



Jimmy in La La Land

COCONUT TELEGRAPH

VOLUME 15 NO.2

a world project

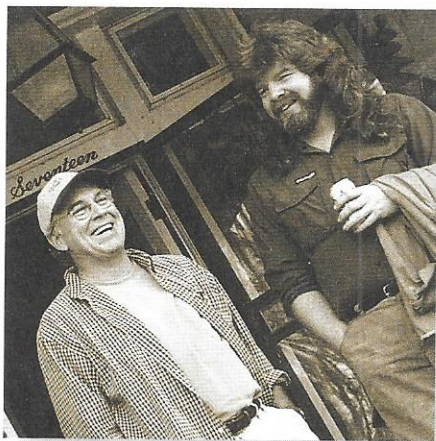
Jimmy and the Coral Reefers flew, drove or slid into northern Alabama to begin recording an all new Jimmy Buffett album. Tentatively titled *Beach House On The Moon*, we'll stick with our generic work in progress, based solely on Jimmy's historical proclivity for last minute changes.

Mac McNally's recording studio / house rests on a bluff overlooking the Tennessee River in Muscle Shoals, Alabama. Time and space prohibit a true accounting of the significance of Muscle Shoals, and the Muscle Shoals Sound, on the music industry. The most common analogy is the perfect bowl of gumbo; not a precise blend of the proper ingredients, but rather a stew of every damn thing in the kitchen. In this case some soul, mixed with a little R&B, some borrowed blues and good 'ol country. Do yourself a favor and surf around for some background on the relevance of the Muscle Shoals Sound.

Mac's studio, referred to as La La Land, is a sort gumbo as well, combining artists, ambiance and acoustics. Like welcoming friends to his home, the studio is used only by those close to Mac. These friends just happen to be legends in the music bizness.

Doyle Grisham, a CMA nominee for best instrumentalist of the year, played on early Jimmy Buffett albums. Acclaimed guitarist Jack Pearson, "In a city where guitar pickers almost out number cars on the road, Nashville's Jack Pearson numbers among the very best of the entire lot." Roger Hawkins and David Hood, "original members of the Muscle Shoals Rhythm Section, associated with recording artists such as Bob Dylan, Aretha Franklin, The Rolling Stones, George Michael, Paul Simon, Wilson Picket and many more.

Jimmy kept a journal while recording the album. We've listed entries on the Margaritaville web site, www.margaritaville.com, and include them here for Parrot Heads unfamiliar with the ways of the web.



13 Jan 99

Muscle Shoals, Alabama

Arrived at La La Land, Mac's old house in Muscle Shoals. It is not cold, but gray and overcast along the banks of the Tennessee River. Kind of feels like Huck and Tom's fort and we are hold up waiting for the pirates or something, anything to spark an adventure and take us down the river. It has been 18 years since we last recorded here. We've come looking for some magic, and from all indications we are on track.

Fingers and Pete are stuck in ice storms. Ralph has the flu and ain't coming. Jack has the flu and might be here tomorrow. Roger and David are in Memphis and don't get back until tomorrow, so it looks like we start with the Coral Reefers.

Finally talked to Loudermilk and he, Marshall, and Don Light will be down on Friday when we record his song.

It has been three years since we've done a studio album, and I'm rarin' to go. Set up computer and work station and found a comfortable chair - a most important part of the recording process.

2230 CST

Did a final review of "Spending Money" and did the lyric changes Mac and I talked about.

Copied the lyrics to "Pacing the Cage." I think this song is really going to work. I've been waiting to record it for two years. I don't know why, but I just love this song.

Need to listen to the other outside material when I get to the studio tomorrow.

14 Jan 99

Muscle Shoals, Alabama

Armed with a chest cold given to me by my son and a Think Pad full of new tunes, we headed for the studio. The weather outside was all too familiar to me from my days in Nashville. Gray, cold and damp. The perfect weather for reading, writing and recording. It was obvious that everybody was raring to go, but it was the first day in the studio and I have seen some doozies.

Remember that second rule of life, it can all go to hell at any moment. Well, I have seen it happen too many times in the studio. From the trip to the emergency room with Savannah at the beginning to "Somewhere Over China," to the first day in Montserrat, when we had to fire the engineer who did the Beatles. It has all gone to hell, but somehow we have managed to make the records.

We came to Muscle Shoals for a change, and because my band had been down last year to do Pete's record and said that the room had the magic. You listen to stuff like that coming from people that you trust. We had also come because Mac and I





had talked about doing some tracks with the legendary rhythm section of Roger Hawkins and David Hood. I won't go into detail, but tracks like "When a Man Loves a Woman" and "Respect" just to name a few are good enough for me. If you want to know more, there is plenty about the Muscle Shoals Sound in any rock 'n roll encyclopedia.

Mac has named the studio La La Land. I have inquired as to the origin of the name, but it has something to do with the house being haunted or some southern skeleton in the closet. Walking up the steps to work, I could feel what the boys were talking about.

