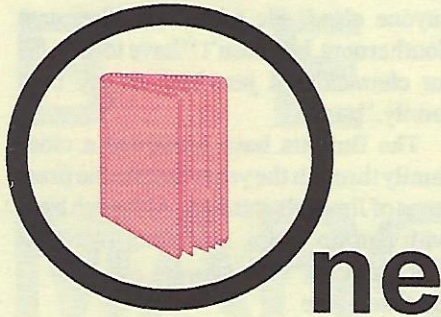


He planned on being a Jesuit priest when he grew up!



Brothers' Bradley & Buffett

Photo: Louis Sahuc



"With all the passing trends of the past two decades, I still haven't changed my style of writing...a good story is never out of fashion."

thing all the Buffetts share is a love for literature. His mother returned to college after retiring and graduated cum laude with a degree in English from the University of South Alabama. Besides being an avid reader her entire life, she also enjoys writing, and published an article about Captain Buffett in *Mobile Bay Monthly* magazine. The article displays some of the same wit that flavors her son's songs and stories.

That writing talent has also apparently trickled down to the fourth generation, **Savannah Jane Buffett**. On her own initiative, Savannah Jane started writing at the age of four or five. "She inherited the storytelling gene," says Jimmy, who has co-authored two books with his daughter, **Jolly Mon**, a children's book, and **Trouble Dolls**, for juniors.

Jimmy's parents have greatly enjoyed following his career from the early, difficult days through his initial heady success to the comfortable status he has today as a firmly established star who didn't burn out or lose popularity after a couple of albums. Just as his following gets larger and larger, so does his music get better and better. The old tunes don't wear out with repeated listening and the new songs have an increasingly spicy Caribbean flavor and are different enough from his early work to be interesting, but still contain that distinctive Buffett trademark.

Jimmy says he didn't really expect to still do so many concerts in the 1990's, but his fans have made it too much fun to quit.

"Audience participation is one of the most important parts of a concert for me. It's what makes this job as much fun as it has been. My interpretation of Parrot Heads is that they're basically pretty normal people with a slight strain of

insanity in their makeup. Just looking at the audience from my point of view, is wonderfully humorous. There's an amazing conglomeration of people ranging in age from 16 to 60, all wearing ridiculous costumes. Parrot Heads come to the show with their own personal Mardi Gras attached."

"I never planned to be family entertainment," Jimmy says. "It just happened. Believe me, it's a challenge to appeal to a 12 year old and a 60 year old at the same time."

His parents still attend his concerts, though it is still somewhat of a shock to see the way fans adore Jimmy Buffett.

"When we're backstage and look out at the crowd, it's hard to realize it's your son that people are screaming for," says his mother, who believes Jimmy's music gets better all the time. "His voice has matured and mellowed."

Jimmy's songs are celebrations of a life that - like his grandfather's - has been filled with interesting characters, sailing to faraway lands and the lessons of life. His songs are stories that will never go out of style.

"With all the passing trends of the past two decades, I still haven't changed my style of writing," Jimmy says. "A good story is never out of fashion."



"She inherited the storytelling gene."

