

The COCONUT

Widgeon is fried, but I'm alright. This is

one ride we will not have at the

Margaritaville Theme Park.

Jimmy

TELEGRAPH

MARGARITAVILLE SEPT. - OCT. 1994

VOLUME 10, NO.5

I'd like to thank everyone for all the kind thoughts and good wishes. Even all the wise guys; Changes in Altitude, Boomerang Landing...pretty clever guys. It's rare to get a second chance, and, believe me, I'm happy to have this one. The

Photo: Steve Heaslip, Cape Cod Times



Fruitcakes Fracas with Benedictine Monks

Excerpts from an interview with Linda Barnard of The Toronto Sun.

hat satisfied, slightly smug chuckle? It's the sound of Jimmy Buffett having the last laugh. And it feels good.

"We've been fighting that barrier of acceptability within the industry. They all think I'm this guy who lays on the beach and drinks margaritas."

Now, the struggle has paid off in a Jimmy Buffett that actually got airplay, a fact that makes him laugh out loud at the mere thought.

Buffett has made it clear from concert stages before sold-out legions of loyal Parrot Heads each summer for years that nothing could interest him less than receiving the MTV stamp of approval. Yet it is still sweet indeed that for the first time in his career, after

25 years and 20 releases, a Jimmy Buffett album has debuted at number 5 on the charts.

Of course, it's just another example of the screwy spin of this world. "You bet. That's why I called the album Fruitcakes.

"To be honest, it's very gratifying to be there. It's a lot of hard work by a lot of people."

If it felt strange to crack the charts, Buffett adds the company he kept on the list further fanned the fruitcake fire. "I couldn't name the other four bands (in the top 5), other than the Benedictine Monks, I know who they are!"

While thrilled to be doing so well at age 47, Buffett gives the nod to the original brothers. "Talk about longevity; I'm nothing compared to the monks." Of course, what would any Buffett tale be without a twist of irony? There he is on the charts, sharing space with the cassocked ones, and some of his greatest songs have been written with that same music playing in the background.

"The funny thing is, I write a lot to Gregorian chant. That's what it was made for. It's our Catholic version of Buddhism. I've been using Gregorian chant for years."

The trick is finding music without distracting lyrics to act as a background to creating new songs. It's not surprising to learn that creative people

"It's a lot of hard work by a lot of people."

write to music; Pat Conroy's **Prince of Tides** was written with Jimmy Buffett music playing; a fact the music maker finds deeply flattering.

"It's an interesting world, we're good dysfunctional southern children."

Reaching back into childhood formed a theme for Buffett's off hours in the summer of '94. He planned a trip with his dad to "the land of my forefathers," in Nova Scotia, on Canada's east coast. The sailor from *The Son Of a Son Of a Sailor* came from Grace Bay, Nova Scotia, and many relatives still live in the area. This year he worked



Barnard has worked for the **Toronto SUN** since 1984. For the past two years she's been a full-time columnist with the paper. She devotes much of her free time attempting to recreate the scene of her maiden voyage into Buffett.

She interviewed Jimmy last summer as he kicked off his Fruitcakes tour.

with a shortened tour schedule, designed to give him pockets of time off within the tour to allow his travels, while acknowledging the ticking of the clock.

"After all the years of touring, I didn't feel I could do the numbner of shows at the energy level which I demand of myself at each show. I've been lucky enough to get this at 47, but there's a reality factor that comes into it. It seems 2-3 week spurts is great because it keeps my energy level up and I can do it every night."

Yes the years catch up. As he warned a field full of revellers at Buckeye Lake, OH. Primo Parrot Head Party in July, there comes a day when your hangovers start to resemble "surgical recoveries." Besides, Buffett adds, it's a good compromise to his threat a few years ago "to hang it all up and sail away."

Jimmy was not alone in celebrating his musical longevity. Several over-40 acts raked in the dough and the crowds, like Buffett's former running mates, the Eagles. Although attempts to join the band he opened for in the late 70's fell through due to scheduling conflicts, he had plans to catch a show as an observer, something he rarely does.

"I don't go to many shows. I'd love to, but I'm too nervous. I'm not a good audience person; I'm looking at lights and watching the pace of the show, and I'm usually critical."

