

Sanibel-Captiva

Islander

since 1961

Volume 17, no. 35

Tuesday, September 6, 1977

one section ten cents

water, water, everywhere



The day that the rains came down—a whopping 16 inches in 24 hours according to the Island Water Association's beaker which measured rainfall in that amount from 8 a.m. Friday through 8 a.m. Saturday.

The Islands were turned into one large swimming hole for the alligator population who traveled with the rising water. That and stranded vehicles constituted the majority of Island distress calls to the Sanibel Police Department, which established a mini-disaster headquarters in the police station Friday night where, according to Chief Dispatcher Shakeley, it looked like a family reunion.

The hardest hit areas of the Island appeared to be the Wulfert Point area. Sgt. Bill Trefney rowed down to Blind Pass condominium on Saturday to rescue some folks who had to catch a plane. Water on Bowman's Beach Road reached a depth of three-four feet.

The most serious flooding took place Friday night and finally reached a

point where Acting Mayor Zee Butler ordered the Causeway closed to non-residents from 11:00 p.m. Friday night until 2 a.m. Saturday morning after the heavy rains stopped.

Actually, it gave us a practice alert, police sources said. With the high water and associated problems, the city, the department of public works, police department, fire and rescue squads had to function like a team and put some emergency procedures into effect.

For most Islanders it meant bailing out their boats, wet clothes, cancelled softball games—"Who wants to play water polo?" inquired softball association president Phil Verdung Friday afternoon. It is during rains like these when you find out that your wiper blades need replacing and your defroster is less than perfect.

Even with the weather, the Islands were still crowded. Police aides reported that beaches were very busy Saturday, although that may have been

because of the storm rather than in spite of it... the police department reported receiving many phone calls from the mainland from people who wanted to come and "rubberneck" at the Island's problems. There were some cancellations at local motels.

The Chamber of Commerce reported that business was much slower than expected, however, with only a few motels reporting they were full. Visitors from Florida's east coast were apparently discouraged by reports of heavy rains. The closing of the causeway did not deter tourists, though. According to the Chamber, those caught in Friday's bridge closing returned Saturday.

Two and a half months ago, Mayor Porter Goss remarked during a City Council meeting that what Sanibel needed was a "small scare storm" to encourage residents to buy storm necessities such as batteries, canned goods, bottled water, etc. He got his wish!

All Labor Day activities have been postponed until this coming weekend. Due to the unexpected presence of a lake in their backyard, the American Legion fish fry will be held Sunday at noon. The all-star softball games will be played Saturday at 2 p.m. and 4 p.m.

Graphics by Don Moody

islander wins holiday at south seas

Islander Chuck Andrews is the lucky winner of "Holidays for a Dollar," a recent contest sponsored by the Sanibel-Captiva Chamber of Commerce.

"This is the first time in my life I've ever won anything," said Andrews, whose name was pulled from the hopper in a

drawing held at the Chamber of Commerce offices last Wednesday.

As winner of the contest, Andrews is entitled to a free week's vacation for two at South Seas Plantation on Captiva, as well as round-trip air fare from anywhere in the country.

Ironically, Andrews is a

marketing representative for South Seas. Thus, he accepted the prize for his father and mother, who will be flown down to Sanibel from Ashtabula, Ohio for their week at South Seas.

"My folks are the happiest people in Ohio," Andrews remarked last week.

Commerce Director Walter

Klie, the Chamber netted roughly \$1,100 from sponsoring the contest, with the money to be used to help defray the cost of operating the Chamber office.

"I think that Holidays for a Dollar has been very successful and we hope to do it again next year," Klie said.



IWA test well finished

The Island Water Association's (IWA) test well, located on the edge of the Sanibel Elementary School property, is essentially finished according to IWA general manager Larry Snell.

The well is designed to provide the IWA with more information on the type and quantity of water available in the Lower Hawthorne aquifer. The IWA's wells are currently drawing water from that aquifer.

The results from the test well have been somewhat surprising. They first encountered good water, then as they drilled deeper the water became more brackish and then it got better as they went even further, with a ratio of total dissolved solvents of approximately 2,000 at 650 feet.

The well is cased to a depth of 610 feet and then is open down to the 650 foot level.

