

He Removed Woods in Case 'Ape' Returns

By DONNA CAMERON
Herald Correspondent

Charlie Stoeckman has cut down the woods next to his house, but not for appearance's sake or to sell the wood. He said he wants the land cleared in case the Skunk-Ape returns.

An ex-policeman and Vietnam veteran who neighbors say is tough to scare, Charlie is frightened enough now to consider moving. His wife and kids are also scared. So are his neighbors.

Stoekman's situation does not fit the pattern of sightings of the Skunk-Ape, usually associated with persons living in the depths of the Everglades, or some similar place far from populated areas.

THE STOECKMAN home sits a mere 25 to 30 yards from heavily traveled U.S. 1 near Mile Marker 94, north of Tavernier, and on the ocean side of the highway.

The people that claim to have seen the Skunk-Ape say it's eight to nine feet tall, hairy, odorous, heavy-stepping and makes barking sounds like a dolphin. So far it's been spotted by four people, all considered credible by Monroe County Sheriff's Sgt. Rondoll Chinn, who is investigating the sightings.

"There is definitely a problem there," Chinn said. "Something is scaring the people there and there must be something there."

"But I've searched through the mangroves and the jungle there," he added, "and I haven't been able to find evidence of its existence. But I'm not saying it doesn't exist because these people are so scared they're talking about moving."

SO FAR CHINN has found skinned mangrove roots where the "Skunk-Ape" has allegedly run, pieces of torn turf a foot and a half long and branches snapped seven feet up from their stems. He doesn't consider those "strong enough evidence" that the "Skunk-Ape" exists, but he added that the Stoeckman family "is very convincing."

"He went to extremes when he cut down the trees," Chinn said, "but there must be something there."

Stoekman said he first spotted the creature July 14 when he was out hunting for rare bottles with his 13-year-old son, Charlie. Since then, he said, its presence has been "a nightmare that has seriously changed my family's life."

"The first day I saw it in the mangroves, I think I startled it," he said, "It was way ahead, a dark, hairy patch. It sort of stayed there, like a deer does when the wind shifts and it catches your scent."

"BUT IT STUNK awful," Stoekman added, "like a dog that hasn't been bathed in a year and suddenly gets rained on."

Stoekman said then "backed slowly out of the woods" and the creature "went crashing off in the other direction, crying in its high-pitched voice - a surprisingly small call - like the bark of a dolphin."

Since then, the Stoeckman's and three neighbors said they have seen or heard the creature three more times. At 3 a.m. Friday, the most recent sighting, Stoekman's wife Leslie said she was awakened by the sound of "thrashing" footsteps.

"Through a gap in the jalousie, from where I was lying in bed, I

"... From where I was lying in bed, I saw these bright, colorless eyes. They must have been reflecting the back yard light, like a cat's would. They were evil-staring. I could see the silhouette of its huge shoulder and head above an eight-foot bush 30 feet from the bedroom window. I got hysterical."

— Tavernier resident Leslie Stoekman

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— DONNA CAMERON

Is Scuffed Dirt a Footprint?

...several in area say they saw Skunk-Ape

was "shocked at how huge a thing it was and that close" called the county sheriff's office but shortly before a patrolman arrived at 3:45 a.m., the "Skunk-Ape" went crashing off into the bushes."

The ape was also reportedly seen Thursday by Stoekman and Shawn Tubbs, a neighbor, who had gone crawfishing.

"It was about 8:30 or 9 p.m.," Tubbs said. "We got into Stoekman's pick-up and drove across the street, to a field by the ocean. There was no moon, so we left the headlights on to see what we were doing."

"All of a sudden it was there, running across the field with great lumbering strides," Tubbs added. "In the light it looked like a dark, sable color. I was a bit skeptical until I saw it myself. I never got my crawfish."

Before Thursday, the Stoeckmans and Tubbs, Rhonda Lyons and Henry Verpon, Tubbs' housemates, said they had one other time heard the dolphin calls, smelled the same bad odor and heard the crashing footsteps. Upon investigating with Stoekman, Lyons said she "heard heavy, prolonged breathing in the bushes, but saw nothing."

STOECKMAN NOW sleeps with a loaded shotgun by his side. His neighbors say they are staying because "if he (Skunk-Ape) was going to kill us, he would have reached down into our roof with one big paw and done so."

But Stoekman is contemplating relocating.

"My kids are so scared they won't even play outside. My wife and I can't sleep. We don't feel safe anymore in our own home."

A.P.

Saturday, April 16, 1977

To Lucille Moran, IRS Rules Pose Illegal 'Religion'

By DONNA CAMERON
Herald Correspondent

For millions of Americans, Friday was the deadline for baring their financial souls to Uncle Sam by filing their federal income tax forms.

But not for Lucille E. Moran of Tavernier. For her April 15 is just another day. She said she hasn't filed at 1040 form since 1958. Moran doesn't stop there, though. From her apartment in Marathon she has counseled hundreds of tax protesters on "how not to volunteer information to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS)."

The IRS won't say much about what it thinks of Moran's doings. They know about her, a spokesman said, but unless the IRS has charged her with a crime, it can't discuss whether she's ever been investigated.

"I DON'T THINK there's anything in the public record that we've done," said Holger Euringer, an IRS official in Jacksonville. "We can't comment on whether she's filed or whether she's required to file," he said. But he said that "some people" who make claims like hers do it because they're seeking "notoriety and profit."

Just as she doesn't want her privacy invaded by the IRS, she won't allow pictures to be taken of her.

Moran claims that income tax return forms are unconstitutional. By filing the forms, she said, a citizen waives rights that would otherwise be left intact. "When you file an IRS form," she said, "you leave yourself open for prosecution," she said.

REFERRING TO the IRS as "Mother Church," Moran said "Any organization which requires confessions (IRS forms) by a holy day of obligation (April 15) . . . is practicing church law." She said it's her right "not to believe in the religion of the IRS."

Moran's war with the IRS began in the early 1960s in Massachusetts, where she said the probate system deprived her of her father's estate. She claims to have discovered a collaboration between IRS officials and the probate officers who "had swindled my inheritance from me." So she marched to the Springfield, Mass., IRS office and "swore I would never again pay income taxes."

She lived up to her vow, she said, and since 1970 has helped other tax-protesters dodge the Treasury Department. She has never had any formal legal training.

SILENCE IS Moran's prime strategy in her war with the IRS. While other income tax protest movements in California and Arizona urge protesters to return their tax forms with a written refusal to comply with IRS procedure, Moran tells people not to file at all.

"Misfiling is a cardinal sin in the eyes of the IRS," she said. . . . They usually can't pin you for not filing. They've got nothing to go on."

Moran said she counsels protesters by mail, and in emergencies, by telephone. She said she has never represented anyone in court.

She said she won't counsel just anybody. Like her, they must believe that a refusing to file is a kind of "patriotism".

Cuba Travel Restrictions

By DONNA CAMERON
Herald Correspondent

The lifting of travel restrictions to Cuba has awakened latent hopes for reunion in some Keys residents and fired long-held antipathies in others.

Manuel and Isabel Ortiz, operators of Manny and Isa's Cuban restaurant near Mile Marker 83, Islamorada, emigrated to the United States in the late 1950s, becoming U.S. citizens in 1964. They have been isolated from their families in the east Cuban province of Oriente for 17 years. With the travel ban lifted, their dreams of a reunion will be realized soon.

Mrs. Ortiz, who remembers Cuba as a beautiful, friendly country, said "I'd love to see my family. But it doesn't matter what we want down here. It's what he (President Carter) does up there."

"I'VE TRIED to obtain a visa since 1970," Mr. Ortiz said. "Washington said yes, Havana, no. In 1975, after five years of 'no' from Cuba, I give up. Now a chance — maybe."

Among native Keys residents and other established Keys residents, feelings on traveling to Cuba are mixed.

Fourth-generation Conch Edison Archer and his wife, Neeva, are ambivalent about revisiting Cuba.

"The Cuba we knew and loved is gone," Mrs. Archer said. "Still, I think, just out of curiosity, I would like to visit the island once more."

IN THE 1940s and 1950s, the Miami native recalled, Cuba was the first foreign country most young Miamians would visit. She remembers pre-Castro Cuba as an exotic island, a place where she and Miami friends marveled at the architecture of structures "more than 30 years old."

Predicting an influx of Keys' tourists with the travel ban lifted, Archer said he would like to see the "Cuba of the 1970s."

"It was an adventure in island landscape, good food and friendly people," he said. "I'd be especially interested in finding out what became of the Old Havana cigar factories and rum distilleries."

"He (Castro) took it away from us," Mrs. Archer said.

"If we re-establish Cuban relations, we can expect at least a small increase in light airport traffic," Bill Pascoe, Key West International Airport tower chief and FAA Monroe County spokesman, said.

"ALTHOUGH MANY local people will be interested in visiting Cuba, I would expect, should the ban be lifted, expect a two to four-flight per day increase in itinerant aircraft at Key West International."

Both Pascoe and Bob Strednick, Marathon Air Sunshine manager, declined to estimate air fare from the Keys to the Cuban mainland. "Federal groups like the FAA and Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) will be involved. The flight distance from Key West to Cuba and from Marathon to Miami are the same, but customs and federal whatever get tagged onto your regular mileage rates," Strednick said. He added that he believes air traffic to Cuba would enrich the Keys' atmosphere.

Also in favor of lifting the ban is Monroe County Commissioner and sixth-generation Conch Purie Howanitz. "I'm not a Communist. I'm not even a socialist. But let's face it. Cuba is 90 miles away — we're neighbors."

Capt. Billy Knowles Sr., an Islamorada native and frequent visitor to pre-Castro Cuba's backwaters, thinks the ban should be kept in effect. Depouncing the lifting of the ban, Knowles described trade with Cuba as a "donation of American dollars to Communists and an encouragement of crime to transients in Monroe County."

KNOWLES, WHO fished the Cuban flats along the Isle of Pines on Cuba's southern coast, remembers the abundance of bonefish there.

"We did sight a lot of bone," Knowles said. "Although they were smaller than those you see off the Keys or in Flamingo, they were plentiful and we did some good fishing there. We fished the Cuban rivers for tarpon, too. Some big fish in those rivers. But I wouldn't be back, not now. It's a Communist country. Anyway, we've got as good, if not better, fishing spots here."

Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) officials in Key West anticipate an increase in tourism with Cuban visas available.

"WHEN I WAS a boy in the '30s — and that's in the days of the Great Depression and Flagler's railroad — tourists would stop over at the old Casa Marina Hotel on their way to Havana. And boy, would they spend money," Howanitz said.

"If the exchange is properly controlled, if American dollars don't serve the purpose of a few Cuban government officials, then I'm all for it. I believe in people," Howanitz said.

"And I believe we should do our share to try to help relieve the poorer peoples of this earth. And most of Cuba is impoverished. I've only been to Cuba once, on a pineapple boat as a boy, but I feel the lifting if the ban is a good thing — as long as we don't sacrifice our own freedoms."

HOWANITZ ADDED that the lifting of the ban would help the

Keys' economy by boosting tourism.

Peter Sanchez, a Key West resi-

dent whose family came to the U.S. from Cuba in 1865, feels no ties to the country of his ancestors.

"I've got nothing there. My family, my country is here, the United States. It (Cuba) is a Communist

country," Sanchez said, "and as far as I'm concerned they should keep it closed forever."

A Marathon resident who asked that his name be withheld said, "I was Cuban once, but no more. I feel sorry for some of my family there still, but you have to be a Communist to want to return."

That viewpoint is not universal. Ortiz said "Islamorada is my home for 13 years. But I would like to see my family. My mother, I have not seen her for 13 years. How can you be Communist and miss your mother?"

Wednesday, April 6, 1977

Group Fights Fencing Off Of Waterfront

Saturday, July 2, 1977

By DONNA CAMERON
Herald Correspondent

Good fences make good neighbors, poet Robert Frost wrote. But Frost probably never met Ed Petry. Those living near Petry's property at Palm Harbor on Islamorada consider his plan to build a chain link fence across their waterfront anything but neighborly.

For nine months seven of Petry's neighbors at Coral Cove, a fishing resort on the south side of Palm Harbor, have been trying to stop him.

PETRY BUILT 150 feet of the fence along his waterfront property and now plans to extend it for 250 feet along the edge of his neighbors' waterfront, cutting them off from the harbor and a dock.

Petry said he can do this because he owns the baybottom under the harbor. He added that he wants to cut off his neighbors' use of the harbor because he believes he would be liable for any boating accidents above his bay bottom property.

However, the state Department of Environmental Regulation (DER) halted the fence construction in October because Petry did not have a permit to place the fence on bay bottom.

Petry said "a mutual misunderstanding with the county" led him to think that he could extend the fence out into the water without a permit. The county issued a permit for the 400-foot long fence, but was not aware that 250 feet of it were to be on bay bottom, Ott Sabin, assistant County Zoning Director said. "For that you need a state permit," Sabin said.

THE DER WAS alerted by Bud Beebe, who lives near Petry's property.

"I awoke at 8 a.m. one morning to find workmen with air guns installing the cement foundations for the fence," said Bud Beebe, who built the dock. Beebe is one of Petry's Coral Cove neighbors who's fearful that the fence will obstruct access to the harbor. He complained to the state Department of Environmental Regulation (DER) about the fence. Beebe said that if completed, the fence will be within one foot of the dock.

Blocking access to the harbor "is exactly what I want to do," said Petry, who claims the dock extends on to his bay bottom property.

Chuck Schnepel, a DER investigator in Marathon, said his agency has reservations about the fence because it would pose a hazard to navigation and was not in the public interest. Because the harbor is a waterway leading to the ocean, its waters are under the control of the state, not Petry, Schnepel said.

"I DON'T CARE if it belongs to Florida — let the state drain the water from it then," Petry said. Even if his fence is built, boats could get in and out of the harbor by another route, he said.

Petry said that while "he wanted to be a good neighbor," he also wants to protect himself from possible suits arising from accidents that occur on his bay bottom property.

But Beebe sees the fence as an unneighborly gesture. "Simply, from an aesthetic viewpoint, it's not very nice," he said. Coral Cove residents had been using the dock since 1943, he said.

Petry's neighbors who want access to the waterfront "never took the trouble to read their leases," Petry said. "They have no right to the waterfront on the harbor. Let them take their boats and docks 200 feet east of there where I won't be liable for the boats."

Ralph Cunningham, attorney for the seven Coral Cove residents who object to the fence, said that although the dock "does protrude onto Beebe's property, every other bay bottom owner in the Keys knows that boat operators and owners are liable for their own boating mishaps.

