

The COCONUT TELEGRAPH

MARGARITAVILLE, SEPT. 1986

VOLUME 2, NO. 9

JB . . . THE EARLY DAYS

BY GERRY WOOD

When Jimmy Buffett migrated from Mobile to Nashville in 1969, full of piss, vinegar, and talent, he unknowingly helped form the vanguard of the new Nashville sound. Did this multi-talented writer-performer quickly turn Music City U.S.A. on its ear?

Well, no . . . but Barnaby Records, owned by Andy Williams, signed the semi-starved artist to a two-album contract—and Jimmy went into the studio to record Down to Earth. Typical for the music business, that wasn't the original title. Playing on two of the selections, The Christian and Captain America, the album was to be titled Jimmy Buffett Drives Religion and Politics into the Ground.

Unfortunately, the album didn't sell well. Undaunted, Jimmy went back into the studio to record his second album. Daunted, Barnaby Records "lost" the master tapes for this album, titled High Cumberland Jubilee. A convenient excuse for a fledgling label that didn't want or need another no play/no pay LP.

In a miracle that makes Lourdes look like a carnival shell game, these "lost" Buffett tapes were "found" years later, after Jimmy had become a star, and released on Janus Records. These first two albums show all the potential and promise that was soon to be realized.

Disgusted, disillusioned, and disappointed, Buffett fled Nashville for a town he had once visited. He didn't want to flee the country. But he did the next best thing: he headed south for Key West.

He hung out in Key West, quaffing drinks at Sloppy Joe's and elsewhere, writing songs, getting drunk, and writing more songs. While others would have given up, Jimmy communed with the creative karma of Key



Jimmy Buffett — honest! — pictured on the Down to Earth album.

West and began to write the best songs of his life, and our lives.

Of course, along came a contract with ABC Records and Come Monday and Margaritaville to firmly establish Buffett as a pop music force. He began to mine gold records and much of the rest is history.

His MCA LP Riddles in the Sand represented a homecoming, as Jimmy explored his Gulf and Western roots and routes. Suddenly, the artist who

gave us the zany country take-off song Why Don't We Get Drunk and Screw was the new star on the country charts. The peak of this Buffett recording phase came with the beautiful and sensitive ballad If the Phone Doesn't Ring, It's Me.

The Tennessee tonic has drawn many other pop stars to Nashville: Neil Young, Simon & Garfunkel, Bob Dylan, Joan Baez, Dan Fogelberg, Ringo Starr, and Paul McCartney. To-

they joined Jimmy.

- Josh Leo—guitar and mandolin. (Kim Carnes and J.D. Souther.)
- Mike Utley—keyboards. (Rita Coolidge and session work in Nashville.)
- Greg "Fingers" Taylor—harmonica. (Larry Raspberry and the High Steppers, James Taylor.)
- Vince Melamed—keyboards. (J.D. Souther, Bobby Womack.)
- Matt Betton—drums. (The Alpha Band, session work in Nashville.)

day Nashville is a pop as well as country mecca. And though Jimmy's latest album wasn't recorded in the rolling hills of middle Tennessee, he's still a favorite there.

As Jimmy enters his new "Floridays" phase, he's a stronger person and a taller talent because of—and, ironically, in spite of—his Nashville daze and Tennessee nights.

GERRY WOOD, AN OLD FRIEND OF JIMMY'S, IS CURRENTLY A WRITER FOR BILLBOARD MAGAZINE.

- Sam Clayton—percussion and congas. (Little Feat, Bonnie and Delaney.)
- Robert Greenidge—steel drums. (Taj Mahal.)
- George Porter—bass. (The Meters.)
- Larry Lee—guitar and vocals. (The Ozark Mountain Daredevils.)
- Wayne Jackson—trumpet. (The Memphis Horns.)
- Andrew Love—saxophone. (The Memphis Horns.)

7-0000
B

JIMMY BUFFETT DOWN TO EARTH

Produced by Travis Turk
for Russell-Cason Productions
Engineered: Travis Turk

- Side 1
- The Christian? (ASCAP) 3:29
 - Ellie Dee 3:40
 - The Missionary 3:16
 - A Mile High in Denver 3:28
 - The Captain And The Kid 3:00
- Side 2
- Captain America 3:17
 - Am I His A Gentle 3:22
 - Turnabout 4:19
 - There's Nothin' Soft About Hard Times 3:27
 - I Can't Be Your Hero Today 3:28
 - Truckstop Salvation 3:40
- All instruments and A&R services written/played by:

- Guitars: Lesley Paul
Jimmy Buffett, Bob Cook
Piano: Lesley Paul
Bass: Dean Hanna
Bobby Cochran
Drums: Carl Williams
Tuba/Ten: Paul Johnson
Horn/Strings: Bob Cook
Keyboard: Jimmy Buffett
Travis Turk
Vocal Backing: Steve Cason, Jimmy Buffett

Album designed by
Allen Blum for
Creative Associates
Gerry Wood of the
Coconut Telegraph
Nashville, Tennessee
Lead Photo: Robert
Harrington, Paul L. Schwartz
of Hill Photo Services
of New York City
Book Design: Lesley
Paul Johnson
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SESAC.

