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**ISLANDER**

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THE INTERESTS  
OF  
SANIBEL  
and  
CAPTIVA ISLANDS

The Finest  
Shelling  
Beaches  
in the  
Western  
Hemisphere

photo by larry huston

VOLUME 5

NUMBER 37

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SEPTEMBER 16, 1965

**BETSY**

We bravely ploughed through salt and sand with our trusty camera in hand (at least when it's run by somebody else) to record Hurricane Betsy's damage on Sanibel and Captiva. The only things to take pictures of on Sanibel were fallen palm fronds, and since we figured you had seen some of those anyway, we saved our film for Turner Park and the Captiva roads. (The word "road" is used here with a good deal of poetic license.)

We hasten to say for the benefit of our off-Island readers that Betsy did NOT come anywhere near the Islands, even though early forecasts said the eye would pass within 100 miles. Wednesday morning, September 8, the winds blew heavily, with gusts possibly as high as 70 mph. (80 mile winds were recorded in Boca Grande, and one 84 mile gust was recorded at Fort Myers Beach.) However, the winds blew off-shore all of Wednesday, and the tides were non-existent as the waters went out much lower than normal in the Gulf (and stayed out). Flats were exposed that hadn't been seen for years. The water started coming in late Wednesday night but the main road damage took place early Thursday morning contrasting oddly with the sunny sky.

Captain Belton Johnson of Captiva called County Commissioner

P.A. Geraci at 6:45 a.m. Thursday to tell him the road was going. Road repair trucks were on their way within 30 minutes, and Capt. Johnson said "The roads were never completely impassible, if you'd wait for a few minutes while they dumped another load of fill in."

By Friday, the stretch between Tween Waters and the Post Office along the Gulf was a completely drivable (although somewhat sandy) one lane road, and trucks were busily filling in the stretch above Mary Cunningham's where the road runs (or ran) along the Gulf for a couple of hundred feet before curving inland. Sunday afternoon, Pat Murphy of Captiva reported that stretch had been filled with shell and was passible, but that a section a quarter of a mile towards South Seas, near the old groin manufacturing place, had not been worked on and was so filled with soft sand that driving was very treacherous. (He also commented that he figured the water had dumped about two and a half tons of shell in his driveway, which he was prepared to offer for sale cheap---like come and take it away, please.)



All agreed that Commissioner Geraci's quick action and the hard work of the 12 County Road truck crews deserved public thanks for their splendid job in saving as much as they did.




This used to be the road to South Seas. The sign was still there, but the road wasn't. The youngest member of our staff wanted to walk there to see the pool and have some coke, but she was persuaded to turn around finally when she was threatened with the suspension of bubble-gum breaks.

more photos on page 3


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Mary Nix. . . . .Sanibel Reporter  
Marguerite Flores. . . . .Captiva Reporter

FOR SANIBEL NEWS:  
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WHO'S WHO ON CAPTIVA

Mrs. JOHN ENGLE has returned to the Islands after a three week holiday with relatives and friends in and around Cleveland, Ohio. After spending two days with her sister, Mrs. GERTRUDE MOSELL, an old friend from Monroville, Mrs. SIESEL, called for her by car. There Dorothy was feted for a full week---two delicious dinners given at the homes of Mrs. Siesel's daughters especially stand out.

Then, Mrs. MILDRED WELCH, a friend from Collins, Ohio, picked Dorothy up and took her to the Welch home, where she remained a week. While there, they made a round of calls, including visits at the homes of Dr. and Mrs. DARL FAUST and Mr. and Mrs. IVEN ENTLER.

JEAN HAYFORD called to make a correction in last week's article pertaining to the shell thais, found by PAUL, INA WATSON's son. It is true that this shell has not been found here in 15 years, but that prior to this, in 1940 or '41 the late Dr. LYNN B. BEALS was the first to find the thais and at that time they became so common that they were passed up by shellers, even as the lovely tulip is today.