"These people seem to think they can do what they want on my property. Why should I let them get away with it and cloud my title for future purchasers?"

Petry is still seeking a fence permit from the DER.



— DONNA CAMERON

Fence to Run Past Dock, Bulkhead
...Islamorada neighbors, state oppose plan

Reported Sightings Attract Attention

Family Fears Skunk-Ape's Return

By DONNA CAMERON
And FITZ McADEN
Herald Staff Writers

Even if you don't believe in skunk-apes, Charlie Stoeckman does. Not only does he believe in South Florida's answer to the Pacific Northwest's Big Foot, but Stoeckman said he's bothered enough by the creature to move.

"We're leaving," Stoeckman said. "Don't ask me where we're going. I don't know yet. All I know is I'm getting the hell out of the Keys."

Stoeckman and some of his neighbors in Tavernier say they're living in fear because of repeated sightings of the skunk-ape, a smelly, furry, lumbering primate-like beast that is about eight or nine feet tall. If that isn't bizarre enough, the animal — if he's really an animal — is supposed to have slanted eyes and a bark like a dog's.

THE REPORTED sightings have attracted the attention of the American Anthropological Research Foundation, an organization based in Big Pine Key that investigates reports of skunk-apes and Big Foots. Officials of the foundation said it has only five or six active members, but scores of inactive supporters nationwide.

Gary Montanari, a Miami photographer and officer of the foundation, visited Stoeckman and his neighbors. He said scuff marks in the dirt, mangrove bark that has been gnawed away and other evidence near Stoeckman's house aren't necessarily calling cards left by the skunk-ape. They can be explained various other ways, he said.

But it's not a question of whether the creatures exist or not, Montanari said. "Most definitely, they do exist, oh yes," he said. The question is whether Stoeckman and his neighbors

actually saw one. Montanari said odds are 60 to 40 that they did. He said he plans another trip to Tavernier to try to be an eye-witness to an appearance of the skunk-ape.

"IN OUR STUDIES we find that people who say they've seen Willy are 40 per cent hoaxsters, 40 per cent honestly misled and 20 per cent who have really seen him," Montanari said. Willy is the nickname the foundation has given the skunk-ape.

For now, he said, he "wouldn't discount but wouldn't verify" the creature's presence in Tavernier.

"I don't want to comment on the authenticity of it," said Ted Ernst, a Big Pine Key attorney who handles legal affairs for the foundation and who is one of its officers. "Basically there's not a lot to say except that he (Stoeckman) is getting an awful lot of publicity," Ernst said.

Wednesday, August 3, 1977

This Man's Art Is Junk to Neighbors

By **DONNA CAMERON**
Herald Correspondent

He'll insult you while he bums your cigarets. He's irascible and he knows it — but he's also a metal sculptor who creates works of art from nuts, bolts and chunks of cars.

Stanley Papio is glad to tell you about his junk. Piled high in Papio's yard near mile marker 101 since 1949, the junk represents an "unsightly mess" to Papio's complaining neighbors, but is a powerful art form to many other people.

From the twisted, rusting remains of defunct machinery, Papio creates his people-parodies. "Real" personalities, from that of his complaining neighbors to that of W. C. Fields, are the subjects of his art. Admirers of the scrap-metal creations in his gallery-yard include art teachers from colleges nationwide and "big-shot sculptors from the West Coast," according to Papio.

PAPIO'S FIRST major work, "Two-Faced Woman," made of metal fence scrolls and tin scraps, was completed in 1972. The work is an eight-foot burlesque of a woman with two faces, each face being the mirror image of the face behind it.

"A take-off on my worst complaining neighbor," Papio cracks.

A maniken-like travesty he calls "Million-Dollar Model" attracted the attention of a Miami Beach realtor who offered \$7,500 for the work. Papio refused.

"I told him \$10,000 or forget it," Papio said. And she's worth more. It took me over a year to find the right car fenders for her thighs and arms."

SEAM-WELDED from 50 different auto fenders, "Million-Dollar Model's" body has features such as bumper-bolt nipples and eyes, shopping-cart dowels for fingers and bumper guards for feet.

Papio's work has been hampered lately by gangrene in his foot. Habitually barefoot, Papio was kept out of his junkyard and forced to wear a new pair of black basketball sneakers.

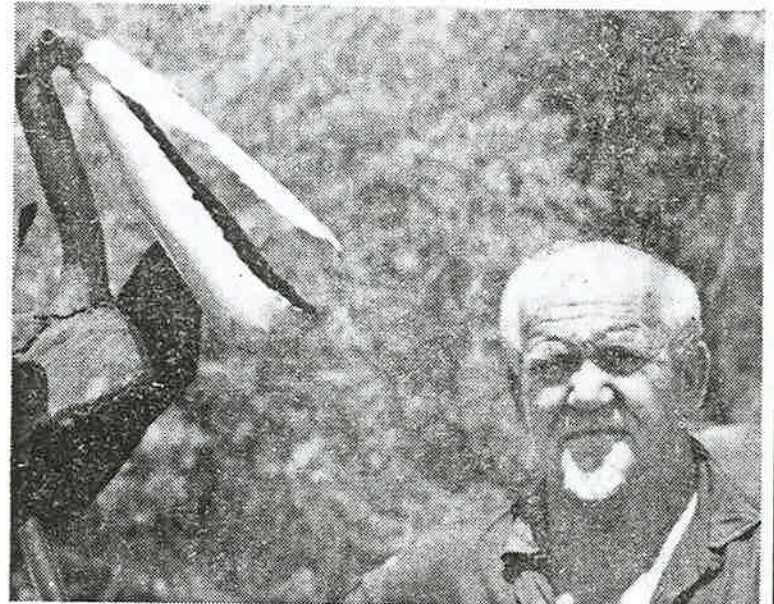
The shoes, laced with mismatched laces and worn untied, are the first shoes Papio's worn in 30 years.

"The doctor ordered me to wear them," he said, "and I'm anxious to step out of them."

WHILE HOSPITALIZED for the gangrene, Papio discovered a new working material, copper wire, which Papio said fascinates him by its pliability.

"With scrap, you have to go where the metal tells you to go," he said. "But you can put copper wire where you want it."

Since he began using the wire, Papio has created more than 50 free-standing works with copper wire. One of the wire creations, actually three pieces in one, shows a pair of horn-rimmed eyeglasses, designed to fit an aquiline-nose, cartoony-eyed piece, separately made. Together the two make a third work, a vision sculpture for Miami optometrist Herb Virgin's office.



— DONNA CAMERON

Stanley Papio With Pelican Sculpture
... neighbors complain of his junkyard art

Tuesday, May 3, 1977

Watercolorist Millard Wells Has Met the 'Big Names'

By DONNA CAMERON
Herald Correspondent

Most artists would have gladly accepted an invitation to sketch at 6:30 a.m. on a Saturday morning in New York's Central Park with famous Chinese-American water-colorist Dong Kingman.

But Islamorada's Millard Wells figured he would need his energy for other occasions that day, including one he claims is the highlight of his career.

"IT WAS A BIT too early as I was saving my energy for the banquet that evening," Wells said, "But (Kingman and I) had lunch together."

An acclaimed painter who prefers the label "representative watercolorist," Wells, 55, served as the master of ceremonies at last weekend's 110th annual American Watercolor Society (AWS) exhibition, New York.

His work "My World is Beautiful" was accepted for the exhibition, making him one of only six Florida painters and the only Keys artist to qualify for the exhibition. Only 305 paintings were accepted for the show out of more than 3,000 entries submitted.

"Just being in New York was gorgeous," Wells said. "And to meet all those big names that were my idols as a boy — to introduce them to the other guests at the banquet — that was the greatest part of it."

WELLS MOVED to Islamorada from Chicago in 1966, fulfilling a dream he said he had carried with him as a freelance commercial artist in Chicago — to live in a primitive place and paint.

"What struck me about the Keys in 1966 was the abundance of raw nature here," he said. "It's like a moonscape, unique, where shadows play as important a part in the scenery as the objects which cast them."

He also said the Keys' landscape continues to inspire him with its primeval quality.

Since he established his studio-gallery in the Mission Building, near mile marker 82, in 1967, Wells has been nationally acclaimed for his representations of Keys scenes.

HIS PAINTING in this year's AWS show depicts a Grand Cayman boy launching his shell-and-leaf sailboat into a tide pool. The painting will be exhibited at the New York show through Sunday.

Wells, who became an AWS member in 1975, said he had attempted to join the society since 1966 but did not qualify. The society, the

oldest of the established watercolor societies in the United States, opens membership only to persons who have three paintings accepted by the AWS. The AWS was founded by Winslow Homer, and has skilled painters such as James and Andrew Wyeth currently listed on its membership rolls.

Wells described his return to Islamorada Monday after his New York weekend as "quite a transition."

"It's an odd experience to be in the hustle and the bustle of Times Square one day and under a palm in your clogs the next," he said.

BUT WELLS, who was invited to host the AWS banquet by president Mario Cooper, said he feels it is important to take advantage of opportunities for national recognition.

"I think it's important to any painter to be recognized," he said, "even if it's just having your name listed with the other painters whom you respect."

Wells currently has another painting, "Island Camps," a painting of Conch buildings on Pigeon Key, on display at another national show, the 10th Annual International Exhibit at Marietta College, Marietta, Ohio. Only 149 of 3,397 entries were accepted for that show, open to U.S. and Canadian artists.

Wells is the founder and a past president of the Florida Watercolor Society, president of the Upper Keys Rotary Club and a member of the Long Key Fishing Club.



Artist Millard Wells Displays His New Painting

...he completed it after returning from New York

— DONNA CAMERON / WHITE HERALD

Mystery Fish Is 'Blue-Chip' Catch

By DONNA CAMERON
Herald Correspondent

More than 100 Florida Keys fishing buffs looked at the catch of the day, but no one knew what kind of fish it was.

They thought it wasn't a white marlin because its pectoral fins were too long; not a Mediterranean spearfish because its anal opening was behind the anal fin rather than halfway up the belly; not a blue marlin because it has a square, rather than pointed, anal fin; and not a hatchet marlin because it had a jagged, body-length dorsal fin.

But whatever it is or isn't, the 81-inch, 34½-pound fish was sent to University of Miami classification expert Don DeSilva at the university's Virginia Key office, to be identified.

TWELVE ISLAMORADA charter boat captains and a taxidermist could not identify the fish caught about 13 miles southwest of Islamorada Friday by Larry Reynolds, Montoursville, Pa.

"Whatever it is, it's a rarity," said Haywood Fowle of Hallandale's Pfleuger Taxidermy. "It's not a white marlin or a blue marlin, as far as I can see. I can only say

for sure that it's a billfish."

Reynolds caught the fish aboard the "Blue Chip," a Chesapeake Docks charter boat run by Capt. Skip Bradeen. Bradeen thought the fish was a hatchet marlin, a rare fish in any waters. Only one hatchet marlin has been reported worldwide, Bradeen said; it was caught off Beaufort, S.C., in 1975.

"The fish had all the characteristics of a hatchet, characteristics which distinguish it from more common billfish categories like white marlin and blues," said Bradeen, a 13-year veteran of the waters off Islamorada and recipient of the Herald's outstanding achievement award for Met fishing tournament from 1969-76.

FOWLE SAID he didn't believe the fish was a hatchet marlin. "While it is a rare billfish, I don't think it's a hatchet marlin, although it might be," he said. "I don't even think it's a Mediterranean spearfish either. This might be an entirely unknown billfish — a "Blue Chip" marlin, perhaps."

Bradeen added that he thought the fish was a hatchet marlin because of its unusual color "both in the water and out" and because "of

the unusual way the fish fought."

He said the fish "crashed the bait, unlike a blue (marlin) which will usually tail and bill (bite) it (the bait) before knocking it down." The fish jumped 12 or 13 times," Bradeen said, "unlike a blue, which will jump three or four times. And the fish only sounded (dove under the boat) twice."

Bradeen added that as the fish "jumped, I noticed that its whole body was a luminous powder blue. The fish's tail and fins changed colors as it jumped, too."

ON THE docks, the fish's color did not fade to a blue-black and silver as the blue marlin's does, Bradeen said. Instead the tail turned lavender and pale blue, and the underside of the pectoral fin was a brilliant blue.

He said another unique factor was the fish's bill, which was "slimy to the touch, unlike the sandpaper-like bills of other marlins."

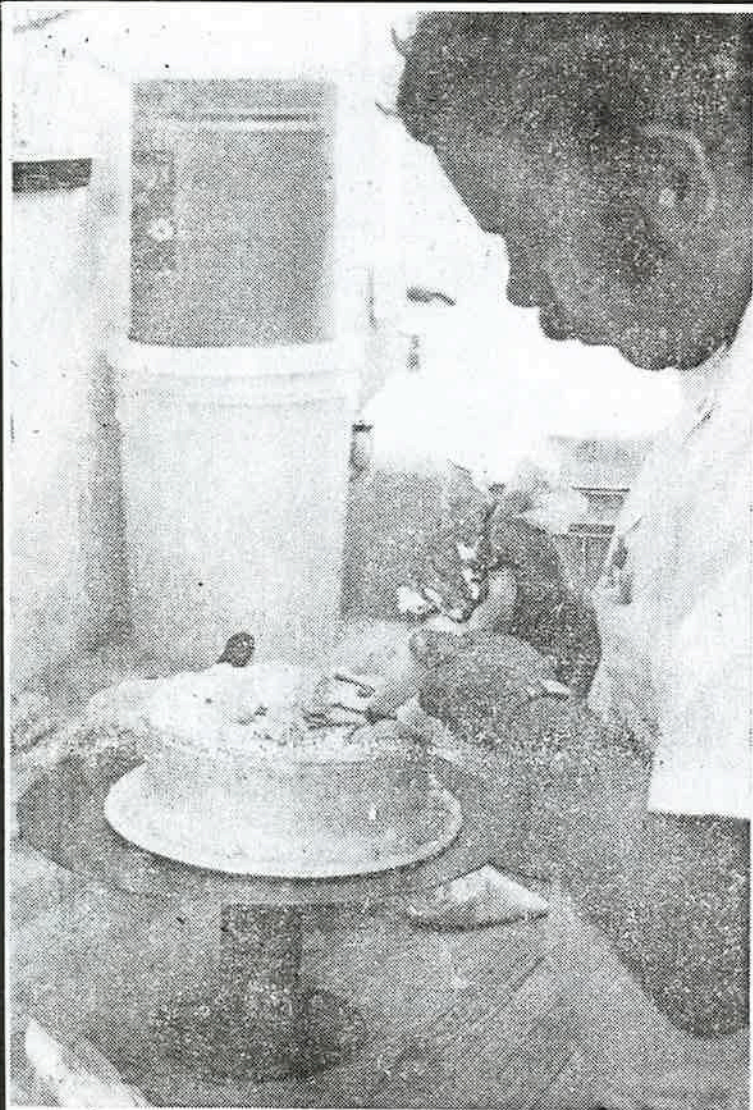
The different species of billfish are identified by the size and shape of the dorsal, anal and pectoral fins and by the size relationship of the dorsal fin to the body.



