

"It's an honor to call you fans"



COCONUT TELEGRAPH

VOLUME 15 NO.1

Jimmy Buffett has achieved remarkable success in an industry littered with wanna-be's, has-beens, and never-heard-of-'em's. The rewards of this good fortune include a stack of gold and platinum records, record-setting concert attendance, and several appearances on literary best selling lists.

MEETING OF THE MINDS

But perhaps the most rewarding benefit of years spent toiling in show bizness trenches is the Parrot Head phenomenon. The vast legion of Jimmy Buffett fans possessing the tenacity of a junkyard dog, the perseverance of a late night bill collector and the stubbornness of a locked out NBA player.

Parrot Heads travel in PHlocks, and we had a PHlock in Key West early in November. Over 2000 over-achievers invaded our island searching for the symbolic lost shaker of salt...and its all Jimmy Buffett's fault. Margaritaville proudly welcomed these PHans to our island for their annual Meeting Of The



Minds. Its time for a self-congratulatory pat on the back. These PHolks work tirelessly at the local level in a variety of community efforts, giving of their time, their money, even their blood simply because they feel its the right thing to do. They've earned some time off and have planned this trip for a year. We applaud the organizers, both national and local, the participating businesses, the historical tolerance of Key Westers, and mostly the PHans - thanks for coming.

Buffett took the stage for an acoustic set that included Key West-inspired chestnuts such as "Woman Going Crazy on Caroline Street" and "Tryin' to Reason with Hurricane Season," to the delight of the screaming crowd.

Over the course of his hour-long performance, Buffett toasted his fans, their tireless community service efforts and, of course, the drink that made him famous.

"Excuse me," he said picking up a plastic cup from the drum riser. "I think I'm going to join you for a minute." As the last notes of "Margaritaville" faded into the din of the crowd, Buffett left the Parrot Heads with a token of his esteem.

"It's an honor to call you fans," he said. "I really mean that. Now I think I'll come down here and join the party."

The Key West Citizen



Keys Kids Christmas

The response to our request for Christmas gifts for children affected by Hurricane Georges was tremendous. We figured a few kind souls would forward something, but the packages continued to arrive; by ground, by air, even from customers in the store or on the web site who thought to add a stuff toy with their purchase. Very kind indeed.

Volunteers from the Monroe County Sheriffs Office arrived to pick up the toys and were shocked to find Buffett fans in town for the Meeting of the Minds delivering even more, many more, packages. "Before this week I'd never heard of a Parrot Head," a woman told me during one of our many trips to the Keys Kids room. "These people are unbelievable." "Believe it," I said.

Believe it.



JIM KELLY AND I MET AT NASSAU HOUSE ON FLEMING STREET THE DAY BEFORE MOTM REGISTRATION OPENED AT THE HILTON. WE DISCUSSED, ALONG WITH OTHER JB RELATED TOPICS, THE MARGARITAVILLE SPONSORED SCAVENGER HUNT; JIM SAID THE SAN DIEGO PH CLUB VOWED TO BRING THE COVETED AUTOGRAPHED PRIZE HOME WHILE I, A PROUD MEMBER OF THE KEY NORTHWEST PH CLUB OF PORTLAND, OR, JUST WANTED TO SEE IF I KNEW THE ANSWERS. JIM AND I DIDN'T REALLY PLAN TO WORK TOGETHER, BUT WE DID DISCUSS IT AS WE STOOD IN LINE FOR REGISTRATION THE NEXT DAY.

WE WERE BOTH QUICK TO REGISTER AND RECEIVE OUR BAGS CONTAINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE FIRST CLUE TO THE LOST SHAKER OF SALT. I THINK WE (ESPECIALLY ME) WERE READING TOO MUCH INTO THE CLUES AND ACTUALLY MADE IT MORE DIFFICULT THAN IT WAS. [EDITORS NOTE: THEY (ESPECIALLY AARON) WERE READING TOO MUCH INTO THE CLUES AND ACTUALLY MADE IT MORE DIFFICULT THAN IT WAS.]

THE FIRST CLUE WAS "I LIKE MINE WITH LETTUCE AND TOMATO, HEINZ 57, AND FRENCH FRIED POTATOES, BIG KOSHER PICKLE AND A..." THE EXPLANATION OF THE GAME SUGGESTED THREE THINGS:

1. THE CLUE WAS IN THE LEFT HAND COLUMN;
2. TO GO TO THE JIMMY JOINT CONTAINED THEREIN; AND
3. IF YOU DID NOT SEE THIS CLUE, MAYBE YOU SHOULD NOT PARTICIPATE.

WE AGREED THAT THE CLUE HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH CHEESEBURGER IN PARADISE. THE "JOINT" CONTAINED WITHIN THE SONG LYRICS IS HOLIDAY INN, AND SINCE MARGARITAVILLE CAFE DOES NOT SERVE COLD DRAFT BEER, WE WOULD START AT THE HOLIDAY INN, JUST FOUR BLOCKS DOWN ON DUVAL. STAFF AT THE REGISTRATION DESK DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT THE CONTEST, NOR AT THE RESTAURANT, BAR, OR ROOF TOP BAR.

