

SON OF A SON OF A SAILOR

By Joseph H. Cooper

Jimmy Buffett has spent considerable time afloat — enjoying “the therapeutic benefits of periodic unavailability” and time under sail, which he refers to as “hydrotherapy.” In an April, 1982, interview with Joseph Cooper for “Cruising World” magazine, Jimmy talks of his current boat and his love of the ocean.

“I had my mind made up to buy a little Crosby Cat, like the kind I had as a kid for daysailing. I have access to big cruising boats if I want to take a trip, but I was looking forward to being free of the upkeep and the need for crew . . . I wanted a little boat that I could handle myself. You know, grab a chicken and a six-pack, drop the line and I’m off for a few hours by myself.”

That was what sensible Jimmy Buffett had in mind before he happened to visit the Sanford Brothers boatyard in Nantucket. He grins and shakes his head as he tells the love-at-first-sight story.

“They were building reproductions of Nathanael Herreshoff’s last boat, ‘Alerion’ — one of the original hulls is in the Small Boat Shed at the Mystic Seaport Museum. It was a 26-foot sloop . . . with a bunk and a simple stove below. A varnished natural-mahogany hull. I did put in an Igloo cooler for Greenies (translation: bottled Heineken) and a solar panel to juice the battery that runs the VHF and the tape player. It’s named ‘Savannah Jane,’ after my daughter.”

He will . . . readily acknowledge that his most satisfying accomplishment is having taught himself celestial navigation.

“It was the hardest thing I’ve ever done, but especially satisfying because you rarely get to put book learning to practical, essential use. I

can remember very well my first attempt to employ it. It was on a run from Grand Turk Island to Samana Bay in the Dominican Republic. We had been out of sight of land for three days and were hoping to make a landfall at Cabo Viejo Frances, the northeast tip of the Dominican Republic. I shot a star and plotted our course. As it turned out I was off by only four minutes in predicting our ETA. I said to myself, ‘Gee, that’s amazing. It really works.’

“The Caribbean draws people from all over the world and from all walks of life. You see New York Yacht Club yachtsmen and you see rogues who are running from the IRS. You can look in one direction and see a French island, look in another direction and see British, Dutch, or Third World. You can daysail from one country to another. And on your way you can come across somebody’s navy on maneuvers, a fishing fleet and a pod of whales.”

Songs of the sea are part of the repertoires of most contemporary male vocalists. Their tunes and lyrics

convey sail-away, getaway thoughts, transporting us from our mundane or rat-race existence to faraway places and exotic, carefree moods.

But the saltiness of most of these purveyors of paradise is doubtful and their lyrics and sentiments sound of travel brochures, rhapsodies of

cliches and hype. Happily, Buffett’s lyrical larkiness, though sometimes suspended, is never stowed away. Jimmy Buffett . . . is a singer who is also a sailor.

(Special thanks to “Cruising World” for allowing us to reprint these excerpts from Joseph H. Cooper’s article.)

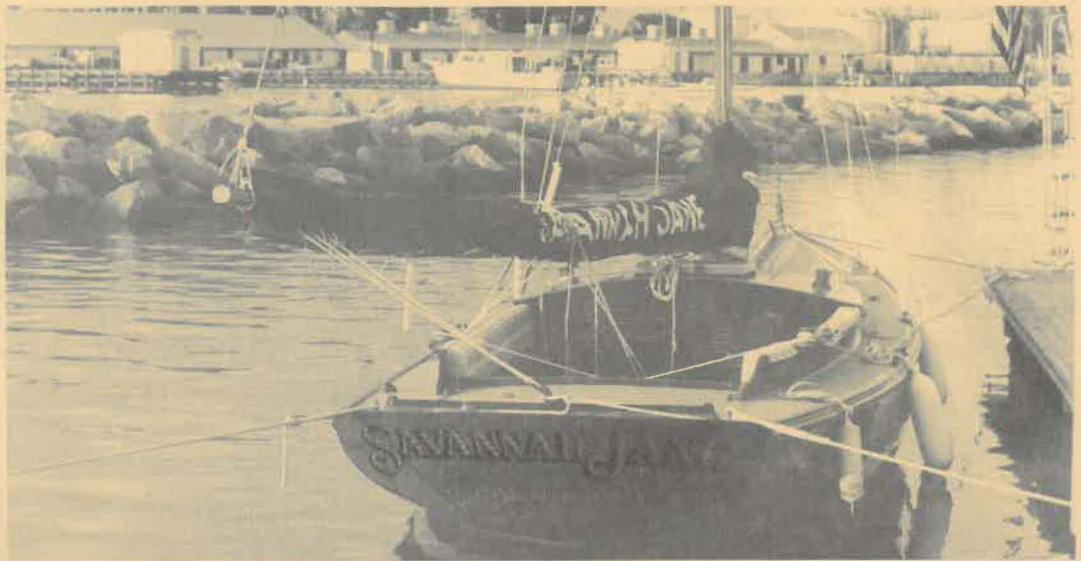


PHOTO BY RICK SHETLER

Buffett On The Wing

Jimmy Buffett has often been called a modern-day pirate — but now he can also claim the title of modern-day pilot. Just as famed aviator Charles Lindbergh once flew Pan Am’s first four-engine aircraft, called a “flying boat,” so is Jimmy piloting a Lake Renegade amphibious plane. Jimmy, whose dream is to island-hop down the Caribbean to South America, has reportedly been confounding the Key West air traffic controllers by buzzing just 50’ off the water. In fact, they have requested that he decide whether he’s running a plane or a boat! Jimmy is pictured here at the Staniel Key airstrip perched atop an abandoned aircraft engine, with his own plane in the background.