Well eight hours later we had three tracks done, and with the help of a little cough syrup (for medicinal purposes only) I got through my vocals. We cut "Spending Money," a song Mac and I wrote. Next we did "Pacing the Cage," the haunting song by Bruce Cockburn, and finished off with a new song titled "Waitin' For the Next Explosion." Speaking of waiting, we are still waiting for Ralph, Jack and Fingers. Between the flu and bad weather, they have not made it down, but hopefully they will get here before we head south.

Tomorrow John D. Loudermilk arrives to play on his song called "Joggin," which I heard Mose Allison do in the club in New Orleans last year, and wanted to record. Mose is in London, but hopefully will join us for overdubs in Key West. Stay tuned for day two of the studio experience.

JB, over and out.

15 Jan 99
Muscle Shoals, Alabama
0730CST

Today's grey sky is more the color of oatmeal than a battleship. The weather must be improving.

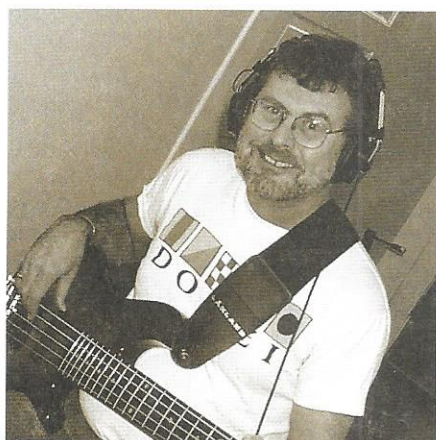
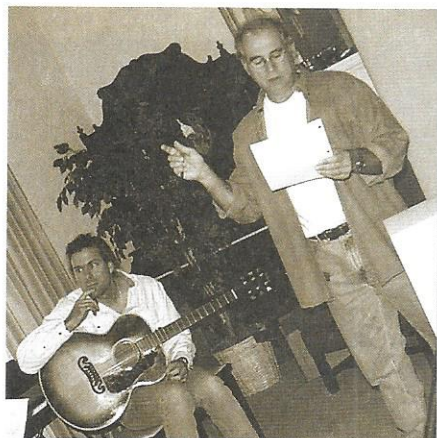
Rise and shine. Got a song to write. Nothing like cutting it close, but it is nothing I haven't done before. Besides, that old deadline is one of the greatest sources of creativity. We decided last night to do "I Will Play For Gumbo." All I had to do was finish writing it. I have the melody done and a chorus idea and a verse, so my job this morning is to write the song we will cut this afternoon, so I better stop %&@#!?S around with this journal and get to work.

0900CST

Time flies when you're having fun. Finished the melody, recorded it to Cake Walk, and have the lyrics done as well. Man I love it when I'm cooking like this. This is going to be a fun song and really adds to the variety that is evolving with this record. I'm hun-ga-ry, I think we want gumbo for lunch.

1140CST

Computer hell has struck and I had to haul the keyboard to the studio to get the new song up



Worked up the arrangement and edited the lyrics, and we will cut it in about 10 minutes. I love the fact that this morning at 7 this song didn't exist, and it will be on tape by lunch time. We are in the groove.

1230CST

Finished "Gumbo" and it is cookin'. Time for lunch.

1300CST

Visitors from the planet Nashville have arrived. Don Light, my old manager, Marshall Chapman and the Loudermilk family. John has come to teach us his song. I heard Mose Allison play this at Margaritaville in New Orleans and was surprised to hear him say it was a Loudermilk song. I have known John since my earliest days in Nashville back in 1970 when I met him in Don Light's office. He has written about a dozen songs that are everyone's favorites. I called Marshall Chapman and got an e-mail address for John and dropped him a note. A few days later, I got a reply and he said he would come to Muscle Shoals and show us the tune. We spent about 20 minutes coming up with the arrangement between John's bluegrass version and Moses' jazz version, and we cut it.

15 Jan 99

Muscle Shoals, Alabama

1900CST

Back to the Alabama section, and three takes later we have a track on "Flesh and Bone."

Fingers has arrived from the frozen north and will start overdubs. It is Friday night and I don't have to write a song. I'm going out to do the town. That should take about an hour. Tomorrow Tony Brown joins us to do a track on Mac's Semi-True stories.

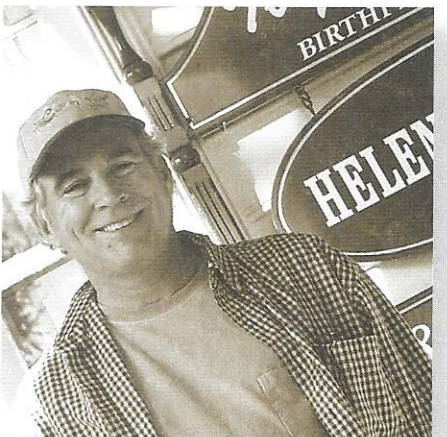
Mac also played me the bridge and second verse for "Oysters and Pearls." I'm happy to say there isn't a weak cut on this record and infusing the process with Roger, David and Jack Pearson, and heading for the tropics (Key West) will give this record a depth and texture that will hopefully prevent us from falling into a predictability trap.

