

Winter 1995 • Volume II • Number 6

## Pencil Thin Mustache Margaritaville's 1995 Fantasy Fest Float

very Halloween Key West pulls out all the stops and celebrates in a way that attracts national attention. Fantasy Fest is a week of activities beginning with a Bahamian Goombay Festival, followed by a Pet Masquerade, Pretenders in Paradise costume party, Duval Street Promenade, and many others, culminating in the grand Fantasy Fest parade on Saturday night.

Margaritaville has been a proud Fantasy Fest sponsor in the past, and this year's theme, Tinseltown Dreams, suggested a greater participation. "Now they make new movies in old black and white, with happy endings, where nobody fights."



Nan Parati, Coral Reefer set designer, and Helen Hiatt, Coral Reefer costume designer, arrived in Key West to transform a flatbed truck into a Fantasy Fest float inspired by Pencil Thin Mustache lyrics. Ricky Ricardo was there, joined by a pot smoking jazz musician, or was that a pot smoking suave Errol Flynn?











The Sheik of Araby and his camel were there, and Rama of the jungle - everyone's Bwana - kept his safety on all night. Anyone caught rubbin' Penny on the living room floor was ejected from Sky King's plane.

Thousands witnessed the Margaritaville Float along the parade route, and were pelted with Juicy Fruit gum, confiscated Parrot Head buttons, and an unofficial 1995 Fantasy Fest nerf ball.

Next year's Fantasy Fest theme is Call Of The Wild. Start preparing now.



Bubba checks
out the
Fantasy Fest
construction
frenzy back
in '89

## Don't Stop The Carnival

Author Herman Wouk - A Biographical Sketch

Wouk is wholly a product of New York City. He was born on May 27, 1915, to Russian-Jewish parents who had emigrated from Minsk. He attended public schools in the Bronx and graduated from Columbia University in Manhattan. At Columbia he took courses in comparative literature and philosophy. He edited the undergraduate humor magazine, Jester, and wrote varsity musicals, obtaining his B.A. degree at the age of nineteen in 1934. Wouk's facility for writing

in 1934. Wouk's facility for writing humor led to work in the field of radio comedy. For five years, from 1936 to 1941, he was a staff writer for Fred Allen. In June 1941, Wouk went to Washington as a dollar-a-year man to write radio scripts for the war-bond selling campaign of the U.S. Treasury.

In June 1949, Wouk went as a reserve officer on a training cruise aboard the aircraft carrier Saipan, and while on board started writing The Caine Mutiny, a tale set aboard a destroyer-minesweeper. It was published on March 19, 1951, and had a slow start. Neither major book club had chosen it. There was no immediate rush to the bookstores. After a second printing in April, orders began to increase, requiring four printings in June. By September, Herman Wouk had his first number one best-seller. His novel continued to lead the field for a year, and in May 1952, he

In 1954, the same year The Caine Mutiny was being made into the celebrated film starring Humphrey Bogart as Captain Queeg, Wouk turned the novel's court sequence into a successful play The Caine Mutiny Court-Martial, which starred Henry Fonda as the Jewish lawyer, Barney Greenwald. The play is a perennial favorite, both in the United States and abroad.

won the Pulitzer Prize for fiction.

Herman Wouk interrupted his work on Youngblood Hawke, a long complex novel of the literary scene in postwar America, to execute an idea that he had

been turning over in his mind for years: in his own words, "a fairly short and clear account of the Jewish faith from a personal viewpoint." This Is My God, published in 1959, was dedicated to the memory of his grandfather, Mendel Leib Levine, a Rabbi from Minsk. It stood high on the best-seller lists for half a year, and has since become a standard book on the subject, of equal interest to Jewish and Christian readers. A labor of love, the copyright was donated to the Abe Wouk Foundation, named in memory of their firstborn son who died accidentally at the age of five. Youngblood Hawke, published in 1962, gave a detailed candid picture of the New York and Hollywood literary life, reflecting the author's own experiences, and told of the disintegration and death of a powerful young artist in the grip of the American get-rich-quick mania.

