

# SANIBEL - CAPTIVA ISLANDER

7¢

DEVOTED TO  
THE INTERESTS  
OF  
SANIBEL  
AND  
CAPTIVA ISLANDS

The Finest  
Shelling  
Beaches  
in the  
Western  
Hemisphere

VOLUME 6 NUMBER 39

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY

SEPTEMBER 29, 1966



## FIRE LEVELS CASA YBEL

The main building and a storage building of Casa Ybel, which was established as a hotel around the turn of the century and was either the first or second still-existing hotel on the Island (some eminent authorities hold out for Casa Ybel; others, equally stubborn, hold out for Island Inn---anyone with records to prove one or the other would be welcome to join the fray), was burned to the ground Friday morning. No one was injured.

"I will NEVER again---with the possible exception of an addition to a frame building---build anything which is not completely fire-proof," said Howard Dayton of Daytona Beach, owner of Casa Ybel and head of the Dayton chain of hotels.

Replacement valuation of the equipment and buildings lost is approximately \$175,000.

The fire may possibly have started from a smoldering cigarette in the cocktail lounge, which was closed up for the evening (and eternity) around 2 a.m. The crackle of the flames awakened a guest around 4 a.m. who, since the telephone was in the burning building, had to drive to the fire station to give the alarm.

The Sanibel and Captiva fire trucks were on the scene within minutes, and battled the flames for four hours. One four-apartment building to the left of the main building (if you're standing with your back to the gulf) was badly burned on the side facing the other building. The main building, which housed the cocktail lounge, kitchen, office, dining room, lobby, auditorium and assorted supplies, was reduced to ashes which were still sending up smoke streamers Saturday afternoon.

The official fire fighters were Chief Allan Nave, Assistant Chief John

contd. on page 3

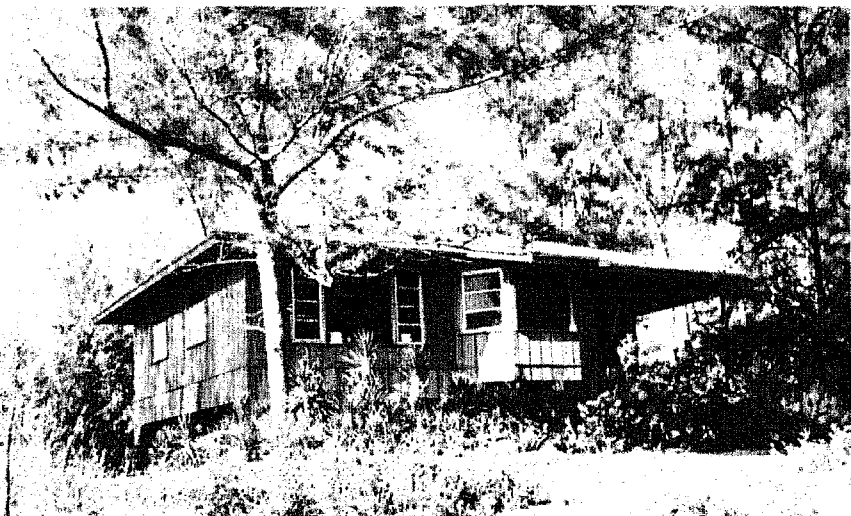
*Only 87 Days  
To Christmas*



*It's not  
too early  
to start thinking  
about it*

**THE STORE WITH THE ISLAND FLAVOR**

### A PICTURE OF PROGRESS

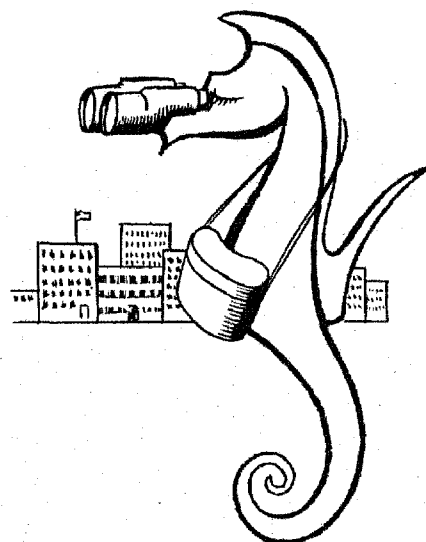


NEW GULF COTTAGE ON SANIBEL

photo courtesy of

SANIBEL-CAPTIVA REAL ESTATE

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THE  
SEA HORSE SHOP  
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HAS MORE  
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YOU'RE  
LOOKING FOR

