

SAVING THE SALT PONDS



The Salt Ponds today

BY CAROL SHAUGHNESSY

There's trouble in paradise — Key West's last remaining wilderness area may soon be overrun by concrete and condos. The Key West Salt Ponds, 407 acres of mangrove and marsh, are home and refuge to innumerable species of indigenous wading birds, fish, and tropical plants.

Unfortunately the land is currently owned by more than two dozen people — one of them a developer who has plans for building almost a thousand housing units there. The city would like to buy back the land in order to preserve its natural beauty, vegetation, and animal life... but a staggering amount of money is needed for the purchase.

Is this the impossible dream of a few environmentalists? Maybe it was... until Jimmy Buffett decided to help save the Salt Ponds.

Jimmy can see the verdant Salt Ponds from the porch of his Key West home. He has canoed through the lush wilderness area to enjoy its serenity. And he's not about to see his Key West become another concrete jungle.

On October 27 Jimmy, assisted by his partner Sunshine Smith and Patti Lancaster, staged a rally and

benefit concert at Key West's Del Rio's Grill to publicize the fight to save the Salt Ponds. Speakers included Joan Borel of the Florida Audubon Society, who has been working tirelessly on preservation efforts. Local band Leisuremania also performed.

Jimmy spoke nostalgically of the old days in Key West, the days when he was singing in the local bars for little more than a few beers, riding his bike around a rowdy town that had been kind to a struggling young singer.

Backed by the Full Sail Band, who flew in especially for the occasion, he sang the old songs reminiscent of Key West — among them "I Have Found Me a Home," "Grapefruit, Juicyfruit," "Trying to Reason With Hurricane Season," "Last Mango in Paris," and of course "Margaritaville." Jimmy's choice of songs reminded his audience of the offbeat down-island atmosphere of the Keys — and that the Salt Ponds are an integral part of that atmosphere.

One of the highlights of the concert was Jimmy's moving rendition of "Coast of Marcellis," with harmony sung by Elaine Culpepper of Full Sail. During the show Jimmy also gave periodic World Series up-

dates and expressed his appreciation to the baseball fans who placed the Salt Ponds above the Series.

The following evening, Jimmy spoke at a meeting of the Key West City Commission, calling the Salt Ponds area as much a symbol of the quality of life in Florida as the manatees that he has been working for years to preserve. Jimmy's words helped persuade the City Commissioners to begin taking steps to buy the part of the property in danger of immediate development.

How will the money for the purchase be raised? Jimmy has pledged his Friends of Florida Fund, mentioned in earlier issues of the "Telegraph," to raise a million dollars in the coming year to help buy the property. Anyone donating \$10.00 or more to the Fund will receive a certificate declaring him or her a true

Citizen of Margaritaville.

Donations may be sent to **SALT PONDS**, c/o Friends of Florida, P.O. Box 1938, Key West, Florida 33041.

In addition, Jimmy mentioned doing further benefit concerts, marketing his secret hot sauce recipe, and putting together a book of works by well-known Florida authors — with the money from all these enterprises being put toward the purchase of the wetlands property.

Jimmy is very hopeful that, with help, the Salt Ponds property can be preserved in all its natural peace, but at the concert he expressed one worry about the outcome of his project. "When we get through saving the Salt Ponds," he said during a break between songs, "will I be the only endangered species left down here?"



The future of the Salt Ponds?

This issue is dedicated to the memory of Judy Corcoran, a longtime friend of Jimmy's and a Margaritaville staffer. She will be sorely missed by all of us here at Margaritaville.

Designs from our Selection



Caribbean Chameleon



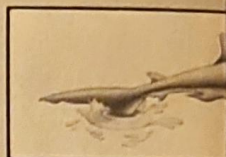
One Particular Harbour



Volcano



Parrot Head



Fins



Conch Potato

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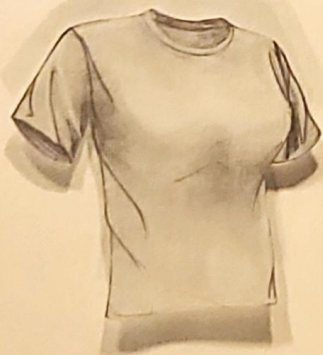
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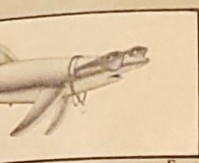
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Fins

Back



Mingo Lingo



Palm Island Parrot



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Coconut Telegraph

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COCONUT CHATTER

By Carol Shaughnessy

Sometimes there's just no place on Sunday—or Monday, for that matter. That's what JIMMY BUFFETT discovered not long ago when he tried to hop a flight from Key West to Miami so that he could appear in . . . traffic court. Yes, JIMMY allegedly ran a red light in Dania, Florida—and though he intended to fight the citation, his flight was cancelled at the last minute and he couldn't make his court appearance. The upshot? JIMMY's lawyer pleaded no contest, and Margaritaville's favorite son was sentenced to pay a fine and attend traffic school . . .

MCA, JIMMY's record com-

pany, has released an updated bio sheet containing some little-known but no doubt fascinating facts about Margaritaville's first citizen. For example . . .

"1955: JIMMY's uncle buys him his first tropical shirt. Little JIMMY refuses to wear it. His taste will change drastically over the years.

"1973½: JIMMY's friend Tony introduces him to his first Margarita. He immediately senses a new dimension has been added to his life. He jots the exotic name of his favorite new drink down on a cocktail napkin for later review.

"1975: By now, JIMMY has added the 57th tropical shirt to his private collection. His uncle claims responsibility for his good taste."

We feel the new bio proves that truth — at least in JIMMY's case



Traffic school?

— is indeed stranger than fiction!

Special note to all "Coconut Telegraph" subscribers — due to increased printing costs we must raise the yearly subscription price from \$2.00 to \$3.00 . . . but we're confident you can handle it. As JIMMY

says, "If you can drink one less beer a year, you can still afford the 'Telegraph!'"

Hey, Parrot Heads, happy holidays from all of us! Decorate a palm tree and have a terrific Christmas in the Caribbean.

BY EDDY HOUCHINS



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