Photo: Doyle Bush

NASHVILLE N E W S

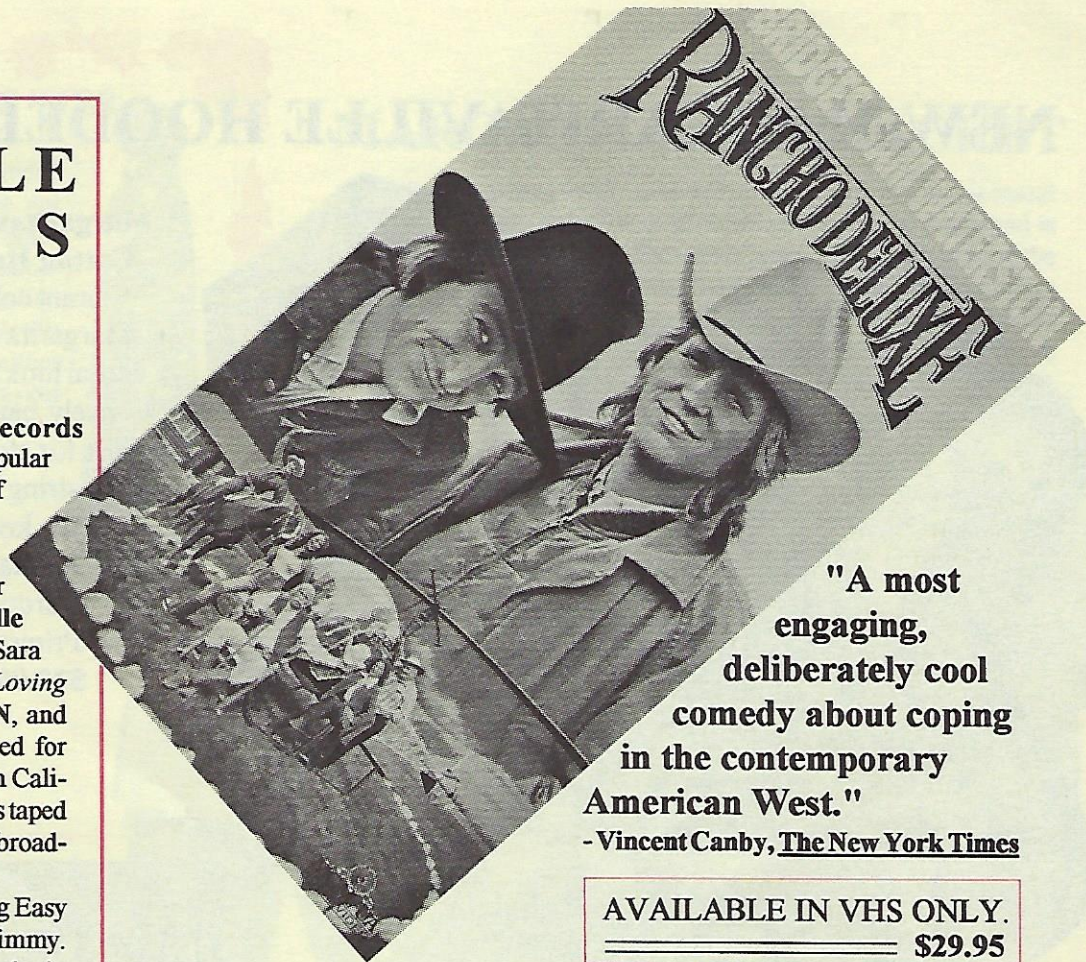
M

Margaritaville Records continues its assault on the popular music front with the release of **Evangeline's** second album *French Quarter Moon*. The album release party is scheduled for November 23 at the **Margaritaville Cafe** in New Orleans. A graceful Sara Nichols video of the single *Still Loving You* has appeared on CMT, TNN, and VH1. Evangeline recently opened for **Clint Black & Wynonna Judd** in California. ABC's "In Concert" series taped the ladies while there for a future broadcast.

The Iguanas are back in **The Big Easy** after touring this summer with Jimmy. The opening-act-on-a-flatbed-truck gig was well received, as was the follow up performance at local clubs. The Iguanas picked up a lot of exposure and good reviews. A new album is scheduled to be recorded in December and should be released in April to coincide with **New Orleans Jazz Fest**. A **Rolling Stone** interview is also in the works; look for it in June or July '94.

Todd Snider is the newest act to sign with Margaritaville Records. Promoted as a rock n' roll troubadour [see Jimmy Buffett, 1971-1973], Todd has traveled extensively adapting his experiences into his music. The hauntingly nostalgic *Hey Texas* is a particular favorite. Originally from Portland, OR., Todd did the Texas stint and eventually became the preferred act to see in Elvisville.

Todd's first release on Margaritaville Records is scheduled for August '94.



"A most engaging, deliberately cool comedy about coping in the contemporary American West."