The IWA is expected to begin drilling a second well on the site today. The second well will monitor the effect that the first well will have on the aquifer and give the IWA a good indication of the maximum safe yield of the first well. The pumping tests are expected to begin before the end of September.

The data from the tests will go back to the IWA's ground water consulting firm of Geraghty and Miller for evaluation.

The results are still expected to be available about the middle of October—the target date set originally by the IWA some months ago. If the results are favorable, Snell estimates that with time for piping and necessary approvals, the well would be in production in time for the Island's winter tourist season.

Meanwhile, the IWA will plug the abandoned wells on Rabbit Road to prevent leakage of water from bad zones above the aquifer and to prevent the transmission of salty water into the newer wells.

NEXT SEASON PROGNOSIS

If the tests are good and the new well goes into production, Snell estimates that the IWA will "barely scrape by next season."

Snell doubts at this time whether irrigation bans would be effective. "I've talked to other utility people," said Snell, "and they tell me bans are the best way to sell water. It's kind of a psychological thing, but if you can only water your lawn every other day, then you probably will water it then, whether it needs it or not."

WATER USAGE PROFILE

The IWA has also done a profile on monthly water usage on the Islands and have found that over 90 per cent of

water users consume under eight thousand gallons of water a month.

"Imposing a prohibitive rate on the heavy users really won't change the picture much," Snell said. "Very few people are over-using their system."

During the preparation of the profile, Snell also discovered that, on a per-unit basis, there is little difference between the condominium usage and the single-family home usage.

For future Island water needs, Snell told the Islander that the IWA is making no firm decisions right now. The data from the test well will give the IWA a more complete idea of the amount of the reserve under the Islands in the Lower Hawthorne aquifer. A decision on whether or not it will be necessary to tap into the more brackish Suwanee aquifer—necessitating a new reverse osmosis water treatment plant—presumably depends on this data. "When we get the results in mid-October, then we'll look at our options," said Snell.

"Of course," he added "we are currently investigating other possibilities."

ALTERNATE SOURCE OF WATER

Both the consulting firm of Bennett

and Bishop and the IWA's own engineers have investigated the possibility of purchasing water from Florida Cities Water Company. At this point in time the investigation of this alternative seems to have raised some serious doubts.

Florida Cities Water Company produces water in the South Fort Myers area from an existing well field near Cypress Lake Drive, processes the water at their treatment plant on Cypress Lake Drive for distribution to Fort Myers Beach and the areas in between. They also provide water to the Christian Alliance Retirement Community halfway between Miner's Corner and Punta Rassa.

The charge for water from Florida Cities to Lee County works out to between 90 cents and \$1.20 per thousand gallons depending on actual consumption. The two-year old contract that Florida Cities has with Lee County is about to be renewed and sources indicate that the County is having serious reservations, based on both a probable cost increase and the ability of the Florida Cities to supply what they promise.

According to Snell, Florida Cities must charge more for their water than the IWA because Florida Cities, a profit-making corporation must make a return of 15-20 per cent. "There is no way a profit-making company can compete with a non-profit making company," Snell said. In addition to a profit, they also must pay property taxes that have to figure in the hundreds of thousands of dollars. The IWA, as a non-profit corporation, is tax exempt.

IWA test well on school site


Should the IWA decide to buy water from Florida Cities however, the recommendation from Bennett and Bishop would be to install a pipeline from Miner's Corner terminating on the Island in augmented storage facilities and would have to be designed to carry two million gallons of water per day.

Other alternatives the IWA is investigating include the installation of a second pipeline to Pine Island to increase the amount of water drawn from that supply and the possibility of adding extra storage facilities to store water drawn during the times of little demand for use during the peak season.

The recommendations of the Planning Commission on a more precise estimate of future growth on Sanibel coupled with the forthcoming results from the test wells will all be influential factors in the IWA's choice of the best method of meeting future Island water needs.