— DONNA CAMERON

Larry Reynolds stands with catch

... species of fish unknown



— DONNA CAMERON / Miami Herald

Mike Paynter Decorates a Cake
... he's 'last in a short line' of bakers

He Likes Baking; It's an 'Ego Trip'

By **DONNA CAMERON**
 Herald Staff Writer

He's not as famous as the pie-man Simple Simon, but his oven creations are displayed on the travel movies of Miami-bound Canadian jets and postcards he's received from pie fans nationwide attest to Marathon baker Mike Paynter's culinary skills.

"You might call it an ego trip," Paynter said. "But I like pleasing people. And I do it by sticking by 'real' ingredients called for by original recipes, despite the extra costs."

Paynter says his shop, the Cake Box Bakery in Marathon Shopping Center, sells more whole homemade Key Lime pies than any other bakery or restaurant in the Keys.

"**THERE ARE** speciality shops in Key West for donuts, breads and pastries," he said, "but mine is the only shop that bakes and sells all three on the premises."

Paynter's culinary career began inauspiciously in 1958 in the kitchen of a small Philadelphia bakeshop. Then 13 years old and employed as a dishwasher in the shop, he was ordered to "pick up the donut stick and turn 'em out." Paynter was later to turn out enough donuts to "bake his way through college."

"I breathed a sigh of relief," Paynter said, "With my freshman year underway I thought I was out of the hot kitchen forever. But after the football season there I was back in the same Philly bakery supplementing my income."

"It was just the beginning of a

love-hate relationship I've had with baking for the last 10 years," he said.

IT WAS AS an aspiring teacher that he came to Marathon in 1970. Paynter now sees that move as "one of fate's tricks to get me back into the kitchen."

In 1972 after he taught at Marathon High School for two years, Paynter discovered that Marathon's only bakery was for sale. It was an opportunity he couldn't pass up.

Paynter left his teaching post at Marathon High School and refinanced his new Karman Ghia convertible to meet the down payment for purchase of the bakery.

"I was so poor then that I had to borrow \$50 from my realtor to put in the cash register on opening day. For two years I lived in a three-foot by 18-foot closet which was adjacent to the bakery," he said.

KEY LIME pie sales at the Cake Box have increased 1,000 per cent since the store opened five years ago. Compared to the nine pies he sold on his first day of business Paynter now sells an average of 175 pies per day during the tourist season. He says he sold over 25,000 pies in the past three years.

Yet it isn't money that keeps Paynter baking. He sees himself only as Marathon's fourth baker ever — the last man in a short line. The equipment he purchased in 1972 was also used by his three Marathon predecessors.

"I always wanted to paint or draw or sculpt," he said, "and I can't. It's creative fulfillment keeps me hooked."

The Miami Herald
Thursday, March 24, 1977



— DONNA CAMERON

Retired Postmaster Robert Albury Stands on Porch of Home
...received mail "kicked" from passing trains during 20s, 30s

Tavernier Home Has Served As Grocery, Post Office

By DONNA CAMERON
Herald Correspondent

The two-story frame house Robert Harold Albury built half a century ago has served him and Tavernier well. It's not only been his home and general store, but also housed the town's post office, which Albury managed for almost 30 years.

Albury, now retired as postmaster, remembers when mail service was quicker and cheaper.

"We had good service and it was inexpensive as well," he said. "Why, I remember a friend shipping me a crate of tomatoes on the Havana Special," (one of the Florida East Coast Railroad trains that served the Keys).

Albury said he was visiting Key West at the time and his friend, back in Tavernier, put the crate of tomatoes on the train "at 8 a.m. one morning and they arrived in Key West the same afternoon — hand-delivered."

"IT WOULD FLOOD badly during hurricanes," Albury said.

Most of the mail Albury handled was letters to Key West of Miami, he said.

Incoming mail and parcels would be "kicked" from the baggage car as the Havana Special sped by the Albury's general store at about 60 miles an hour.

"Oh, they'd stay strung together," he said. "That is the mail and parcels wouldn't fall apart." But he said stacks of newspapers bound together with string would "once in a while pick up a gust of wind, and whoosh! The last cars would be a wall of newspapers speeding by."

Outgoing packages and mail was hung from a tower beside the train track and snapped up by the speeding train.

AFTER 1935, WHEN a massive hurricane wrecked the railroad, trucks began to bring the mail to Tavernier. Albury retired in 1963 when the new Tavernier post office was built opposite his store on U.S. 1. His nephew, Paul Albury, is the present postmaster.

The new post office, which handles about 160,000 letters and parcels annually, is far different from the tiny post office Albury ran out of his general store.

"They even gave him a swivel chair" he said of his nephew. "In my day, you had to rewind your string and count your paper clips."

The Secret of the Clay Tiles Is Hidden in His Workshop

By DONNA CAMERON
Herald Correspondent

The small room is more than just a workshop. It's a threshold of time and place. From ancient Indian temples, medieval cathedrals, and kings, colonies and castles throughout the ages, the patterns line a wall. In the room, history becomes one man's patterned patchwork.

The representations of the past are all in tile — Moravian tile — that artisan Herman Backlund says are one of a kind. He claims the hand-crafted, embossed picture tiles produced at Backlund Moravian Tileworks near mile marker 97, Key Largo, are the "only artistically successful Moravian tiles produced anywhere in the world."



BACKLUND

HIS SHOP FILLS orders for customers worldwide. Re-orders are sent frequently from such places as Tokyo, Brazil and Sweden. The orders attest to the success of Backlund's tile-making method, which is his secret.

The secret method came accidentally to Backlund. In 1967, while setting up a computer inventory system for county properties in Bucks County, Pa., Backlund was asked to itemize the contents of the Moravian Pottery and Tileworks Museum, Doylestown, Pa., an abandoned and badly vandalized estate.

It was Backlund's discovery in the museum that led him to his successful work today and various legal battles.

While working on the estate built in 1912 by Dr. Henry Chapman Mercer, an eccentric archaeologist, Backlund discovered 28 barrels filled with documents containing formulas for Mercer's "lost" tilemaking art.

MERCER, ALSO a noted anthropologist and Moravian tilemaker, had searched Europe in the late 1800s to learn the tilemaking secret. He discovered the key was the clay, and concocted his own secret formula — a that formula was supposedly lost upon Mercer's death in 1930.

But with Mercer's molds, tools and "40-year-old clay leftovers," Backlund taught himself the art. Although he possesses Mercer's formulas, he said he found them useless because of modern equipment.

After several years of research, Backlund made his own clay formula and his tiles matched the quality of Mercer's. Bucks County, Pa., officials took Backlund to court in 1971, claiming he had stolen Mercer's tilemaking secret, but the artist was acquitted.

"Anyone who knows anything about ceram-

ics today would realize what a joke that was," Backlund said. "Mercer's formulas were used in a coal-heated kiln. My kiln is electric and you can't use the same clay in both types of kilns.

"**THEY JUST** wanted me to stop making the tiles because the craftsmen the county hired to make the tiles sold at the museum couldn't produce a product like mine," Backlund contended. "And they still can't match my tiles. Nobody can — I'm like Mercer was in his day. It's my secret."

Backlund will not disclose where he obtains his clay. It is blended "someplace in New Jersey" and shipped by the ton to his Key Largo shop. He claims the clay he uses never fails to produce a clear impression, even in intricately designed molds. Ordinary clay is not suitable for Moravian tilemaking, he said, because it leaves small pieces in the molds, failing to copy the mold's total design.

The tiles displayed in his shop are beautifully colored, and having been fired to almost 2,000 Fahrenheit in the kiln, are highly resistant to wear. Most of the embossed ceramic pictures are four-inch squares, but larger panels and sconces are also displayed. "Natural" clay reds and "earth" blues and greens in the finished tiles compliment Backlund's secret clay skills.

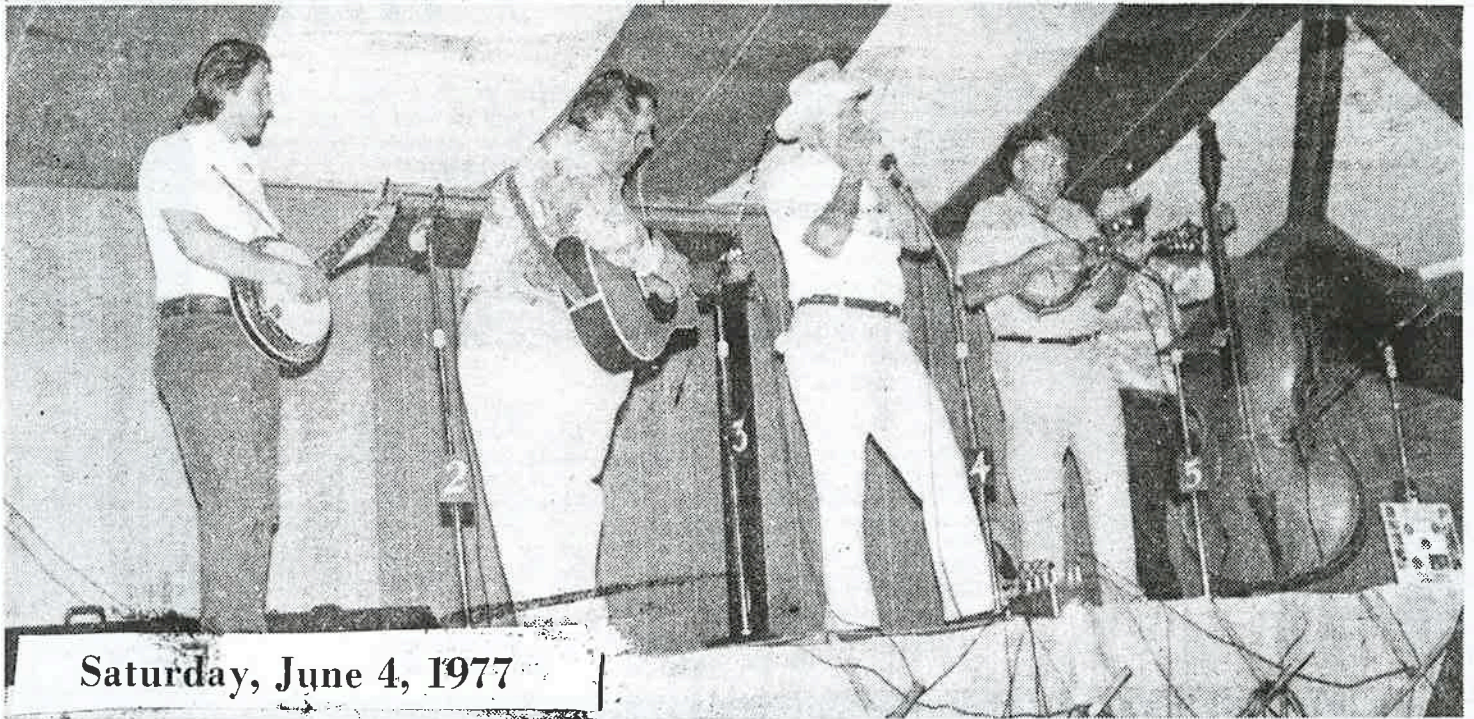
It's "art that works," Backlund said of his product. His customers use his embossed picture tiles in floors, fireplaces and baths in their homes. Some buyers, he said, buy the tiles for wall hangings rather than paintings.

A FLORIDA Keys mold will soon be displayed at the shop, to be sold for the benefit of the Key Largo Ambulance Corps. Other patterns in the shop include "Plus Ultra," a design made by a Spanish king to commemorate Columbus' discovery of America mixed with the American dollar sign.

A tile of colonial Boston Harbor, inscribed with the word "Tea," and Biblical impressions, as well as Mayan Indian symbols are also favorites.

Although he won't talk about his clay secret, Backlund speaks freely about reasons for his success.

"It's because I'm stupid," he said. "I was never taught ceramics. I learned like Mercer did, by experimenting with someone else's experiments. When someone asks me how I achieved what is taught to be 'ceramically impossible,' I say 'because I never learned how not to.'"



Saturday, June 4, 1977

— DONNA CAMERON / Miami Herald Bureau

Big Timber Band Includes Dave Maynard, Chubby Anthony, Bill Bailey, Jack Walker
...group performed at Bluegrass festival last weekend at World Beyond campground on Key Largo

Bluegrass Purist Defends Form

By DONNA CAMERON
 Herald Correspondents

"This is a song my grandma taught me when she was 99 years old," he adlibbed, "and truer words were never spoken through false teeth."

The audience of 75 laughs as the band picks up on the medley: "I'll never marry an older man and I'll tell you why. His mouth is full of tabacco juice and he doesn't zip his fly."

Within minutes, both children and adults are dancing to the music. Don (Chubby) Anthony calls "my oldies as old as the Blue Ridge Mountains themselves."

ANTHONY AND his Big Timber Bluegrass Band were performing at the Keys' first "real" bluegrass festival at the World Beyond campground in Key Largo last weekend — a four-day event planned as a Memorial Day celebration by Miami bluegrass fan C. B. Jackson and his mandolin teacher, Bill Bailey, also a Miamian and a member of the Big Timber Band.

"He's the greatest banjo player of them all," Jackson said of Anthony. "He can play anything from a banjo to a dobrow and it'll sound great — that includes an old shoe with strings around it."

"It's part of me I'll enjoy until they say I can't do it no more," Anthony said Saturday night between performances.

Like the three other members of his band, Anthony can sound off at will on the banjo, guitar, fiddle and mandolin. But unlike the other band members, Anthony's also a proven performer of his own music and lyrics and has recorded 27 bluegrass albums with various bands, four solo albums and is a veteran of countless cross-country tours, a radio show and two years of Boston nightclub entertainment.

HE'S SELF-TAUGHT, too, and while he doesn't demean formal schooling outright, he does say "I try not to let it hurt me any" when he speaks of his 10th grade education in Cherryville, N.C., his small hometown in the foothills of the

Blue Ridge Mountains.

"I think that learning to play an instrument from a book takes away some of the feeling — when you get into paper work you get too involved and you start playing note to note, step by step — forgetting how to let people enjoy the music the way you feel it," Anthony said.