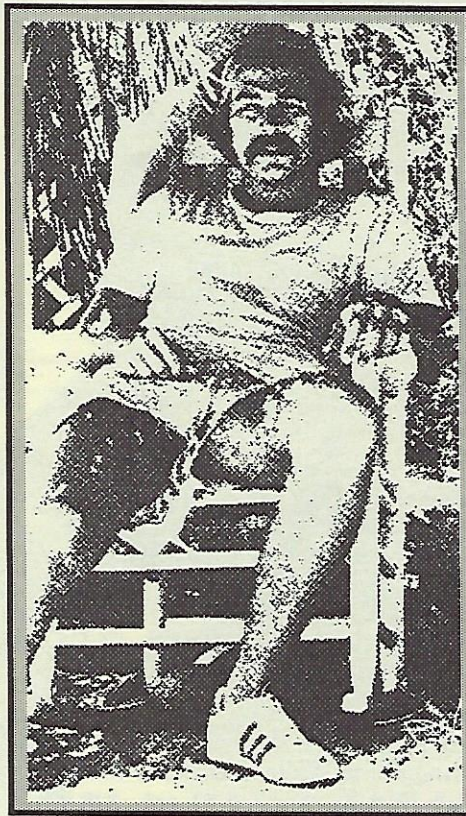
- Vincent Canby, *The New York Times*

AVAILABLE IN VHS ONLY.
\$29.95

Jeff Bridges and Sam Waterson make an oddball team of modern day cattle rustlers in this "quirky, inventive portrait of the no longer wild West" (Paul Zimmerman, *Newsweek*). Montana's Big Sky country is the setting for this whacked-out Western from writer Thomas McGuane (*92 in the Shade*), whose quietly sardonic screenplay "literally litters the landscape with the crazed descendants of those hardy pioneers whose covered wagons have been replaced by ubiquitous pickup trucks" (Richard Cuskelly, *L.A. Herald Examiner*). Among these deviated denizens are Slim Pickens as a crafty old stock de-

tective, Harry Dean Stanton and Richard Bright as a pair of clumsy cowhands, and Clifton James and Elizabeth Ashley as a bored couple from Schenectady who

bought their ranch with the profits from a chain of beauty parlors. If you're ready for a little not-so-innocent frontier fun, for "some desire under the elms... some smouldering glances at the OK Corral," then climb off your high horse and head straight for *Rancho Deluxe*. Screenplay by Thomas McGuane
Soundtrack by Jimmy Buffett

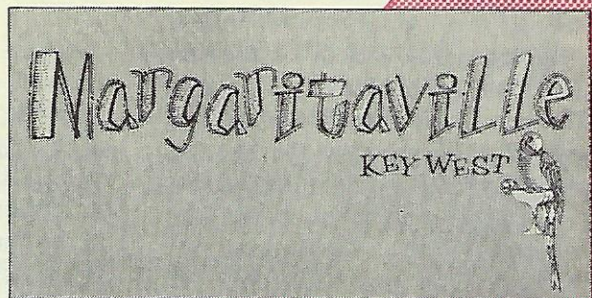


NEW MARGARITAVILLE HOODED SWEAT



Margaritaville's New 100% Cotton Hooded Sweatshirt. Vibrant colors dominate our new Margaritaville design adding a casual look to a casual sweatshirt. Loosely banded at the wrist and waist for style and comfort. Drawstring hood and front pouch pocket keep the cold out.

Available in Purple, Turquoise, Denim Blue or Primrose. Size: S,M,L&XL. **\$35.00**



COTTON FLEECE SHIRTS

Bulky 100% cotton fleece with embroidered Margaritaville logo. Off shoulder sleeves supplement oversize design. Features 2-button placket with collar and banded sleeves.



Short Sleeve Fleece available in White, Melon and Marine Blue. Margaritaville Cafe stitching. Size: L& XL only. **\$38.00**



Long Sleeve Fleece available in Slate Blue, Paprika or Forest Green, Margaritaville Store stitching. Size L& XL only. **\$42.00**

MARGARITAVILLE TIES



Tropical Tie



Parrot Tie

Alright already, you demanded more parrots! Well, we got 'em. NEW Parrot Tie is nothing but. Same manufacturer, same high quality. Both designs now available. Please note either Tropical or Parrot Tie. \$20.00

MARGARITAVILLE JACKET

Attention getting details in vivid hues add extra style to this casual jacket. The outershell is constructed of waterproof fabric and is lined with a soft taffeta. The elastic inner cuff extends beyond the adjustable outer cuff and snugs the wrist. A hood is concealed under the stand up collar and sports a striped drawstring. Margaritaville logo embroidered on left front chest. Available in Blue w/Jade & Plum accents or Jade w/Napa Grape & Gold accents. Size: S,M,L & XL. \$75.00



CHRISTMAS STOCKING

New from Margaritaville. 100% cotton with white "fur" trim. Stocking measures 13" from loop to heel. \$10.95 each. Coal not included.



TROPICAL PRINT SEASONAL SOCK!