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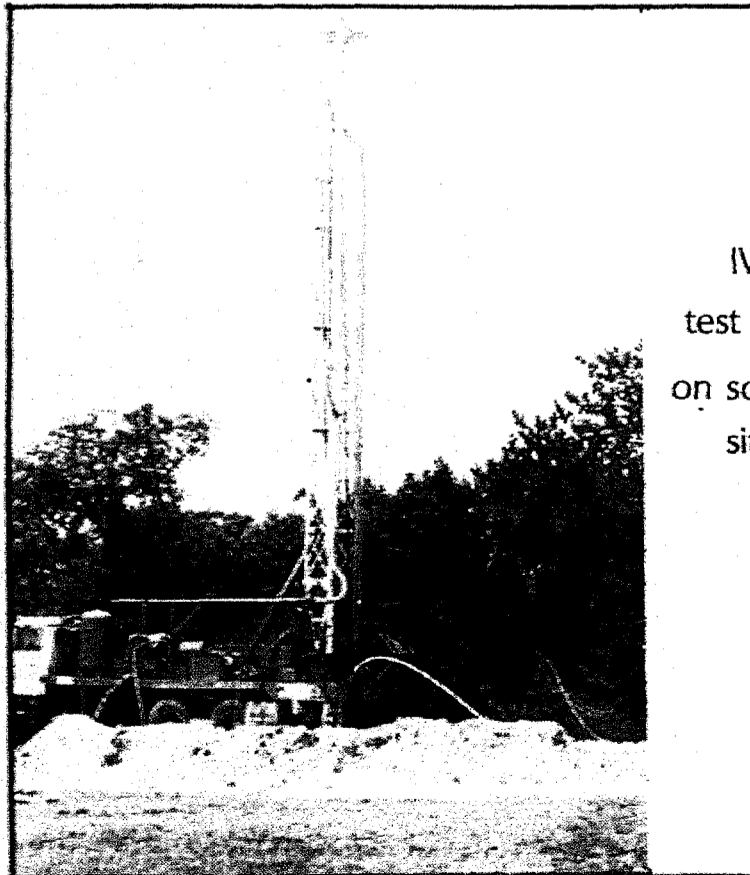
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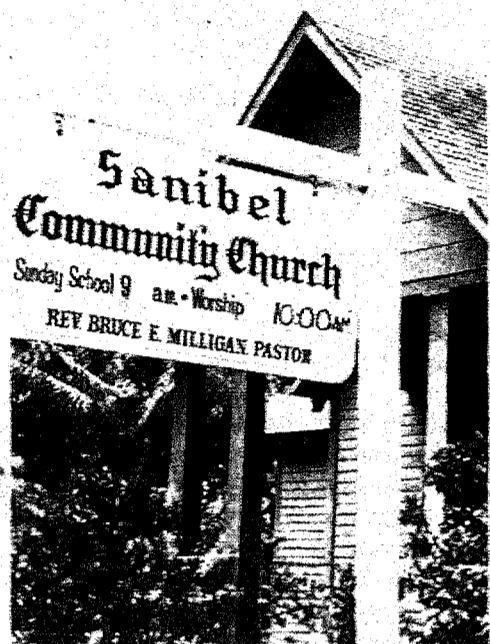
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planning news:

In a full slate of business last Monday morning, the Sanibel Planning Commission gave their nod of approval to proposals calling for the expansion of Scotty's Restaurant and the Sanibel Community Church, while coming to no decision on a request from Sun States Associates for city permission to develop an 84-unit luxury condominium project on the western end of Middle Gulf Drive.



The Sanibel Planning Commission voted last Monday to approve the proposed expansion of the Sanibel Community Church and Scotty's Restaurant and Pub, both located along Periwinkle Way.

Barry Chapman, president of Sun States Associates, appeared before the planning commission in mid-morning last Monday to plead for a development permit with which to begin construction of an ambitious and massive condominium project on a 16.8-acre Gulf-front tract just west of Sundial Condominiums south of Middle Gulf Drive.

Sun States Associates recently purchased roughly half of the tract from Walter McIntosh for about \$1.1 million, with the closing on the remainder of the site expected in the near future, Chapman said. He revealed that the purchase price for the remainder of the land proposed for development will be in the vicinity of \$900,000.

The land is allocated a density of 5 units per acre under Sanibel's comprehensive land use plan, and Sun States Associates have proposed to develop 84 dwelling units in three-story buildings reached a maximum height of 45 feet above mean sea level.