"I'd rather hear a man play his own notes offbeat than hear him echo someone else's right," he added.

ANTHONY, 42, SAID he started "pickin' guitar" at age seven. "My daddy helped me a bit with the guitar," he said, "but when it came to the fiddle, a Tennessee gentleman by the name of Ray Huskey was the one who inspired me the most."

Anthony also said he taught himself to play the mandolin at age nine and by the time he was 12 years old, he became for the first of seven years running North Carolina state fiddling champion.

Although he said the banjo is his

favorite instrument, Anthony said that playing "the fiddle is the easiest way to make a living."

ANTHONY IS QUICK to defend his style of music which he claims "Nashville has given a bad name since it commercialized country music in the early 1960s and the original country form of bluegrass as hillbilly."

"Bluegrass is mountain music," he said, "and its roots are in the music of the Irish immigrants who settled in the southeastern U. S. mountains several generations ago. The music took on its unique American strain after the descendants of those immigrants invented the banjo and took to playing their music on it."

He added that "real bluegrass music is an authentic artform rich in history. For example, the fiddle got its name back in the Gold Era when mountain folks went out west," he said, "and had nothing else to do but take out the fiddle from underneath his arms and break out playing."

Sharks hard to find, film makers find out

By DONNA CAMERON
Contributing Writer

ISLAMORADA — To pilot his sequence on phases of "Americana", film producer Gregory Jackson of New York City planned to document a shark fishing expedition.

It seemed easy enough — all he planned to do was gather his crew and head on down to Florida's "shark island" coast. From there it would be a cinch — make a date with a charter captain, set out early in the morning, get the chum line going and — presto! Sooner or later a shark would appear on one of the boat's lines.

To their surprise, Mr. Jackson, cameramen Tony Foresta and Dick Gray, and sound man Norma Kopelman, all of New York, spent three days and a few thousand feet of film before they had any luck.

"It was considerably frustrating," said Mr. Jackson, "I had to get a shark. You know: No shark, no story."

On Monday, after three days of fruitless shark fishing at another Keys location, Jackson obtained a time extension on what had been planned as a three-day venture, and set out at 8 a.m. with Capt. Tony Peluso aboard the Dawn from Chesapeake Docks. At 4 p.m. they returned triumphant, with a 155 pound hammerhead.

"A relief," Mr. Jackson said to the experience, "Catching the shark—no more complaints from headquarters."

The variety sequence, to be broadcast over ABC networks is described by Mr. Jackson as a "magazine-type" feature, focusing on American people and their



Photo by DONNA CAMERON

CAMERA CREW from ABC Television films a scene for a future "shark adventure" show.

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TV sharks

Continued from Page 40
lifestyles, many of which have been influenced by a "media culture", according to Mr. Jackson. He has been studying and documenting, via film media, the results of the "Jaws" craze on the fishing industry in the Keys and in Miami.

"Is it just a momentary fad?" he asked, "Or does it reflect a certain preoccupation with the bizarre on the part of the American people?"

According to Mr. Jackson, who is originally from Hawaii and considers he himself a "man of the ocean", there is more than one way to kill a shark.

"In Hawaii, we used to swim out to the reef at high tide. The reefs in Hawaii are situated differently than those off the Keys, he said. "At low tide you can see them from shore."

They would then drive an iron stake into the reef, and tie a rope with live bait to it. The shark would go for the bait. When the tide ebbed, the hooked sharks would die of suffocation. "Sharks have no way of storing air," the film producer explained.

"I don't think the excitement for many people is the actual killing of the shark," he speculated. "Though certainly the shark is primeval enough. It seems more the idea of dealing with the exotic and bizarre. In this case, the shark, from a safe place, like a charter boat. You know, something's happened to the American tourist. He doesn't want to go to Rome anymore — he'd rather walk through the Amazon in tennis sneakers, or hunt a fearful fish from the deck of a boat."

As part of his investigation, Mr. Jackson spent time at Pfeuger Taxidermy in Miami. According to his statistics, shark mounting orders have increased at least 20 per cent over the past three years. Whereas Pfeuger mounted 20-40 sharks

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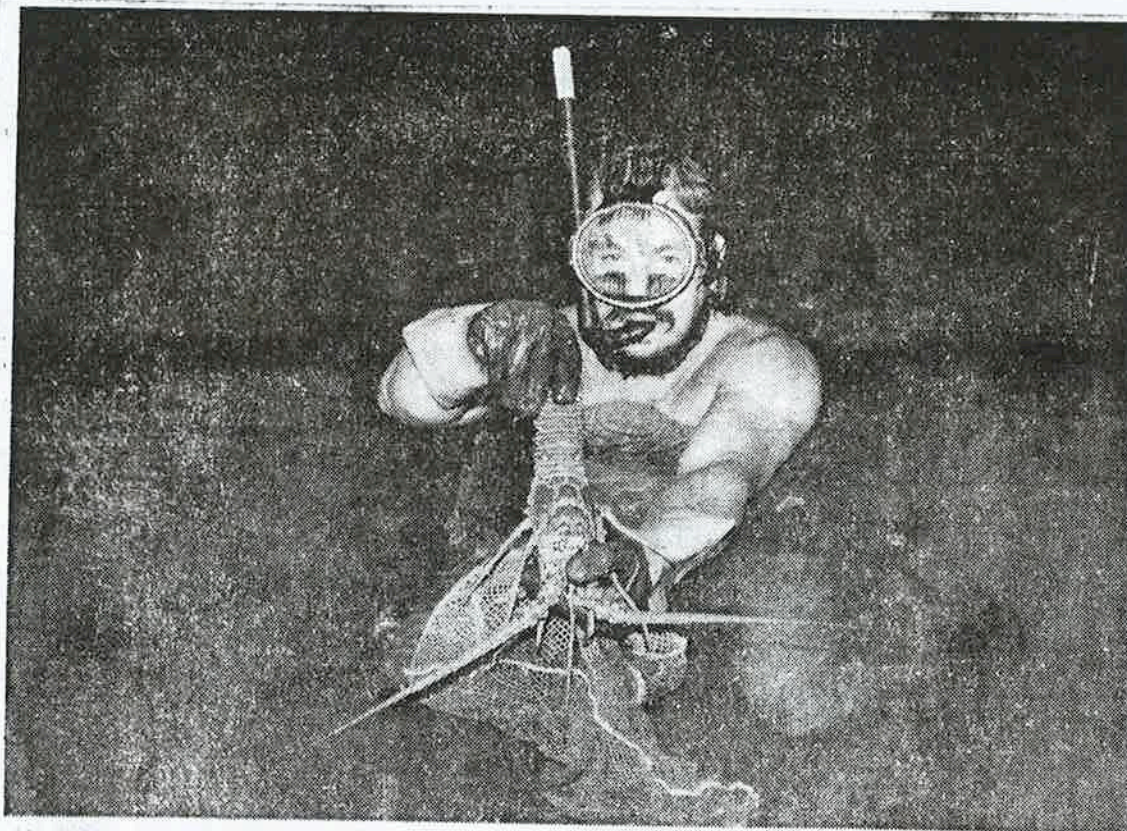
TV sharks

Continued from Page 41
per week before the release of the movie "Jaws", it now mounted 100-200 sharks per week, Jackson said.

"And, in this modern age, even among fishermen, there is specialization," Mr. Jackson noted.

Signs on Keys docks read "Big Game Shark Fishing

Available", or "Night and Day Trips — Fish for the Monster Shark like Jaws", or "As Featured on ABC TV". Momentary fad or not, business is good, and getting better.



— DONNA CAMERON / Miami Herald

Bob Truchioe of Islamorada Pulls in His Succulent Catch

... amateur's season ends tonight

Amateur Lobster Season Arrives

By DONNA CAMERON
Herald Correspondent

John Hopkins and Bob Turchioe paid little attention to one of their favorite sporting events Tuesday night, major league baseball's All-Star Game. Instead, the pair spent the evening in Hopkins' Islamorada home in ever-increasing states of apprehension, awaiting the big moment.

Movies

CINEMA TWIN — Star Wars (PG) 7, 9:30. The Island of Dr. Moreau (PG) 7:15, 9:15. Searstown.

PLAZA TWIN — The Domino Principle (R) 7, 9. Thieves (PG) 7:15, 9:15. Key Plaza Shopping Center.

THE PICTURE SHOW — Harold and Maude (PG) 9, 620 Duval St.

ISLANDER DRIVE-IN — Ready, Willing and Able (R) begins at dusk. Seventeen and Anxious (R) 10:35. Stock Island.

MONROE THEATER — Fantasy Club of America (X) and Melanie's Joffline (X), continuous shows from 1 p.m. 623 Duval St.

Marjorie Pickles, Hopkins' neighbor, was also absorbed in nail-biting and clock-watching Tuesday night, waiting with the men for the stroke of midnight.

Hopkins and Turchioe had prepared for the awaited moment earlier, donning diving gear hours ahead of time. By midnight they were in the water of a sea-walled cove behind Hopkins' home, preparing to be the first Florida fishermen to take advantage of the annual two-day amateur lobster season.

THE CLOCK struck midnight. And within 45 seconds, the two had pulled up a lobster from near the seawall. Minutes later, Pickles, who was stationed at "the crawfish bed that I've been cultivating for years," had captured her prize,

too.

"I wish we could have got all we saw," Hopkins said. "John held the light while I snuck up behind them," Turchioe added, "but they're fast."

By 7 a.m. Wednesday, hundreds of snorkelers and divers were submerged in Keys waters, searching for that cherished crawfish, better known as lobster, before professional crawfishermen begin their season Friday.

The Florida Marine Patrol reported it had made only one arrest by late Wednesday on a man who had exceeded the limit of six lobsters per fishermen.

The event, Florida's third annual, ends at midnight Thursday.



— DONNA CAMERON / Miami Herald

Morgann Lester Practices Lessons on Her Violincello

... one of 10 Plantation Key Elementary School students in class

Keys Students Strung Out, But Make Beautiful Music

By DONNA CAMERON
Herald Writer

When 10 Plantation Key Elementary School fifth graders started lessons 4½ months ago, they couldn't even read music. Now, as string instrumentalists in the school's Beginning String Orchestra, they not only read music, they play several melodies with ease.

The group is a first for the Keys, an area where even adult and professional string instrumentalists are rare, according to the orchestra's founder Robert Weiler.

Weiler, who has spent nine of his 28 music-teaching years at Coral Shores High School conducting the marching band and teaching music, said his elementary students are "quite talented and doing surprisingly well."

"WE'RE hoping to build from this group to where we have a string orchestra in both elementary and high schools," Weiler said.

The lack of professional string players in the Keys poses an instruction problem for Weiler, who said he was lucky to have had several professional musicians wintering in the upper Keys when he formed the group last January. The musicians agreed to visit the

elementary school and demonstrate their instruments to interested students.

Although the musicians expressed a willingness to give private instruction if the program proved successful, they would be able to teach only during the winter months.

But despite the problems, which include a limited supply of instruments, Weiler has produced 10 versatile and inspired musicians who are already entertaining at school functions and PTA meetings.

"I TRY to play like a professional," said viola player Tammie Gurgiolo, of Plantation Key. "It's all very interesting. I'd like to learn the French horn, too, because it's my favorite."

Joey Horvarth of Lower Matecumbe is a violin celist and the only member of the orchestra not assigned to a child-sized instrument. But Joey isn't stopping with the cello.

"I think I'll keep on with the cello, but I'd also like to take up the trombone and join the band. I can play in high school, and who knows? Four and a half months ago I couldn't even read notes. Now I play songs."

Shure Concert Prove Success of Fledgling Series

By DONNA CAMERON
Herald Correspondent

Nimble fingers rollick, pause. Hopeful-sounding strains of Franz Schubert's music change slowly to tones of despair. But the melody suddenly grows light again and the fingers are sure. The feet and heads of 250 enthralled listeners follow the tempo.

The audience, in awe, rises to give classical pianist Leonard Shure a 10-minute standing ovation for his interpretation of Schubert's "Fantasy." And Shure rewards them with an encore, a gesture of gratitude and feeling he had undertaken for only the second time in his life.

"In 61 years as a concert pianist, I have never played an all-Schubert program before," Shure said after his weekend performance at the Plantation Yacht Harbor on Plantation Key. "In fact, I have never played an all-any-composer program. And tonight was only the second time I've relented and given an encore."

OPENING HIS program with Schubert's Sonata in C Major and six short "momente musicale" pieces, Shure had originally intended to finish with Schubert's Fantasy in C Major. But after the standing ovation, he gave into the applause.

"Again, for the second time in my career," he told the audience, "I will play an encore at the request of my grandson, Andy — Schubert's Prelude in D."

A renowned pianist who has played with the symphonies of Boston, Philadelphia, Detroit, Cleveland and New York, Shure said after the show he does not like

to play an encore because it interferes with the totality of the program he plans.

"Certain pieces of music move well together. Like a total picture. An encore's like a red streak on a sheet of white," he said.

"**BUT TONIGHT**, as in the performance I gave last Feb. 8 at the University of Miami, I felt it belonged. The encore did not upset the totality of the performance."

The 67-year-old Shure is also particular about the piano he plays. A Baldwin concert grand was shipped from Ft. Lauderdale to Plantation Key for Sunday's performance.

"I won't play on any other piano," Shure said, "for a lot of reasons. But basically it's the tonal quality and the touch of the Baldwin that I like."

However, the Keys' climate can get the best of any piano, even a concert Baldwin, causing Shure to interrupt the concert.

"**THE HUMIDITY** has gotten to the piano again. If you hear some weird harmonies, it's because some of the keys are sticking. I must use the pedals unsparingly to account for those strange sounds."

Shure began his piano studies in 1914 as a four-year-old in Los Angeles. He gave his first concert there as a prodigious six-year-old, then leaving the United States to spend his teenage years studying piano in Germany under master pianist P.W. Schnabel.

Shure performed extensively throughout Europe from that time until his return to the U.S. in 1933, he said, and has since been a featured soloist with every major symphony orchestra in the country and in Israel.



— DONNA CAMERON

Leonard Shure Plays All-Schubert Program

...he provided only second encore in 61-year career

Sunday's Plantation Key concert was a success for patrons as well as the performer because of a "sell-out crowd," according to John Madigan, president of the Upper Keys Patrons of the Performing Arts (UKPPA). The concert was the second and last of the newly formed UKPPA-sponsored performances for this season. The first featured Flamenco guitarist Carlos Montoya and was also sold-out.

Shure said he enjoyed playing at the Yacht Harbor and would "return again if they will have me."