AT THE LIGHTHOUSE END OF SANIBEL

Editors.....Virginia and Duff Brown

SUBSCRIPTIONS

On- Island.....\$3.00 yearly  
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\* \* \* \* \*

*Priscilla  
Murphy*

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**Closed, gone  
treasure hunting**

*The Fridays*  
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CAPTIVA ROAD LEVELED

County Road Department leveling equipment went over the unpaved portions of the Captiva road recently, which now makes it possible to drive along without

- a) breaking your car springs
- b) ruining your tires
- c) shaking your teeth out
- and d) losing things which formerly jounced out of the car windows, such as beach balls, papers, cigarettes and kids.

In other words, life is grand. The fill is working, the road is level, the sun is shining, the mosquitoes have mostly gone on vacation somewhere else, and the gulf is sparkling. Only drawback seems to be a lack of rain, which one lady we know says means we'll have a hurricane along with the full moon. (Inez, get lost!) Sanibel, however, seems to be getting a goodly amount of rain these days, which confuses that particular theory. They just don't make hurricanes that small!

TEEN ELEPHANT SALE

Do you have any white elephants you want to get rid of? Or anything else in your menagerie? Bring it to the White Elephant and Baked Goods Sale at the Sanibel Community House November 19.

The sale is for the benefit of the newly formed Teen Club. See Velna Ridge at the Sanibel Trailer Park, who is in charge, and when you come try to bring along some of your favorite goodies for the "Bake" part of the sale.

UNITED FUND CAMPAIGN GOING WELL

Mrs. Richard Fuller, Mrs. Margaret Walter, Mrs. Carl Jordan, Mrs. David West, Mrs. Gregory Flores, Mrs. Dale Ballinger, Mrs. Mary Cunningham, Mrs. Paul Stahlin and Mrs. Joe Gault attended the United Fund kick-off dinner in the Exhibition Hall, Fort Myers, last week. The dinner was sponsored; the cost of it did not come out of United Fund contributions.

Mrs. Gault reported that the response by mail from people off island has been generous, as usual. Even before the campaign officially began, checks started pouring in---for instance, one couple who have a home on Sanibel, but will be arriving late this year because they're touring Japan, sent their check in to be counted here.

The United Fund contributions are used in Lee County for Lee County organizations ---the Boy Scouts, Catholic Welfare, Children's Home Society, Clothing Center, Girl Scouts, Lee County Association for Retarded Children, Health and Welfare Council, Mental Health, Red Cross, Salvation Army, the U.S.O. and the Y.M. C.A. Your contributions to your community are appreciated.

NUTMEG TO REOPEN

Now that the Nutmeg House's traveling owners are back from their third European jaunt, the restaurant is due to open October 24. Mae Shannon will be the hostess once more---and a new addition will be dinner music played by Billie Saxinger.

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SPECIAL SERVICE TONIGHT AT ST. MICHAEL'S

Today (Thursday) is the Feast of Saint Michael and St. Michael's Episcopal Church will observe the Patronal Feast Day of the Church on Thursday evening. An organ recital by Ralph H. Tilden will start at 7:15, followed by a choral celebration of the Holy Eucharist at 7:40. Father Paul Haynes, Rector of St. Luke's Church, Fort Myers, will give the address.

At the service, the annual Michaelmass Blessing of the Children will be held. The occasion will also mark the twenty fifth anniversary of Father Madden's ordination to the priesthood. A reception will follow the service. All friends and neighbors are cordially invited to attend.

