

SANIBEL - CAPTIVA ISLANDER

DEVOTED TO
THE INTERESTS
OF
SANIBEL
and
CAPTIVA ISLANDS

The Finest
Shelling
Beaches
in the
Western
Hemisphere

photo by larry huston

VOLUME 5 NUMBER 36 PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 9, 1965



September 11, 1960 (the day after Donna). Hope the scenery is not like this tomorrow, fifth anniversary or no!

BETSY SLOWS FISH FRY

The threat of Hurricane Betsy cut the Labor Day weekend off sharply, as visitors checked out early Monday morning instead of in the late afternoon or Tuesday morning. Some motels reported that they were completely empty; others, that later afternoon checkouts left in the morning instead. No motels reported any check-ins.

Betsy also severely depleted the number of people who attended the annual American Legion Fish Fry and Shrimp Boil, as barely 200 happy eaters were served, as compared to over 300 last Labor Day and almost 400 on July 4.

Norman Lewis of Riviera Isle, Rt. 2, Pasadena, Md., was the lucky winner of the Bob Klotz painting which was given away at 4 p.m. Monday. Mary Kay Cunningham (who else?) sold him the winning ticket.

In spite of the sparse attendance, the Legion and Auxiliary members still put in a lot of work. Charles Rosse put out a call that he was in with a boat-load of fish early in the weekend, and Tom Nix, John Ridge, Ray Booth, Hap Payne and Bob Sabatino gathered at Andy's Marina with knives properly honed and had them filleted and iced down and in Francis Bailey's cooler in short order.

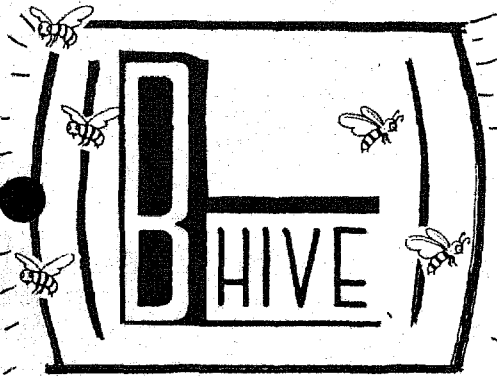
Then, on the actual day, Clarence Rutland, Jake Stokes, Art Gibson, Ed Taylor, Joe Wightman, Ray Booth, Glen Rhodes, Wes Gunn and Wes Gunn, Jr., gathered to do the cooking and drink handling.

Ladies who helped with both the food and the Umbrella Booth were Mary Purdy, Velna Ridge, Pearl Stokes, Jeanette Gunn, Eula Rhodes, Jo Musson, Mary Nix, Carol Nix and Jenny Gunn.

We heard a bit of discussion about holding the Fish Fry on Sunday rather than Monday, "the day everyone checks out anyway." After checking with Mary Nix, we were told that the Legion would be delighted to hold Labor Day Fish Frys on Sunday instead of Monday if someone else would come and help with the work, but that they themselves were just too tired from all the preparations to go through with it on Sunday.

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

The Board of Directors of the Sanibel Community Association, Inc., met at the Sanibel Community House last Tuesday night. The resignation of Mrs. Richard Fuller was accepted with regret. The Board will serve as a committee to compile the brochure for the 1966 Shell Fair and voted to return to the type brochure that was used some years back.



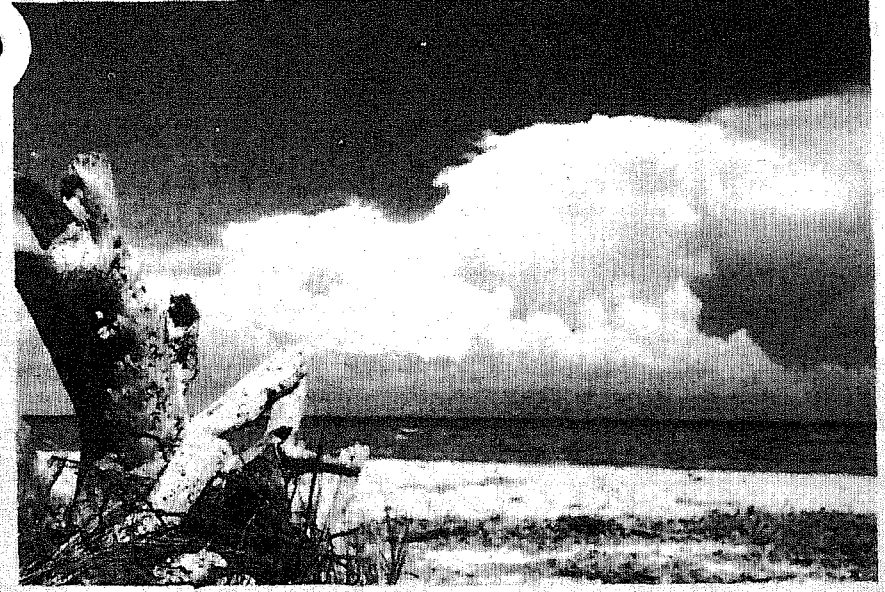
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sea horse shop