AFTER RE-READING THE CLUE AGAIN, WE NOTICED IN THE UPPER LEFT HAND CORNER, THE LYRICS "SOME PEOPLE CLAIM THERE'S A WOMAN TO BLAME," OBVIOUSLY REFERRING TO MARGARITAVILLE. IF THE HINT ABOUT "NOT SEEING THIS CLUE" WAS THE KEY, THEN THE CHEESEBURGER CLUE WAS THERE

TO DECEIVE US (WHICH IT DID) AND WE WERE SUPPOSED TO ACTUALLY GO TO MARGARITAVILLE. [EDITORS NOTE: THEY (ESPECIALLY AARON) WERE READING TOO MUCH INTO THE CLUES AND ACTUALLY MADE IT MORE DIFFICULT THAN IT WAS.]

WE STUMBLED NEXT DOOR TO THE BAR WHILE RAY, THE MANAGER, SPOKE ON THE PHONE FRANTICALLY WAVING US AWAY BECAUSE WE WERE A LITTLE TOO LOUD. WE LEFT THE CAFE STRUGGLING TO DECIPHER THE CLUES. MOMENTS LATER RAY EMERGED FROM THE CAFE TO CATCH US IN TIME TO TELL US HE HAD THE CLUE AND TO COME BACK IN. WHEW!

RAY GAVE US CLUE 2, WHICH ASKED US "WHERE JIMMY BUYS HIS CHOCOLATE MILK." WE BOTH KNEW IN AN INSTANT THAT IT WAS FAUSTO'S FOOD PALACE. WE ARRIVED AT FAUSTO'S AND APPROACHED THE LADY BEHIND THE COUNTER AT THE OFFICE AND WERE PLEASED TO BE PRESENTED WITH THE THIRD CLUE: "WE'LL BE TOGETHER NOW AND FOREVER."

WE WERE OFF AND RUNNING TO BLUE HEAVEN. WE ARRIVED AT THE CORNER OF THOMAS AND PETRONIA STREET, ENTERED THE BAR AND BEFORE I COULD RELAX AND POLITELY ASK FOR THE NEXT CLUE, JIM WAS POINT-

ING AT THE RECOGNIZABLE BOX ON THE SHELF CONTAINING THE STACK OF CLUES. THE BARTENDER FIRST ASKED US TO "SLOW DOWN A LITTLE BIT"

AS SHE REACHED FOR THE BOX, WHICH WAS ALMOST BEYOND HER OUT-STRETCHED ARMS. SHE WAS ABLE TO REACH THE BOX, CONTINUING TO VOICE HER CONCERN FOR OUR MENTAL STABILITY, BUT KNEW WE WERE IN A HURRY AND LET US GO WITH CLUE 4.

THIS CLUE THREW US OFF A LITTLE. IT SAID "THE BEST DAMN FISH SANDWICH ON THE ISLAND." WE BOTH THOUGHT WE HAD HEARD OF THIS BEFORE, BUT WEREN'T QUITE SURE WHERE. JIM THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE AT THE FULL MOON SALOON AND I REMEMBERED JB MENTIONED FISH SANDWICHES IN THE BOOK TALES FROM MARGARITAVILLE. FIFTEEN MINUTES LATER AS WE DROVE AROUND IN



HOW I FOUND THE LOST SHAKER

BY AARON



ALL HOOK UP

OUND THE ER OF SALT

N CARRIER

CIRCLES, WE REALIZED THAT THE FULL MOON SALOON WAS GONE. FEELING A LITTLE FRUSTRATED, WE HEADED BACK UP DUVAL TRYING TO GENERATE A NEW DIRECTION TO GO. JIM MENTIONED SOMETHING ABOUT IT BEING BEFORE BLUE HEAVEN RENDEZVOUS, WHICH REALLY DIDN'T MEAN ANYTHING TO ME, BUT IT PROMPTED THE IDEA TO LOOK AT THE LINER NOTES ON THE BAROMETER SOUP CD (COINCIDENTALLY ON THE FLOOR OF JIM'S VAN). B.O.'S FISHWAGON WAS MENTIONED IN THE LIST OF RESTAURANTS, TRIGGERING JIM'S MEMORY OF A FRIEND'S SUGGESTION TO STOP BY B.O.'S FOR A FISH SANDWICH. WE DIDN'T KNOW WHERE IT WAS, SO I ASKED JIM TO STOP BY A PHONE BOOTH...WELL,

JIM HAPPENED TO BE IN THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE THE PREVIOUS DAY AND PICKED UP A KEY WEST PHONE BOOK, JUST IN CASE HE MIGHT NEED IT FOR THE SCAVENGER HUNT I FOUND B.O.'S LISTED AT 801 CAROLINE STREET AND WE DROVE TO THE SMALL RESTAURANT JUST OFF THE BIGHT. B.O.'S WAS STILL CLOSED, SO WE APPROACHED THE COOK CLEANING THE GRILL AND ASKED IF THIS WAS THE PLACE WHERE ONE WOULD FIND THE BEST DAMN FISH SANDWICH ON THE ISLAND. "THAT'S WHAT I HEAR," WAS HIS ONLY RESPONSE. I REPLIED, QUESTIONING IF HE HAD ANOTHER CLUE FOR US, BUT HIS SHRUGGING SHOULDERS DESCRIBED "NO CLUE." ONCE AGAIN, WE WERE FACED WITH A SITUATION OF UNCERTAINTY, ONLY TO BE RELIEVED SHORTLY THEREAFTER AS B.O. HIMSELF HAD OVERHEARD THE CONVERSATION AND EMERGED WITH "THE BOX," AND HANDED US THE NEXT CLUE.