COMMUNITY CHURCH OPENS

The Sanibel Community Church will re-open for the fall and winter season with a celebration of the World-wide Communion this Sunday, October 2, at 11 a.m.

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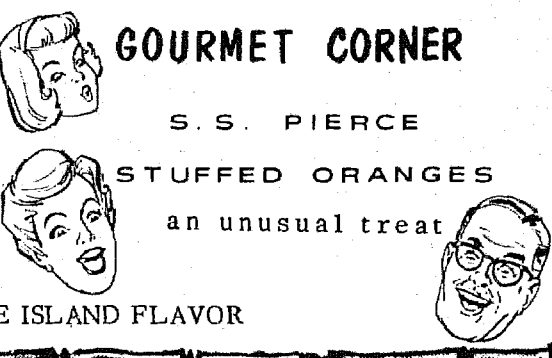
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THE STORE WITH THE ISLAND FLAVOR

#### FRIDAYS LEAVE FOR EUROPE

If you drive along Periwinkle Way you will notice that the front of the closed House of Treasures is covered with names of places. They are connected by lines indicating the sequence of stops in the travels of Helen and Lee Roy Friday, who recently left on a long-anticipated trip. There are no places in the Orient but they are certainly taking in Europe and even making a stop in Iceland.

How would you like a tour including Luxembourg, Stuttgart, motoring to Selb, Germany ---but here let us turn the account over to Lee Roy himself, as he gave it:

"Selb, home of the Lorenz Heutenreuther company. This is where our fine Pasco Audubon China and fine Porcelain Birds are created. We get to meet many of the artists and spend time in the actual studios and plants.

Then into Czechoslovakia for several days. Back to Germany, Nurnberg, Heidelberg, Marnheim and into Idar Ober-

stein, the 'gem cutting capital of the world.' Many of our cut stones we get from this fabulous gem center.

"Next into Amsterdam and, of course, the diamond cutters; back into Germany, North to Denmark and to Copenhagen. From there to Sweden. First, to Ystad and to one of our main sources of fine Swedish imports for our House of Treasures. Then to Eksjo, Sweden where Helen's grandparents were born and raised. This is 'Homecoming Year' in Sweden and Helen has long looked forward to going back to the village where her grandparents were born.

"We then move up to Stockholm and to Upsala where again we will visit many of our sources of supply for fine leaded glass crystal, ceramic, wood carvings and jewelry. Then to Oslo, Norway and the Fjord Country. Back to Copenhagen for the Big Trade Fair, down to Belgium and France if time permits for a brief 'look-see' at the country, then to Luxemburg and home. Will spend a few days in New York and then back to Sanibel."

#### CASA YBEL FIRE from page 1

Ridge. Radio and Rescue Squad leader Glen Rhodes, Marty Holtz, Ray Rhodes and Ed Legel from Sanibel, and Karl Wightman and Ray Booth of Captiva. Glen Rhodes said that it would be impossible to list or remember the names of all the civilians who helped; everyone in sight pitched in. The McGregor-Iona fire department sent a tank truck, and the Fort Myers and Fort Myers Beach fire departments each sent a pumper truck to join the two Sanibel trucks and the Captiva truck. It was only by the hard work of all the fire fighters that saved the living quarters and they deserve to be commended. The department, in turn, wishes to thank all who helped get the fire under control.

Mr. Dayton's future plans call for the construction of an air conditioned (fire-proof) building between the pool and the road (directly across from the old building), which will have a lobby, office and cocktail lounge. While he plans to replace the restaurant in time, he said it would be virtually impossible to get it finished for this season. He conferred with architects on Monday, and said he planned to have construction of the new building completed by Christmas.