Mr. and Mrs. HARVEY MEYERS are back in Knoxville, Tenn., after a long holiday visiting relatives and friends--- a short visit with MARTY and RUSS MOOCK and several days with ALGER BLAINES who helped organize our Sanibel and Captiva Islands Shell Club. Two days with the ARTHUR BURTS of Sanibel at their charming house in hemlocks at Candlewood Isles, Conn., where Arthur and Maude spent a full day working on shell 'stuff.' Two days with MARION & HAROLD FARIS at Perkasio, an hour with GLADYS REESE at Chalfonte and two days with PAUL and MILLIE KENDALL at Warrenton, Va. In between jumps they visited two old friends of Harvey's one in Dauton, N.J., the other at Plum Island, Mass. Harvey's niece at Cape Elizabeth, Maine, and Maude's daughter in law at Fairfield, Conn. "While visiting an old friend in Bath, Maine, we had our fill of lobster. Harvey was initiated into pulling and baiting the traps. At Plum Island Harvey went fishing and three of them caught 30 good sized flounder which we promptly ate. Don't ask how many pounds we gained." Another highlight was a day at Sturbridge Village in Mass., where they are reconstructing an old New England village with just about everything including an old farm, and farm house, mill, covered bridge, candle making, shoe makers, general store, stocks (where Harvey had his picture taken), tavern, weaving shop, etc. Maude and Harvey send their best to all their Island friends.

MRS. ELIZABETH BEALS

It made for a very sad feeling to learn this past week that Mrs. Elizabeth Beals passed away and will no longer occupy her lovely little house on the Sanibel side of our little bridge. Her sweet ready smile, her natural friendliness will be greatly missed by all who knew her. As Dr. Homer Hindman said, "I'll miss her in every church I attend; she was always present, with a warm and friendly greeting." Our sympathy goes out to all her kin.



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| SEPTEMBER | HIGH  |       | LOW    |       |
|-----------|-------|-------|--------|-------|
|           | AM    | PM    | AM     | PM    |
| 17 Fri    | 3:28  | 5:38  | 10:48  | 10:01 |
| 18 Sat    | 4:15  | 7:48  | 12:09p | 11:04 |
| 19 Sun    | 5:28  | 9:47  | ...    | 1:50  |
| 20 Mon    | 7:16  | 10:39 | 1:33   | 3:17  |
| 21 Tues   | 8:55  | 11:13 | 3:21   | 4:20  |
| 22 Wed    | 10:10 | 11:42 | 4:23   | 5:11  |
| 23 Thurs  | 11:10 | ...   | 5:12   | 5:54  |
| 24 Fri    | 12:09 | 12:01 | 5:34   | 6:30  |

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24th



Full Moon  
10th

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## WHO'S WHO ON SANIBEL

A note from The Rev. TAD ALLEN. Mrs. ALLEN entered the hospital for surgery September 10. She is at Community Hospital, Broad Road, Greater Syracuse, New York. He adds that all's well. Our love will be with our lovely BOBBIE and we'll look forward to having her home again in a few weeks.

A note from our dear friend, NANCY McCANN (just doesn't seem right for school to have started without her)—she will be home soon and a retired teacher friend from Farmington will accompany her. The weather in Illinois is getting cool so know she'll enjoy getting back to Sanibel's sunshine.

WES GUNN, wife JEANETTE, son WESLEY JR. and daughter JENNY were Labor Day week-end guests of TOM, MARY and CAROL NIX. Wes is Mary's brother. They all pitched in and helped with preparing and serving at the Legion Fish Fry but had to cut their visit shorter than planned thanks to 'Betsy.' Wes is Civil Defense Director for Polk County and Florida's representative on the President's Council for Civil Defense, so had to get back to his office in Bartow which is continuously on the alert and becomes a very busy place when disaster threatens in any part of the state. Their home is in Winter Haven but they are Sanibel property owners and plan, one of these years, to build a home on Sanibel.

A note from MAUDE and HARVEY MEYER—"Have had a busy but delightful six weeks 'visit hopping' and are glad to be back relaxing in Knoxville—had a good visit with the BURTS (ARTHUR) in Connecticut and saw a number of Captiva people along the way. Best to you all."

HERB & EMMY LU LEWIS write that they are off for Vienna and Salzburg September 19 for three weeks, but promise themselves a Christmas holiday on Sanibel this year.

AL & LILLIAN ZAMBUTO and daughter DEBBIE were due to leave Sanibel for their home in Rochester, New York, the day Betsy arrived. Instead they joined NORM and ROSE CHAMBERS for a day in Fort Myers and returned to the Islands to help clean up. But they did finally get off, promising to return to stay just as soon as possible.