CLUE 5 READ "YOUR SEARCH IS OVER BEHIND THE COUNTER." WE REALLY DIDN'T HAVE MUCH OF AN IDEA OF WHERE TO GO FROM THERE, BUT WE WERE THRILLED THAT WE HAD THE LAST CLUE. JIM AND I AGREED

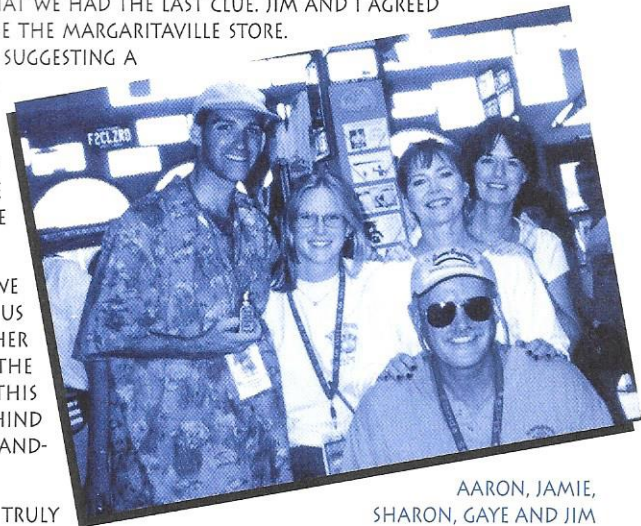
THAT THE BEST PLACE TO START WOULD BE THE MARGARITAVILLE STORE.

BEHIND THE COUNTER WAS CAPITALIZED, SUGGESTING A TITLE OF SOMETHING AND EVERYTHING JB RELATED WITH A TITLE HAD TO BE AT THE STORE. [EDITORS NOTE: THEY (ESPECIALLY AARON) WERE READING TOO MUCH INTO THE CLUES AND ACTUALLY MADE IT MORE DIFFICULT THAN IT WAS, BUT THEY WERE RIGHT]

THE STORE SHOULD BE OPEN BY THE TIME WE GOT THERE. JAMIE, WHO HAD GREETED US EARLIER, SAW US COME IN AND WE HAD HER IMMEDIATE ATTENTION. I ASKED IF THE SEARCH ACTUALLY ENDS BEHIND THIS COUNTER? SMILING, SHE WALKED BACK BEHIND THE COUNTER, REACHED UNDER IT, AND HANDED ME THE LOST SHAKER OF SALT.

JIM AND I WERE BOTH ECSTATIC AND TRULY THRILLED TO NOT ONLY BE A PART OF THE SCAVENGER HUNT AND WIN IT, BUT TO BE TREATED WITH SUCH KINDNESS, ENTHUSIASM, AND RESPECT FROM THE STAFF AT MARGARITAVILLE. SHARON, GAYE, JAMIE AND MARTY MADE THE ENTIRE EXPERIENCE FAR GREATER THAN WE EVER COULD HAVE IMAGINED IT. OUR LASTING MEMORIES OF THE PEOPLE BEHIND THE REAL MARGARITAVILLE ARE AS IMPORTANT AS THE FANTASIES OF THE IMAGINARY ONE JB HAS BEEN SINGING AND WRITING ABOUT FOR THE LAST 20 YEARS.

P.S. ON FRIDAY NIGHT, I WAS VISITING WITH A LOCAL KEY WEST FRIEND AT A CAFE AND SHARING THIS STORY WITH HER. DURING THE COURSE OF OUR CONVERSATION, THE SALT SHAKER JUST BLENDED IN WITH THE OTHER ITEMS ON THE TABLE, AND LATER IN THE EVENING AS I BID MY FRIEND FAREWELL (A FEW BLOCKS AWAY) WE REALIZED THE SALT SHAKER WAS STILL ON THE TABLE! I RACED BACK TO THE CAFE, ONLY TO DISCOVER IT WAS NOT THERE. I ASKED THE WAITRESS IF SHE HAD SEEN ANYTHING. "YES," SHE SAID, "I ASKED A FEW PEOPLE BUT NO ONE KNEW ANYTHING ABOUT IT, SO I TOSSED IT IN THE TRASH." LUCKILY, I WAS ABLE TO LOCATE IT RESTING IN A PILE OF LINGUINI ON THE TOP LAYER OF A TRASH CAN. AFTER A QUICK CLEANING, IT WAS SAFELY BACK IN MY POSSESSION AND I CAN NOW CONFIRM IT IS UNDER LOCK AND KEY AT HOME IN OREGON. JIM AND I AGREED THAT HE WOULD MAINTAIN POSSESSION OF THE JB'S AUTOGRAPHED FOOTSTOOL AND I WOULD HOLD THE "LOST SHAKER OF SALT." THAT IS IF I DON'T LOSE IT.