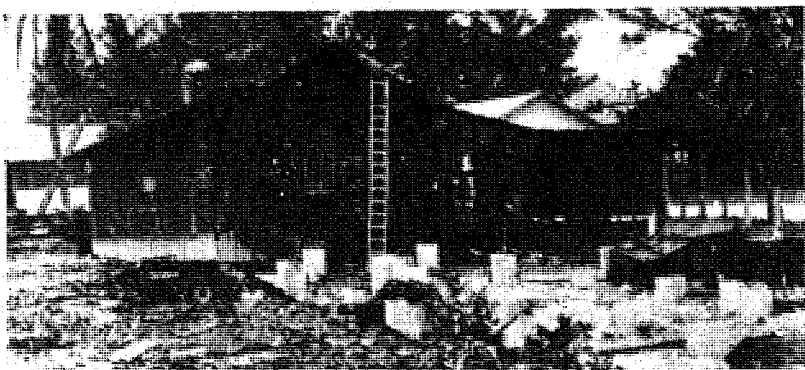
He also plans to build more living quarters where the old building stood---probably a double decker motel unit, and is considering putting in some posh VIP units on the water's edge.

"The loss of the buildings and equipment---and we keep finding more and more things which were destroyed, such as new bedding, air conditioners, and so forth, as well as the new kitchen equipment, a book-keeping machine and, incidently, \$5,000 worth of stock for the bar, which was delivered Wednesday---is pretty big, especially when you consider the insurance only covered about 30% of it," Mr. Dayton said. "But we will get it all done and be ready for the season. We'll probably build most of it ourselves---I've got a construction crew in Daytona---or possibly have a company do it; it will get done."

Mr. Dayton also said that even though the restaurant would not be ready for this season, they might include a snack bar in the new office, lobby and lounge building.

The hotel now has a new manager---William Paul Blackman, who has been in the hotel business for years on Duck Key, Bimini and other places. While he is not on the islands now, he will be coming back shortly.

"It really depends on what there is to do," said Mr. Dayton, "but he certainly will be here no later than December 1 and possibly within the next week or so."



Blackened four-unit apartment building. Foreground rubble was main building. photos by konold & wanderin'

Mrs. JOE GAULT, Mrs. DAVID WEST and JODIE GAULT flew to Michigan for a week's visit with Mary's sister, Mrs. W.L. RETHEFORD and her family of Ferndale, and Mary's brother and his family, the J. RONALD MCKENNAS of Oak Park---a visit wedged in between the busy Fall activities.

DAVE and MARGE WOOSTER of Beachview have been enjoying a few days' visit from Dave's mother, Mrs. WARD WOOSTER of Lakeland, Fla.

EVELYN PEARSON and BETTY SEARS of the Nutmeg House are back from three weeks in Spain (with a little bit of Paris thrown in on the way) full of delight with their trip.

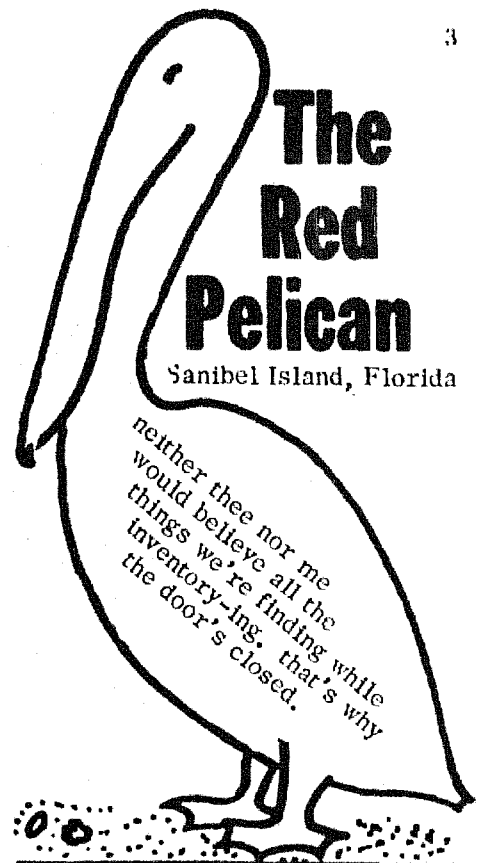
First stop was Madrid, where they sampled the a.m., p.m. and night life---and even went to see a bullfight.