MARGARITAVILLE'S BACK

WHY DON'T WE GET DRUNK AND . . . Extracurricular activities—with or without the football team!



Well, the golden days of summer are over. Time to get on back to school . . . but since Margaritaville is more a state of mind than a state of the Union, why not take a little taste of the islands with you? Finish your studies at the college of tropical knowledge wearing Jimmy Buffett's Caribbean Soul T-shirts!

T-shirts are 100% cotton. Choose from Caribbean pastels like ocean aqua, sunrise yellow, conch shell pink, mango peach, cool white, sand, driftwood grey, and sun-tan. All shirts are \$12.95, and come in sizes S, M, L, and XL. In addition to the shirts listed below, crew neck tees are also available in the Margaritaville, Changes in Latitude, Son of a Sailor, Fins, One Particular Harbour, and Volcano designs.

THE OFFICIAL PARROT HEAD SHIRT: This canny feathered friend is already teacher's pet . . .

FLORIDAYS MUG: Sipping a cold one in our 15-oz. acrylic mug will make homework a lot more fun! \$8.50 apiece.

CHEESEBURGER IN PARADISE: A scrumptious school lunch—we like ours with lettuce and tomato!

MARGARITA GLASS: Relax after class with a frosty Margarita! Long-stemmed glass is engraved with Jimmy Buffett's signature. \$10.00 each.

COCONUT TELEGRAPH: Majoring in Caribbean Communications?

JB POSTCARD PACK: One of these oversize postcards is better than an apple for the teacher any day! 6 cards for \$5.00.

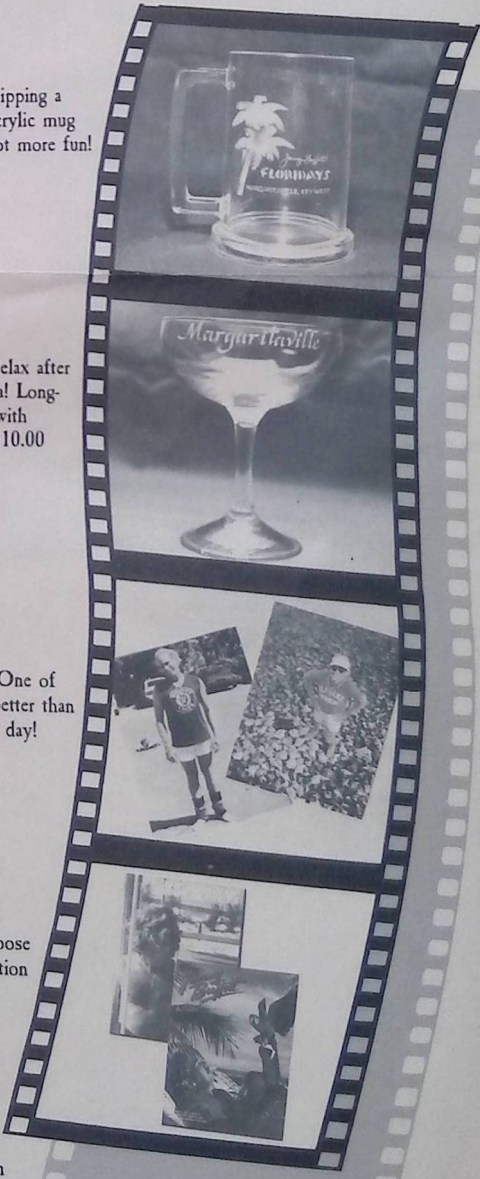
MARGARITAVILLE STORE SWEATSHIRT: Perfect for football games when the marching band's playing Margaritaville! White, grey, or blue. \$23.95.

HARPOON MAN: The first solo effort from that student of island sound, Fingers Taylor. Cassette tape is \$7.50.

NEW—VOLCANO SCRUB: Made of 100% cotton shirting with front and back design and a pocket, this casual shirt is a lesson in fashion. S, M, L, XL. White, yellow, mint, or grey. \$17.00 each.

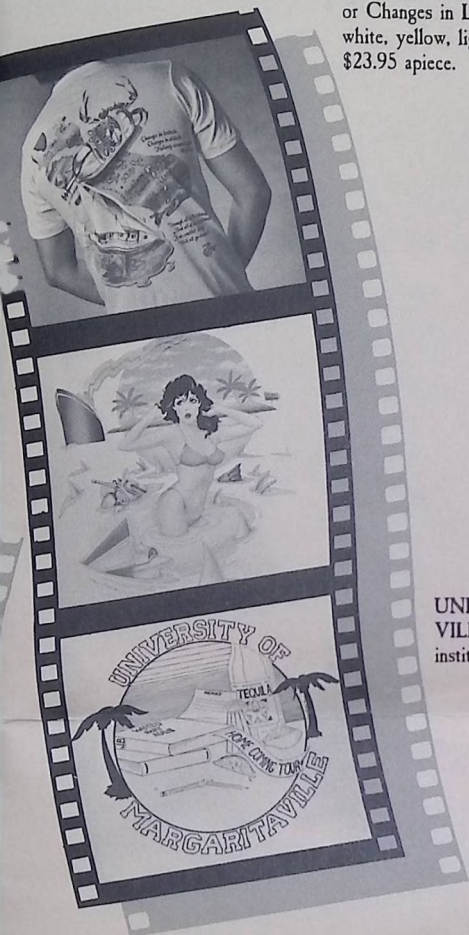
NEW—SONGS OF JIMMY BUFFETT SONGBOOK: Choose your school song from our collection of Buffett classics. Songbook is \$9.95.