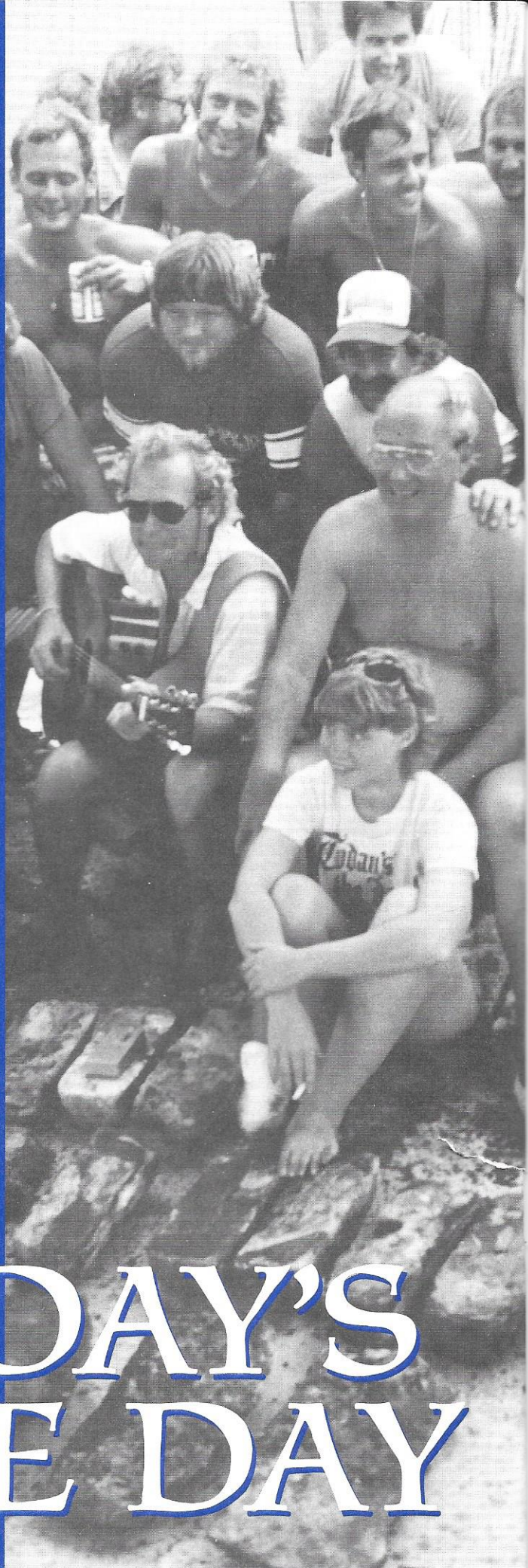
AARON, JAMIE,
SHARON, GAYE AND JIM

Key West lost a legend last year when treasure hunter Mel Fisher succumbed to the disease that had devoured his body, but not his spirit.

July 20, 1985 was "the day" at last when Mel Fisher, the world's greatest treasure hunter, found his dream of dreams, the priceless treasure cargo of the fabled lost Spanish galleon Atocha. Jimmy was in town and sped out to the scene, guitar in hand, to serenade the aqua-archaeologists.

Mel Fisher realized that the discoveries he had made were too important not to be shared with the world. Although he was already operating a small museum, he wanted a means of ensuring that the artifacts he had found would be protected and exhibited and their stories told long after he himself was gone. He founded the Mel Fisher Maritime Heritage Society.

Today, thanks to Mel's forethought, the Society is an independent, not-for-profit organization dedicated to exhibition, education, archaeology, preservation, and research concerning Spanish and Colonial maritime activity in the New World. Thanks in great part to his donations of artifacts and treasures, the Society's Key West museum contains the richest single collection of 17th-century maritime antiquities in this hemisphere and it has become a major center for the study of early European maritime history in the New World.



TODAY'S THE DAY

THE MARGARITAVILLE STORE



A Hawaiian Shirt

Custom design Volcano Hawaiian shirt. Third in a series of original designs based on popular lyrics. 100% spun rayon shirt. Tailored in Hawaii by Reyn Spooner.
Size: S,M,L,XL& XXL
#WS3VOLC \$71.00



Available Exclusively At Margaritaville

A Boats, Beaches, Bars & Ballads T'
 100% cotton. Wrap-around print.
 Available in White only. #CRS1BBBB
 Size: L, XL & XXL \$20.00

B Parrot Head Club 1999
 Caribbean Soul design available in White
 and Ash Grey. #CRS1TOGA
 Size: M, L & XL \$15.95 XX \$16.95

C Stranded On A Sandbar
 Available in White and Ash Grey.
 #CRS1SAND
 Size: M, L, X \$15.95 XX \$16.95

D Wastin' Away Again & Again
 Caribbean Soul design available in White
 and Ash Grey. #CRS1AGAIN
 Size: M, L & XL \$15.95 XX \$16.95

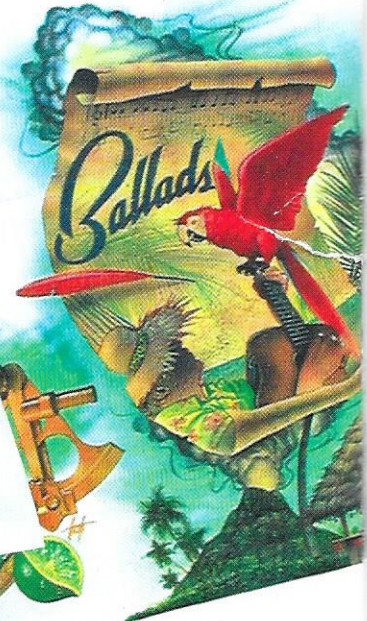


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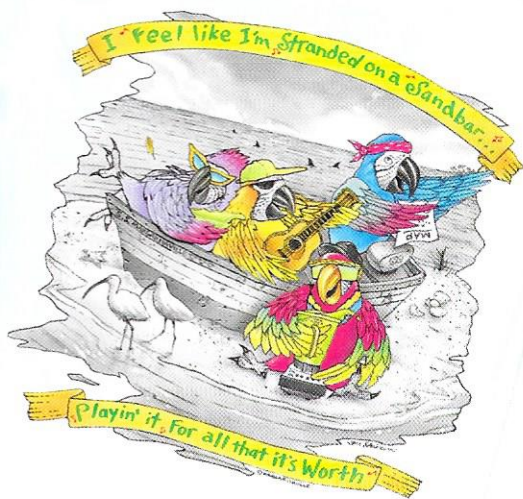