One of the charms of Fruitcakes is the stories fans love to hear, ballads based on tales gleaned from Buffett's rich cache of experience. Most moving among them, Six String Music.

"It's a true story. That was a wonderful experience in Africa. I went about four years ago with Savannah and it was an amazing thing to go into the bush and I han my guitar and I would play." One night, the manager of a place they were staying in Kenya, asked Buffett if he would sing for the guests. "I said I'd be happy to, on one condition: that the staff be allowed to come and listen.

So all of the Africans came out, put their chairs in a circle and Savannah and I sang to them under the stars." Jimmy chose ballads, like **Julie Gold**'s *From A Distance*, a song made popular by Nancy Griffith, and the simple beauty of *Jolly Mon*. "They were a very appreciative audience. It's great to go into a place where no one knows you from Adam's cat and still leave a mark.

"I like to think I'm a performer, and whether it's 10 people in central Africa or 20,000 people in Cincinnati, I play to the audience."

Pleasing the audience means Buffett gives his
Parrot Heads what they want, a song list, he confesses, he'd never choose if he had his way. "I'm
of the philosophy that they're paying good
money for that seat and I want it to be the best
time they've had. It doesn't matter what I
would prefer, I'm not up there to please
myself. The challenge is because it's such a
repeat business, yet they also expect some
new works. It's like having a great old car
and keeping a fresh coat of paint on it."

Even if Fruitcakes hadn't made the charts, it would have mattered little to Buffett, who proudly says his audience just keeps growing, spreading to a whole new group of under-20 fans. "Our appeal is based on a lot of years of work and acceptance by an audience that keeps growing. I'm not that far from the vision of when I started 25 years ago."

And if commercial success doesn't come, hell, says Buffett, "I got more weenies to roast." Under way are plans for a movie that will send Frank Bama, the hero of his best-selling Where Is Joe Merchant? to Margaritaville. There's a planned sequel to the novel, and a Broadway musical based on Herman Wouk's Don't Stop The Carnival.

But it's not all sweat and toil for Jimmy Buffett. "I get my days at the beach. Don't you worry about that. I keep the work-to-play ratio very balanced."



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kermit

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New York, N.Y. - June 20, 1994 -You've heard them unplugged: Clapton, McCartney, Stewart, Carey...

Well you haven't heard it all until you've heard Kermit Unpigged! George Benson, Jimmy Buffett, Vince Gill, Don Henley, Ozzy Osbourne and Linda Ronstadt team up with Kermit the Frog, Miss Piggy and the entire Muppet gang to produce an all-star pop music extravaganza.

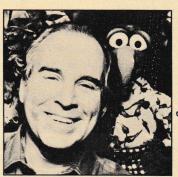
America's top touring artist Jimmy Buffett and The Great Gonzo sing a lively duet of Mr. Spaceman. Kermit Unpigged features some of the biggest names in music performing duets of pop hits that will appeal to everyone. A crossover album featuring ten pop, rock and country favorites.

Jim Henson Records is the musical arm of Jim henson productions, the independent feature film and television, and home video production company. The Muppet Show and Jim Henson's Muppet Babies are broadcast daily on Nickelodeon. In addition, the Muppets appear on VH-1, The Disney Channel and Fox Children's Network. On the big screen, the Muppet Treasure Island, Jim Henson Productions' next feature film, is scheduled for a 1995 release.

Cassette tape, \$9.98. CD \$15.98

New Muppet Album Boasts Duets

With Top Recording Artists



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unpigged

Reflections on New Orleans

The Margaritaville Store #1 French Market Place New Orleans, LA 70116

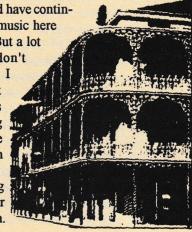
From an A & E Interview with Elliott Forrest.