DENIM BALL CAP

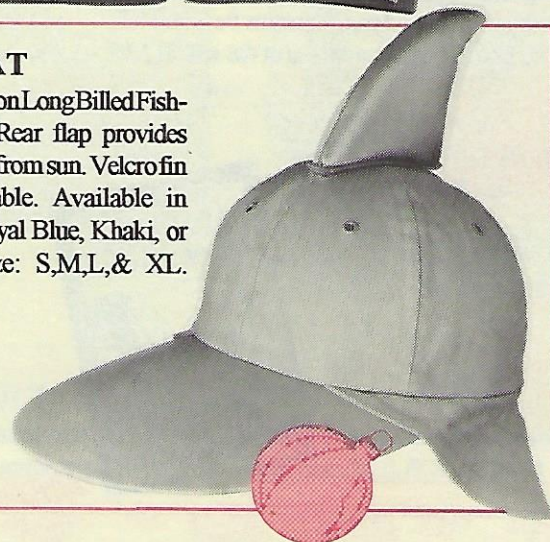
100% Heavy Cotton Denim Cap. Margaritaville embroidered in contrasting color on front panel. Vented cap is adjustable. Available in Gray/Black stitching, Purple/Blue stitching, or Denim Blue/Green stitching. \$18.00

(Christmas Coconut)
\$16.00



FIN HAT

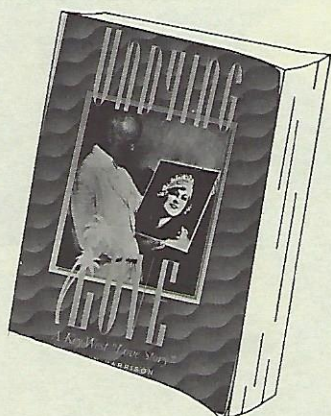
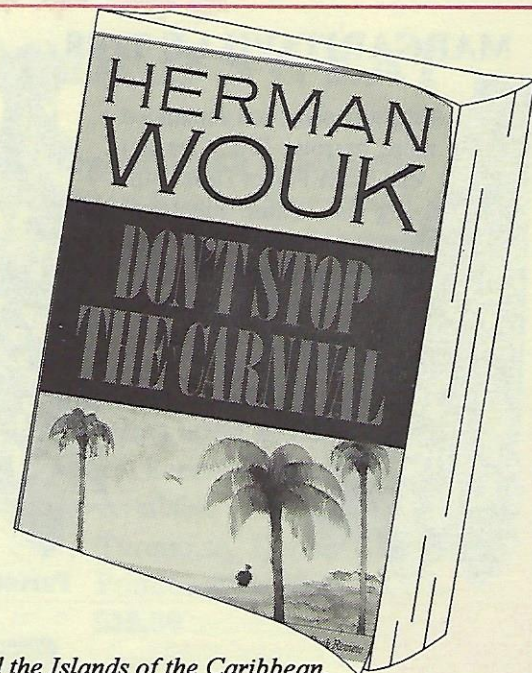
100% Cotton Long Billed Fishing Cap. Rear flap provides protection from sun. Velcro fin is removable. Available in White, Royal Blue, Khaki, or Grey. Size: S,M,L, & XL. \$19.95



Call Toll Free 1-800-COCOTEI

DON'T STOP THE CARNIVAL

In the Caribbean, Hawaii, Capri, in fact wherever people seek in vain to escape from their true selves, they wryly laugh at and quote *Don't Stop the Carnival*. This is **Herman Wouk's** authentic picture of hotel-keeper Norman Paperman, discovering a new illicit love with a fading film star, amid zany mishaps and disasters recognizable to anyone who has lived on an island in the sun. Wouk and his family did just that for seven years. "My wife and I almost went out of our minds," he has written, "but much of the time we laughed like hell, and so survived. I trust that what is mainly preserved in this tale is the laughter." *Don't Stop the Carnival* is a farce about oncoming middle age, and the desperate, doomed attempt of one man to arrest the sands of time. It aims to show the comic side of the sad truth, with the racing feel of a Chaplin movie, one funny incident piled on another as a sad, gallant clown fights against his fate. Paperback book is \$14.95



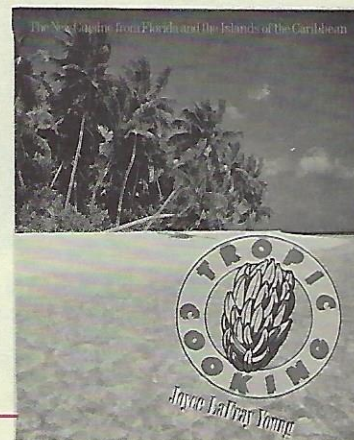
The New Cuisine from Florida and the Islands of the Caribbean.