In May 1962, Wouk began work on The Winds of War, a panoramic tale of the war years. He soon realized that he had let himself in for years of research, and probably two vast novels. By then he was living in the Virgin Islands with his wife and two young sons; he had moved there in 1958, when the distractions of New York had made working difficult. During the war book research, he gave up a couple of hours each day to a new short novel that returned to his comic vein. Don't Stop the Carnival, published in 1965, is an extravaganza of life on a Caribbean island, which tells some grim truths of politics and race under the surface of fun.

"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 had 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 I survived. I trust that what is mainly

O mong

living American writers, Herman Wouk is probably one of the most widely read around the world, almost as popular in translation in the People's Republic of China and in 27 other languages, as he is in his native land. He works slowly. In recent years he has been publishing books six or seven years apart, and each publication has been a major literary event in the USA and abroad. He has also composed plays, films, and religious writings. His work has earned academic honors, a Pulitzer Prize, and other distinctions, including two *Time* cover stories.

While earlier novels like The Caine Mutiny and Marjorie Morningstar have become recognized world classics, Herman Wouk is best known today for the linked monumental "War Books," The Winds of War and War and Remembrance, an epic two-part narrative of the perils and tragedies of the War and the Holocaust. Sixteen years in the writing, nearly 2,000 pages in all, the books comprise a comprehensive recreation of the war, both in it's battles and politics, based on painstaking research. Professional historians have praised the accuracy, sweep, and grasp of the work. Both books were number one best-sellers, and both remained on the New York Times list for over a year.

## Have a Tropical Christmas!



#### Christmas (

Hand painted Holiday greeting on an authentic Florida Key's coconut. \$16.00 #NVXCOCO





Universal Laughter Ringing Out Among The Stars

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#### New style, new design by the 3rd Street guys. Hand painted wooden ornaments in a 5"x5" gift box. Set of four,; Cheeseburger, Palm Tree, Margarita Glass and Salt

Ornaments

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Margaritaville Sunburst Throw New Margaritaville decorative throw is 100%

cotton. It is Jacquard woven, not printed, with the finest naturally grown fibers

available. Deep rich colors are completely woven into the throw creating a superior quality product. Margaritaville Throw measures 46" X 65". \$50.00

#NVTHROW

Shaker. \$20.00

**#NVORNSET** 

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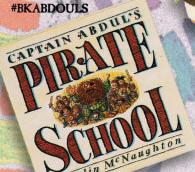






#### Captain Abdul's Pirate School

Children's book features lively, rambunctious characters that sing and talk and dance their way across the pages of the book. "Piracy is one of the few occupations where you don't have to grow up." Oversized Hardback book. \$16.95



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Parakeet Products

For children over 3.

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#NVMAN8

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Soft Stuffed Pillow measures 12" x 6". \$26.00 #NVPILLO



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Fits infants from 1 to 12 months.

\$14.95 #YCP2CHEESE



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CD \$17.00 #CDKEET



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Design on youth T-shirts and boxer shorts. White background. Shirt size: XS - 2, SM - 4, MED 5-8.

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Boxer shorts available in size 2 or 4.

\$9.95 **#YSH3JMON** 



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Size: XS 2-4, SM 6-8, MED
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Parakeet Club \$7.95
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MARGARITAVILIE

Fun artwork by "Parakeets Sing Jimmy Buffett" album cover designer. White only. Size:

XS - 28, SM - 32, MED - 34, LRG - 36.

(Size represents chest circumference.)

Tire Swing, \$9.95 #YCRSITIRE

Cheeseburger, \$9.95 #YCRSICHB

Jolly Mon, \$9.95 #YCRSIJOLLY









## Kata Billups

Elvis Sightings artist is winning attention.

Kata Billups is an artist. This statement is not as simple as it seems. In our fashion conscious, image-laden atmosphere, art seems to be controlled by a channel surfing Ritalin abuser. Today's cool is tomorrow's disco. It's hard to be hip yet it's hip to be square.