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FRONT



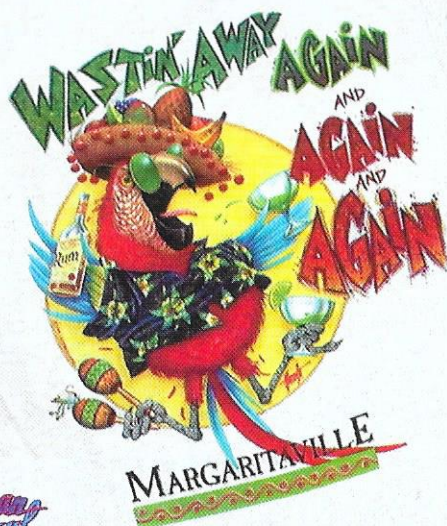
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BACK

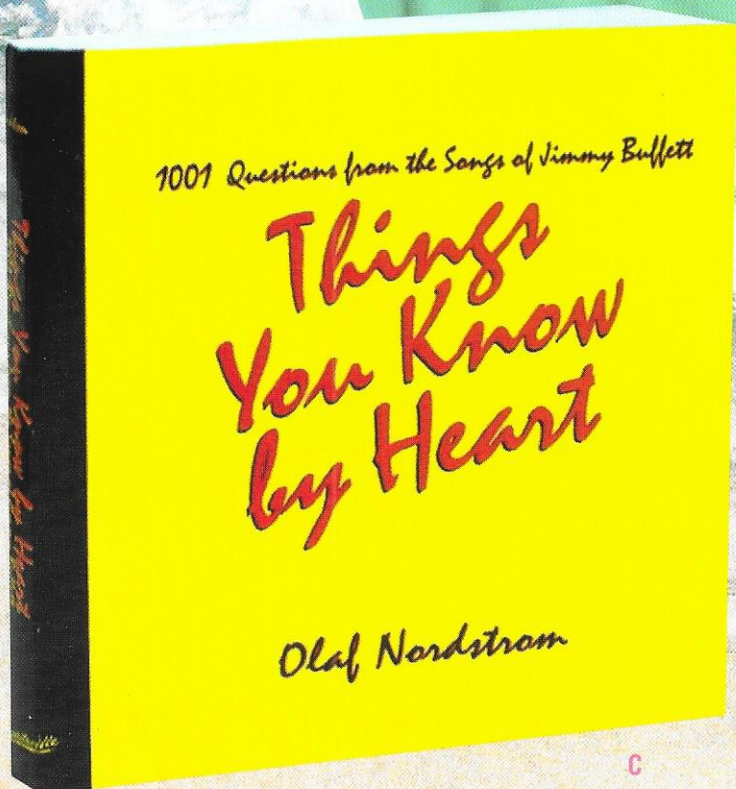


FRONT



BREAST

1-800-COCOTEL



C

D

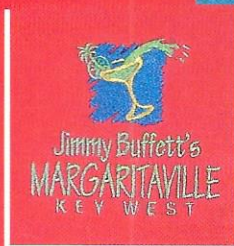


A New Margaritaville Henley Margarita Glass embroidered on 100% cotton henley. 3-button placket, full cut, straight tail. Available in Blue color shown. #HS2GLASS
Size: M,L& XL \$25.00 XX \$26.00

B Margarita Glass T 100% cotton. Embroidered on left chest. Available in Yellow, Coral, Blue or Green. Size: S,M,L& XL #CRS2MARG \$19.95

C Things You Know By Heart 1001 Questions from the Songs of Jimmy Buffett. No album cover stuff. No obscure background singers bios. "If Jimmy doesn't sing it then I simply won't ask it." #BKTHINGS \$10.00

D Island Dog Tropical Dog Collars
Small, 10-30 lbs, adjusts from 9-15" #NVDOGS \$12.00
Medium, 2-50 lbs, adjusts from 14-20" #NVDOGM \$14.00
Large, 45-100 lbs, adjusts from 15-24" #NVDOGL \$16.00
X-Large, 60-160 lbs, adjusts from 22-30" #NVDOGX \$16.00
Also available Island Dog Tropical Leash #NVLEASH \$18.00



1-800-COCOTEL



A Parrot Head Bar Exam T'

No lawyers were injured producing this product. Available in White or Ash Grey.
#CRS1EXAM Size: M,L&XL \$15.95 XX \$16.95