The exotic tastes and smells of the wonderful food from the market stalls and restaurants of the islands from Grenada to Jamaica mix with the secrets of the hidden restaurants from northern Florida to Key West...It is magic, and this collection of over 350 recipes captures the essence of this new cuisine. If you also hear waves lapping on the beach and the sound of a steel drum band, you have the idea...Paperback book is \$14.95

TROPIC COOKING

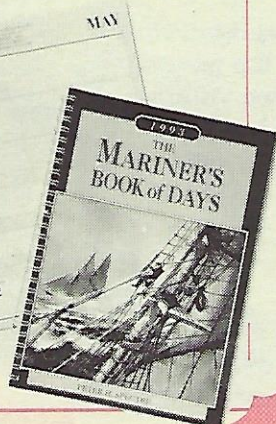
UNDYING LOVE

The year was 1940, and a truly bizarre love affair had come to light in the already infamous town of Key West, Florida; ninety miles north of Cuba and 100 miles south of the "Real World". Love knows no barrier, not even death. Local singer/songwriter Ben Harrison "untangles the thread of intrigue woven through a tale of obsessive love and unexpected madness" - a tale of **Undying Love**. A Key West "Love Story" that proves truth *is* stranger than fiction. Paperback book is \$12.95



MARINER'S BOOK OF DAYS

A desk calender with a difference. Right-hand page is a week of days with entries from maritime history. Left-hand page contains facts and folklore from the rich traditions of the sea. \$12.95



CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT

Porcelain ornament is of the finest quality. Design is kiln-fired for permanence and inspected no less than seven times through production. Dated ornament is guaranteed to last for years. 1993 Christmas Ornament is \$14.95.

For collectors, a limited supply of 1992 ornaments are available for \$7.50.

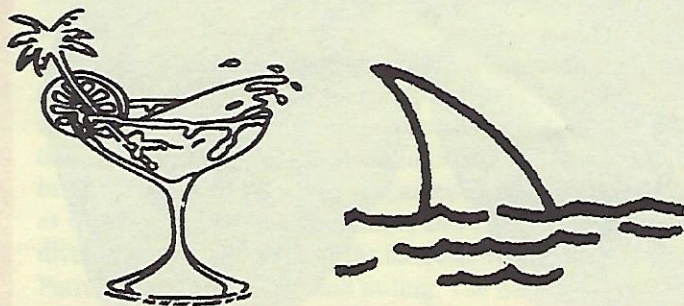


MARGARITAVILLE SWEATSHIRTS

50/50 sweat in popular Parrot Head Club or Store design. Available in White, Black or Ash Grey. Size: M,L,XL & XXL. \$21.95. Still available in crew neck T for \$14.95.



90% cotton sweat with bold, black-lined Margarita Glass or Fins design. Available in White only. \$30.00. Still available in Oversize T' for \$18.00.



MARGARITAVILLE YOUTH T'S

Parakeet Club, Manatee Print or Cafe Design. Size: 2-4, 6-8, 10-12, 14-16. Available in White, Yellow, Blue or Mint. \$7.95



**CALL TOLL FREE
1-800-COCOTEL**

**TOLL FREE SERVICE NOW
AVAILABLE IN CANADA!
SAME NUMBER AS IN U.S. ALL
CANUCK'S PLACING ORDERS
PLEASE CALL 1-800-COCOTEL! (262-6835)**

All orders received by Monday, December 6th will be delivered by Christmas - with the help of our distributors. After December 6th, we will do our best.

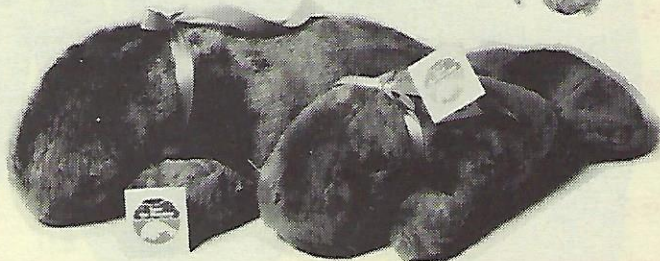
CHEESEBURGER PILLOW

Hand crafted using non-toxic paints and shredded cotton polyester filling. Hand made in El Salvador. 12"x6" pillow is \$26.00



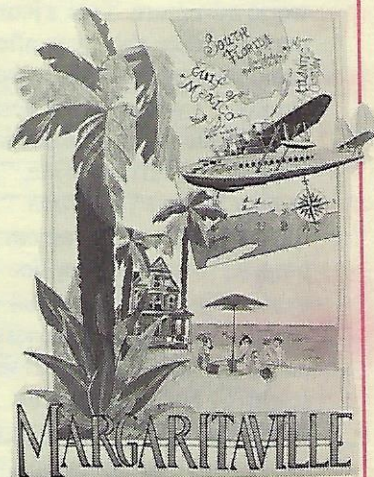
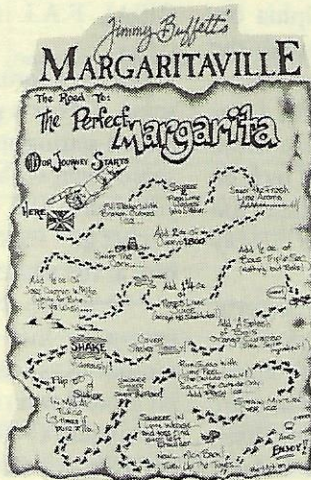
STUFFED ANIMALS