Elvis is hip. Always loved ya'...always will. TCB.

Kata knew this. Her particular creative style is Elvis paintings. Kooky 'kitsch' it's called by those looking for the right word. Novelist Pat Conroy, no stranger to lining up words, "will visit the shop and stand in front of the Elvis work and say 'I love this—it's SO tacky'." Kata places her Elvis Sightings in all too familiar settings; Elvis Selling Paintings From a VW Van, I Saw Elvis at the County Fair, and my personal favorite, Keys To Success - Love Your Momma, Wear Flashy Clothes, Pose With Pretty Girls and Go on TV.

"I began the series of Elvis paintings after I made a visit to Graceland in 1987. I became intrigued by the effect that money and fame have on people. I started thinking of all the myths that surround Elvis' life, and who really knew anything about him, and so I began making up myths of my own." Kata's "playful yet poignant" art originals had their humble beginnings in the Good Neighbor health food store in Mount Pleasant, SC. An art collector, Michael Tinkey, saw her work

and encouraged her to show it at the Red Piano Too on St. Helena Island. "When I saw Kata's paintings, I really thought they were unique pieces, and I also saw the heart and soul of them coming through. At the Red Piano Too I had seen artwork that had these qualities and I'm really glad it turned out to be a perfect match."

Kata originals are valued in the thousands of dollars. Her approach to distribution is as unique as her paintings. A photo is professionally made of the original piece. These photos are then individually presented in frames Kata collects from antique stores, estate sales, etc. The similarly unique paintings are then offered for sale.

"Several months ago I was approached by Jimmy Buffett's representative who had seen my paintings at the Red Piano Too." Think Elvis Imitator, "I was imitating Elvis before he died." Her Jimmy Sighting original will be displayed at The Margaritaville Cafe in Key West.

Reproductions are offered for sale through the Margaritaville Store and The Coconut Telegraph. The photo of the original measures 11 X 14. The framed *Jimmy Sighting* will measure approximately 18 X 24, depending on the frame.

#NVKATA \$75.00

## "Religion's in the hands of some crazy ass people!"

Religion is defined by many to be any specific system of belief, worship, conduct, etc., often involving a code of ethics and a philosophy. Parrot Head-ism could be referred to as "a philosophy"; although philosophical differences exist even in the Parrot Head world, a world that is highly unlikely to be associated with religion, no matter how it's defined.

Matt Paradise sent me an E-mail that reads, "I'm a pilot in the Navy and I played "One Particular Harbor" in my first solo in the T-34C. It was damn near a religious experience." Sounds like Matt's a religious guy.

Father Steven Leszczzynski reviewed Jimmy's Barometer Soup in his Your Music column in New Orlean's Clarion Herald, a newspaper distributed to all Catholic homes in the archdiocese. In his review he claims that, "Songs such as "Bank of Bad Habits", "Remittance Man" and "Diamond as Big as The Ritz" all explore what happens when excessive partying turns to alcoholism, when casual sex leads to disease and loneliness, and how money can become a curse."

"In the liner notes, Buffett writes about surviving a seaplane crash, which probably bore heavily on the depth of feeling on this album. Listen and you're sure to join the ranks of Buffett's 'parrotheads'."

My interpretation of these songs differs from Father Steve, who is no doubt a religious man, and while his call to join the ranks is appreciated, Parrot Heads rarely travel in pews.

Sister Mary Maloy, from the Sisters of Saint Joseph, an unabashedly religious group, writes, "Thank you so much for all the wonderful new items you sent for our Thrift Shoppe. The Jimmy Buffet items

are mostly gone already. My question is, 'Who is Jimmy Buffet?' Should I know him, or is he just famous in the Keys? Whoever he is, we are grateful for your generous donation. God bless you for

donation. God bless you for your generosity."

What have we learned? Those defending our country have religious experiences in very expensive airplanes. Father Steve should perhaps give Barometer Soup another listen, and Sister Mary Maloy has no idea who Jimmy 'Buffet' is. God bless us, everyone.