He returned to Boston after Sunday's concert where he teaches piano and music theory at the New England Conservatory of Music.

Tuesday, May 17, 1977

Student Teachers Are Tuned To Elementary Class Minds

By **DONNA CAMERON**
Herald Correspondent

"What color was it when it died and how long did it stay together dead?"

"Did it smell funny after?"

Questions like that are commonly asked by sixth graders when they're told about a whale shark that beached itself and died in the Gulf of Mexico. And, they're answered just as easily by a teacher only six years older than they are.

"Yeah, it smelled — like yechhhh!" replied Coral Shores High School senior and student teacher Joe Boyle. "And it turned black before it got the rottenest odor around," he said. Then he proceeds with a scientific lecture about the decomposition of the shark.

BOYLE IS ONE of 10 Coral Shores students who teach environmental science to students at Plantation Key Elementary School. The students teach one period a day, five days a week throughout the school year. Although a professional teacher sits in, the students are required to research and plan the lesson, as well as test and grade the students they have been assigned to teach.

The student teaching program is also conducted at Marathon and Key West High Schools, and the countywide program is subsidized by the state. The grant enables the student teachers to take their classes on field trips to "eco-cities" like the Everglades and to purchase much-needed equipment for science experiments.

"It's a great program," says Plantation Key Elementary School coordinator and seventh grade science teacher Donovan Riley. "A teenager has a chance for a certain rapport with students that a 36-year-old teacher like myself doesn't."

RILEY SAID the student teachers also "have time to study certain things in depth — and this helps me out as a science teacher."

Coral Shores coordinator David Makepeace, also a science teacher, said the student teacher program is in its first year. "I'm an eco-freak,"

Makepeace said. "And I'm proud of my students. It takes initiative, guts and responsibility for them to do what they're doing at the elementary school."

Makepeace said students selected for the program must be talented in science and have the mental stamina the job requires.

Eight of the ten student teachers plan to attend college after they graduate and at least three of them plan to study to become science teachers.

SENIOR DONNA Woollet student-teaches first grade and is a talented artist. She tests her students with tests based on drawings she has made.

Debbie Sands, a honor student in the program, gathers her third graders around her for a quiet afternoon of reading, while Kelly Daymond, whose classmates say has "the toughest class in the (elementary) school," must sometimes belt out her lessons to 40 restless second graders.

Joe Boyle comes across as a student teacher who is really one of the kids. When he enters the sixth

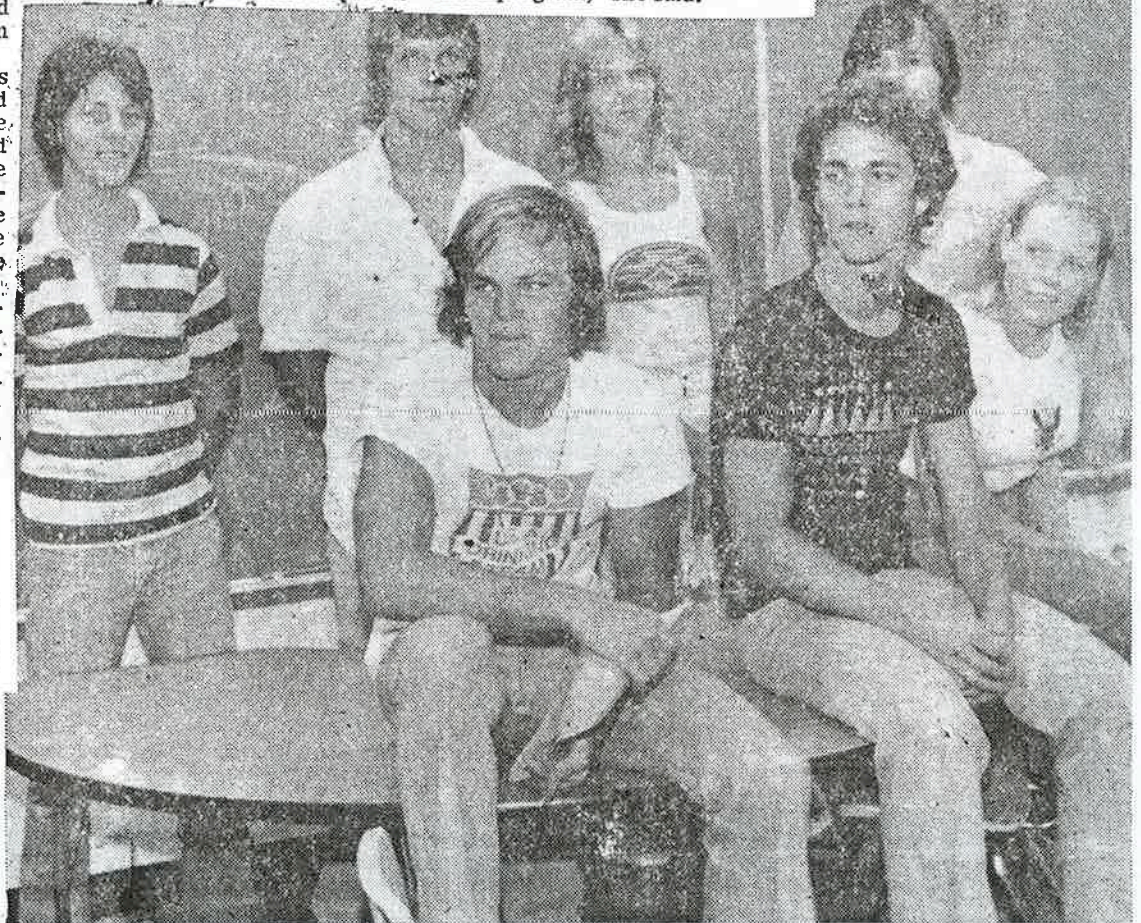
grade classroom wearing a striped referee shirt and blue jeans, he's greeted with cries of "Hey, ref" from the boys and "Show us how you blush" from the girls.

"I was surprised by their reaction to me," Boyle said. "I thought they'd give me a hard time when I first started — but they didn't. One student even told her regular teacher that she had learned more with me one hour a day than she did with the regular teacher all year."

BOYLE WASN'T the only one surprised with the results of the program. Margaret Munson, 27, a teacher in the exceptional child program at Coral Shores High School, said that a student-teacher assigned to one of her 14-year-old students has "done a great job."

"In fact the child is so instilled with a desire to learn that he's already signed up for all Makepeace's science classes for the fall semester," she said.

"And that's what I call success — for any school or learning-oriented program," she said.



STUDENT TEACHERS: Seated from left, Joe Boyle, Ron Shelton, Kelly Daymond. Standing, Dave Smith, Bb Delire, Debbie Sanders and Dale Miller.

— DONNA CAMERON

Unique Brine Shrimp Farm Thrives Under Deft Control

By DONNA CAMERON
Herald Correspondent

Mike McMaster isn't your normal shrimper.

You might call him a shrimp farmer, though you wouldn't think of eating the kind he raises. They're a feast for fish.

Raising brine shrimp is as different from conventional shrimp trawling as cattle-raising is from a round-up. No more than an inch long, the reddish-brown, polywog-like animals have to be raised in a controlled environment.

McMaster, owner-operator of Ocean Farming Inc. on Plantation Key, says his is "the only brine shrimp farm in the world where things are controlled from day one to day of sale." Once they were only caught at the bottom of San Diego and San Francisco Bays.

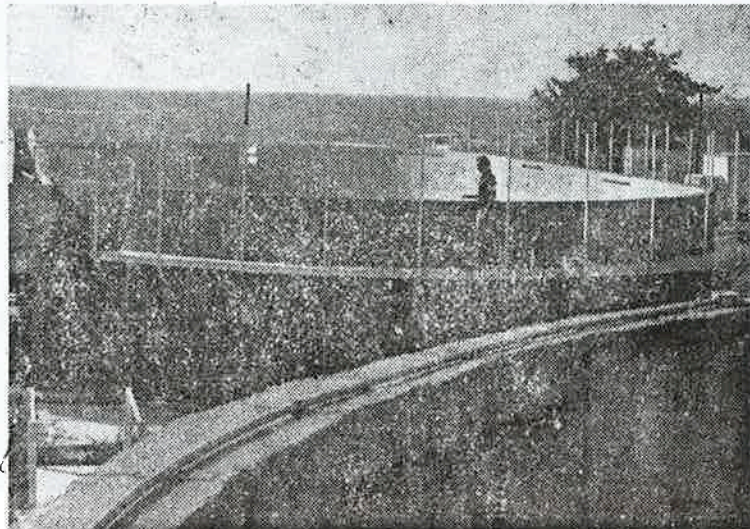
"IT'S A CHALLENGE few have dealt with," said McMasters, 31, who earned a bachelor of science degree in oceanography at the University of California.

Nevertheless, he has managed to turn it into a thriving, 10,000-pounds-a-month business.

"Although doctors here and there have grown brine shrimp from eggs in university and company labs, no one else has yet made a successful business of growing the shrimp," McMaster said. "Since October, four months after I moved the company to the Keys from West Palm Beach, the farm has produced up to 10,000 pounds of brine shrimp a month. And we've sold them all — to pet dealers nationwide and in Canada."

McMaster said his tank-grown shrimp also have another advantage over those netted in the ocean because they are free of bacteria occasionally harmful to aquarium fish.

HIS FINAL product, which is labeled, "Caribbean Brand Live Shrimp," is not the only fish food McMasters has developed. "Ocean Green," a zooplankton he described as "live food for aquarium



One of 11 Concrete Tanks at Plantation Facility
...shrimp are trucked daily to Miami Airport for trips

invertebrates such as live coral and sponges; as well as an environmental stabilizer for tanks," is also on the market.

The food used to feed his brine shrimp is also McMasters' concoction, but he cautioned that the ingredients are not "for distribution or identification."

"Like the brine shrimp are themselves," he said, "it's a safe, control-grown food for fish who inhabit a safe, controlled environment like an aquarium or a tank."

Despite the modern products manufactured at McMaster's company, the brine farm resembles the ruins of a lost civilization. Eleven circular concrete tanks, some 15 feet high and all without windows or ceilings, comprise the farm.

THE TANKS are the actual shrimp nurseries, providing a combined water-holding capacity of four million gallons. The shrimp are fed from catwalks and the density of the brine's population is periodically checked. Environmental factors, such as water temperature

and salinity must also be recorded.

McMasters grows his shrimp from eggs purchased in markets in the U.S. and overseas, hatching them in 60-gallon polyethylene containers on the farm and then putting them into the large growing tanks. Water is constantly cycled through the tanks and into canals at the tanks' bottoms, but the shrimp are contained within the concrete structures by net gates.

After 21-30 days, the normal brine growing period, McMasters said, the shrimp are "flushed from the cisterns into the canals where they are netted, water-bagged, and packed in styrofoam boxes with pure oxygen."

THE BOXES are trucked to Miami International Airport daily, he said, and usually reach their destinations as far away as Anchorage, Alaska, within 24 hours. The styrofoam containers stabilize temperature conditions in the boxes for up to six hours, he said, regardless of outdoor weather conditions.

Lobstermen Rap Amateur Season

By DONNA CAMERON
Herald Correspondent

Succulent, fresh lobster dinners will probably dress the tables of many Keys sports fishermen tonight who snared their catch during Florida's third annual two-day lobster season for amateurs.

But another, more serious group of fishermen, the professionals who make a living catching crawfish, aren't particularly pleased

with either the state-legislated amateur season or the divers and netters who invaded Keys waters for the 48-hour period to catch lobster.

Complaints range from charges that the amateurs, permitted to catch lobster Wednesday and Thursday, violate the state's laws frequently to others claiming the amateurs are partially responsible for a decrease in the size and quantity of the delicacy.

CRAWFISHERMEN are particularly upset that the two seasons overlapped, as Thursday was not only the second day of the amateur season but the first day the pros could lower their traps.

"I work hard to prepare my traps, and then on the day they go into the water, I have to waste my time dodging divers without down flags in navigable waters at choice trap sites," a Conch Key crawfish-

erman said.

"It's a farce," Capt. Charlie Brown, 15-year owner-operator of Charlie Brown Fisheries, Inc., Islamorada said. "It would be okay if they stuck by the rules but most of them don't."

Brown added many of the amateur lobstermen catch illegal, undersized crawfish, cut off only the tails and throw the carapaces back into the water, a violation of state

law.

"The dead crawfish heads repulse other crawfish for as long as three weeks," Brown added. As a result, he said, he does not expect to pull up a good initial catch Tuesday, the first day the professionals can raise their traps.

"I HAVEN'T BEEN able to expect a good initial catch for three years since this sports thing was initiated," Brown added.

Other professional fishermen complained that passage of the bill in 1974 which called for the two-day season to begin in 1975 was "unfair."

"Officials pushed the bill through without us fishermen having a chance to fight it," another fisherman said. A majority of the fishermen interviewed refused to be identified, saying they feared reprisals from persons who would destroy their traps.