16 Jan 99

Muscle Shoals, Alabama

It is a beautiful day. I slept well and didn't have to get up at dawn and write a song. We have one more thing to cut today and Tony Brown is coming down as "guest" producer. Mac wants to put everyone on this track - two drummers, two bass players doing small but tasty parts. Why not. That has been the whole attitude towards this record. Let's go for it.

After we cut, Mac is going to do a demo on "Oysters and Pearls," then we will grab some Benyons hot dogs, stop off at Helen Kellers house, and head back to Florida.



Next Issue - Notes from Key West

Jimmy Buffett's Radio Margaritaville
The Voice of the Myth



Radio Margaritaville T'

100% Cotton. Available in White only.

M #5384, L #5385, X #5386 \$15.95,

XX #5387 \$16.95

Margaritaville is best described as an intangible - a state of mind - and a subjective one at that. We all need, actually we all want, a place to escape, a place to hide, a Fortress of Solitude to regroup and energize ourselves. This is Margaritaville. A tropical island? Perhaps. Money in the bank? Maybe.

A Jimmy Buffett song? By all means.

Jimmy Buffett's Radio Margaritaville, a radio station on the World Wide Web is Margaritaville for Parrot Heads held captive by their keyboards. Online web heads can now surf to Jimmy Buffett, and many other artists long ignored by popular formats. Not just moldy oldies, but current releases as well.

Music that Jimmy and his fans like to listen to.

Jimmy Buffett is the inspiration for Radio Margaritaville and will be guest-hosting, storytelling and introducing sponsors and music, while the walking encyclopedia of rock Steve Huntington handles the programming. Guest DJs, Coral Reefers and other Buffett buddies will contribute programming as well.

Expect irreverance.

Tune in at the Margaritaville Store website, or access directly at

radiomargaritaville.com

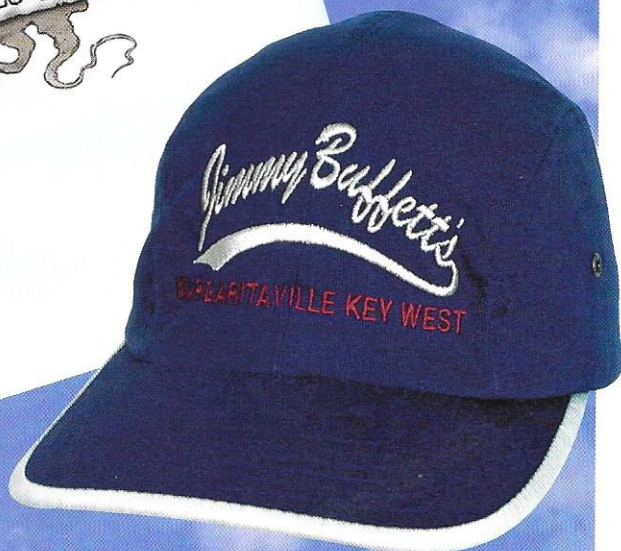
THE MARGARITAVILLE S.T.O.R.E.



A Black Beak T'
 100% Cotton.
 Available in White or
 Ash Grey.
 M #5237, L #5238, XL
 #5239 \$15.95, XXL
 #5240 \$16.95



BREAST



B Jimmy Buffett's Margaritaville
 embroidered on Navy Blue cap w/
 Khaki trim or Khaki cap w/ Navy
 Blue trim. Adjustable rear buckle.
 #3458 \$17.00



All Margaritaville T's are 100% cotton.

A Green Of the Gulf Available in White or Beige. M #2970, L #2971, XL #2972 \$15.95, XXL #2973 \$16.95

B Destination Margaritaville Pocket T' Available in White only. M #2902, L #2903, XL #2904 \$15.95, XXL #2905 \$16.95

C Boat Drinks Available in White or Ash Grey. M #2762, L #2763, XL #2764 \$15.95, XXL #2765 \$16.95

D Beach Frenzy Pocket T' Available in White only. M #5380, L #5381, XL #5382 \$15.95, XXL #5383 \$16.95

E Cheeseburger Map T' Available in Natural only. M #5228, L #5229, XL #5230 \$15.95, XXL #5231 \$16.95

A



BACK



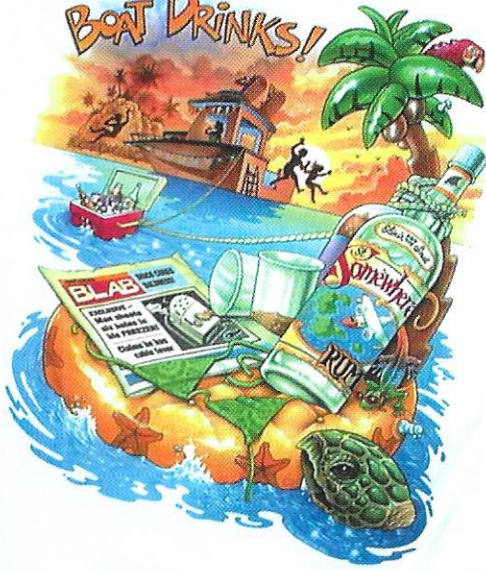
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BREAST



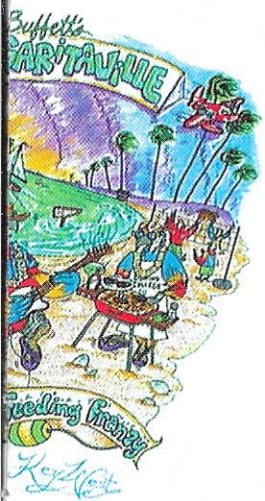
I NEED two more
BOAT DRINKS!