Soft, grey, stuffed manatees available in 8, 14 or 20 inch length. \$12.00, \$18.00 or \$25.00. Pink stuffed shrimp measures 14" from loop to tail. \$15.00



PERFECT MARGARITA T'

Full chest screen on 100% cotton crew neck T'. Available in Natural only. Size: L,XL,& XXL. \$14.95

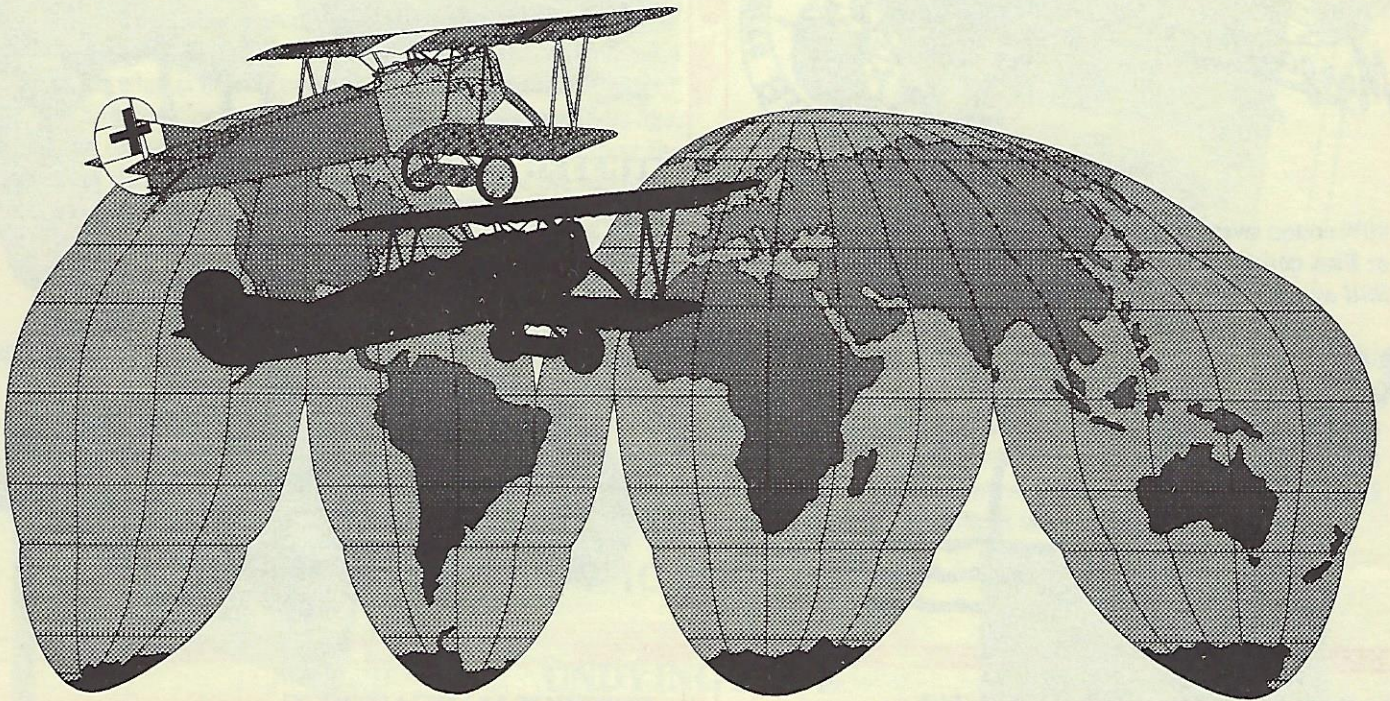


POSTER T'

Design reminiscent of 1940's airline posters. Colorful design screened on 100% cotton crew neck. White only. Size: M,L,& XL. \$14.95

Tom Claytor

BUSH PILOT EXPEDITION



10

December, 1990, Tom Claytor departs Wings Field in Philadelphia beginning an around the world adventure. Tom's journey was reported earlier this year after his letter prompted an envious response from Jimmy, "I wish you the best of luck on your adventure and I must say that I am jealous..." And then to me, "*Put this guy in the Coconut Telegraph.*"

Bush pilots operate across the deserts, jungles, mountains and ice caps of our world. They are in contact with native cultures and the wilderness. They are doctors, missionaries, conservationists, scientists and businessmen. Many have spent their lives in a particular area and can provide a unique perspective on these changing frontiers.