ran away from home to this town. I used to always come down here [the Mississippi River bank] when I was working on Bourbon Street when I was about 18 years old and sit down on the rocks on this river as my contemplating spot. I also came down here when I wasn't contemplating... I remember one day waking up here rather early in the morning with my performing clothes on from the night before, a bit wrinkled, and tourists were taking my picture. I thought, boy, I've really made it in show business now. But I had a history here before that. My grandfather was a captain on a steamship and we'd always come over here as kids and meet his ship and then come into town. I was eight or nine years old, and those were my biggest memories - I think that's why I always think of New Orleans as northern edge of the Caribbean, because his ship was always leaving from here and going to exotic sounding places like Buenos Aires, Rio de Janeiro. So I always equated New Orleans with that world, and it was a gateway out. I came here and got started musically, which was my gateway out to the world. And it's a place I always come back to. And it feels strangely enough like some kind of a home to me here. I spend a lot of time here.

started here when I was about 18. It was my Ifirst real job. I went to school in Mississippi because it was such a close commute to New Orleans. And I stared when I was 18 on Bourbon Street in a place called the Bayou Room. And I think it was all Elvis' fault. Because I remember the scene from King Creole when Elvis comes down Bourbon Street and the crawfish lady's singing. I knew at that point I wanted to go to New Orleans and I wanted to sing and live in New Orleans. And strangely enough it all wound up that

way. I came here in 1966 the first time and have continued to play music here ever since. But a lot of people don't know that I spent about four years working around here on Bourbon Street.

Everything from a barker to a musician.



Merry Christmas from The Coconut Telegraph. We hope you enjoy this colorful selection of Margaritaville Store merchandise.

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Margaritaville Glassware

Quality dishwasher safe glassware from Libbey Glass.

Margarita Glass

Classic design long stem glass with 16oz. bowl. \$10.00 each or 2/\$15.00. Margaritaville's own Margarita Mix makes 1 quart of mix. \$5.00.

Two glasses and mix \$20.00

Heavyweight glass features Crest. Holds 10oz. of your favorite beverage, great for milk

Cafe Glass

Pilsner shape glass with colorful Margaritaville logo. Holds 10oz. \$7.50 each or 4/\$25.00

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Store logo embroidered on 14 X 20 nylon flag. \$26.00

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Store logo embroidered on 18" top. Six bright streamers measure 42". \$31.00

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Standard size metal license plates patterned after official Florida Manatee plates. \$1.00 from each sale is contributed toward protecting manatees. \$8.00 each.

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Foam cups come completely assembled. \$3.00 each. Six pack is \$15.00





Hold All Calls

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Cheeseburger in Paradise



Designs inspired by Jimmy Buffett lyrics.

100% cotton crew neck T-shirts available in White, Beige or Ash Gray. Size: M,L,XL & XXL. \$14.95

Illustrations on the back with Caribbean Soul logo on left front chest shown at left.

Five front and back illustrations detailed at right. (*First column, next page.*)

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100% poplin cotton ball cap featuring Margaritaville Store or Parrot Head Club embroidered on front panel. **Store Cap** available in solid White, Mint or Tropical Print. **Parrot Head Club Cap** available in solid White, Navy or Tropical Print.

Ball caps are \$15.00



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Features soft, solid stuffed parrot head, bright wings and foot long tail. Hand crafted with nontoxic color fast paints. \$19.95

Margaritaville Front



Pirate Parrots Front Back



Son of a Sailor Front Back



Changes in Latitude



Pirate Looks at Forty Back

Margaritaville

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Size: S,M,L& XL. \$35.00

Margaritaville Short Sleeve Cotton Fleece

Bulky 100% cotton fleece with embroidered

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sleeves supplement oversize design.
Features 2-button placket with collar
and banded sleeves. Available in
White, Yellow, Moss Green, Purple
and Royal Blue.

Size: L & XL only. \$38.00



Jammin' Polo Shirt

Island figure embroidered on left front chest, "We Be Jammin! Margaritaville Key West." Features include banded sleeves, split tail and 2-button style placket collar. Available in Navy Blue, Brick Red or Forest Green.

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Long Sleeve Denim

100% cotton, durable double-stitched classic denim shirt.
Comfortable and casual double-button open cuff. Embroidered margarita glass spilling out of left front pocket.
Denim Blue only.

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Full cut, durable 100% combed cotton shirt. Pre-washed, made in USA. Margaritaville embroidered above left front pocket. Soft, casual and comfortable. Available in Natural Off-White or Classic Denim Blue.