B Totally Burgers Cookbook

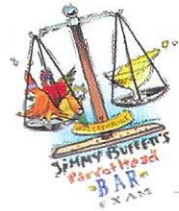
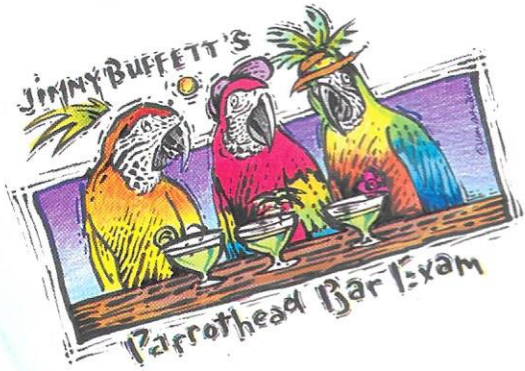
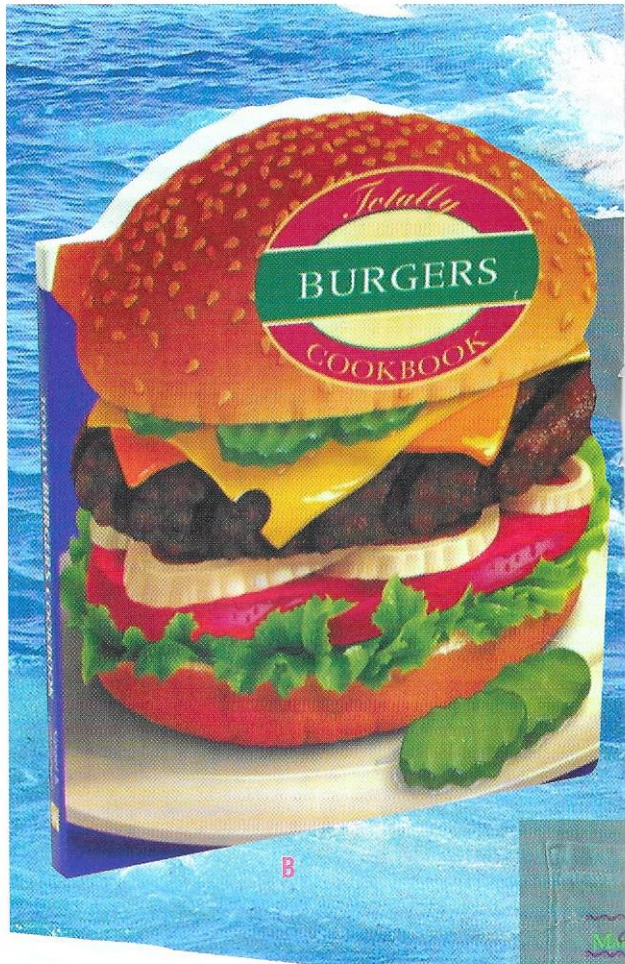
Superburgers, Meatless Wonders, Classic Accompaniments and Tip-Top Toppings.
Paperback book. #BKBURGER \$4.95

C Cafe Design T'

Stone washed 100% cotton. Silkscreened on pocket. Available in Green or Khaki.
#CRSP1CAFE
Size: M,L&XL \$15.95 XX \$16.95

D Bar Exam Ballcap

Unstructured cotton ballcap available in Yellow or Blue. #CP2EXAM \$17.00



BACK

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Margaritaville

Margaritaville



Margaritaville
Key West

JIMMY BUFFETT'S
Parrothead Bar Exam

JIMMY BUFFETT'S
Parrothead Bar Exam

FRONT



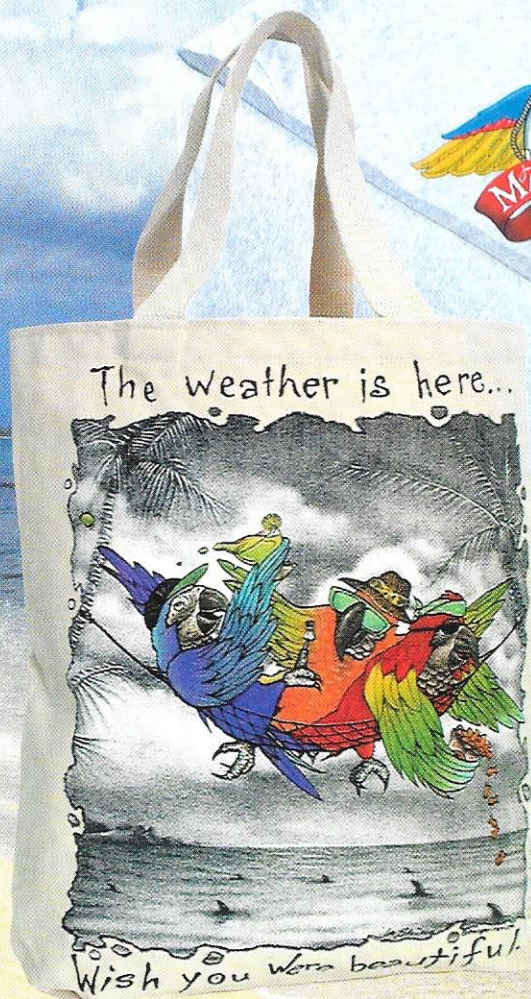
B Air Margaritaville Cap
6-panel cap with leather bill.
#CP2AIRLTHR \$20.00



A Blue Striped Bag
Features Margaritaville Splash logo screened on 8" deep pocket, shoulder strap and zipper closure. Bag measure 13" X 20".
#BAGZIP \$21.00



C New Margaritaville Crest
Silkscreened on 80% cotton heavy sweatshirt. Available in Grey only.
#SW1CREST Size: M, L & XL \$20.80
XX \$21.60 **ON SALE**



D Weather Is Here Beach Bag
Heavy canvas bag measures 17" X 16".
#BAGHERE \$12.00

Save the Manatee Club (SMC) is a nonprofit organization, established in 1981 by U.S. Senator Bob Graham and singer/songwriter Jimmy Buffett so the general public could participate in conservation efforts to save endangered manatees from extinction.