Tom Claytor's goal is to fly a small single-engine plane around the world, living and working with bush pilots on

all seven continents. If successful, the flight will establish records for the N.A.A. (USA), F.A.I. (France), and Guinness (UK).

We were fortunate enough to be sent some of Tom's personal notes from his record-setting attempt, and would like to share them with you. Think of Tom as you cruise the malls looking for that perfect gift. Pick up a card and mail it to him at the address listed below.

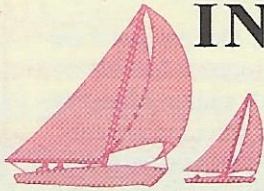
"It is late. I'm sitting in a hangar trying to kill and smash as many mosquitos as I can. Outside, light flashes all around from distant storms. All day, Portuguese C-130's have been evacuating refugees from Angola; a thousand people were just killed in the capital. DC-3's are ferrying people across the river to Kinshasa. None of the airliners dare go back there after the "pillage". This is the deep, dark part of Africa where things can go wrong and no one ever hears about it.

Tomorrow is the day I had requested to overfly Angola. The plane is full of fuel donated by Aero-Service at \$6.00/gallon. I requested the clearance two weeks ago, before the fighting began. I still don't have a reply. One of the Portuguese military pilots has given me coordinates of Unita held "hot" areas. He has asked me to destroy it as soon as I am through.

In Bata, Equatorial Guinea, a Russian crew invites me to see their Antonov 24. They are all wearing jeans and designer T-shirts. Everyone speaks Spanish except the Russians. When it's time to go, someone pantomimes the route to Malabo. The Anotov trails heavy, black smoke from one of its engines. We stop by to visit the president's Paraguayan mistress. She tells my French friend that the Russians stole the plane just after the Soviet Union broke up. We wander to the beach. The architecture is beautiful. (continued page 12)

"It is a most beautifully designed specialty information system. The menus are colorful to a fault, very easy to navigate, so to speak, and provide a treasure chest of information on the topic."

SAILING INFORMATION CENTER



In 1991 the Sailing Information Center, a national online information service, opened to serve the sailing community. Within the first year they had received thousands of calls. One of those calls was from the Coconut Telegraph, no stranger to computer bulletin boards.

Many large BBS's are general boards, featuring areas for discussion in a variety of topics. The smaller specialized boards, represent a cottage industry that will change our society's entire relationship with information. One of the best example of a specialized topic is the Sailing Information Center.

The Sailing IC is an online service for serious sailors. Sailing associations, clubs and their members who register use it to share race results and exchange information, free, without time or hookup charges. Articles about the Sailing IC have appeared in **Northern Breeze Sailing Magazine** and **American Sailor**, as well as **Boardwatch Magazine** and **Computer Digest**. A diverse group which reflects the interests of many modern-day Parrot Heads; computers and sailing. The Sailing IC also has the support of the **National PHRF** and is the official Online Service of the **American Sail Training Association**, a large organization dedicated to sail training on the Tall Ships.

Once aboard, there is much to see. Regional Marine Malls have complete contact information on a variety of marine retailers and services. The Tall Ship area has Windjammer Cruises, Sail Training and a unique area for shoppers called **SeaChest**. There you'll find online merchants offering Maritime Art, music & instruments, furniture & furnishings, books, apparel, jewelry and much, much more.

The newest shop to open in SeaChest is **Jimmy Buffett's Coconut Telegraph**, complete with Parrot Head Conference, VGA Photo area and **Margaritaville Store Online**.

Chart a course to the National Online Service dedicated **EXCLUSIVELY** to the sailing community.

The Sailing Information Center. Your source for:

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| Sailing News | Training & Classes |
| Tall Ships | Island Travel |
| Yacht Clubs | Voyage Experiences |
| Recreation Events | Shareware |

...and much MORE!

Modem: (410) 643-1466 (8N1)

Voice/FAX: (217) 352-3840

Keep in touch with Key West and Margaritaville. The **Coconut Telegraph** is mailed 6 times a year. \$5.00 covers printing & postage. Outside U.S. \$10.00.

ORDERS TOTALING \$25.00 OR MORE
GUARANTEE A YEARS SUBSCRIPTION.