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END OF SANIBEL



WHO'S WHO ON CAPTIVA

The big weekend is upon us, Captiva Island is no longer a closed book during the summer months. It is really sad to have to tell our now regular guests that all is already booked when they call to inquire. There was somewhat of a scare for this long weekend when "Betsy" began acting up, but she was a lady and passed out to sea.

A long letter written in EARL LILLIE's own hand came last week informing us that the first operation for detached retina didn't hold. A card on Saturday from Mrs. LILLIE says that Earl is back in the hospital in Ann Arbor for his second operation. We so hope for this one to be successful. He has enjoyed so much all the cards and letters received from friends on both Islands, and he so hopes to be back on Captiva by November 1. Our

hopes and prayers join those of Mr. and Mrs. Lillie and our inner eye already sees him back home on Captiva.

Mrs. INA WATSON brings us the first shell news that we have had in quite sometime. Her son, PAUL, and grandson, PAUL, JR., have just found six rock shells (Thais) taken live from the groins near their home. They are shaped something like a tulip shell in colors grey and white marble like or zig-zag patterns. The Thais have never been seen on either of our Islands.

Mrs. INA WATSON has sold her home on Palm Avenue to HELMET and HELEN BOSTON, long time friends. In fact they and their daughter, CAROLYN WRITE, all of Fort Myers, refer to Mrs. Watson as Aunt Ina. The deal closed Sept. 2.

Established 1961
B. DUFF BROWN
Owner and Publisher

Duff & Virginia Brown,Editors
Production:

Caroline Lowry, Mary Lou Waldron
Mary Nix,Sanibel Reporter
Marguerite Flores,Captiva Reporter
FOR SANIBEL NEWS:

Write Mrs. Mary Nix, Zic-Zac, Gulf Drive,
Sanibel Island, or call GR 2-4181.

FOR CAPTIVA NEWS:
Write Mrs. Marguerite Flores, Mid-Island
Cottages, Captiva Island, or call GR 2-4351.

ISLANDER OFFICE:
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Church Calendar



ST. ISABEL'S CATHOLIC MISSION

Father MIGUEL M. GONI
SUNDAY
Holy Mass, 11:30 a.m.
HOLY DAYS
Holy Mass, 9:00 a.m.
CONFESSION
Sundays before Mass
* * * * *

SANIBEL COMMUNITY CHURCH

The Rev. TAD ALLEN, Pastor
Morning Worship, . . . 9:00 a.m.
Sunday School, 10:00 a.m.
* * * * *

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

The Rev. W.A. McCAIN

SUNDAY
Sunday School, 10:00 a.m.
Worship Services, . . 11:00 a.m.
7:45 p.m.

WEDNESDAY
Prayer Meeting, 7:45 p.m.
* * * * *

ST. MICHAEL'S AND ALL ANGELS EPISCOPAL CHURCH
The Rev. T.A. MADDEN, Vicar

SUNDAY
Holy Communion, . . . 7:30 a.m.
1st, 3rd, 5th Sundays, . 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship
2nd, 4th Sundays, . . . 9:00 a.m.

Wednesday
Holy Communion, . . . 9:00 a.m.
* * * * *



DOTTY JEREMIASSEN sends in this note from Highlands, N.C., "Just an example of how thoughtful our 'Island Lovers' are. Late in July we received a letter from Mrs. FRED C. HOBSON of Charlotte, N.C., which enclosed our copy of The Islander. Mrs. Hobson explained that this copy had been enclosed in her copy and rather than just return it to the postman she mailed it on to us." How very nice--we think so too.