Evelyn and Betty commented on the national custom of the siesta---the consequences of which require homes to be close to work (instead of in city suburbs) and parks and planted squares are numerous so families can have outings more readily.

One of their most special interests was sampling famous Spanish foods, such as gazpacho paella and fried Spanish melon, which is already on the menu of the Nutmeg House. It's quite possible some of the other Spanish dishes may be there this season.

They went on to Seville, and to the small mountain towns of Segovia, Avila, Ubeda and baeda, where ROY BAZIRE, who accompanied Evelyn and Betty there, got very interested in Roman ruins.

Back to the paella, which is



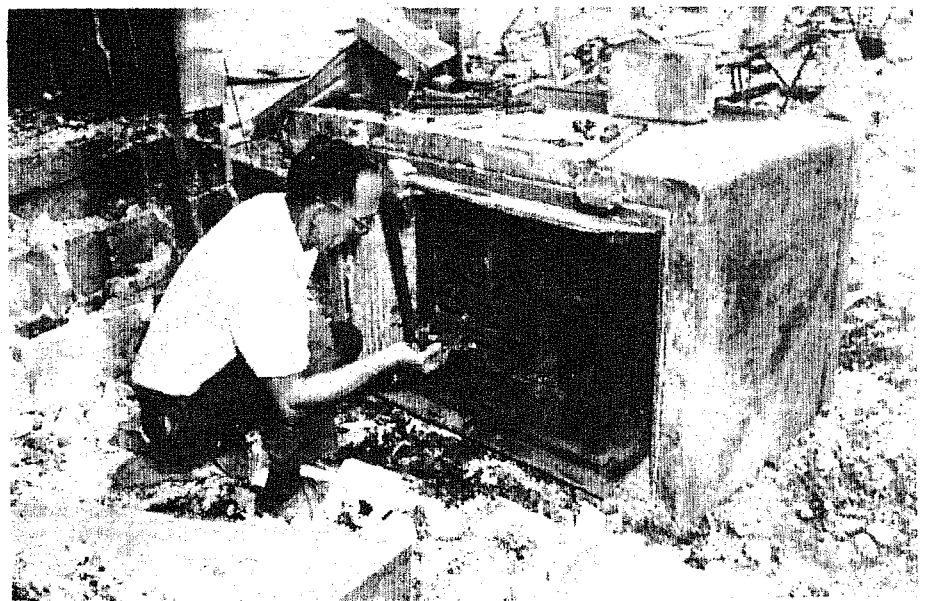
## The Red Pelican

Sanibel Island, Florida

neither thee nor me would believe all the things we're finding while the door's closed.

a Basque dish---it is a concoction of rice, tomatoes, seasonings and clams. The clams are much like our Venus clams (and a Venus clam is about three times the size of the ubiquitous cochina) but the Spanish cook and serve the shells right along with the clams! You may be happy to learn, however, that one is not expected to eat the shells; one merely fishes them out and puts them alongside one's plate. (If you're not happy to learn this, next time order the fried melon.)

This account hasn't said much about Roy, but there's a reason---when the three of them changed planes in Puerto Rico, the beaches looked so good that Roy couldn't resist stopping there for a week's visit. He's due back on the Islands today, and we'll get news from him for next week.



Ex-manager Bill Barbour digs a blackened wad of what used to be U.S. currency out of the office safe.



These warped shapes glooming against the ashes were bicycles parked on the porch for fun just a few hours before this picture.



**GIFTS** from the **Seven Seas**  
 Sanibel Island, Florida  
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SERGE and KAY FISCHER (Kay was the Western Union operator at Bailey's eight years ago---and Serge is known as the Poet of the Islands) have just returned after a long absence. They are visiting MARGO REDINGER, a friend for many years.