I gotta go where it's
WARM!

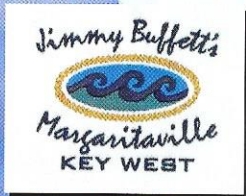


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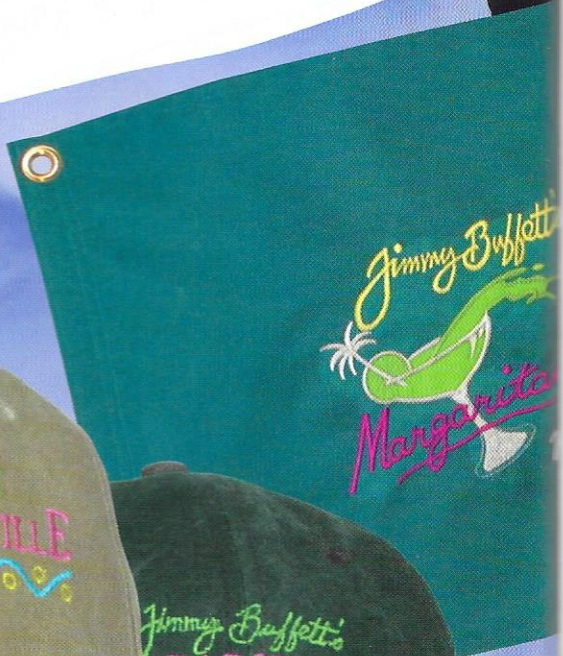


E

1-800-COCOTEL



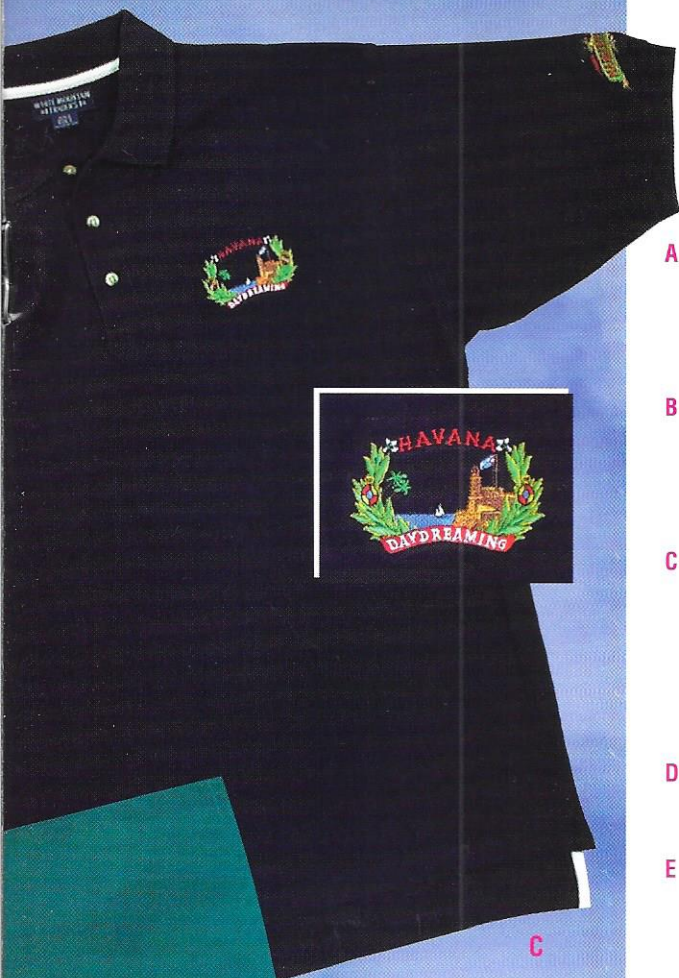
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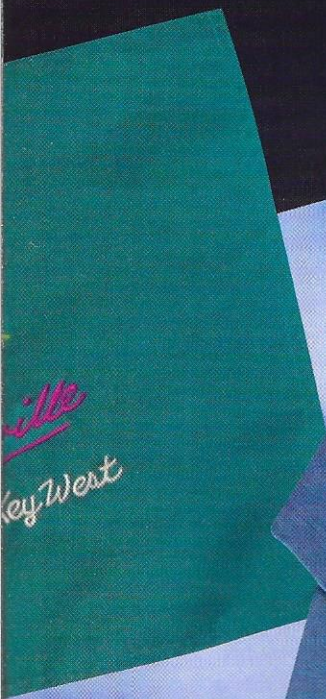
A Classic Long Sleeve Denim with Parrot Fins embroidered above left front pocket. Button down collar. Soft denim ages well. **M #3652, L #3653, XL #3654, XXL #3651 \$46.95**