Size: S,M,L & XL. \$38.00

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Classic design printed on 100% washable rayon. We chose rayon to recapture the authentic feel of an original Hawaiian shirt. Slip one on and experience it for yourself.

Size: S,M,L,XL & XXL. \$49.95

Margaritaville 1994 Christmas Shirt

Long sleeve crew neck T-shirt. Bright, colorful holiday illustration shown above. Beautiful design fills the front of 100% cotton crew neck. Available in White only.

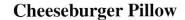
Size: M,L & XL. \$18.00

Design also available on Margaritaville Christmas card. Oversize card measures 5×8 , includes red envelope. Individual cards are \$1.50, set of 20 cards and envelopes, \$20.00

Inside greeting: Believe it and it will come true.



Christmas is for kids!



Handcrafted using non-toxic paints and shredded cotton/polyester filling. Hand made in El Salvador. Pillow measures 12" X 6". \$26.00



Key West Shrimp

Pink stuffed shrimp measures 14" from loop to tail. \$15.00

Stuffed Manatee

Soft, gray, stuffed manatees available in 8, 14 or 20 inch length. \$12.00, \$18.00 or \$25.00. Made in USA for The Manatee Toy Company. Hand washable. For children over 3.





Parakeet Club or Margaritaville Cafe design printed on 50/50 crew neck youth T-shirts. Colors include White, Blue, Green, Pink or Yellow. Size: 2-4, 6-8, 10-12, 14-16. \$7.95

Youth sweatshirts now available in White or Ash Gray. Size: XS,S,M & L. \$17.95







36, 38, 40

\$16.95

42.

Available in White, Ash Gray or Royal Blue. Size: S.M.L & XL. \$19.95



Margaritaville Sweatshirts

Lounge Lizard

Embroidered scene on heavyweight 90/10 sweatshirt. Lizard enjoys a Margarita under the Florida sun. Crew neck collar, banded sleeves and waist, soft inner lining. Available in Black or Ash Gray only. Size: M,L,XL & XXL. \$48.00

Funky Margaritaville

Colorful, funky typeface. Same name, different look. 80/20 sweatshirt with crew neck, banded sleeves and waist. Available in White only. Size: M,L & XL. \$31.00

Quietly Making Noise

"Not too soft, not too loud, just enough to draw a crowd." Available in White or Gray. 100% cotton crew neck size:

M,L,XL & XXL. **\$14.95** 80/20 sweatshirt also available

in White or Gray.

Size: M,L & XL. \$27.00

Lizards!

One of life's interesting set of circumstances brings this pin to you. I'd been making my Techno-Romantic™ style of jewelry for several years when I met Jimmy during an opening of my work at a gallery in Key West. That night, he bought one of my winged heart pins. Later he wore it on a hat that appears on one of his album covers, [Hot Water] mentioned it in his liner notes, and the rest is history. May this pin lead such an interesting life for you too. Thomas Mann

New Orleans, 1994

Heat Wave High Jersey

From the Tales From Margaritaville Collection. 100% cotton heavyweight football jersey. Over lapping V-neck collar and double-stitched shoulder supplement. Extra long sleeves compliment full cut. Available in Ash Gray only. Size: M,L & XL. \$32.00

Margaritaville has obtained a limited supply of Thomas Mann's Winged Heart Pins. Available while supply lasts. \$54.00

Pin measures approximately 3" x 1".

Margaritaville Bookshelf

Where Is Joe Merchant?

A tribute to Buffett's storytelling skills. Hardback \$19.95, Paperback \$5.99.

Tales From Margaritaville

The classic best-seller. Large Paperback \$9.95 Pocket Paperback \$5.99

Jolly Mon

Best selling children's book based on the popular song. Hardback \$14.95, Paperback \$4.95. Also available with Jimmy & Savannah on cassette tape. Hardback book & tape, \$19.95

Trouble Dolls

Our little heroine enlists the help of her Guatemalan Trouble Dolls to locate her missing father.

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Jimmy Buffett Scrapbook

Unauthorized biography by unauthorized authors.