BETTY SEARS and EVELYN PEARSON, of The Nutmeg House, also had vacation plans delayed. They were due to go to Cape Cod for a brief visit; then New York where they will meet their mothers, do the town, take in the Fair, see some shows, and generally relax. BARBARA BILLHEIMER will leave High Tide in TOM's hands to join them for some New York fun.

PRISCILLA MURPHY's office reports the sale of business zoned road frontage on Munson Street, Captiva, from Federal Realty and Development Company to Mr. and Mrs. PAUL B. LYON of Orlando, Florida. Mr. and Mrs. Lyon plan to retire to Captiva in about 5 years.

To The Islander:

We very much appreciate the warm friendly note on your card regarding our subscription to the Islander. We very much enjoy the publication.

It happens that I am in the hospital at the moment recovering from a ruptured appendix. I have been in three weeks now, but am feeling better and hope to be "let out" soon.

If my surgeon will agree to it, Mrs. Larimore and I hope to come down to our home on Gulf Drive, Sanibel, in a week or so, so that I can spend a few weeks recuperating from what I must say has been a not too pleasant experience, particularly when you are a physician and can think of all of the things that can happen. /s/ Granville W. Larimore, M.D. Albany, New York

### SANIBEL NOTES ON BETSY

Guests on Sanibel started bailing out on Labor Day—many lived just a few hours away and were here for a last visit until Christmas or next summer when the youngsters will again be out of school. Some were from the area that took a real beating from 'Betsy.' Some Islanders departed for the mainland, the rest of us boarded and taped windows, took in signs and lawn furniture or tied it down, ran plenty of water in all available containers for use in the event we were without electricity for awhile, got new batteries for our flashlights and transistor sets and made sure we had emergency rations to last us through. Shelters we know were opened on Sanibel were the Community House, the Catholic Church and the Episcopal Church. A group gathered at Priscilla Murphy's office; Gerry and Florence Martin stayed with Pauline Wilson, who is recently out of the hospital, and her niece; John and Velna Ridge settled their pets for the blow and took their family and a load of already cooked food over to the Fitzhughs to sit it out with Maggie and Mary. Glen Rhodes and son Raymond had the emergency vehicle ready for use. Admiral Ed Konrad and Dave Wooster, who are in charge of Civil Defense on Sanibel, checked with the shelters, contacted all people in outlying areas, arranged for emergency use of the generators, and stayed in contact with the mainland. Sheriff Ralph Smith was on constant patrol duty. Tom and Mary Nix served as shelter co-chairmen at the Community House where both a shallow well and a fresh water cistern are available but even so, some bottled water was stored, sandwich makings were brought in and a large pot of coffee started and emergency first-aid supplies were also ready. The shelter was open from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. when the threat had subsided—unless 'Betsy' changed course. Although we didn't get any but fringe winds, there were trees and limbs down and exceptionally high tides followed. The road along the Bay to Bailey's store had water lapping over it as did the main road from Wulfert Road west. Tides were up to the banks but there seemed to be little or no erosion on the beaches. A brief walk on the beach at low tide Thursday afternoon but there seemed nothing but broken shells and a few lined tellins so we'll be hoping that a few nice specimens will roll in and be found later. We were all relieved but glad everything worked so smoothly and we'll be able to prepare even more quickly when another blow threatens.



photos by ye ed's ed who should learn how to adjust camera settings

The Captiva road Friday afternoon, looking down from the Post Office corner.



Same road, same time, beach side view. Those chunks you see used to be a road quite a few feet higher.



Turner Park (which had been completely covered by water). You can't see the edge of the Gulf because the picture was over-exposed, but the water is breaking right through the driftwood. The driftwood, by the way, was a tree up until Tuesday.

### CAPTIVA NOTES ON BETSY

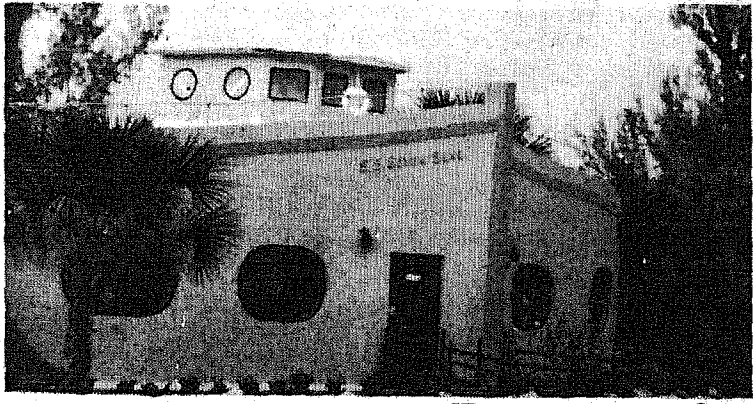
Yes, "Betsy" was here-- but outside of losing a few choice shrubs, having fronds and huge sea grape branches trimmed with vengeance, a few television antennas bent in half, a meeting of the Gulf and Bay in several places, to say nothing of our road washing out--we didn't fare too badly, eh.