B Zipper T' from Gear® New Margaritaville logo embroidered on 100% cotton Gear Slider Jersey. Available in White only. **S #5375, M #5376, L #5377, XL #5378 \$32.00**

C Havana Daydreaming embroidered on left front chest of 100% cotton polo shirt. 3-button placket, reinforced collar and extended tail. Jimmy Buffett's Margaritaville embroidered on left sleeve. Available in Navy Blue only. **M #5175, L #5176, XL #5177 \$40.00, XXL #5178 \$41.00**

D Margaritaville Boat Flag Store logo embroidered on 14 x 20 nylon flag. Brass grommets. **#1627 \$29.95**

E Margaritaville Cafe Ball Cap Cafe logo embroidered on 100% cotton 6-panel ball cap. Available in Khaki w/Blue bill or Forest Green w/Khaki bill. **#908 \$16.00**



1-800-COCOTEL

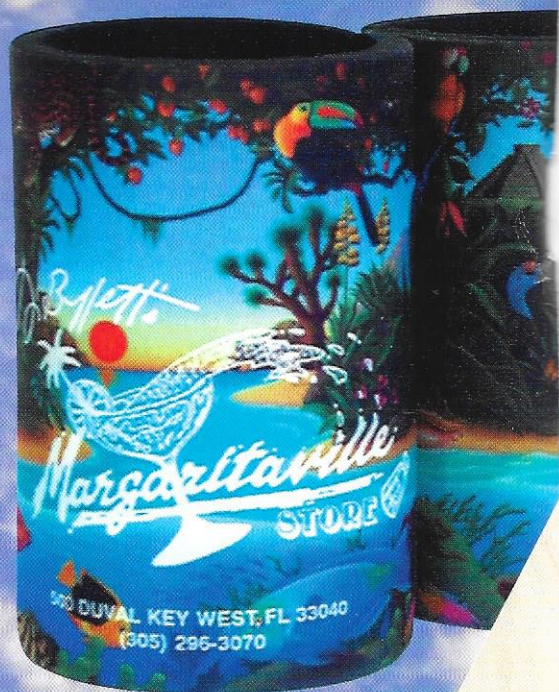
A Margaritaville Sunburst Throw is 100% cotton. Jacquard woven, not printed, with the finest naturally grown fibers available. Deep, rich colors are completely woven into the throw creating a superior quality product. Measures 46" X 65". **#5248 \$50.00**

B Tropical Print Neoprene Can Skin
#1351 \$4.00

C Margaritaville Watch 1-year guarantee, Citizen movement, 100 meters water resistant, magnified lens for viewing date, solid brass case and bezel, electro-plated in 3 microns-nickel, Margaritaville logo engraved on caseback and "3/4 Time" on buckle, leather band, 2-year replaceable battery, illuminating hands, individually packaged in a protective wooden box. Men's - 1.5" diameter. **#3199 \$95.00**
Women's - 1.25" diameter. **#3200 \$95.00**

D Tour Convenience Bag Perfect travel accessory constructed of polycanvas material with pockets and compartments for tickets, pens, cards and other valuables. Detachable and adjustable shoulder strap converts into a belt and the padded main compartment serves as a carrying case for a palmtop computer or camera. Measures approx. 9"x6.5"x3" **#3640 \$19.95**

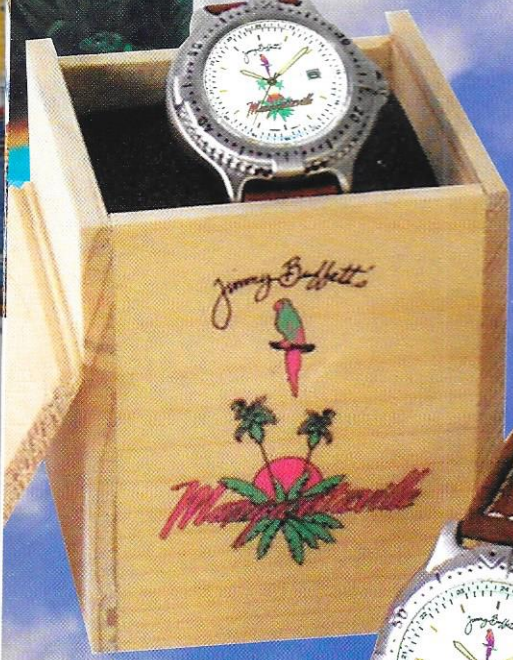
E Tour Utility Tote Versatile polycanvas tote has a U-shaped zippered flap that opens to reveal a large main compartment with pockets for cosmetics, toiletries and other small items. Features detachable and adjustable shoulder strap, padded bottom board and exterior zippered pocket. Measures approx. 12"x10"x5" **#3641 \$36.00**