How good to have heard from Mrs. HARVEY MEYER, (MAUDE NICKERSON) enclosing news for our Islander. An enclosed clipping tells of the marriage of CAROL CANNON and ROBERT GEORGE CHAPMAN on Saturday, August 28, at Christ Episcopal Church in Charlotte, N.C. The Chapmans built across the road from the Meyers' residence last year and MARION CANNON bought the lot south of the MASLANDS and, by the way of the grape vine, plan to build this winter. Carol is the daughter of Mrs. MARTIN LUTHER CANNON and the late Mr. CANNON and the groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. ROBERT GEORGE CHAPMAN of 2335 Cherokee Blvd. After the wedding trip the couple will be at home at 3645 Talituna Avenue.

Next, Maude says, the AMU at Wagner College, Staten Island, was most successful. "As usual, we cut some of the papers on the land and fresh water mollusks and some on the problems of the oysters on the Atlantic Coast. The evening meetings were particularly good. Reports from the various Shell Clubs, exchange of shells and some interesting illustrated talks, one of which we hope to be able to have for our Club, Harvey went on a field trip, and was I glad to have stayed in bed when all they found, after a three hour round trip on a bus and two miles up the beach at Sandy Hook, was about a million people cluttering up the beaches. JOE MORRISON of the Smithsonian did find a few small things in the back waters, but even he was not what I would call enthusiastic." More from Maude next issue.

Collecting all the loose ends is the first step toward making ends meet.

The reason some folks don't mind their own business is quite simple. They MUST have SOMETHING to do.

The Reef
RESORT MOTEL
Sanibel

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AM PM AM PM
10 Fri 12:40 12:20 6:22 6:39
11 Sat 1:01 12:52 6:50 7:13
12 Sun 1:20 1:25 7:19 7:37
13 Mon 1:38 2:00 7:49 8:00
14 Tues 2:00 2:39 8:22 8:26
15 Wed 2:24 3:23 9:01 8:54
16 Thurs 2:53 4:19 9:47 9:24
17 Fri 3:28 5:38 10:48 10:01
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FREE TIDE CHARTS & MAPS
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WHO'S WHO ON SANIBEL

MARY & JOE GAULT went to Miami over Labor Day to spend a few days at the Gift Show hoping to find some more select items to add to what they have already bought in New York for the Sea Horse Shop.

CHRIS GAULT writes from Antioch College that she will spend Labor Day in Lexington, Kentucky, with her great aunt. After a few days she will visit her room mate's family in Washington, D.C., traveling to New York City then with KAREN where they will live and work for the next three months.

Yes, they're real---the orchids hanging in front of the B-Hive. MOLLY ORLOFF is an orchid fancier and has some beautiful specimens. Arthur and Molly have had son KENNETH home for a visit to enjoy a little of Sanibel before returning to the University of Connecticut to resume his studies.

Mr. and Mrs. ROBERT FORD, daughter KAREN and son ALLEN and Mr. and Mrs. TOM NIX and daughter CAROL were guests of PRISCILLA MURPHY for a buffet dinner Wednesday night. After dinner Priscilla showed movies, the first she's taken, and all the guests were transported to Yucatan and environs to view some beautiful scenery and shots of some of the shells she gathered.

We were sorry to learn that Col. RUSSELL RUPERT had been hospitalized twice this summer, while they were in Europe, with pneumonia. It's good to have JAKE and BRUNI back at home and to see him getting back on the mend.

RICHARD HENRY leaves Monday to assume his duties at Hope College, Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Mrs. Henry will remain in their Island home for a while longer. The Henrys spend the summers in Cos Cob.

Mr. and Mrs. FRED WOOD of Cos Cob write, "We are leaving on the 17th for our big trip and have reservations at Tree Tops in Africa for the night of October 9. I hope we can get some good pictures." The Woods expect to be back in their Sanibel Estates Cottage in March.

ETHEL SNYDER writes from Highlands, North Carolina, with the sad news of the death of EARL DRUMMOND of Sanibel and Waterford, New York. He passed on in his New York home early in August, and his wife, DOROTHY, spent half of August and part of September through Labor Day with Miss Snyder in Highlands.