MAIL ORDERS: Make check or money order payable to The Coconut Telegraph. Send to T-shirts, PO Box 1459, Key West, FL 33041. Please list street address for merchandise delivery.

SORRY, NO C.O.D.'s.

CREDIT CARD ORDERS: Call toll-free **1-800-COCOTEL** [1-800-262-6835] Monday thru Friday, 9AM-5PM Eastern Time.

\$10.00 MINIMUM CREDIT CARD ORDER.

TOLL FREE LINE FOR ORDERS ONLY PLEASE.

FAX # (305) 296-1084

All other information please call (305) 292-8402.

For orders outside the U.S. please send payment in U.S. dollars and double S/H charges.

SHIPPING/HANDLING CHARGES: 3 items or fewer \$4.00, 4-6 items \$6.00, 7 or more items \$7.50. Florida residents please include 7% sales tax. Please allow 3-4 weeks for delivery. Federal Express® delivery service is also available, please inquire when ordering.



Federal Express trademarks used by permission.

QTY	ITEM	SIZE	COLOR (3)	PRICE
			SUB TOTAL	
We Accept VISA,			Florida Residents only, add 7% sales TAX	
MasterCard & American Express			SHIPPING	
			TOTAL	
NAME				
ADDRESS				
CITY				
STATE		ZIP	PHONE	
CREDIT CARD NO.			EXP	
CHECKNO.		SIGNATURE		

Rain pounds the sea. I walk out under a roof and find an infant chimpanzee shivering, tied to a chair. He looks at me with wide, sad eyes, and I sit beside him. He crawls onto my lap and cuddles under my arm; together we look out into the rain.

There are no more people. Dark water spills from the forest. Waves crash upon the beach, and the jungle towers overhead. The plane sits above the sand in a clearing five miles from the equator. The sun is intense and burns the skin off the end of my nose. I can't believe I have found this peaceful, empty, wonderful place. No one knows where I am; it isn't on any map. There are no soldiers or police. There are no people. There are only footprints on the beach. The trail leads up the bank into a wall of Lianas and darkness. I can barely fit and after hours have seen nothing. I can smell more than I can see, and my ears are my eyes, straining to grasp what lurks ahead. This is not my world, and I am exhilarated by it. I return to the beach and stand by the footprints. The forest elephant lives here. The footprints lead to the sea, and I begin to see something I had not seen before. The elephants do not need to come here; there is not food or drink. They come here to play, to see the sun, and to look upon

the ocean. How similar we are, and yet we both need so much space; I wonder who will win?

There are not many visitors to big banana. Our passports are taken, and we are forbidden to leave. For once, I had all my clearances and authorizations, but it doesn't matter. Mike Fay is arrested once a week in Ouessou for smuggling red mercury. He says he would be happy to smuggle it if he knew what it was. The north of Congo lives in a world apart. They refuse to believe I have come to see a dinosaur named "Mokele-mbembe".

Edouard comes from the village of Minganga where they killed a Mokele-mbembe. He describes what sounds like a brontosaurus to a missionary in Lingala. It was his great, great grandparents who saw half the village die from the meat. Several expeditions have tried to find the monster or its' remains. Few have ever reached the lake.

An evil looking man from across the river exchanges 5 US dollars for 8 million Zaires; he tells me he is a friend of President Mobutu and can get me diamonds. I sleep beneath the plane each night with a guard waiting for bandits from Zaire. The French lady has the only store in town; she sells mobilette parts, chainsaws and pornographic videos. A Swedish volunteer

arrived in a village south of here; she had to leave because everyone thought she was the girl in the video. There are hostile Boa villagers to the south. A Japanese film crew was recently held for ransom; 12 thousand dollars was flown up from Brazzaville. Big banana is really called Impfondo - its' mbonzo equivalent. Conrad said in his **Heart of Darkness** that, "going up that river was like traveling back to the earliest beginnings of the world."

"I smiled when I read that."

The Explorers Club in New York has given Tom Claytor's expedition its highest level of sponsorship. Tax-deductible contributions to the project are essential. They can be made to **The Explorers Club (reference: Bush Pilot Expedition) 46 E. 70th St., New York, NY 10021, USA.** All contributions are highly appreciated and will be acknowledged in the author's book.

I seem to exist naively in between - observing, learning and avoiding.

THE COCONUT TELEGRAPH
MARGARITAVILLE
 PO BOX 1459
 KEY WEST, FL 33041

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

PETER LAPUC
 PO BOX 45
 N PALMOUTH MA 02556

*****3-DIGIT 027
 3334