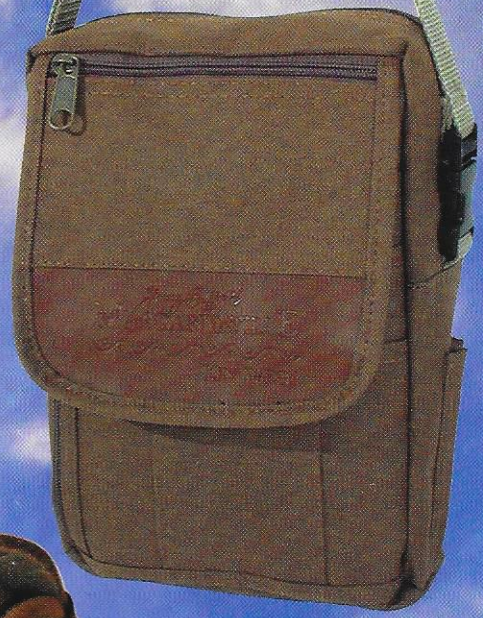
B



6



D



C



E



1-800-COCOTEL



A Golf Set includes 2 Wilson balls with golf team logo and 9 tees with Margaritaville down the side. #3073 \$9.95

B Cafe Design Golf Shirt 100% cotton shirt features embroidered Margaritaville cafe design, 3-button placket, banded sleeves. Available in White only. M #3360, L #3361, XL #3362 \$25.00, XXL #3363 \$26.00

Jimmy Buffett's
MARGARITAVILLE
KEY WEST

Jimmy Buffett's
Parrot Head
Golf Team



C Golf Towel 100% cotton towel measures 23" in length. 3" embroidery of Golf Team logo with sewn in grommet complete with hook fastener on top. #3075 \$12.95

D Club Cover Plush parrot cover hides your head. Cover measures approx. 18" in length. #3446 \$21.00

Bush Pilot Expedition

In December 1990, bush pilot Tom Claytor set off from Philadelphia, USA in an attempt to fly around the world via all seven continents.

He is working his way around the globe by taking on odd and challenging tasks as a bush pilot. His friends are other bush pilots who live and work on the edge and who can introduce him to their world. The purpose of the expedition is to seek out characters and wisdom from the remote and diminking parts of our world, to have experiences, and to share these with others.

Tom Claytor is a fellow of The Explorers Club and has been presented with flag #101 to carry on the expedition; this same flag has flown from the top of Mount Everest. Claytor's journey through Africa was the subject of a one hour National Geographic Special "FLIGHT OVER AFRICA" in 1994. Claytor is also filming a "video diary" which appears periodically on Geographic's "Explorer Journal." Claytor is writing a book to be published by Alfred A. Knopf Publishers in New York. The expedition has been recognized in the "1993 Rolex Awards For Enterprise," and if successful, will be the first single-pilot flight around the world to land on all seven continents for the Guinness book of Records.

The Coconut Telegraph tracked Tom through Africa for several years, and we recently received this postcard.

22 Dec 98 - Hangzhou, China

Dear Jimmy -

I have finally made it to China, but I have a strange feeling that it is not going to be easy to get out. They don't have any normal AVGAS, so I am now using some orange color 100/130 stuff made in China. They don't have private aviation here, so I have a military escort everywhere. I am trying to learn as much Chinese as I can to try and figure out what's going on. No body has told me what the navigation and landing fees are yet, so that could be interesting.

Looking down on rice fields and villages, the pattern makes me think it is a blueprint of the Chinese mind. My best to you and your family,

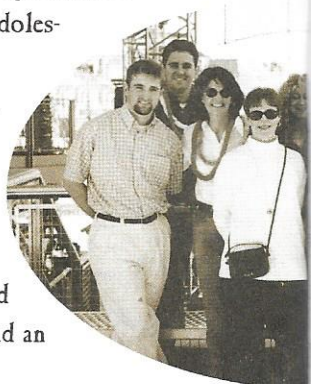
Tom

You can track Tom on his world wide adventure on the world wide web @ www.claytor.com

Universal Studios CityWalk Margaritaville, Jimmy Buffett's Central Florida hangout, held their Grand Opening on March 4, 1999. An island in a sea of theme park attractions, Margaritaville will serve as a respite from ubiquitous cartoon characters, a relief from Orlando's meteorological mood swings and a recluse for visitors unfazed by the latest advances in adolescent amusement.

The Margaritaville Cafe management held an orientation recently, and were kind enough to invite veteran Margaritians from Charleston and New Orleans, and the dusty old dinosaurs from Key West. The acorn planted in Land's End Village 15 years ago was now a mighty oak, well at least pine, and plenty of it. Fifteen thousand square feet, three bars, full stage, outside patio and balcony seating, state of the art sound / video system, oh yeah...and an erupting volcano.

The oversize doors swing open, welcoming us to Jimmy's Emerald City. You're not in Orlando anymore, you're in Margaritaville. The interior of the restaurant is a Jimmy Buffett / Florida Keys cyclorama, a pictorial primer of fictional facts and factual fictions - balseros to bridge tenders, sailors to seaplanes.