Mary Cunningham, Mr. and Mrs. Stanley McCaul, Ina Watson and several others were sitting on their own individual islands awaiting a complete coverage of the island with water, when just as suddenly the waters began to recede. Irene Johnson became a bit perturbed when she realized the road was washing out and her husband Ernest was working on Sanibel, unaware the road gave way shortly after he passed over it. Rather than stay alone at home, Irene began walking over the flooded area toward Sanibel, where she caught a ride with none other than Sheriff Ralph Smith who delivered her safely in her husband's care and they were able, by using inner drives, to get back to their home on Captiva.

Karen Booth, while strolling nonchalantly along the water-covered road, here and there stooped to pick up a coconut to see if it contained milk. On one of these stops she gazed up at the coconut trees waving in the breeze and coconuts swinging to and fro like huge gongs on a clock--when the thought came to mind, "What if one of those fall on my head?" and with the thought, sure enough a coconut clunked right on Karen's head with such force that she went down the road staggering like a drunken sailor.

Mr. and Mrs. Perry Bone decided to pick up stakes and go into Fort Myers, as did many of the Islanders. It is probably just as well they did, as a huge sea grape tree tipped right over against their back porch, blocking it off completely. Three fourths of the roots were visible. Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Shannon and Margie Spang also left. They drove as far as Ocala, had dinner there, remained for the night and returned home only long enough to see the mess and pulled out again. Bill will attend broker's school in Fort Myers, then they will drive on to Circleville, Ohio, where Mae will celebrate her birthday with the many friends she has made from that city while they vacationed here on Captiva Island these many years.

THE MOST UNUSUAL GIFT SHOP IN FLORIDA



# GIFTS from the Seven Seas

Sanibel Island, Florida

Mrs. LEW FUNK of Gulf-breeze on Sanibel was operated on at Lee Memorial Hospital last week and is reported to be improving nicely.

The Reverend TAD ALLEN wrote for information about Betsy (as have many other away-from-home Islanders who read news reports of the tremendous damage elsewhere and no mention of this area). He says "all's well" in Cazenovia, New York.

### GOODWILL DRIVE

National Employ the Handicapped Week will take on special meaning for children and teenagers on the Islands October 1-6 when they collect clothing and other articles for Goodwill Industries.

The annual collection coincides with NEH Week which has been endorsed by President Johnson.

Pupils will take Goodwill bags home from school on October 1 and fill them with repairable articles from around

the house, returning the filled bags to school on October 6 for pickup by Goodwill. Clothing and other donations given Goodwill provide work for its 450 handicapped employees.

The annual project has been approved by County School Superintendent Ray Williams not only because it helps the handicapped but teaches children and teenagers the responsibility of good citizenship.

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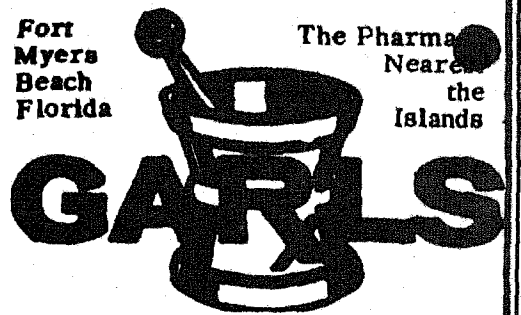
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**BETSY** - THE HURRICANE THAT DIDN'T HIT

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|--|--------------|-----|
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| CANTALOUPE                                 | 3 for        | 89¢ |
| INST. COFFEE CARRIAGE CLUB 10 oz.          | 109 6 OZ.    | 63¢ |
| CHEESE CURLS CARRIAGE CLUB                 | Bag          | 29¢ |
| LAUNDRY BASKETS PLASTIC                    |              | 66¢ |
| PEACHES PRIDE OF GEORGIA 2 1/2 cans        | 2 for        | 49¢ |
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