Chapman said that the units in Gulfside Place, which is to be the name of the project, will be spacious, luxury apartments containing a minimum of 2,260 square feet in living area. The complex will feature tennis courts, swimming pool, 5 elevated-walkways to the beach and other recreational amenities, and individual units in

Gulfside Place will range in price from \$160,000 to \$219,000, according to Chapman.

The planning commission withheld their approval of the project last Monday because of concern over the developers' proposal to sod a 1.5-acre area of the site adjacent to the condominium buildings.

The units themselves are to be connected to the Island Water Association (IWA) system, Chapman explained, while an eight foot deep cistern is to be constructed under the tennis courts to provide water for landscaping without placing a burden on the Islands' potable water supply, he maintained.

Jim Jack, engineer for the project, told the commission that the proposed 100,000 cubic foot cistern will have a storage capacity of ¾-million gallons of water, while Chapman said that the



cistern will cost about \$250,000 to install.

They contended that the proposed cistern will be adequate to water the acre and a half of sod to be laid on the property, although city planners were not convinced. They pointed out that in times of prolonged drought, future residents of the condominium will probably want to run a hose from the building to fill the cistern and sprinkler system in order to protect their investment in the landscaping around the buildings.

"It's going to be a drain on the IWA," argued Commissioner Don Marshall. "I can't see any way around it."

In response, Chapman assured the commission that aside from the sod, only native, "drought resistant" plants will be employed in landscaping the development. He offered to meet with members of the city Vegetation Committee to develop a water-saving landscaping plan for the project, as well as to draft deed restrictions to insure that future residents of the complex will use no IWA water for irrigational purposes.

restaurant, church expansion approved

All driveways and parking areas at the project are to be paved with porous concrete to enable water to seep through and drain into the ground, Chapman said.

At that point in the hearing, Commissioner Joe McMurtry moved to deny the request on the grounds that the proposed development will not tend to conserve the Island's existing natural resources, but his motion died for lack of a second.

Commissioner Twink Underhill made a subsequent motion to continue the hearing until the commission's next regular meeting, which is slated for October 3. Her motion carried by a 3 to 2 margin, with Commissioners Marshall and George Tenney dissenting.

Chapman then said that he had hoped to begin construction on the site as soon as possible in order to have a model unit completed by the time another tourist season rolls around this winter. He asked the commission to grant him a permit with which to build only a model on the site, but city planners balked at the suggestion because of the possibility that such action would provide a vested rights claim for the project as a whole.

"It would be tantamount to granting approval of the entire project," said Commissioner Tenney.

"And we've heard enough about vested rights in the past two years," added Twink Underhill.

Despite the temporary setback, Chapman said after the hearing that Sun States Associates would like to have Gulfside Place completed and ready for occupancy by December of 1978. He revealed that Sun States Associates is a Florida corporation headquartered at his private residence in the Sundial Condominium Resort, although the corporation's principal investors are Canadian.

Chapman added that John Naumann and Associates will be the sole

marketing agent for the units in the proposed development.

In other action last Monday, the planning commission voted unanimously to approve the issuance of a city development permit to enable the proposed expansion of Scotty's Restaurant and Pub off of Periwinkle Way.

According to Scotty's owner, Al Duncan, the proposed expansion will provide an enlarged kitchen and storage area at the popular eating place, as well as seating for an additional 50 diners.

To provide parking to accommodate the increased seating capacity, Duncan said that about 60 new parking spaces will be developed on a tract of land immediately south of the property, just behind Scotty's Village Shoppes.

He estimated that work on the expansion will begin in October, and that Scotty's may be closed temporarily this fall so that the work can be completed by mid-December.

In another hearing Monday morning, the commissioners voted unanimously to recommend that the city council approve a specific amendment to the land use plan to permit the proposed expansion of the Sanibel Community Church, located north of Periwinkle Way near its intersection with Casa Ybel Road.

Architect Ray Fenton of Genton, White and Associates, designers of the proposed addition to the church, said that the proposal calls for the expansion of the existing sanctuary in the church by about 480 square feet, as well as the construction of a 3,400 square-foot addition to the building which will include a fellowship hall, kitchen and classroom areas.

