

The COCONUT TELEGRAPH

MARGARITAVILLE SEPT 1988

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REVIEW '88

Every summer without fail The Coconut Telegraph office is flooded with Jimmy Buffett concert reviews. Although they are appreciated, they do get a bit redundant. All point out that JB gets little or no radio airplay yet remains an annual sell out. All mention the fact that the "Reefers" are one of the most tightly organized, professional groups on the road. "Jimmy Buffett takes Parrot Heads on a cruise to Margaritaville" etc., etc. C'mon guys, let's mix it up a little.

There is a guy in Chicago, however, who seems to reach the quintessential Buffett each summer. Dave Hoekstra writes for the Chicago Sun Times and has reviewed Jimmys' show at Poplar Creek for the last several years. Whether it's Davis' expert interviewing technique, or just the fact that he happens to catch JB in a good mood, his articles portray a post-concert, surprisingly talkative, Jimmy Buffett. With Dave Hoekstras' permission, we present excerpts from an article appearing in the Sunday, July 10th edition of the Chicago Sun Times.

"Monster" is the word that Joyce Pollack, advertising and promotions director at Poplar Creek, uses in describing a Buffett booking. Pollack said inquiries about Buffett's annual appearance begin around October. Buffett's pull had leveled off to

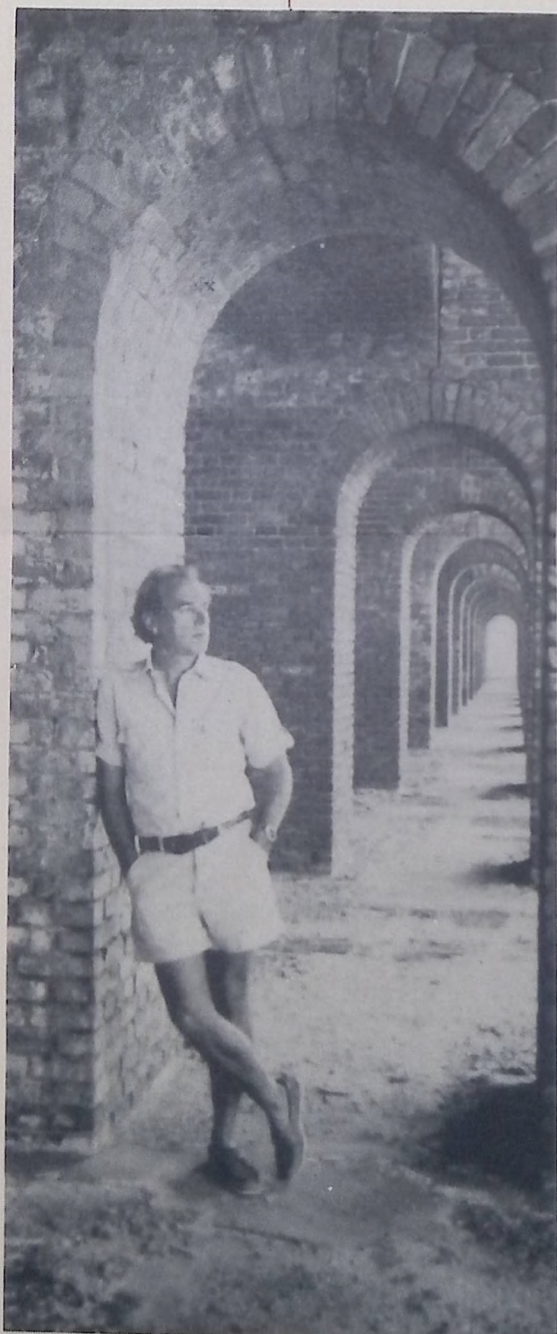


PHOTO JEAN PAGLIUSO

around 15,000 until 1986, when, Pollack said, "he started drawing phenomenally." Last year's dangerously delirious attendance of 23,000 put Buffett in the same league as John Cougar Mellencamp and Huey Lewis. Buffett will top that crowd this year and his new MCA album "Hot Water" has only been out two weeks.

"The big factor in this record (Hot Water) was that it was pretty much home-written and home-grown. I was staying at home and working. Everybody came to Key West to work initially. The first time I went to work, I got on my bicycle and rode home through Key West, and I could smell the Cuban food and the flowers, and I thought, 'Man, I like this.' Then, if I felt something was different or we wanted to change things or fool around with production, we had the time and the place to do it, without it being too costly."

"Somebody takes a new fan to the show, they like what they see, they go out and buy the records and then they're hooked," Buffett said. "And they don't buy one record, they buy 'em all. My catalog sales are huge. The old stuff is big. It's shown in sales." This is where lack of radio airplay actually helps Buffett. Because most material heard from his album catalog hasn't been heard in commercial circles, it carries an air of newness. While many of Buffett's listen-

(Con't on Back Page)

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COMEBACK

ers are lured into the Parrot Cage for a song's party value, they later discover more lasting, introspective material such as "Come Monday," "Death of an Unpopular Poet" and "He Went to Paris."

Regarding "Margaritaville," the movie project JB has been talking about for years, "That's just about dead. Hollywood script writers were brought in to rewrite it and it wasn't 'Margaritaville.' They put it in a mold. It was 'Crocodile Dundee' going to the tropics. Fortunately, I'm in a position to say no, and I did. I'm real protective of 'Margaritaville.' It's been a myth for so long and if you get it wrong, people are going

to say, 'That's what he thought about it?' So I got that close and turned it down." (There are currently several production companies still involved, and "Margaritaville" should be considered down but not out. Ed. note.)

The current "Hot Water" concert atmosphere is more like a reunion with the likes of Rita Coolidge, James Taylor, and Steve Cropper making appearances. "It's like a club and I get to be the emcee. There are basic songs people always want to hear, and I'll play them for them. I'm relaxing more and having a better time not thinking about it. I'm having fun. I feel like

Ricky Ricardo."



COCONUT COMEBACKS

In which we set aside any resemblance to journalistic quality, objectivity and other more esoteric attributes so often associated, albeit incorrectly, to this little rag we like to call The Coconut Telegraph, and simply answer the questions of pondering Parrot Heads.

Please settle a bet. I say "A Pirate Looks at Forty" is about Jimmy while my friend says it's

not. Can you help?

Tom Moehringer,
Cleveland, OH

Sorry Tom, you lose. "A Pirate Looks at Forty" is actually about a Key West character named Phil Clark. Having no visible means of support but always living well gave Phil a rather seedy, but well deserved reputation. Seems Phil took up a lot of JB's time in the early 70's, he is also mentioned in "Nautical Wheelers" and is again remembered in "The Prince of Tides" from the new "Hot Water" LP.