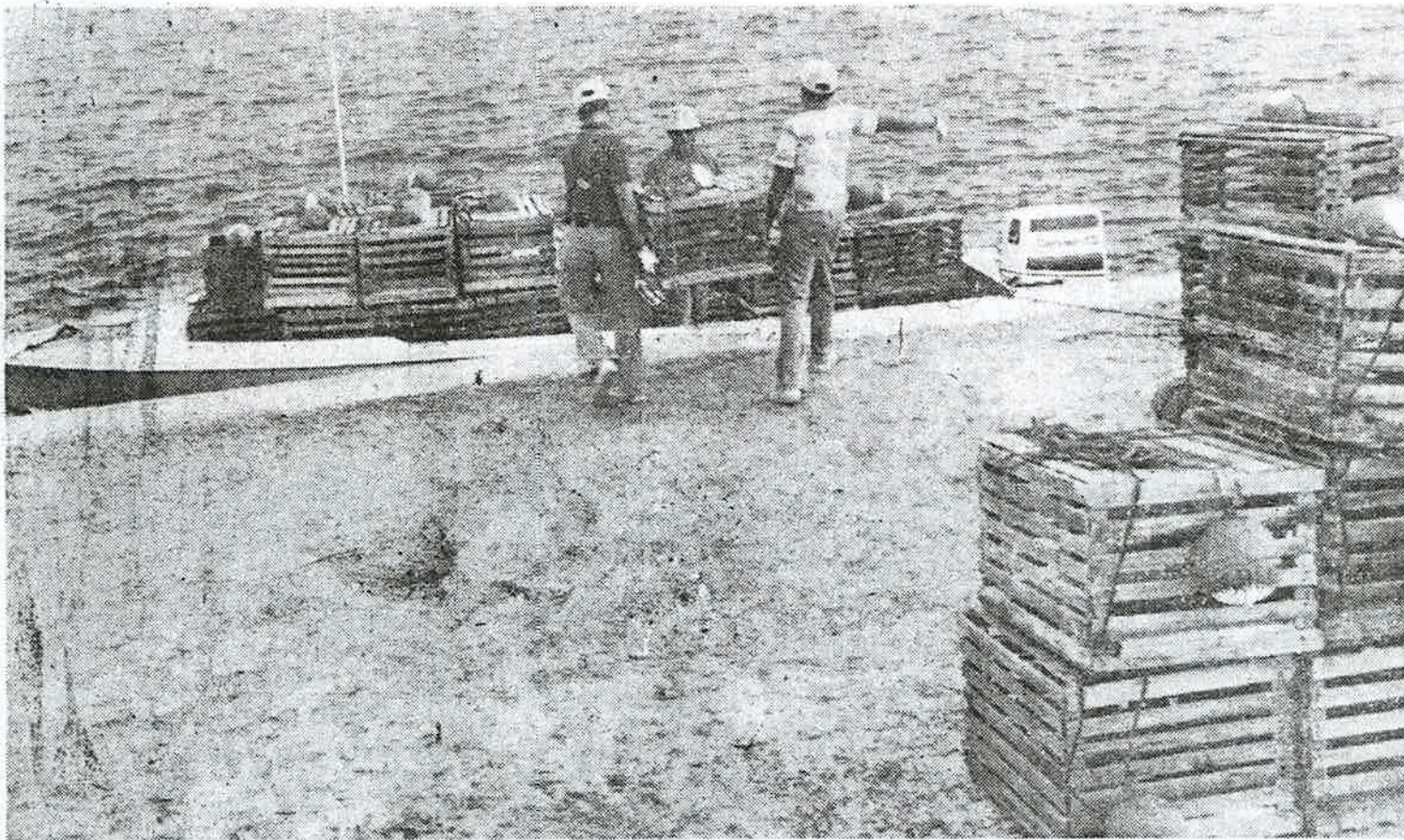
Florida Marine Patrol Sgt. Gene Gray, Marathon, however, said his organization "hasn't seen much of the problem" the professionals complain about.

"It's true that the dead carapace might repulse living crawfish in the immediate vicinity but disposing of the head is a crime and people doing so are arrested."

MARINE PATROL officials added only 30 arrests were made of violators breaking the rules of the two-day season, a record low for the three-year period. Most of the arrests were made on persons taking more than the allowed six lobsters.

"They're just greedy," a sports fishermen said of the professionals. "They just know that for all the lobsters we take, there's that many less in their traps."

If the commercial fishermen are worried about this season, it's for good reason according to Pete Maley, National Marine Fishing Service. Maley said a 1.7-million pound decrease was recorded in the professionals' catch between the 1974 and 1975 seasons, the year the amateur period began.



— DONNA CAMERON

John, Jeff Dolan Load Traps onto Boat of Lobsterman-Father John

...traps were placed in the water Thursday but can't be raised until Tuesday

Most Keys Lobstermen Stay in Port In Protest Against Low Market Prices

By FITZ McADEN
And DONNA CAMERON
Herald Staff Writers

Most Keys lobster boats stayed in port Wednesday as lobstermen continued their work stoppage against low market prices.

"It's kind of quiet," said Mrs. Helen Roberts, owner of the Islamorada Fish Co., a fish house that usually is bustling with activity. Roberts said that her firm had bought "nothing today" from lobstermen, and fish houses down the Keys also reported they weren't doing much business either.

Ming Seafood Inc. of Key West bought "only a handful" of lobster according to John Mertz, a Ming official.

WHEN THE lobstermen learned Tuesday that most fish houses were paying 20 cents per pound

less than was paid last year for lobster, they left their traps in the water and returned home without harvesting the catches. Tuesday was the first day of the season on which lobstermen could sell to fish houses.

The Florida Marine Patrol said there was hardly any lobstering going on in the Keys. "They're usually loaded out there on the second day of the season," said Lt. Ralph Tingley of the patrol's Marathon station. Tingley said a marine patrolman who was in an area where lobstering would normally be heavy reported that "he doesn't see one commercial boat out there."

A group of disgruntled lobstermen met in Marathon Tuesday night in a gesture of solidarity against prices which they say are too low to allow them a profit. Another group of lobstermen met in

Key West Wednesday night.

Officials of the Organized Fishermen of Florida, a trade association, have estimated that as many as 4,000 lobstermen may stop harvesting their traps.

FISHERMEN AT the Marathon meeting agreed to sit out the entire eight month long lobster season if necessary, but vowed not to sell for \$1.55 a pound.

"We won't be losing money if we leave the traps in the water unless some divers or other fishermen steal the crawfish from them," said Cappy Joiner, a lobsterman and spokesman for the Marathon group.

Lobstermen say their expenses for fuel, supplies and bait have sharply increased, and they need to make at least what they were paid last year for their lobsters to stay

in business.

Another fisherman said he would "rather truck our own (lobsters) up to Miami" and sell to fish houses there than wait for prices in Keys houses to go up. Prices paid for lobster in Miami are reportedly higher, but that could not be immediately confirmed.

"IT'S A matter of supply and demand," said Bob Felik, an official with National Fisheries, a Miami seafood wholesaler. "There's already a good supply" of lobsters, he said, adding that the price of lobster dinner in a restaurant has risen to the point that "the public just isn't consuming."

"There is still a demand for a very small amount of lobsters," Felik added.

Ming said it is "too early for the strike to do any real damage."

Novice Fly Caster Is Champion at Women's Tourney

By **DONNA CAMERON**
Herald Correspondent

Five months ago, Joy Brown couldn't even work a fly reel. But on Tuesday she caught two tarpon and became the grand champion of the first Women's Invitational Tarpon Fly Tournament at the Islamorada Fishing Club.

Brown fished the three-day tournament with her husband, Capt. Hank Brown, a professional back-country guide from Bud 'n' Mary's Marina in Islamorada.

"He taught me everything I know," she said. "I set out to win and even though I caught nothing the first two days of the tournament, Hank never doubted I could do it." She added that it was "an honor to be the winner — it was the first women's tarpon fly tournament in Islamorada."

THE TOURNAMENT was more than just a first for Islamorada. According to Cathy Deliere, the tournament's director and the first runner-up.

Nine anglers participated in the contest, held Sunday through Tuesday. The majority of them were inexperienced and had learned to fly fish from their husbands or Capt. Dave Wilson, also of Bud 'n' Mary's, in February. That's when the idea of the contest was "conceived over lunch at Papa Joe's, an Islamorada restaurant, by Capt. Max Register, also of Bud 'n' Mary's," Deliere said.

"Max is the one who thought it up, and he and (Wilson) were the ones who made it work — three years ago if they'd have seen a woman out there fishing on a fly, they would have said, 'Move over baby.'" But other fisherman had a lot of respect for us."

FLY FISHING requires more skill and coordination than fishing with conventional or spinning gear, Wilson said.

"This year we had a good time, next year we'll be pros," said angler Louise Meulenber of Islamorada. Meulenber, who cast into a school of tarpon Tuesday, hooked a 12 1/2-pound fish and fought it for an hour before discovering what kind of fish it was, won the contest's "most unusual catch" award.

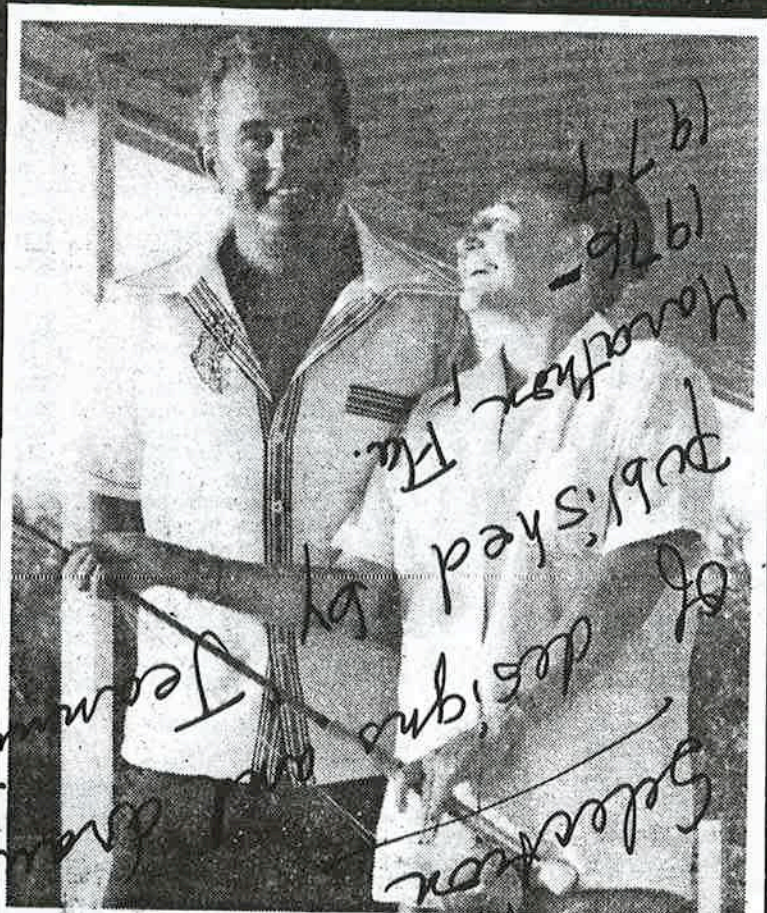
Kathy Albright, who won the hard luck award, is probably the only angler in history to have caught and lost a tarpon through the hoop of her earring. "There was nothing I could do about it ex-

cept keep fighting the fish," she said, "and I almost had it."

Contest prizes consisted of fishing gear. Brown won a Seamster fly reel and a gold tarpon necklace designed by Al Pfeleger of Hallandale, for catching and releasing the most fish.

Deliere won a British-made Fenwick fly rod.

Ginny Storer was second runner-up and won a Diawa rod.



— DONNA CAMERON
Winner Joy Brown With Husband Hank
...she won first tarpon fly tournament



—DONNA CAMERON

Tournament Winners Jim Boyle, Steve Clark Watch Weigh-in
 ...Plantation event weighmaster Al Flutie Sr. adjusts scales

To Proud Anglers It's Prize, To Spectator a Dead Fish

By DONNA CAMERON
 Herald Correspondent

The bemused woman happened. Into the celebration at the Plantation Key Yacht Harbor Sunday and wondered aloud what she had come upon: "Why are two grown men getting so excited about a dead fish?" she asked a fellow bystander.

But it wasn't just any dead fish, she was told. It was a 58-pound dolphin and it had won Capt. Jim Boyle of Islamorada and angler Steve Clark of Miami first place in the Yacht Harbor's First Annual Championship Dolphin Tournament. They had good reason to be whooping it up — their win was rewarded with cash prizes of \$500 for Boyle and \$1,000 for Clark.

Clark — in Boyle's noncommercial Boston Whaler, the "Honey Bear" — had outfished about 130 other fishermen and a host of celebrities, including former baseball star Mickey Mantle, Miami Dolphin players Manny Fernandez and Steve Tole and Angelo Dundee, heavyweight champ Muhammad Ali's trainer.

CLARK'S PRIZE fish was weighed in at the Yacht Harbor just half an hour before the tourna-

ment's 5 p.m. closing time Sunday. Ten minutes after Clark's fish was off the scales, the runners-up in the tournament, Capt. Skip Bradeen of Chesapeake Docks, Islamorada, and fisherman Muriel Kaye of Hallandale, rushed in with a 48-pound dolphin. Cash prizes for the second place team totaled \$1,000 — \$700 for Kaye and \$300 for Bradeen.

A celebrity team comprised of Mantle, Fernandez and Tole brought back only an 8½-pound school dolphin, but the poor showing didn't dampen their spirits.

"It doesn't matter that we lost," Tole said at the awards banquet Sunday night. "We had a great time. This was the friendliest bunch of people I've ever met since I left my hometown of Prairie Village, Kan."

FERNANDEZ TIPPED a champagne glass and shouted, "Three cheers for my captain, Al Flutie — there's no one like him."

"This (fishing) was a lot more difficult than playing football," Fernandez said. "on the football field I'm always sober."

Mantle, cheerful despite a cold dinner and a flat drink at the tournament's preliminary banquet Friday night, obliged hordes of auto-

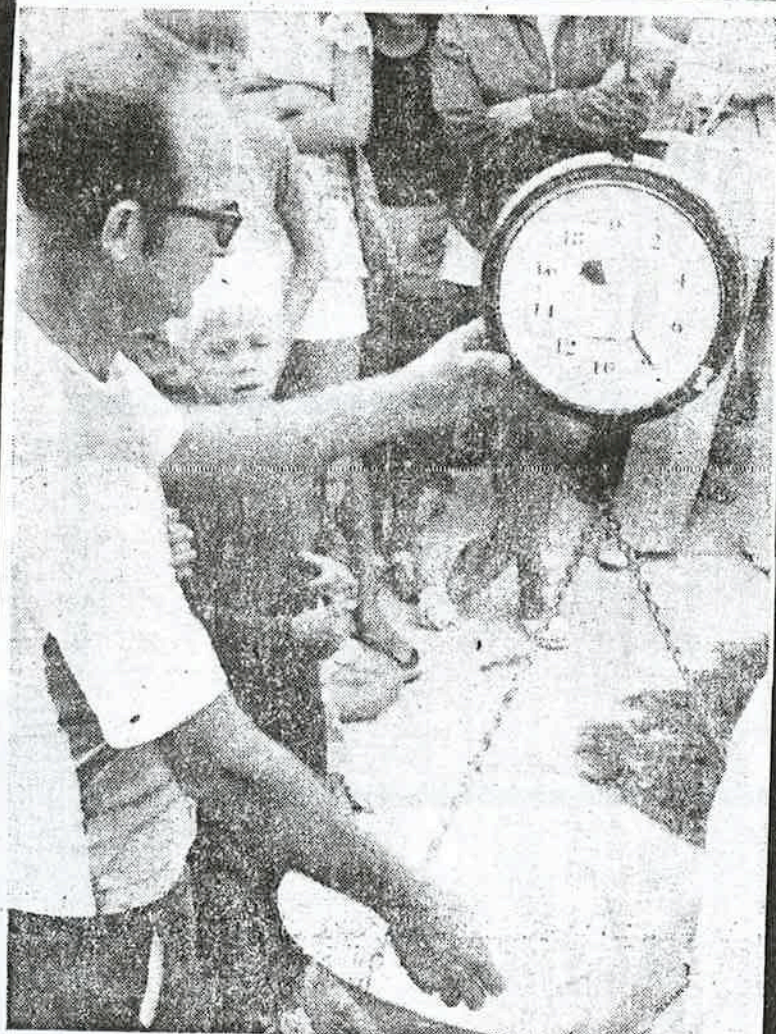
graph seekers and photographers. "I told him it was for my kid," one of them said after getting Mantle to scrawl his name. "But you know who it's really for."