The purpose of SMC is to promote public awareness and education; fund manatee research, rescue, and rehabilitation efforts; and lobby for the protection of manatees and their habitat. The Adopt-A-Manatee® program is the primary source of funding for SMC.

As a Member You Will Receive:

An adoption certificate, photo and biography of "your" manatee.

A 28-page membership handbook with information on manatees.

The Save the Manatee Club Newsletter, four times a year (Life Members continue to receive the SMC newsletter for life). The Club newsletter features updates on manatees in the adoption program written by Ranger Wayne Hartley from Blue Spring State Park, Homosassa Springs State Wildlife Park Ranger Betsy Dearth, and biologists Cathy Beck and Jim Reid of the Sirenia Project.

Your Support Will:

Help with manatee rescue and rehabilitation efforts.

Fund manatee research programs.

Provide manatee warning signs in Florida waterways.

Produce manatee public awareness projects.

Help to acquire critical manatee habitat so manatees can live undisturbed and free.

Provide a power base to show state and national legislators that the survival of manatees and protection of their habitat is important to you.

Provide education materials that are distributed to teachers and students across the U.S. and internationally.

In 1997, over 89% of all Adopt-A-Manatee® funds went directly to manatee programs, with less than 11% going to administrative and fundraising costs.

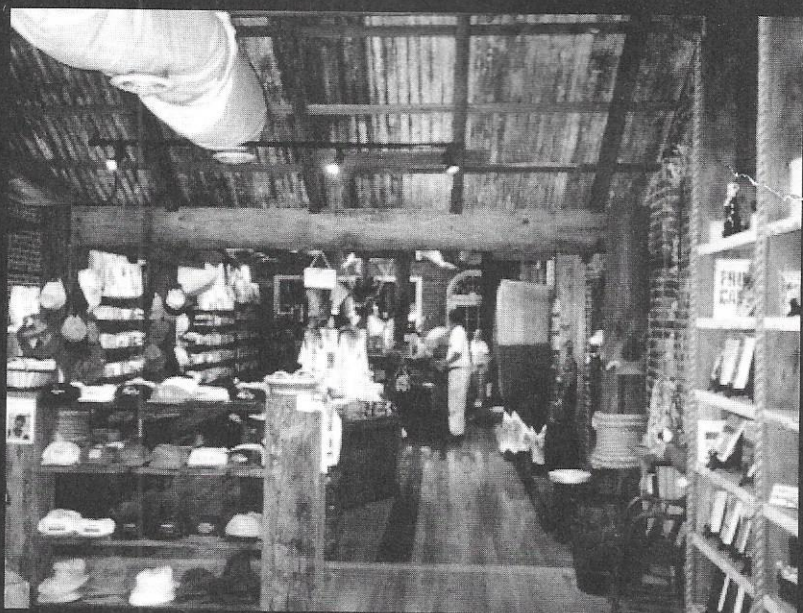


Save the Manatee Club

1-800-432-JOIN

www.savethemanatee.org/

There Be Pirates Here



Jimmy Buffett's
Margaritaville



"Charleston is kind of like our spring training home. It's a unique and charming place. I've always felt some kind of attraction to it. I guess it's the seaport thing."

Jimmy Buffett

Margaritaville Charleston is not just a cookie-cutter retail outlet. It incorporates elements of the Lowcountry in a way that sets it apart from the Margaritaville Stores in Key West or New Orleans. The interior wood is mostly from the Wando River. A 30-foot-tall mast scoured by the marshes of Drumn Island rises up to a second floor skylight near the middle of the store.

The store has a maritime feel from days gone by. The tall wooden mast rises past heating and cooling ducts draped in sail cloth. A tin roof cargo dock at the right rear of the store has a rustic feel. Old ship's cannons poke through the wall next to the cargo dock. Much time and effort went into the store's rehab, and it shows. Check it out next time you're in the low country."

I went to Charleston shortly after the store opened and spent a few days with Gina, my old pal from Key West. She's acclimating herself to the historic city, but is having a little trouble assuming the southern way of life. Key West works hard at the legendary laid-back lifestyle, but up south they take it seriously. Be genteel Gina.

The Margaritaville Store looks fantastic. Many of the stores in the historic district have retained the old brick walls, hardwood floors a general feel of the Civil War era. Margaritaville did all this while incorporating the Buffett lifestyle throughout the interior of the King Street location. A seaplane crashes through the wall next to the 20 foot mast on the imaginary sailboat across from the tin-roofed storefront. Canons fire across the width of the shop, lodging iron balls in the 100-year old bricks. Song lyrics from A Pirate Looks at Forty and expert reproductions of old pirate flags help to convey the old spirit of Charlestown. Margaritaville intends to become involved in the community exactly as we have in Key West and New Orleans. Participation in the staid Chamber of Commerce and King Street Merchants will be offset by more leisurely pursuits and the activities associated with them.

There are also plans to explore the piratical facts and fictions of the western hemispheres heavily traveled seaport town. Charleston's checkered past rivals that of Key West and New Orleans, so it seems appropriate that Margaritaville chose this location to perpetuate the myth.