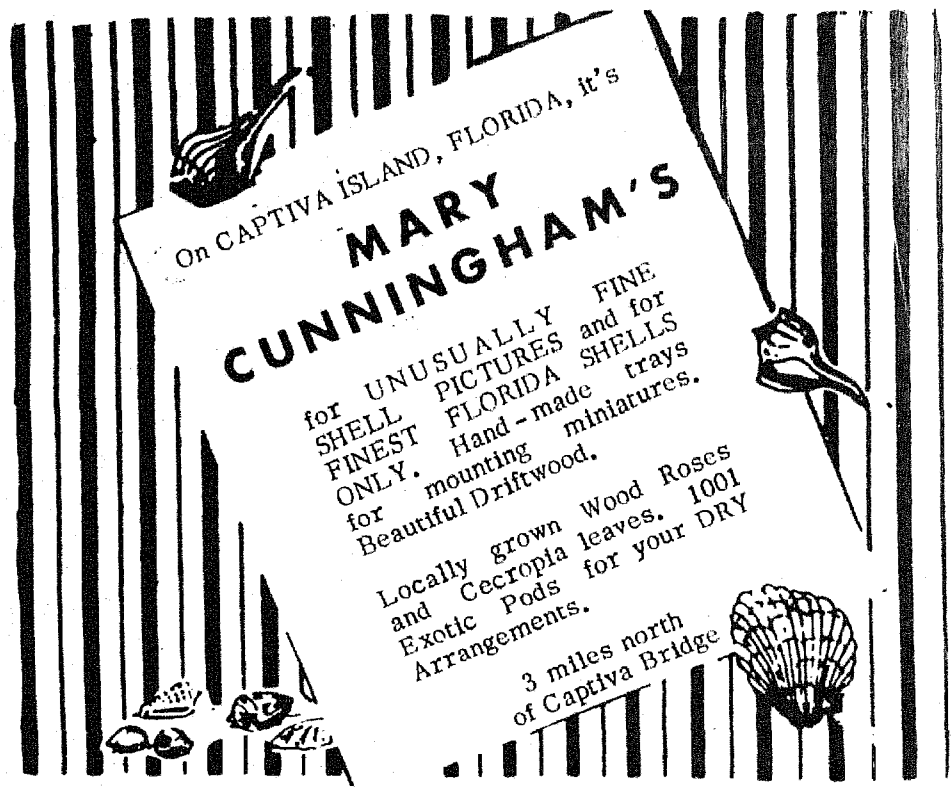
Kay and Serge are now living in Miami, in a home with grounds and planting that Kay says was irresistible when they first saw it as it reminded them so much of Sanibel. They made it more homelike, she says, by scattering over a hundred lbs. of Sanibel shells they had collected under the trees and around the shrubbery.

Serge's collected poems, "Serenade of a Renegade"---poems about Sanibel and Captiva and "other things" (many of them being Kay herself)---came out last December and is available at MacIntosh's Book Shop. Some of his poems are already well known on the Islands, especially "Beautiful Captiva" and "Sanibel, Star of the Sea."

Remember that item about MARIO HUTTON winning the jackpot on the Blue Heron II at least once a month since October last? It appeared in the Islander on August 4, and that very day he did it again, making it eleven months in a row.

Do we have to add that on September 21 --- "running scared" by his own admission ---he won his TWELFTH jackpot in as many months, making it one full year? To top it off, this happened the day before his birthday---but in this respect, Mario states that he will divulge how many "consecutive" birthdays he has had only after celebrating 36 additional ones. "Let my friends figure that one out!" he added.

B-Hive owners ARTHUR and MOLLY ORLOFF took off on a treasure hunt of their own this week---they headed for Highlands, North Carolina, where they plan to investigate the ruby mines.



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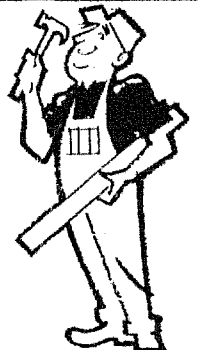
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