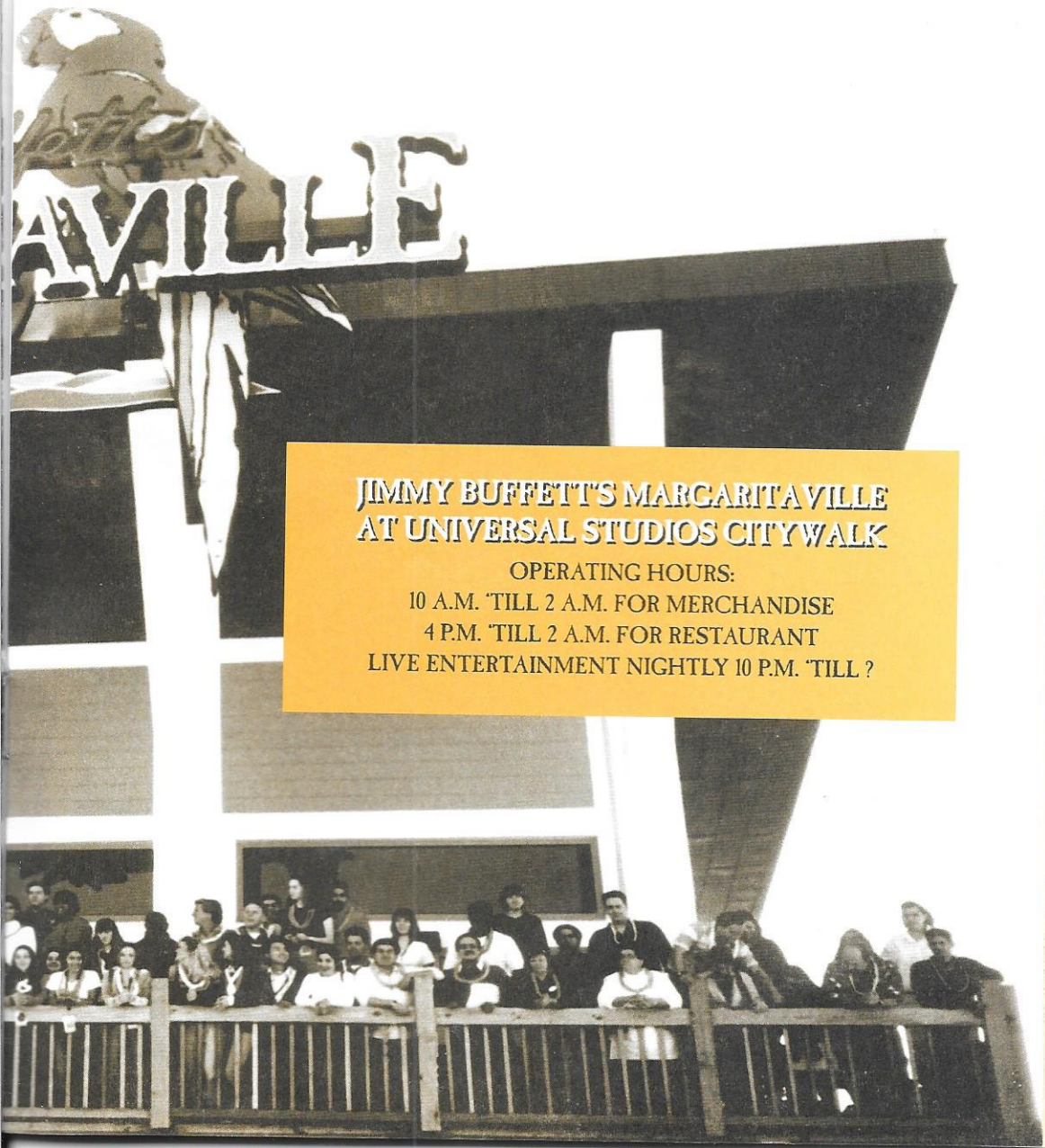
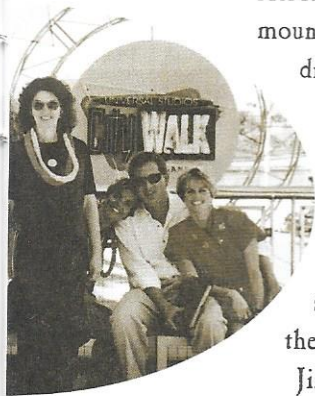


The Landshark Bar, for sharks that swim on the land, is immediately to the left. The fin chairbacks, mapped table tops, and wildlife circling overhead add to the frenzy. Buddy Bear runs the still, and a 12 X 20 foot sailcloth is available for photos, notes, faxes and business cards.

Across the dining area, the Volcano Bar is set to go. The 18-foot tall volcanic mound erupts, spewing molten margaritas down the chute into the infamous drinks' dispenser.

My favorite, the Twelve Volt Bar is upstairs. There are two ways up, but by far the most scenic route is the staircase by the Landshark Bar. The vast expanse of the cafe presents itself, and you can appreciate the time and effort put into the project. The Twelve Volt Bar has great views - inside overlooking the stage, and the outside balcony overlooks all of CityWalk a large man-made lake holding the theme parks at bay.