Fenton added that the architecture of the new addition will be in keeping with the Island character of the church, and that no paving or expansion of the



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commentary

Labor Day weekend has come and gone—the time traditionally marking the end of summer and the end, for the Islands, of the summer tourist season.

Many restaurants and some businesses, are closing up shop during the next few weeks for vacations and renovations. Most, however, will be back in operation the first week in October. From then until the Christmas season, the majority of Island businesses will be relying on Islanders for the better part of their trade.

Some smart businesses realize that

Islanders form their bread and butter and offer discounts to Island residents. Shalimar in Tahitian Gardens does this as does the new Phillips 66 self-serve gas pump behind the Santiva Minimart.

We think that's important. Islanders would rather shop the Islands out of both loyalty and convenience but sometimes there is a price differential that makes it impractical. We all know the cost of Island living is high—we knew it when we moved here—but it seems that there should be a way of

rewarding the Island customer who does keep his business on the Islands.

Coupon books for instance, similar to those dispensed to American forces overseas, would be one answer. If one of the gas stations issued a book where each gallon of gas was discounted by a certain amount, it would accomplish two ends; it would lighten the financial burden of buying gasoline on the Islands and it would increase the station's business by ensuring that the customer with a coupon book would return to him for gas.

Another way of accomplishing this would be to offer charge accounts to permanent Island residents and then discounting the charge account by a certain percentage.

The third way is to discount goods on an ad hoc basis as some merchants do now. The advantage to the first two ways is that both of them are designed to increase the merchant's business methodically while rewarding those who form their economic backbone throughout the high and low seasons.

letters to the editor

To the Editor of the Islander:

On August 5, 1977 a letter written by me was published as written by another Island paper. The letter concerned legislative action taken by City Council regarding the issuance of building permits without the previous issuance of IWA water permits. I did not happen to agree with Councils action.

Comments on the article have been mixed. For those I have offended I quote this observation by Thomas Jefferson "The will of the people is the only legitimate foundation for any government, and to protect its free expression should be our first objective."

A responsive City Council, the free press, and concerned citizenry listened

to my protest. But it was "the will of the people" and not my protest that moved and guided our neutral hard working City Council from its former position.

However I quoted Thomas Jefferson for another reason. Our city is under attack by powerful, and aggressive profit seeking developers. These developers have fired a shotgun blast attacking the very founding of our City, its comprehensive land use plan, and the integrity of some of our Council and Committee Persons.

In August 1975 in the City of Petaluma, California's Development Plan was upheld by the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth District. This Development Plan permitted the City of Petaluma to restrict building to

500 units per year in a City with a population of 55,000 people. This equates to 9 units per 1000 population per year, or 5 units per 1000 population per 7 months.

Sanibel has issued 198 building permits for 178 units in the first seven months of 1977. Our last census indicated our official population as 2,698 people. This equates to some 66 units per 1000 population per 7 months.

This indicates that our unit building rate is some 13 times as great per unit of population as a City such as Petaluma that is not as fragile as our beloved Island.

It seems obvious to me that the Planning Commission and City Council have made an honest effort to prevent the costly confrontation that has begun. It also appears that the time has come for our people to limit building proliferation.

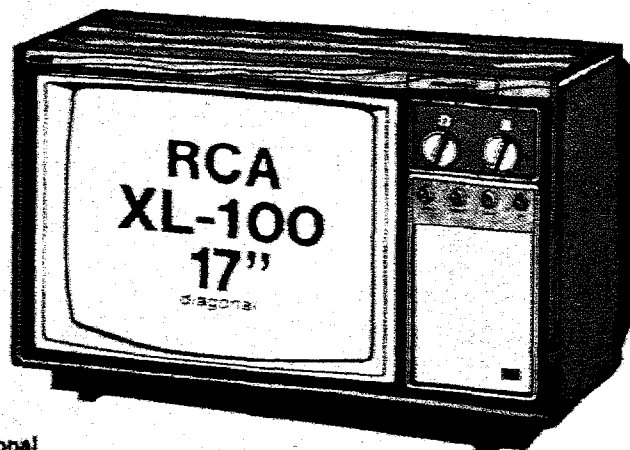
Now to the point. The Sanibel Support Group has issued a call for supplemental funds to financially meet the

cost of the forementioned legal defense. People more knowledgeable than I have indicated that this action had been contemplated before suit action by the developers began. For those of us who have extra funds to support this effort it will be worthwhile. However whether the donation be 1000 dollars or 10 cents, the signatures, of every voter, of every property owner, of every business firm supporting this action are extremely important.