NEW—SONGS YOU KNOW BY HEART SONGBOOK: Learn these songs by heart and go to the head of the class. \$9.95 apiece.



-TO-SCHOOL CATALOG

NEW—CARIBBEAN SOUL SWEATSHIRTS: Indulge your Caribbean Soul . . . these sweatshirts show real class! Cheeseburger, Fins, or Changes in Latitude. Available in white, yellow, light blue, peach. \$23.95 apiece.



NEW—SLEEPLESS KNIGHT-SHIRTS: Tonight's lesson—explore all your tropical fantasies! Martinique, Trinidad, University of Margaritaville, Cane Garden Bay, Palm Island Parrot, or Caribbean Chameleon. XL only. \$15.00.

12-VOLT MAN BUTTON TEE: Wearing this shirt rates an A-plus in our book! Cheeseburger in Paradise button tee also available. \$18.00.

UNIVERSITY OF MARGARITAVILLE: Can you claim this rowdy institution as your alma mater?

CHILDREN OF THE SEA: Make waves on campus with wildlife artist Wyland's t-shirt creation! White or pink only.



LIVE BY THE BAY: For the best field trip around, catch this rollicking 90-minute concert video full of Jimmy's magical musical madness. VHS or BETA. \$29.95.

THE PARAKEET PAPERS: A newsletter just for kids, written by the junior Parrot Heads of Margaritaville. Free . . . send your kids' names and addresses to **The Parakeet Papers**, P.O. Box 1938, Key West, FL 33041. Kids' contributions welcome.

THE COCONUT TELEGRAPH: All the latest Buffett news is required reading in Margaritaville! A year's subscription for \$2.00.

To order, send your check or money order to T-SHIRTS, The Coconut Telegraph, P.O. Box 1459, Key West, Florida 33041, or call 1-305-296-8981. There is a \$3.00 SHIPPING AND HANDLING CHARGE for orders of 3 items or less, \$5.00 for orders of 4 to 6 items, and \$7.50 for orders of 7 or more items. We ship via UPS. Florida residents, please include sales tax. Please allow 4 to 6 weeks for delivery.

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FREDDIE AND THE FISHSTICKS

AND OTHER PARROT TAILS . . .

No doubt all you Parrot Heads noticed the gigantic parrot cavorting on stage during Jimmy Buffett's "Flordays" tour. According to the man behind the feathers, Charlie Allen, it's weird and wonderful being an on-stage squawker. So how did Charlie get to this position of distinction within Jimmy's organization?

On February 11, 1979, Charlie Allen received a phone call from Jimmy Buffett's road manager asking if he'd like to go to work. Starting as one of the Coral Reefers' guitar tuners, Charlie soon became Equipment Manager, responsible for all the equipment used by the band. Recently he was appointed Jimmy's guitar technician.

Charlie has done some strange things while on the road with Jimmy — on the "Last Mango" tour, he once dressed up as the sexy model on the album cover and danced across the stage . . . and he does confess that he was not a pretty sight. He and the crew also filmed a take-off of the One Particular Harbour video entitled One Particular Barber, which mourned the lack of good barbers on the road!

One of Charlie's fondest memories, however, is of a last-minute show in San Diego. Because their own equipment was being transported across country in the Reefer trucks, he and the band had to pick up rental gear—in a station wagon! Strangely enough, the equipment still had price tags on it.

The absurdity of the whole situation prompted Jimmy to temporarily rename the band Freddie and the Fishsticks. Freddie was so popular that he cut a little-known single called Elvis Imitators!

Charlie speaks fondly of the sense of family he finds working with Jimmy, the band, and the crew, saying every time they go on the road it's like "old home week."

All in all, Charlie feels, Jimmy Buffett has one of the best organizations around. And it's clear that Charlie Allen is a big part of it—whether he's playing the part of a sexy model, tuning Jimmy's guitar, or amazing Parrot Heads with his imitation of their feathered counterpart.



The uncommon Charlie Allen, relaxing with Sunshine Smith.

Second-Generation Parrot Heads

BY PARROT HEAD

JANE FIXLEY

With the Pirate looking at forty, it stands to reason that many of his fans are looking forward or—ouch!—back at it too. One side effect of this is a few kids around who know all the words to Jimmy's songs—even the four-letter ones!

At our house there is Sara, who often requests that famous tune Why

Don't We Get Drunk in School, and Tyler, who ordered a Cheeseburger and Pair of Fries every time he ate at the Golden Arches the year he was two.

A recent Rolling Stone article commented that the present generation is the first whose parents grew up on rock and roll. We're jealous of our kids—imagine the joy of never knowing life without Jimmy Buffett tunes!

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