Jimmy & The Coral Reefers inaugurated the balcony with a free performance at the opening. 12,000 lottery-winning ticket holders were allowed inside the ropes and thousands more lined the lake. Home bound Parrot Heads with access to the world wide web enjoyed an audio broadcast of the concert on Jimmy Buffett's Radio Margaritaville, an Internet radio station and the latest edition to the Margaritaville web site.



JIMMY BUFFETT'S MARGARITAVILLE AT UNIVERSAL STUDIOS CITYWALK

OPERATING HOURS:

10 A.M. 'TILL 2 A.M. FOR MERCHANDISE

4 P.M. 'TILL 2 A.M. FOR RESTAURANT

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT NIGHTLY 10 P.M. 'TILL ?

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

You knew this letter was coming. I cannot tell you how pleased I was to open my July 26 edition of the Washington Post and read you quoted as saying, "It all begins with geography."

I was engaged by your story that a professor from Louisiana State University was packing his classes by teaching the geography of Jimmy Buffett songs. We have been working with LSU's Department of Geography for six years now to improve geography education in the state. We support the university in its efforts to train practicing K - 12 teachers by giving them new content skills, exciting teaching ideas, and a statewide network of other teachers to turn to for help. Through our National Geographic Society Education Foundation we run this sort of higher education, K - 12 partnership in all 50 states and reach thousands of teachers annually.

Everyone at National Geographic is thrilled when a pirate like you looks at 50 and see the vital importance of geography. You have certainly been a guerilla advocate of geography education through your songs.

If I can convince you to come up to D.C. for a visit to the Society, please do not hesitate to call me. I'd be pleased to show you around on a back stage tour.

The National Geographic Society would welcome the chance to involve you in our outreach efforts. As you noted, "Most Americans have no sense of geography." I hope we can help you continue to change that troubling fact.

John M Fahey, JR.
President and CEO

Dear John,

This letter is long overdue and I sit here waiting for tornadoes to pass through so that I can continue my flight home to Florida. Catholic guilt has overtaken my evening and I am catching up on letters, e-mails and that damn list of things to do. Needless to say, I am a huge fan of the Society. I don't know if you are aware or not, but back in my research days for "Joe Merchant" I was frequently up in your offices in D.C. like a gypsy in the palace. This was of course before somebody came up with the great idea of the CD package, which I have now bought as many of as replacement sunglasses in the last year.

I would welcome any opportunity to further the voice of geography. I am heading north in mid February for several shows in the New York area and I will see if I can come down to Washington for the day. I would also love to write for the magazine or offer the Albatross for some kind of geographic adventure. In fact, I heard some hangar talk in Ft. Lauderdale the other day about a possible joint effort between the Society and the San Francisco Airport Authority. The rumor is that there is talk of launching an expedition to Kanton Island in the Pacific and bring back a plaque that commemorated the loss of Captain Ed Musick, the legendary Pan Am pilot. My plans for the millennium are to do a big show in Los Angeles and then head to the Orient with my family for a few weeks. The Albatross will then be flown to Hong Kong, take off from there and fly the "war islands" back to Hawaii with a surfboard, a bunch of fly rods and a digital camera. If there is any truth to the rumor of the plaque on Kanton Island, I would love to stop off and pick it up for you. Anyway, I would love to get together at some point and just see what comes of it. Thanks again for your interest and I look forward to meeting you.

Sincerely,
Jimmy Buffett

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

1-800-COCCOITEL

Bulk Rate
 U.S. Postage
PAID
 Margaritaville

Beach House on the Moon '99 Summer Tour

JUNE 1999					
June 1	Charlotte, NC	Blockbuster	Aug 23	Columbus, OH	Polaris Amph
June 3	Camden, NJ	Entertainment Ctr	Aug 26	Columbia, MD	Merrweather Post Pavilion
June 5	Camden, NJ	Entertainment Ctr	Aug 28	Columbia, MD	Merrweather Post Pavilion
June 8	Clarkston, MI	Pine Knob	Aug 31	Hartford, CT	Meadows Music Theater
June 10	Bristow, VA	Nissan	SEPTEMBER 1999		
June 12	Bristow, VA	Nissan	Sept 2	Mansfield, MA	Great Woods
June 15	Raleigh, NC	Walnut Creek	Sept 4	Mansfield, MA	Great Woods
June 17	Pittsburgh, PA	Star Lake			Confirmed Dates as of 3/1 7/99
JULY 1999					
July 8	Atlanta, GA	Lakewood Amphitheater			
July 10	Atlanta, GA	Lakewood Amphitheater			
July 13	Indianapolis, IN	Deer Creek			
July 15	Indianapolis, IN	Deer Creek			
July 17	East Troy, WI	Alpine			
July 20	St Louis, MO	Riverport Amphitheater			
July 22	Timley Park, IL	New World Music Theater			
July 24	Timley Park, IL	New World Music Theater			
AUGUST 1999					
Aug 19	Cincinnati, OH	Riverbend			
Aug 21	Cincinnati, OH	Riverbend			

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FOR ADDC 220

Visit our web site @ www.margaritaville.com