BY EDDY HOCHINS



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"THE OCEAN ALMANAC": By Robert Hendrickson, Jimmy's favorite book of fact and legend about Mother Ocean. A must for every son of a sailor. \$14.95.

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BELIZE: ENDANGERED MANATEES

By Carol Shaughnessy

The Belize Zoo has joined Jimmy Buffett in the fight to save the manatee, a placid aquatic mammal threatened by extinction. Sharon Matola, director of the small Central American zoo, writes Jimmy that manatees in Surinam are credited with magical powers by the natives. In Belize, however, the situation is much different.

"Here in Belize," Sharon writes, "a local guy asked me if I wanted a manatee for the zoo. I proceeded to give my conservation plea about the rarity of these animals and how special they are. As I spoke, a group gathered around and one of the guys said, 'But we eat them here!' To which I replied, 'Well, just remember

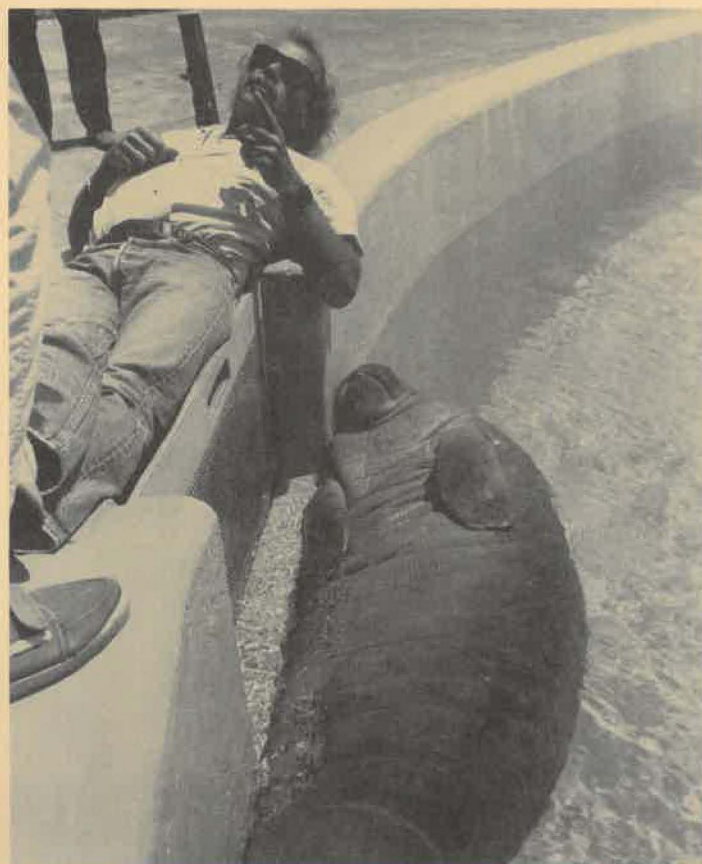
you are eating one of the most endangered animals on earth, and your children may grow up never knowing what a manatee looks like if you keep taking them from the sea and using them for barbecue!"

"Another guy looked me straight in the eye and said, 'But we didn't know.' And then it occurred to me that they weren't to blame, that for all the times I've heard of people eating manatee, I'll bet they were doing it out of pure ignorance of their status in the world.

"Jimmy, I know that you are doing some dynamite work with the conservation of these animals and wondered if you would like to extend your efforts, via The Belize Zoo, to help the manatees of Belize ..."

In fact, spending time in Belize and at The Belize Zoo gave Jimmy the idea to write "Nobody Speaks to the Captain No More." A Belize-inspired line from his "You'll Never Work in Dis Bidness Again" — "It's a jungle out there; I'm going back to my predator friends" — is featured on Margaritaville's newest t-shirt, Predator Friends. One dollar from the sale of each of these shirts is donated to The Belize Zoo.

Florida's manatees continue to be



Who's imitating whom?

PHOTO COURTESY OF SEA WORLD



Sharon Matola and Friend.

protected by the Save the Manatee Clubs, started by Jimmy and Governor Bob Graham. The Clubs' efforts include offering manatees for "adoption" and a new Sight-a-Manatee program. But as Sharon Matola's letter indicates, it's not just the Florida manatees that are threatened. If manatees are to survive,

preservation programs must be begun wherever they are endangered.

To find out how you can help Jimmy protect the manatees, write to SAVE THE MANATEE, 1101 Audubon Way, Maitland, FL 32751 ... or to Sharon Matola, The Belize Zoo, P.O. Box 474, Belize City, Belize, Central America.

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