

The COCONUT TELEGRAPH

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... more from Jimmy's
Down Under Tour Journal ...

YOU CAN TAKE IT WITH YOU

By Jimmy Buffett

January 14, 1987

Coconut Grove, Florida U.S.A.

I am packed, or should I say that I have closed my bags. I can't think of what else to take along on this trip. In all the years that I have been on the road, I have never been one to exist in a world of bare minimums.

Several years ago I was becalmed on my boat between Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket. What was to have been an afternoon sail turned into a forty-eight hour sleepless, eatless, fog-filled nightmare. I took that as a sign from God to never go anywhere on land, sea or in the air without taking along creature comforts. So it doesn't bother me when I watch people watching me load up my little boat with beer, Cheetos, Cuban sandwiches, tapes, cookies, towels, radios and a change of clothing when I go out for a sunset sail around Key West harbour. I was a Boy Scout and I am prepared.

I have heard amazing accounts by friends of mine as to how they managed to go around the world with one carry-on bag. I admire that kind of self-discipline, but I am not a participant in that kind of behavior. Traveling is not a triathlon to me. It is adventure. As a kid I always got excited when watching old Tarzan movies and seeing the number of bearers it took to move certain white people around in the jungle. As Gallagher would say, that is style.

Though I have no bearers at the beginning of this adventure, who is to say that won't change in some far off land where labor is cheap. (T-shirts and cassettes are universal bartering items of the 80's and fortunately, I have a lot of both.) Presently in three suitcases I have clothing for warm

and cold climates, foul weather gear, fly rods, a Hewlett Packard computer, Super 8 video camera and underwater housings, a solar powered Walkman, waders and boots, a flashlight, a waterproof cassette player, a compact disc player, a variety of tapes and CD's, a VHF radio, an aircraft radio, a white linen suit, a copy of Mark Twain's "Following the Equator," the new Elmo Leonard book, hats, masks, fins, snorkels, a wet suit and a jar of crunchy peanut butter (another absolute essential for world travel).

Where I go and what I do with all this stuff will be the subject of my reports from the road as I make

my way to the Orient and back. I am lost in the world of exploring and fashion; sort of a cross between Marco Polo and Calvin Klein. I believe that when I die I will have to do a little time in Purgatory sorting out the socks, underwear and sunglasses that I have left all over the planet during my brief stay and then I will be on my way to heaven. I haven't done anything to deserve to burn in hell for eternity, but as some say, "I ain't no day at the beach" either.

By then Federal Express will have an overnight delivery to heaven and all my gear will be waiting for me for eternity, but for right now, I am packed.

January 18, 1987

Moorea, Tahiti

Well, it happened. I made it from Miami to Bel Air with my stuff. Stopped off to sing a few songs on the Johnny Carson show, and then caught a Quantas flight to Tahiti. But my world as I know it went onto the mysterious island of lost luggage. At this point, I am not bothered. Shit happens. That's easy to say since I am sitting in over-water bungalow #49 at the Bali Hai Hotel overlooking that "One Particular Harbour" wondering why I packed all that stuff in the first place. The good people at Quantas say they have it under control, which I tend to believe, since they are 12 notches up the totem pole of air travel over domestic U.S. carriers.

I heard on the radio today that Dennis Gonnors and the crew of Stars and Stripes put it to the Kiwis and we are now up 3 to 1. Oh yes, one more thing, I have decided not to return to Florida as scheduled. I will be out here a little longer doing research, but if the contractors who are rebuilding my kitchen read this and don't think they have to be through in time, wrong. I was just charting the mileage on my pocket map of the world and discovered that it is one and a half index fingers from Perth to Bangkok and only one finger from Perth to the Maldive Islands. I'll be home when I get back, but Jeff and Cheryl, you must finish my kitchen on time.

P.S.

Moorea, Tahiti

January 24, 1987

They found my luggage. Somebody thought Tahiti was in Australia. But they said they would give me the extra mileage that my bags traveled on my frequent flyer number.



March 11, 1987

Dear Jimmy,

Today in my scheduled activity "Exercise Class," I decided to play some of your delightful songs for my elderly and infirmed patients.

I suspected they would enjoy the Island sounds. My suspicions were pleasantly confirmed, as they



nodded-clapped-and-smiled. "Jolly Mon" and "Gypsies in the Palace" made them laugh. They also quietly listened to "Changes in Latitudes," my all time favorite.

As a long term devout "Buffett Fan" I wanted to let you know that people well into their 80's enjoyed your kind of music today — even if they can't remember it tomorrow. Thank you

for being in a class to yourself!

I just wanted to let you know that your music reaches even the very old and very ill.

Sincerely,

Sylvia Sale

Director of Activities
Triad Rehabilitation Center



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The MARGARITAVILLE STORE
P.O. BOX 1459, KEY WEST, FL 33041

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PERMIT NO. 225
KEY WEST, FLA. 33040

87 SUMMER CONCERTS

PARROT LOOKS AT FORTY TOUR PART I

- JUNE 2 & 3 - Atlanta, GA. Chastain Park
- JUNE 4 - Nashville, TN. Starwood Amphitheatre
- JUNE 6 & 7 - Richmond, VA. Kings Dominion
- JUNE 9 & 10 - Memphis, TN. Mud Island
- JUNE 12 - Birmingham, AL. Oak Mountain Amphitheatre
- JUNE 13 & 14 - Charlotte, NC. Carowinds
- JUNE 17 & 18 - Cincinnati, OH. Kings Island
- JUNE 19 & 20 - Akron, OH. Blossom Music Center
- JUNE 23 - Holmdel, NJ. Garden State Art Center
- JUNE 24 - Mansfield, MA. Great Woods Amphitheatre
- JUNE 26 - Long Island, NY. Jones Beach
- JUNE 27 & 28 - Columbia, MD. Merriweather
- JUNE 30 - Springfield, MA. Civic Center
- JULY 2 - Milwaukee, WI. Summerfest
- JULY 3 - Chicago, IL. Poplar Creek
- JULY 4 - Detroit, MI. Pine Knob

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