Oversize paperback \$17.95

The Songs of Jimmy Buffett

Songbook containing 21 songs from Jimmy's first 4 MCA releases. Contains piano, vocal & chords. \$13.95 Songs You Know By Heart From the album of the same name. Contains piano, vocal & chords. \$13.95 Special Guitar Tab Edition \$16.95

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A guide to the history, geography, habits and inhabitants of one of the oddest and most agreeable places in America. \$12.95

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Our island as seen through the eyes of 25 of our most renowned and esteemed writers. Paperback \$12.95

Key West Woman's Club Cookbook

A Margaritaville Store Best-Seller. Entrees, soups, salads and more. \$14.95

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Essays, anecdotes, facts and legends all pertaining to the earth's oceans.

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Over 100 recipes. Spiral-bound booklet measures 4"x4". \$7.95

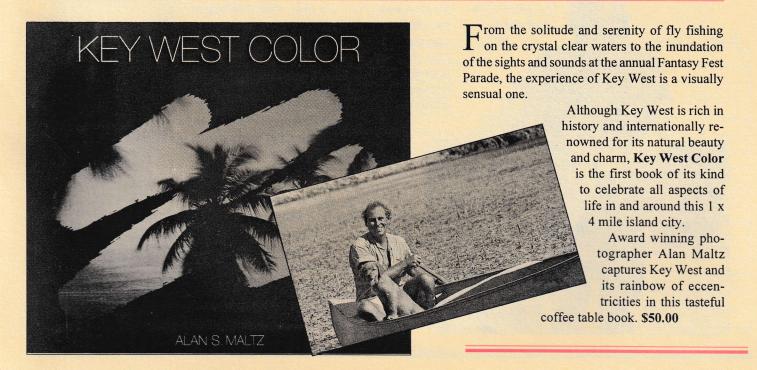
Undying Love

Local singer/songwriter Ben Harrison's true account of obsessive love and unexpected madness. A Key West love story. Paperback \$12.95

1995 Mariner's Book of Days

A desk calendar with a difference. Serves as both a daybook and an information source for the curious mariner. 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





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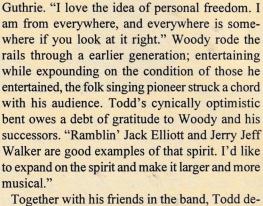
ONGS FOR THE DAILY PLANET

argaritaville Records continues its' assault on the popular music front with the release of Songs for the Daily Planet. This release marks the first effort of Todd Snider, Margaritaville Records' latest addition. His debut album due out this fall on Margaritaville Records/MCA, is a humorous travelog commenting on the current state of the world as seen through the eyes of a 20-something study in contrasts.

Todd Snider has worked and played from Portland, OR. to Memphis, TN. Along the way he has witnessed, and suffered through, the dichotomies of life that, ironically, are made bearable only by the ability of artists like himself to explain it to the rest of us.

Jimmy Buffett cautions that, "there's a fine line between Saturday night and Sunday morning," while Woody Guthrie reminds us that, "this land is your land this land in my land." Both statements painfully obvious, but comprehensible only when revealed through the songs of these acknowledged story-telling talents. Todd's slice-of-

life commentaries also offer a second opinion on the pulse of the real world.



Todd Snider claims to be very fond of Woody

Together with his friends in the band, Todd delivers a highly entertaining collection of wit and truth. The band includes Joe McLeary and Dr. Joe Mariencheck on drums and bass, Peter Hyrka (formerly of Human Radio) on mandolin, fiddle and accordion, and Eddy Shaver on guitar.

Many were exposed to Todd's music last summer as he opened, in spirit if not in person, for Jimmy Buffett; several songs were aired prior to the **Iguanas** taking the stage. Those fortunate enough to have found their way from the parking lot parties were treated to a preview of Songs for the Daily Planet. Todd's tongue-in-cheek look at his generation, "hear's to livin' on dad as long as you can," was a particular favorite. *My Generation*, even without the G-G-G, is quite far removed from Peter Townsend's youthful proclamation from an earlier era. Todd sacrifices political correctness for humor as he characterizes the plight of the much maligned X Generation.

Comparisons to Jimmy Buffett are inevitable, and perhaps not unwelcome. Bubba proclaims, "I enjoy this life as a jester, seems to keep me moving around," in *Stranded On a Bar*. "Like Jimmy Buffett promotes the idea of personal freedom through the ocean, I like the idea of freedom along the highways and through the underground." Barefoot and scruffy, Todd is a reflection of the free spirit in us all.