Ethel also writes that it's quite cold (50s at night) and cool even during the day. She's been haunting the ruby mines, and is bringing a goodly and bright collection of lemon yellow, orange and red flint back to the Islands with her when she returns in mid-October. She met a few neighbors at the washing-out stream (where you sift through your dirt to find your rubies, if any)--- a lady from Fort Myers as well as another Fort Myers couple. The young man, she said, was the carpenter who built the Nutmeg House on Sanibel.

HOWARD SCHRINER came for the weekend from Atlanta to see how the new house is progressing.

Construction will start within a few days on the enlargement and remodeling of the B-Hive. The plans include a 30 foot extension to the back of the building, removing most of the wall between the main building and the Tiki House to give the gift shop a more prominent place, rearranging the interior and putting in new coolers and freezer.

This will give room for the new lines to be added.

Mr. and Mrs. ARTHUR ORLOFF of the B-Hive will leave within the next few days for the north where they will visit the markets looking for new merchandise. They plan to go to Cincinnati and New York as well as making other stops in those areas. Meanwhile other members of the staff will tend store until the Orloffs return in October.

Miss FRANCES CALE and Mrs. VIRGINIA ROBBEN were guests of Mrs. ANNE JORDAN over the weekend. The gals dropped in to look over property they own on Sanibel and on La Costa.

Controversial letters make interesting reading, but everyone loves a pat on the back once in awhile, which is why we frequently get a warm glow around subscription renewal time--- especially when we get notes like these:

"Of course I want my subscription to the Sanibel-Captiva Islander renewed! It's a wonderful line to our 'home away from home.' we read every word!

"I hope you urge Ethel Snyder to publish a book or pamphlet on the history of Sanibel. Her articles are so very interesting.

"Most sincerely, Mary S. Williamson, Minneapolis, Minnesota."

"Thanks for your reminder; we certainly do want the Islander. Will advise of address change back to Captiva; sometime during November. Going to those other islands (Ed. note: Hawaii) with exact date of return indefinite.

"Good luck to you and yours, always.

"Sincerely, Jack Pacek, Evanston, Illinois."