Photo by Louis Sahuc



## Comments From a Part-Time Seasonal Temporary Coral Reefer

When Tourist Season was first published back in 1986, Jimmy phoned to tell me how much he liked the book and its demented environmentalist anti-hero, Skip Wiley. I never dreamed he would put Skip into a song, so it was a wonderful surprise when he called last spring and invited me down to Key West for the recording session.

Contrary to Jimmy's generous words in the liner notes, I made no memorable vocal contributions to "The Ballad of Skip Wiley." However, I did a splendidly authentic job with the cocktail-party sound effects at the beginning of the song. I also contributed some fine shouting on "Bank of Bad Habits."

It was a blast being in the studio with Jimmy, and I'm sure he'll be calling me for help with future albums. In the meantime, I'm still awaiting my first royalty check, which has evidently been lost in the mail, or perhaps misplaced amid the large sacks of cash that Jimmy keeps in that "spare fuel tank" aboard the seaplane...

We'll talk soon,

Carl Hiaasen
Travernier, FL.

Fax From: Third St Stuff To: Margaritaville Date: 10-12-95

OMYGAWD... we are silly over these Margaritaville ornaments that are everywhere!! I need to take some pictures, we are so funny with these palm trees and cheeseburgers. But they look so great! 420 sets went out last night. The 1580 sets to fill part one will be a day or two behind. We might do another split shipment. We ran out of space... we've never had such a quantity order. Seven college students work here at night and they were panting last night! During the day 5 or 6 full time employees work continuously on just these ornaments. And the wood is being cut by a very, and I do mean very, eager group in eastern Kentucky, where I believe jobs might be very difficult to find. They love the work and all of the wooden ornaments have already been delivered and they want to know what I can find for them to do next. You would really get such a kick out of it. I'll try to get some good pictures. It is quite a story.

### Herman Wouk continued from page 4

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."

In 1964 the Wouks returned to the mainland and settled in Washington, D.C., where the author began actual narrative writing of The Winds of War, and extensive research for War and Remembrance. There he could consult the Library of Congress resources, the National Archives, and important military leaders. Finding life in Washington pleasant, the Wouks bought and renovated an 1815 house in Georgetown as a combined office and residence. The author also travelled for research to England, Germany, the Soviet Union, Iran, Portugal, Italy, France,

Poland, and Czechoslovakia, and he spent much time on records in Israel of the destruction of Europe's Jews.

Accompanying him on his travels always was his wife, Betty Sarah, his editor and manuscript assistant throughout his career, and in recent years his literary agent.

For years after the publication of The Winds of War, movie and television companies sought the rights to adapt the novel for film. The Wouks believed that a television series was the best format for the large-scale drama, but stipulated severe restrictions on the nature and number of commercial interruptions, and strict requirements of story fidelity. Twelve years after publication, Paramount's eighteen-hour film of Herman Wouk's teleplay of The Winds of War was broadcast by the American Broadcast Company and became "the most watched television show in history," according to ABC.

Today the Wouks' quiet life alternates between their homes in Georgetown and Palm Springs, CA., and they visit Israel frequently. The author remains an unusually private person, living a disciplined, almost reclusive existence with his wife of forty-nine years. Writing, scholarship (his avocation is Judaic studies), long walks and trail climbs, and the companionship of a close family and a few intimate friends, make up the productive life pattern that has made him a world-famous writer.

Full-length critical studies of the author's work include Herman Wouk: The Novelist as Social Historian, by Professor Arnold C. Beichman (Transaction Press of Rutgers University, 1984) and Herman Wouk, by Lawrence W. Mazzeno (Twayne Publishers, 1994).

ould you like to be on our mailing list? The Coconut Telegraph contains news by and about Parrot Heads, Jimmy Buffett and the rich historical traditions of Key West and New Orleans. A display of Margaritaville merchandise is also offered for sale.

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All orders placed by Friday, December 8th, will be delivered by Christmas with the cooperation of our vendors. After December 8th, we will do our best.

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