Songs for the Daily Planet is delivered with the irreverent attitude that sets Todd Snider apart from the conformity of today's music.

With the support of Jimmy Buffett and Margaritaville Records, Todd has the confidence to keep doing what he does...exactly what that is defies description.

Dear Mr. Buffett,

n behalf of the Gamble Rogers Memorial Foundation and all of Gamble's family and friends, thank you for your tribute to Gamble Rogers in the dedication of your new album, *Fruitcakes*. Gamble would certainly have been humbly honored to be remembered with such affection and praise. As soon as I obtained a copy of your CD, I called Nancy, Gamble's widow, and Jack, his brother, and read it to them over the phone. All of us want you to know how much your friendship meant to Gamble.

Just by being himself, Gamble provided a comparative measure that motivated many of us and since his untimely death, there have been numerous acknowledgments of his exemplary conduct. The Andrew Carnegie Hero Commission recognized his final heroic effort, selecting him as one if its honorees. In 1992, The Florida Legislature unanimously voted to rename the Flagler Beach State Recreation Area in Gamble's memory as the Gamble Rogers State Recreation Area at Flagler Beach. In December 1993, The St. Johns County Florida School Board named its new school the Gamble Rogers Middle School in recognition of how, "Gamble Rogers' life provides a good role model for pupils."

I have nominated Gamble for inclusion in the Florida Artists Hall of Fame. The Committee's decision will be announced sometime next fall.

Sincerely, Charles V. Steadham, Jr. Board of Directors Gamble Rogers Memorial Foundation, Inc.

"So with love and respect, I dedicate this collection of songs to the memory of James Gamble Rogers, a troubadour and a friend who has gone over to the other side where the guardian angels dwell and has in all likelihood, become one."

Gamble Rogers was a storyteller in the same vein as the troubadours of old. He influenced many, including Steve Goodman, John Prine, and a curious altar boy from Mobile, AL. Read more about the life of this Florida legend in the next issue of The Coconut Telegraph.

Keep in touch with Key West and Margaritaville.

The CoconutTelegraph is mailed 6 times a year.

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he Coconut Telegraph receives many letters, some of them even complimentary, from Jimmy's vast network of fans. These letters appear in the mail, hand-delivered to the store, posted in a variety of computer bulletin boards, why they even wash up on the beach. The majority are from fans who have taken the time to write and simply thank Jimmy for his influence in their lives, and they are definitely appreciated. Veteran readers of the telegraph have been exposed to correspondence that we found especially interesting. Here's a couple that we think you'll enjoy.

Mr. Jimmy Buffett,

I have given up hope on somehow making your acquaintance, so I will have to live vicariously through your music. Your ever increasing popularity makes it difficult to know you on the personal basis as I am reminded from a story told by a college pal of mine. He tells of a story when his father was in a bar in Atlanta when the one-man acoustical entertainer was about to call it quits for the evening. My friends father offered the gentleman \$5.00 to play for another hour or so, and the entertainer politely obliged.

Now this same entertainer is playing sold out shows around the country, and leading an organization affectionately known as Parrot Heads. Congratulations on your well deserved success.

Tom Brooks
Parrot Head Extrodinaire

Dear Jimmy.

I'm certain you are inundated with cards and letters. Still I felt compelled to let you know that you had a part - a significant part - to play in my making a major life change.

I am a 41 year-old with a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology. I was doing the right thing; working hard, saving money and becoming stagnant. Then I went on a barefoot cruise in the Caribbean...

It is now one and one-half years and 3 Jimmy Buffett concerts later, and I am working on the S/V Flying Cloud as a purser. I've taken a significant cut in pay, but I am surrounded by ocean and tropical islands. Tonight we are in Jost Van Dyke, and I plan on dancing at Foxy's.

Thanks for inspiring me with your music, "I'd rather die while I'm living than live while I'm dead."

Holly Krueger Tortola, B.V.I.

The Coconut Telegraph

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Did you know...

The Ohio Department of
Liquor Control reports that,
during the last two years,
tequila sales in the Cincinnati
area increased during the
month of Buffett concerts.

The Cincinnati Enquirer

En recycles