The Court hearing this action must know, the will of the people of Sanibel. The Court must know that we support the founding of the City of Sanibel, that we support the Comprehensive Land Use Plan, that we stand in admiration for our City Council and the Committees they have appointed. In the long run the worth of the City of Sanibel, will be the worth of the individuals comprising it. I suggest that if we don't stand for something, we will fall for anything.

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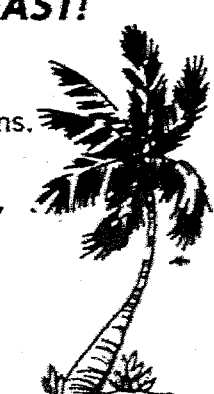
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commentary

Although there are usually some moans and groans this time of the year from those whose pace of life and business has slowed because of the decrease in traffic on the Islands, there is one group of people for whom fall brings about a tremendous increase in business—babysitters.

There are reports that Island mothers are actually out-bidding each other for the exclusive services of the well-known folk who care for their children in the after-school hours while both parents are at work.

The cost of Island living is high—no one argues that! It costs as much to live here as it does to live in the northeast corridor—the area of the country generally designated to have the highest standard of living. Nor-

thern salaries, of course, are usually correspondingly higher.

EXCEPT for those who engage in day care. While we are all for full employment, there do not seem to be, at least at this juncture, enough capable kiddie-watchers to go around.

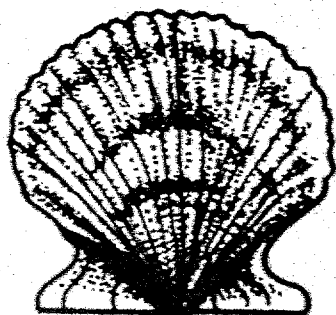
Other communities have established day-care centers to look after the children while the parents work. There is the possibility that someone or ones could do the same here. The biggest problem is the facility and, frankly, we have no ready answer for that. An ideal solution would be to have people trained in child care—and lifesaving—to oversee a permanent location where children could swim, leave their favorite toys and games and return daily.

This could, however, be done on a much smaller scale. One mother, for instance, could take in five or six children every day. They again would have some permanency in the arrangement—both in supervision and location—while the financial burden, shared amongst several families, would be considerably lighter than if it were borne by each family individually.

The other alternative is to have children, still with the same supervisor, alternate homes every week. This would, however, entail a pick-up at the school bus stop by the sitter for those children who do not reside in the area.


Whatever the physical arrangements, the possibility of

sharing the caring responsibilities is one that could be investigated to profit both those who can capably earn an extra source of income and those whose income source necessitates after-school or daytime care for their children.



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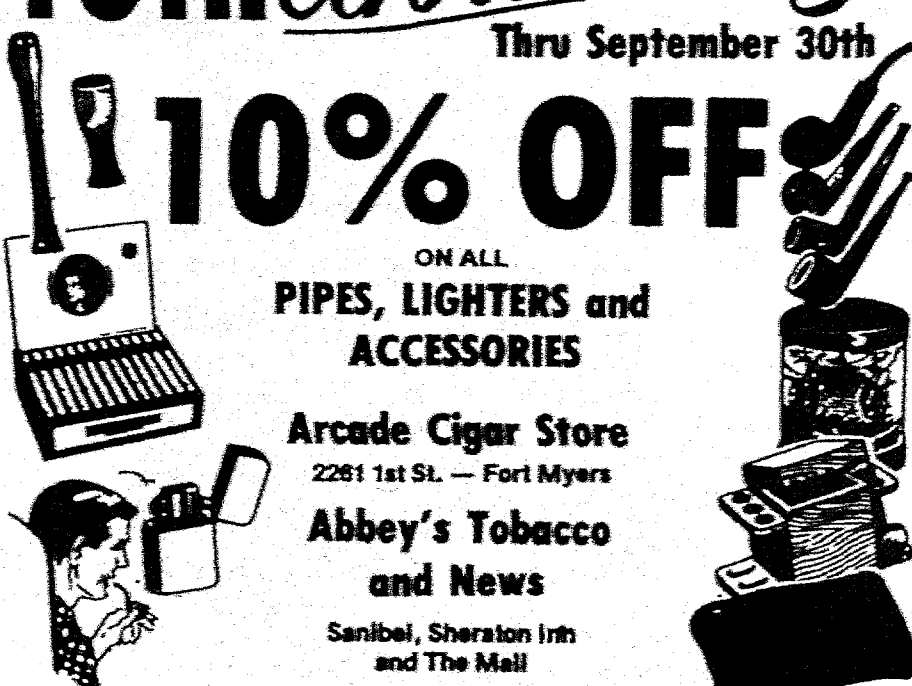
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dining out