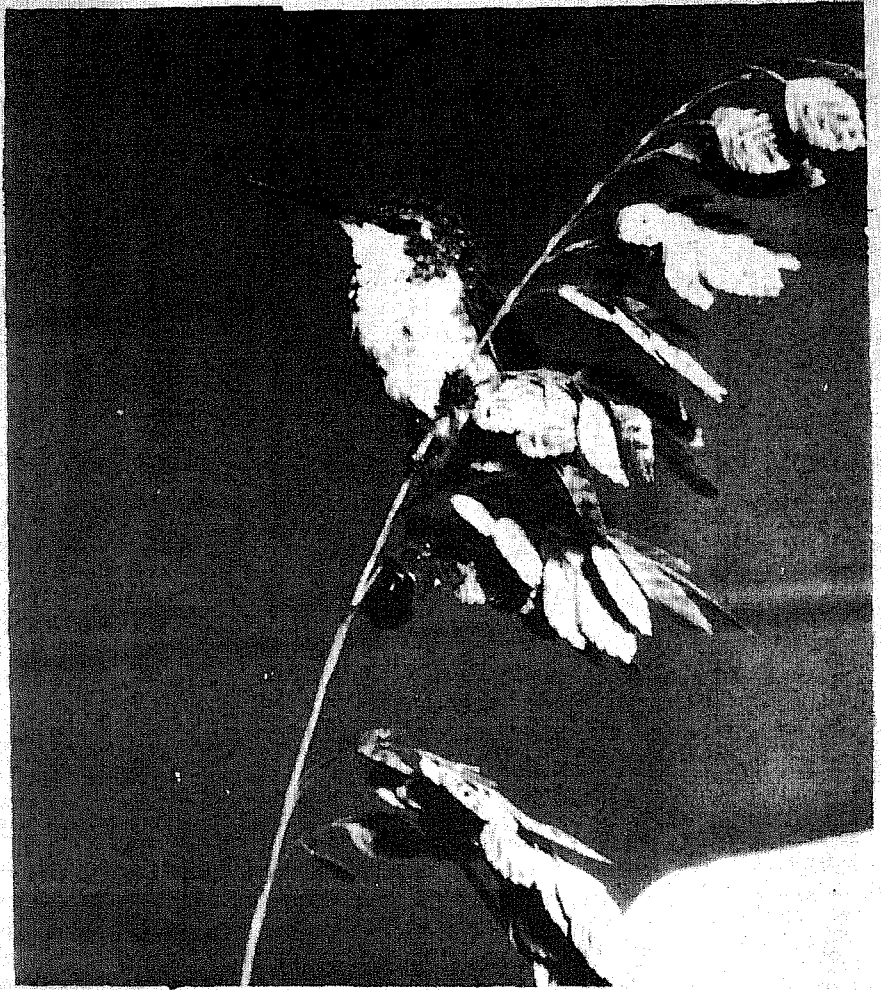


photo by george konold

It was fluttering on the ground when they found it, apparently stunned by flying into the station wagon window. Taking it into the house, the modest bird rescuers held a consultation on what to do now. Their patient was a hummingbird, so consulting the National Geographic, she learned that a 20% solution of honey and water might be just the thing to take its mind off its troubles. It worked. The little bird recovered and next morning was liberated.

SANIBEL

by ethel snyder

In the early years after I had moved into my small beach cottage east of Island Inn, this incident happened.

There was a road out front along the beach just wide enough for two cars to pass each other. The mail man drove along here. Out back there wasn't even a trail, just tropical jungle from our row of beach cottages back to the main road down the center of the Island. A fire line was ploughed out back each year. Someone got a team of heavy draft horses and a plough over on the ferry each year and as I recall Clarence Rutland ploughed the fire line.

My back yard had been cleared out and a lot of cabbage palms removed, but it was still pretty rugged. One morning to my surprise I saw a young man out there crawling around on his hands and knees. He had a large magnifying glass and he was pulling things out of the soil, then examining them carefully under the glass. Some he put in a box strapped on

his waist. Some he threw away. What could he be doing? My curiosity rose to a high pitch and I went out to inquire. He looked up at me with a radiant smile but made no effort to get up. I didn't have to ask what he was doing. He volunteered the amazing information "You have the most wonderful weeds in your yard of any I have found on Sanibel." So that was it! WEEDS! I had another name for them however and it wasn't wonderful!

He was George R. Cooley and he had chosen Sanibel for his Ph.D. thesis on its fauna and flora. Some years later I received an autographed copy of his thesis which just recently came to light from among some papers and there are several items from it that are very interesting today.

Some historical facts to quote briefly are, "It is said that on his trip to the Gulf of Mexico and the Mississippi River in 1539 De Soto stopped at Sanibel Island. . . At the time of De Soto's exploration and for three hundred years thereafter a tribe of Muspah Indians apparently made their home on Sanibel Island and nearby Captiva Island. Great kitchen middens, mostly shells, give evidence of long tenure by these Indians. Mr. Julien Yonge of the Library of Florida History found in early records that in 1831 a New York Company set up a Colonial development at the eastern end of the Island. There were also comments of a traveler to the effect that two years thereafter no evidence of this development remained except the framework of the largest house. The colonial development was just gone.

"Again about 1883 an agricultural and horticultural development started which was to change the face of the Island for a period of over forty years. All the arable land on the Island was cleared and cultivated. Citrus fruit and garden vegetables

contd. on p. 5

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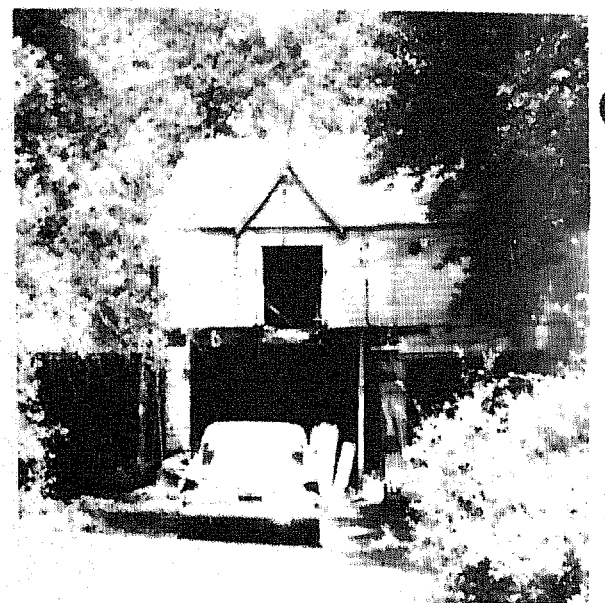
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SANIBEL from p. 3



BOWLED OVER...