Seventy-five boats, the largest ever for a Keys tournament, turned out for the two-day tournament, according to the co-sponsors, Capt. Joe Herzog of Chesapeake Docks and Eric Jorgensen, general manager of the Yacht Harbor.

"IT WAS BECAUSE the rules were simple," Jorgensen said. "None of that rig-a-marole stuff you get with other tournaments. And both men and women competed together. The average angler felt he had a chance to win at an entry fee he could afford — \$100."

"And just look who won — an angler who's never fished a tournament and a captain with a privately-owned boat," Herzog said.

Herzog added that the tournament was also a "boon to Islamorada trade in the off-season." While the Plantation Key Yacht Harbor fed over 1,000 paying guests three nights in a row, "Many motels were booked, and Islamorada's Abel's Tackle Shop alone sold more than 4,000 pounds of ballyhoo," a bait fish commonly used to catch dolphins, he said.



— DONNA CAMERON

Monty Hackett Weighs Redfish Entry
...7 1/4-pounder caught by Gary Register, wife Roxanne

None Are 'Flushed' By Tourney Catches

By **DONNA CAMERON**
Herald Correspondent

No one caught the royal flush — a bonefish, redfish and snook — but Capt. Bob Klein of Key Largo and his son Bob, Jr. won \$1,550 and four trophies for their catches in the Plantation Yacht Club's "Spinout-10" this weekend in Plantation Key.

The Kleins were the only pair among 45 fishing teams to catch a bonefish, a 31-pound, 11-ounce prize. The father-son team also won the redfish division with a 11-pound, 12-ounce catch.

Although only eight of the 45 teams caught any fish, Spinout co-directors Capts. Gary Ellis and Al Flutie said the tournament was a success, mainly because the 90 entries are the largest for the tournament.

The first tournament was held in April, 1972, Ellis said, a two-man bachelor party given for Flutie. Ellis said the Spinout is unique because "the 50-mile stretch between Key Largo and Marathon is the only place in the world where snook, redfish and bonefish can be stalked at the same time in the same waters."

Both experienced fishermen and amateurs participated in Spinout 10, Ellis said.

Al Polofsky and Bill Vogler, Miami, won the snook division with a catch of six pounds, 4 1/2 ounces. Keys' residents Kenny McKenny and Capt. Tony Lay won the "Hard Luck" award for their snook catch, a half-ounce less than the winners'.

AP



Homeseekers

These two part-poodles, found near the

Islamorada Post Office Sunday by Doris Hommel, are looking for a new home. Hommel said the two were romping through mud puddles, so she took them

— DONNA CAMERON / Miami Herald

home and gave them a bath. The pair pose in flower pots at Hommel's Flower Shop in Islamorada.

Thursday, July 21, 1977

A.P.

Emaciated Dog Finds Some Shelter

By DONNA CAMERON

Herain Staff Writer

Most dogs yearn for life in a good home, complete with appropriate portions of table scraps, nuzzling kids and long hours of sleep by the fireplace.

Casey, a four-year-old Irish setter, however, is a little different.

He prefers the dog pound to the home he's had for the past two weeks, tied up to a bush in an isolated bayside area north of Mile Marker 99 in Key Largo.

Police said Casey was found at about 8:45 p.m. Wednesday by Larry McMahon, a Key Largo resident and an employe of the Reason

Construction Company, Key Largo, which was excavating in the area.

PAT KUEHL, manager of the Upper Keys Humane Society, said McMahon immediately fed and watered Casey upon finding him and then contacted the society.

"It was a horrible sight," Kuehl

said. "It was so bad it's almost indescribable. The poor dog was just sitting on a big rock panting."

"Because there were a lot of rocks in the area, he was hard to get. And John (her husband) had to climb up on one rock and reach down and cut the rope," she added.

Casey originally had been thought to be abandoned by his keeper, Richard Ainsworth, a man in the process of moving from Dade County to the Upper Keys, according to Monroe County Sheriff's officials.

However, Deputy John Fay said Ainsworth had not abandoned the dog but was only attempting to treat it back to good health.

"THIS WHOLE THING got blown out of proportion," Fay said. "The appearance of the dog was

very poor — there's no doubt about that."

"But we heard all the cruelty rumors here first also, and that's why I did some checking."

Fay said Ainsworth received Casey in a very sick condition from a woman who was unable to restore the dog's health, and although traveling from Dade to Monroe County daily, stopped to feed Casey at the bayside spot.

Casey had contracted both hookworms and the skin disease sarcopic mange, officials said, and according to Fay, Ainsworth was attempting to heal Casey with daily salt water baths in the sea.

"My investigation so far shows he had nothing but honorable intentions," Fay said. "It may have been his knowledge of proper treatments was limited, but he was

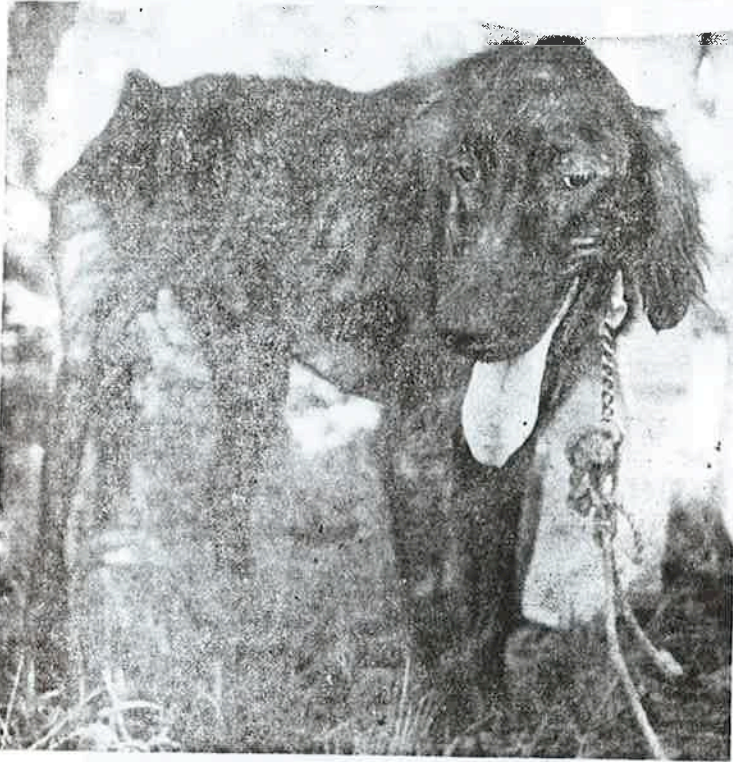
trying to take control of the dog's health."

DURING HIS ORDEAL, Casey's weight dropped from a normal 80-90 pounds to 51. He is suffering from anemia, fever and malnutrition.

"His stamina amazed me," Kuehl said. "He can't speak like a human being, but if you look at his eyes, you can't miss the gratitude."

Key Largo veterinarian George Baker said Casey had not contracted tapeworms or heartworms and therefore did not have to be destroyed. "I would have hated to kill a dog who fought for his life like this one. He deserves to live."

Fay said he is still attempting to locate the licensed owner of Casey, who will be kept at the Humane Society until the investigation is completed.



— DONNA CAMERON

Irish Setter Casey Left Tied to Bush by Miami Owner

...owner said he is trying to correct hookworm, mange diseases

Traveling down the Florida Keys



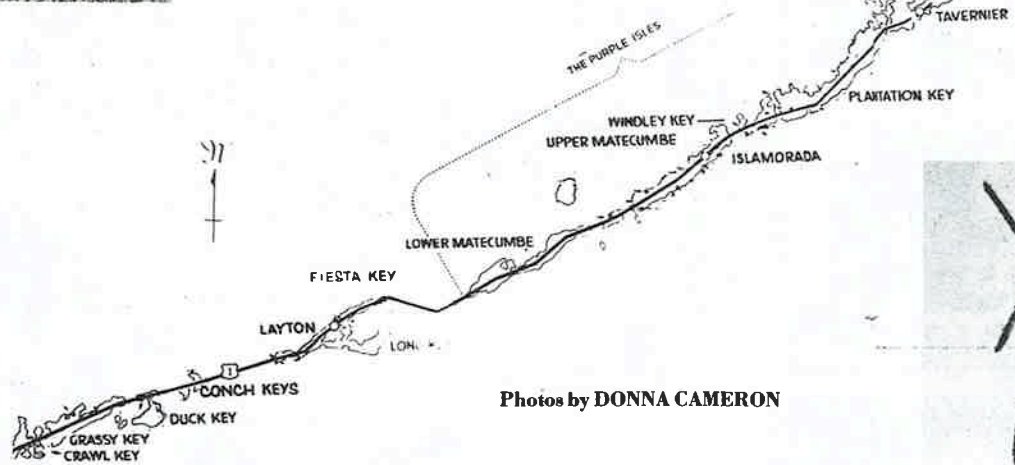
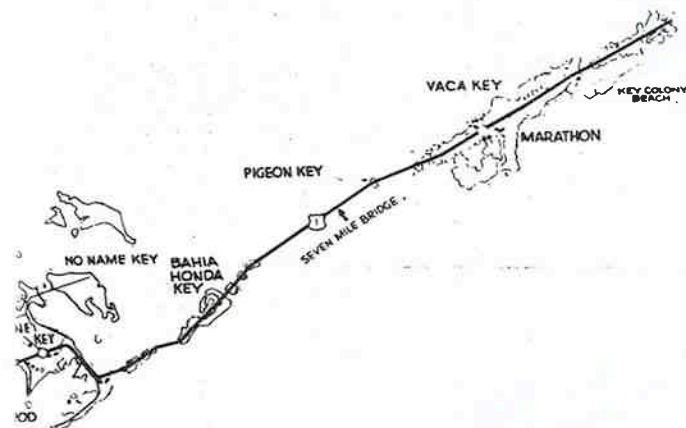
ANTIQUÉ CANNONS greet the unwary.

Nature in repose

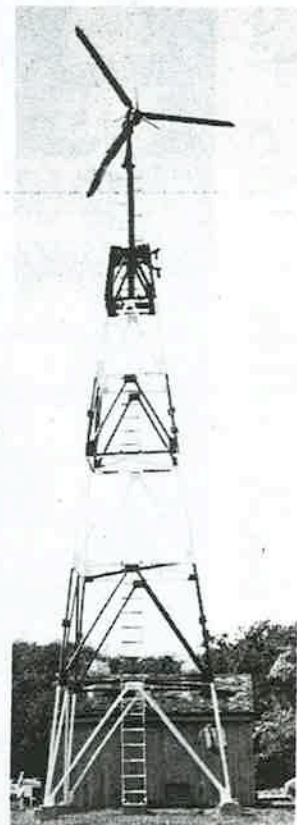
LIGNUM VITAE KEY — This island paradise is a place dominated by nature, with little evidence of human history. There's a dock, two houseboats, a Key Largo coral house, a windmill, an Indian mound, and a coral rock wall whose origin has yet to be determined. Otherwise, it's wild. Coffee berry trees, rare varieties of spider, tree snails unique to the island, coconut palms, Lignum Vitae trees, to name a few varieties. A Cornell University scientist reportedly remarked that there is more on the island than in 10,000 miles of travel. Visitors can arrange a tour by contacting the Long Key Recreation Area. The only way to get to the island is by boat, and that must be arranged privately.



CORAL REEF STATE PARK



Photos by DONNA CAMERON



WINDMILL, modeled on the 1919 original, which was destroyed by Hurricane Donna in 1960.



ER spider, a native of Lignum Vitae Key. It is a steel thread of equal dimensions.

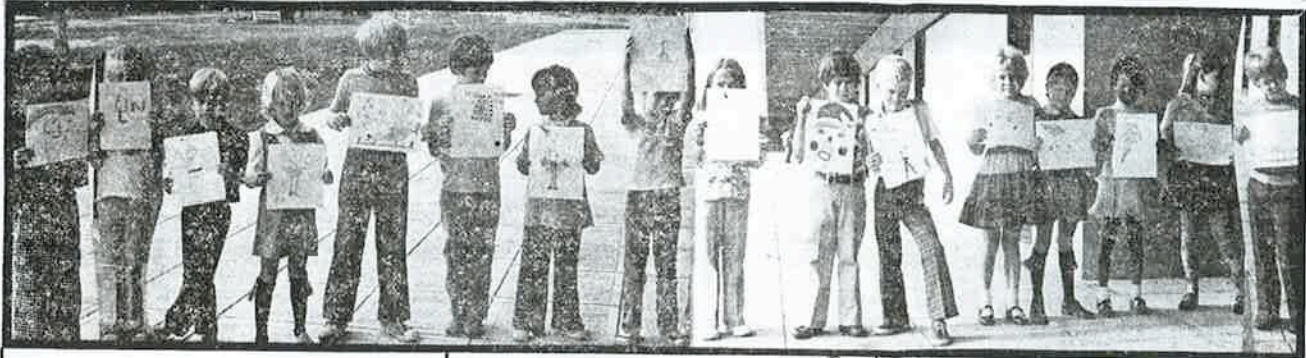


BARBED WIRE CACTUS, an exotic native variety.



WILD COFFEE BERRY shrubs inside the tropical hardwood hammock at Lignum Vitae Key.

DEAR SANTA: We know what...



Real or fake, fat or thin, Santa lives

By DONNA CAMERON
Contributing Writer

KEY LARGO — Who is . . . Santa Claus? I've never seen him, couldn't describe . . . "Ho Ho!" says Tina Wiseman's Santa Claus, with a wave of his arm. A large sack behind an equally large belly weighs him to one side.

What is . . . Santa? Not a real person . . . "HO HO HO HO!" cries the jolly man in red, from among the stars at night. That is Andy Achindler's conception. If someone were to give you a crayon and some paper, saying, "show me Santa Claus", who, or what would you describe, and how?

The problem was presented to second graders at Key Largo Elementary School. For those who've never seen Santa, or question his 'realness', a look at these children's illustrations is convincing. Mr. Claus is a smiling guy in a tall, pom-pommed cap essentially. And, to one's fancy, Santa is much more.