Margaritaville Charleston's web site will develop along with the store. We will have our own Mini Mart with items not available through Key West. There will be an e-mail address included soon, but in the meantime feel free to call or fax your web site requests and recommendations to Margaritaville in Charleston.

Margaritaville

282 King Street, Charleston, SC 29401

843.577.4145 Fax 843.577.0611



THE CITIZEN

KEY WEST

By MANDY BOLEN
Citizen Staff Writer

Jimmy Buffett is as comfortable as ever in a town he has always considered a home. His feet thrown casually on a desktop as he leans back in his chair - Buffett sports a Key West uniform of khaki shorts, a baseball hat and a T-shirt rolled at the sleeves. He could have been anyone sitting in a second floor office with a view of Duval street.

Key West mourned when word got out that the town's legendary songster was selling his home and allegedly abandoning the southernmost island. Buffett, who was on the road at the time, also was surprised by the news that he was leaving. "I had been thinking about moving out of that house for a while," he said. "But when people ask if I'm moving, I say, 'yes, about 11 blocks away.'"

The man responsible for margarita popularity, Parrot Heads and pirates over the age of 40 has sold his home, but is moving into another Key West residence next month. "I think I'm just switching houses," Buffett said, amused by the town's reaction to the news. I think that the Citizens Crime Report makes better reading than "Buffett sells his house."

The tropical songs and sunburned stories that have saved thousands of fans from cold weather misery will continue. Buffett dispelled the rumor that the past summer's tour was his last. "I'm still having fun, and if it wasn't fun I wouldn't do it," he said. The fun in Key West will also continue at his newest home on an island that holds "lots of memories" for him.

The memories began before his popularity, and have continued for decades. Buffett also has made countless fond memories in his homes in New York and West Palm Beach, where he divides his time.

"Right now I'm living in New York until November because my kids are in school," he explained. "I'm a soccer dad like anyone else." He is a soccer dad with a loyal following, a love of fishing and a wealth of

respect for the ocean, all of which keep him coming back to the Keys

"I've always come back here and I always will," Buffett said. "I come to visit friends, and if the weather is good I want to go fishing." He smiled mischievously, instantly transforming into a regular guy from the Keys. "Like everyone else, I make an excuse to go to the Keys," he said. Whatever the excuse, the 50-year-old Buffett knows he will be comfortable here.

The man leaning back in his chair in an office wallpapered with photographs and tropical decorations recognizes the changes that Key West has undergone and compares his affinity for the town to a relationship. "There's good days and bad days," he said, and as his song goes, "going half mad days." The spirit, personality and characters of Key West draw the writer/singer to the island, and the changes have not dampened his enthusiasm.

Buffett offered a philosophy that someone had shared with him years ago. A friend told Buffett that he had never been anywhere that someone did not say, "you should have been here ten years ago." Buffett was here ten years ago, and keeps coming back. He will be in the Keys in January to record an album, currently titled "Man Overboard."

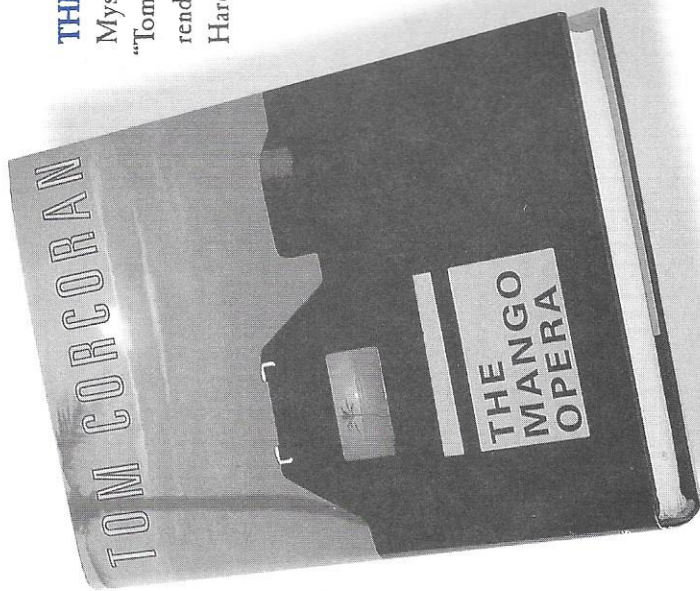
In the nearer future, Buffett will be present at the launching of John Glenn into space Thursday writing a piece for Rolling Stone. Key West's favorite son says he's still enjoying what he's doing and denied rumors that his recently ended tour would be his last.

When asked if he considers himself more of a writer or singer, the man who has succeeded at both, turns back to his original days in Key West. He was lured here by the words of men like Ernest Hemingway and F. Scott Fitzgerald. "When I came it was a writer's town," he said. "I thought writers were much cooler than singers, now I don't think so," he said chuckling.

MARGARITAVILLE
The Coconut Telegraph
PO Box 1459
Key West, FL 33041

1-800-COCOTEL

Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
PAID
Margaritaville



THE MANGO OPERA

Mystery set in Key West by journalist Tom Corcoran.

"Tom Corcoran has combined a viciously creative plot with a perfectly rendered description of Key West as it really is." P.J. O'Rourke
Hardback book. #BKOPERA \$22.95

OR ADD 220

Visit our web site @ www.margaritaville.com