Seems that a few years ago, Mary and Joe Gault of the Sea Horse Shop were visiting Haiti and were spotted by an island promotional bureau, which thought the Gaults would be absolutely perfect tourist models. Mary and Joe were then asked to pose for a number of promotional pictures around Haiti, which they did with pleasure.

They then returned to their own Island home on Sanibel and forgot about it, with the exception of wishing they had seen the finished pictures. Time passed and they never did---until recently, when friends started sending them brochures, newspaper clippings and magazine articles containing pictures of two familiar faces. This particular illustration appeared in the Sunday Miami News on August 8 of this year.

principally tomatoes, egg plants, and squashes were raised in considerable quantities. Boats came from the terminus of the railroad on the mainland a score of miles on the north to collect produce. In time the competition from the mainland lessened the prosperity of the Sanibel farmers so that when a diastrous hurricane struck the Island in 1926 half the population left."

Mr. Cooley informs us that the Island is about 10.75 statute miles long, 2.6 statute miles across at its widest point. Nowhere is the land more than 14 feet above the level of the Gulf of Mexico. The elevation of the marsh areas is 6 feet or less. The grass land six to eight feet, the hammocks and former cultivated areas from 6 to 14 feet above sea level.

He describes how the south shore of the Island is built up in ridges of shells washed in by storms and hurricanes from the south, ridge after ridge. The October 1953 storm made a new large ridge and so it has been forming for ages past and no doubt will continue to. That's how it is on Sanibel!

* * * * *

Early Incident on Sanibel

This had happened several years before I arrived on Sanibel but it is authentic, as a number of the local folks have given their version of it.

Edna St. Vincent Millay had come over to the Island on the ferry and had checked in at Palm Lodge, an inn near the light house owned and operated by the Shannahan family. Miss Millay had brought some of her work with her and a manuscript which represented two years work was in the back of her car.

After she had registered in she removed the manuscript from her car, took it to her room and at once changed into a bathing suit and was out in the Gulf enjoying the surf. In the short time she was gone, Palm Lodge caught fire and completely burned to the ground. Nothing was saved. Miss Millay had lost two years work and the Shannahans their lodge. No one was injured, fortunately.

It was reported that Miss Millay courageously got right to work and rewrote her poems.

The Shannahans never rebuilt.



The difference between "rock and roll" and "rock and set" is more than one word--it's about forty years.

He who laughs last better laugh best, if the boss is telling the jokes.

Unclassifieds

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NOTHING
SEEMS TO
GO RIGHT!"



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SECOND DITTO --- I'll tell you if you'll tell me who the dickens wrote "A Tale of Two Cities."