He might be a friendly face behind a gift-laden sleigh in a snowstorm, as George Alvarez sees him.

Maybe he's the fattest guy in the world, says the drawing of Katrina Rodriguez — with outstretched arms and a twinkle in his eye.

Naw, Santa's a swarthy dude, and, according to the artist 'Richard', he's got hot red cheeks, a green mustache, and a broad, toothy grin.

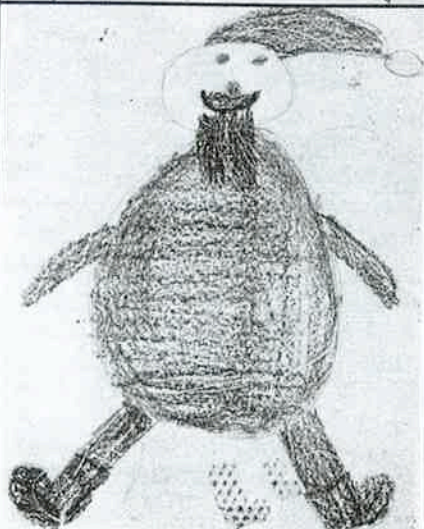
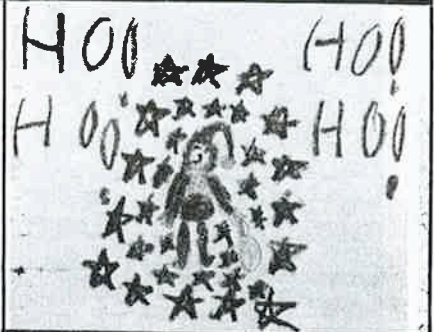
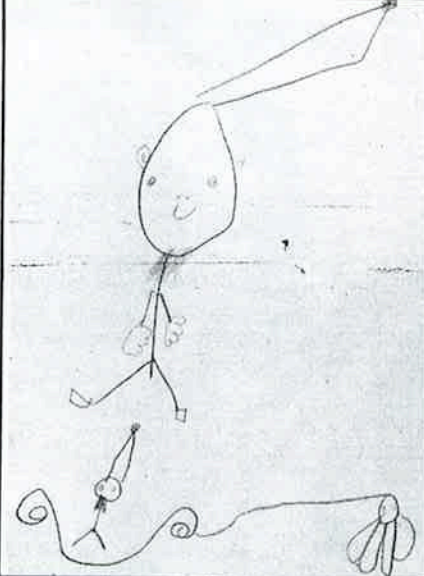
Santa, a wisp of a thing? Perhaps, suggests Steve Howard, with a stick-figure rendering, but only if he's got hands big enough to give out the presents.

Kevin Waggle portrays Mr. Claus as a pot-bellied, pipe-smoking, polite-looking gent shooting toward your chimney on a wing and a prayer.

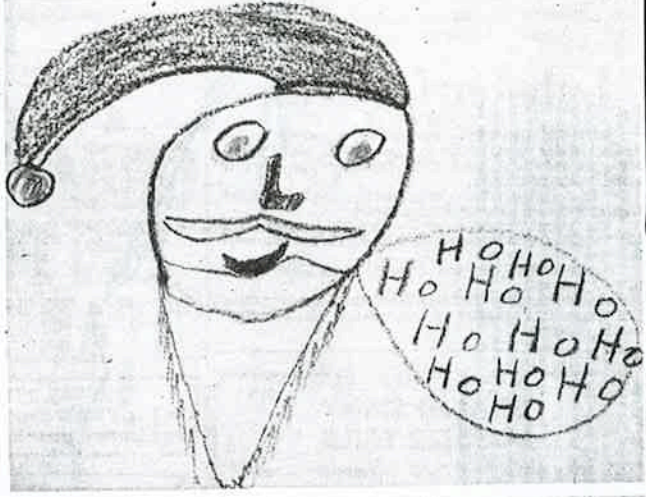
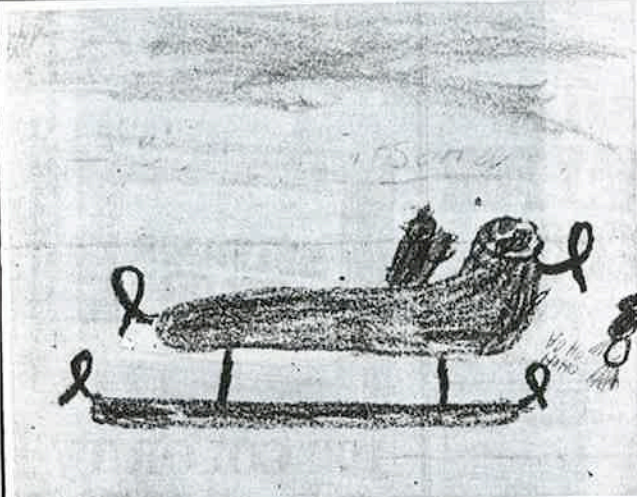
Could it be that Mrs. Santa is behind the whole thing? With rosy cheeks, long brown hair, and a fake blond beard — maybe, Jackie Crawford hints. Maybe there's more to her musical "HO HO HO" than one thinks.

"HO HO HO HO HO HO HO HO HO HO HO HO HO HO HO HO." rallies Debbie Kerman's Santa with a Mona Lisa grin. He's got one 'Ho' for each of the twelve days of Christmas.

Whatever, implies Donna Parkinson. This Christmas, wherever one is, Santa's coming. You'll see. The Christmas spirit will warm your heart when Santa peeks timidly in.



...you look like, ho ho ho!





Rare, Old Bird Inspires Legends

The pelican — a member of one of the oldest bird families in existence, with a family tree dating back 30 to 40 million years — has had both religious and literary significance from the earliest recorded history.

Perhaps the most interesting legend of all, says ornithologist Sandy Sprunt, is a medieval legend about a pelican parent caring enough for its young to pierce its own chest and feed them its blood, a symbol of piety and charity in the Middle Ages.

Dixon Lanier Merritt's 1910 doggerel cast the birds in a more humorous light:

*A wonderful bird is the pelican,
His bill will hold more than his belican.
He can take in his beak
Enough food for a week
But I'm damned if I see how the helican.*

Merritt's verse notwithstanding, pelicans don't store food in their beaks. However, the average brown pelican, with a height of 2 ½ feet, does have "an incredibly large" pouch capacity of up to three gallons, Sprunt said.

The medieval legend, too, is one possibly based on an odd pelican feature: although pelicans do not pierce their chests to feed their young, they do feed their nestlings by regurgitating semi-digested fish.

"The young go all the way down into their parents' gullet for a meal," Sprunt said. "And it sometimes appears that the eaters are being eaten."

Only Ruins Left of Pirate Lair

By **DONNA CAMERON**
Herald Correspondent

A network of paved roads once connected the post office and courthouse with the bars and hotels. Music filled the air nightly, along with the clinking of coins thrown recklessly on gambling tables.

Like so many other prosperous island towns in the 19th Century, Dade County's first seat, Indian Key, offered three staples that provided its frontier-type residents and the rough-and-tumble visiting sailors with a livelihood and a place to spend their money — warehouses, wharves and whores.

Today, only the charred ruins of building foundations and water cisterns of the former adult playground remain. One hundred and thirty-seven years ago Sunday, Indian Key's opulence ended when Spanish Seminole Indians, fighting the Second Seminole War, burned Indian Key to the ground while its 70 residents slept.

IT'S NOW THE SITE of the largest archeological project planned by the state, and thousands of visitors are expected to discover Indian Key's secrets Saturday and Sunday during its second annual Indian Key Festival on Indian Key Fill.

According to Irving Eyster, a Lower Matecumbe archeologist who supervised the state's excavation of the land, Indian Key was a lush and prosperous wrecking port from 1825 until 1840.

When notorious Key West wrecker Jacob

Housman purchased squatter's rights to the island from a hermit fisherman in 1825, the island was barren. But with the help of Dr. Henry Perrine, a 19th century botanist, Housman transformed the island into his own version of paradise, later nicknamed "Housman's Eden."

But as in the Biblical Eden, life in Housman's paradise ended abruptly. On a humid August 7, 1840, the Seminoles raided an island paradise for gunpowder. They also found a quantity of rum, got drunk, and in an intoxicated frenzy, set the village afire.

Seven persons, including Dr. Perrine, were killed while others found safety in the island's subterranean turtle kraals.

THE WEEKEND celebration, sponsored by the Upper Keys Historical Preservation Society and the Islamorada Chamber of Commerce, will feature transportation from the festival site to the island, a site which has been off-limits to curious boaters since the state purchased it in 1972. Guides trained by Eyster will conduct tours of the island.

Also planned are water shows, an all-you-can-eat fish fry, a slide show of the state's excavation of Indian Key and a display of five bird paintings by John J. Audubon, believed to be executed by him while he was a part-time resident of Indian Key.

Fees of \$3 for adults and \$1.50 will be charged for the tour and fish fry, officials said, with the funds to be used for the state's proposed restoration of the island.



— DONNA CAMERON

Old Brick Cisterns are Crumbling
...but Indian Key is coming back to life

Jeweler Skips With Goods, Cash

By **DONNA CAMERON**
Herald Correspondent

A Plantation watch repairman is being sought nationwide after he left in what is believed to a stolen van, taking \$10,500 in cash from a would-be partner, plus \$3,000 in jewelry and leaving more than \$6,000 in bad checks and unpaid rent.

Virgil J. Rigaud was last seen by his business landlord, Moe Marcey, Plantation Key, the morning of May 25 in the small shop near Mile Marker 87 where he was supposedly repairing more than \$3,000 worth of jewelry and assorted timepieces consigned to him by Keys residents.

By the night of the 25th, Marcey believes, 36-year-old Virgil J. Rigaud, a purported watchmaster and jeweler now being sought nationwide by police, had loaded his girlfriend Samantha Woollet and her four daughters plus the \$3,000 worth of goods into a stolen blue Chevrolet van and "split."

Besides the stolen jewelry and timepieces, Rigaud also took an estimated \$10,500 in cash from a duped investor and left nearly \$5,000 in bad checks, according to those who claim he cheated them.

"HE'S A CON artist," Alan Stocki, manager of Ziggy's Conch Restaurant in Islamorada, said. "I hope he goes to jail."

Stocki said he had intended to "go into business with Rigaud and had invested \$10,500 in cash and a new store" to be operated by Rigaud in the upcoming Tavernier Shopping Center, scheduled for a fall opening.

Stocki also said he has lost "more than \$2,600 in bad checks" to Rigaud. Rigaud also left the area without paying \$1,200 in back rent to Dr. Howard J. Leitman of Key Largo Point. Rigaud had rented a house from Leitman, Stocki said, near Mile Marker 99 and south of the Friendship Inn, Key Largo.

Rigaud also owes Marcey \$2,500 for back rent and utilities on Rigaud's store, "Time Services."

March 12, 1977

LOIS HANNIGAN of Islamorada, who said she left a jade ring in a white gold setting valued at \$500 with Rigaud, said, "I thought he was a nice guy — I trusted him. That's what really hurts."

Hannigan said Rigaud used "con artist techniques" when she "had taken a ring to Rigaud for reappraisal."

"Rigaud told me it was not Chinese jade at all but fake jade and that if I left my ring with him, he would replace the stone with the real thing," she said. "In the meantime, he gave me a new free watchband for my watch, worth \$12.50, and I thought that was a generous gesture. No wonder — why not give someone a \$12 band when you've got their \$500 ring," she added.

Rigaud is wanted for larceny by the Los Angeles police, according to the Monroe County Sheriff's office, for allegedly stealing the blue van he drove while living in the Keys since January. The van was orange when stolen last November, according to the Los Angeles police, but still displays the original California plates.

Seeing the Keys

By **DONNA CAMERON**
Herald Correspondent

Loose coral on the shoulder of U.S. 1 burns as it digs into sneaker soles, and one thought dominates — "Drink." The fast-food store up the road might be the last chance to satiate thirst, replenish the

Band-Aid supply and check for new blisters.

Two weeks ago, Doug McLean of Madison, Wis., decided he had waited long enough to see the Keys. Sitting in the Half-Shell Raw Bar in Key West, his mind "vibrating with the walls and a local rock

band," he said, McLean realized that he had spent four days in Key West without really seeing the Keys.

Convinced that backpacking was the only way to go, on Feb. 17 McLean sought companions. He met Cathy and Mike Costello of New



— DONNA CAMERON

Hearty Hikers Mike Costello, Doug McLean, Cathy Costello

...show wear on footwear, feet from week's walk to Key Largo

Footstep at a Time

York City on Duval Street, and persuaded them to join him in hiking up the Overseas Highway.

BEGINNING THE 100-mile trek at sunrise Feb. 18, the sneakered trio anticipated no problems, but they quickly learned how treacherous the narrow Keys bridges can be and how desolate stretches of road, unbroken by public rest areas or public food stores, are.

Fifteen hours after the hike began, when the hikers were 17 miles north of Key West, the sun began to set. Establishing a pattern that would repeat itself during the next seven days, the hikers searched for an isolated spot off the highway. They found one, spread their sleeping bags, and dined on Cuban bread, cheese and nuts purchased at a local convenience store.

Five days into the hike, the backpackers reached the Seven

Mile Bridge. Wise to the hazards of bridges, they decided against hiking the span. Instead, they asked a ride with a group they said included "two freaks, 10 puppies, two dogs, a surfboard and a couple of regulators."

IN MARATHON, the hikers discovered that construction work being done on bridges was to their advantage. The work stalled the traffic, making the bridges safer for hiking.

They reached Long Key State Park after six days on the road. Delaying a final push to Key Largo, the hiker decided they deserved some revelry in the sun. The day-and-a-half respite on the beach proved refreshing. Leaving Long Key they walked 23 miles without an extended break.

They arrived at St. James Episcopal Church Feb. 24, where the

priest, the Rev. Richard Maholm, put them to work for the evening. In return the hikers got a night's room and board.

The next morning they had a memorable breakfast. "It was the best meal of the hike," Ms. Costello remembered later. "Homemade pancakes and hot coffee sure beat our usual O.J. from concentrate and processed doughnuts."

WARMED BY THE feast, the trio walked the 16 miles to Pennekamp State Park before sunset.

"It was never so glad to see a (mileage) post," Mike Costello said. "Yeah," McLean replied, "and you're the only one who escaped the blisters, because your sneakers are too big."

Three days of sun welcomed them to Pennekamp. They had made it.

THE NEW CHAMPION



Photo by DONNA CAMERON

TOURNAMENT CHAMPION Dana Murphy hugs Capt. Allen Starr and Mate Jimmy Poe.