dotti of Sanibel Island

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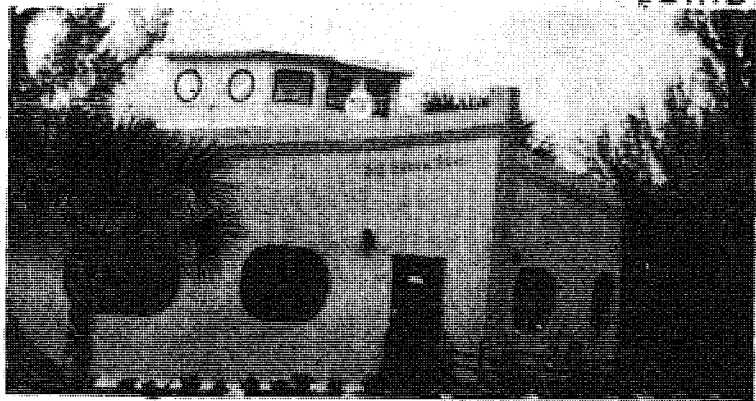
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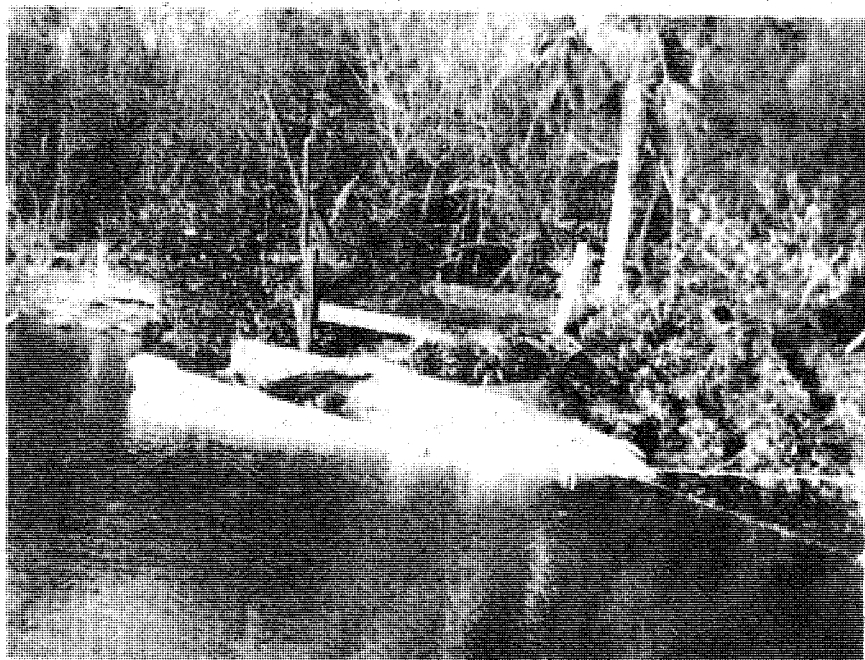


photo by wanderin'
Monday morning, the perhaps not so nice lady Betsy did a complete turn and headed straight for Miami and the Keys. Monday afternoon (deadline time) we still didn't know if she'd hit here and if we'd been cleaning up messes like this instead of reading the Islander today. Hope we're all reading.

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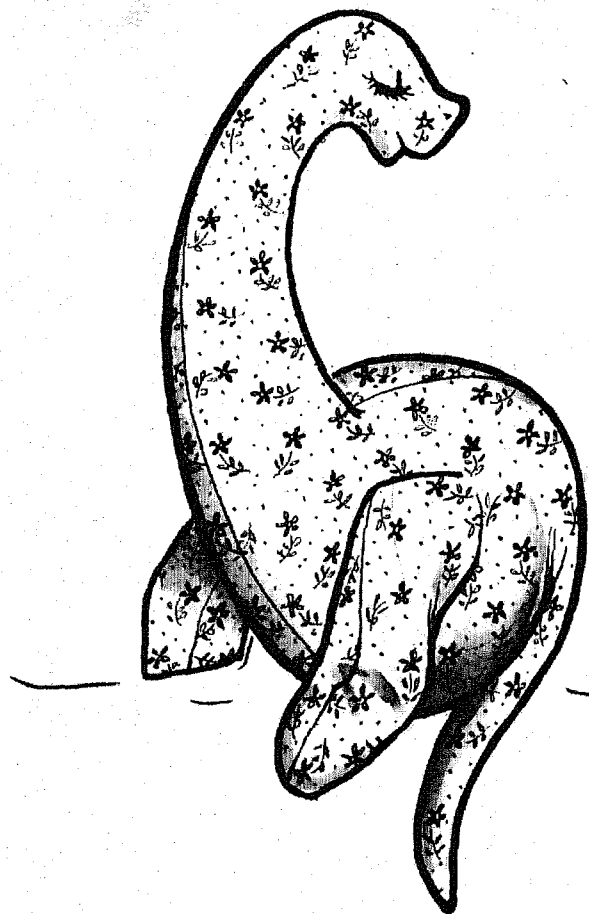
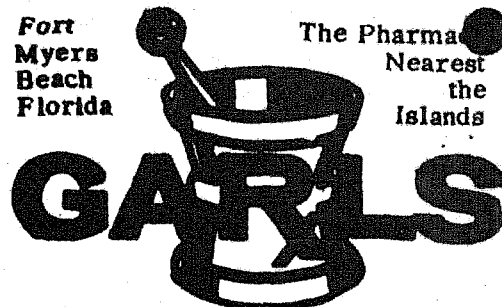
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