During the next weeks, la critique will visit different dining spots in the area for lunch and dinner with subsequent reviews in the ISLANDER. The qualifications of la critique do not pretend to the grandiose—La critique has sampled cuisines from around the

country and around the world and is a fair chef in the home kitchen. These reviews are intended as a guide to Island and some off-Island dining and should be regarded as such.

Your comments are welcome.

brunch is best

Brunch is one of those few northern—and western—customs that has yet to really come into its own in Island restaurants—and one that is missed because it hasn't.

The exception to this is King's Crown at South Seas Plantation. They

offer brunch each Saturday and Sunday. The Sunday brunch is a buffet and we will explore that later. Our first outing was to sample the Saturday champagne offering.

The Plantation's Saturday champagne brunch is truly a well-

kept secret—and it shouldn't be. The meal, replete with all the champagne one can drink (and a respectable champagne at that) was excellent as is the charge: \$5.50 plus 15 per cent gratuity.

Brunch begins with champagne, of course, orange juice, and a glazed grapefruit half. Because of the day, the dining room is not extensively crowded, even on a holiday weekend, and while the service was, overall good, there was a relaxed atmosphere. Perhaps a little more relaxed than one is used to finding at the Plantation, but then brunch is supposed to be relaxed, nest-ce-pas? The entrees, although

somewhat limited, were each very good. The quiche South Seas is quiche Lorraine and was rated highly. Having been a quiche fan for years, it was perhaps a little less creamy than preferred, but that is a personal preference.

The eggs florentine were excellent. The spinach was not watery, the eggs poached to perfection and masked with an airy sauce that complimented the eggs perfectly. A dash of paprika could perhaps have added a little something, but again that is personal preference.

The brunch is accompanied with vegetables, in our case zucchini that was cooked

perfectly—still crisp.

Other choices were an omelette, a newburg dish and the traditional eggs benedict. One suggestion la critique would make would be to perhaps enlarge the Saturday menu to include entrees that tend, on the one hand toward the breakfast side—perhaps French toast and bacon for those die-hards, usually male, who steadfastly resist anything exotic for breakfast, and possibly a dish or two for those who got their first set in by eight and are ready for something hearty. The addition of crepes, which, thus far, no Island restaurant really features at weekend brunch time and perhaps

a salad for those die-hard lunch-at-lunchtimers would round out the menu perfectly.

We were disappointed in the rolls—which weren't warmed and which weren't terribly imaginative. Somehow brunch stirs up thoughts of croissants and brioche.

For those with a sweet tooth, there are parfais on the menu for dessert.

South Seas Plantation Saturday champagne brunch is definitely worth trying.

Of course the ambiance of the Plantation's dining room is always enjoyable and having Saturday brunch there is a wonderful way to ease into your weekend.

food for thought

by gwen stevenson

love that lamb

It's a funny thing about living on the Islands—you suddenly find that you have more relatives than you ever had before and they all, sooner or later, turn up on your doorstep.

The season doesn't seem to matter. One of my friends always seems to be having a vacation and comes down for a few days and spends a few weeks.

One way I've found to deal with the phenomenon of feeding the multitudes is with lamb—and it isn't as expensive as you might think. A six-pound butterfly leg of lamb that will serve four to six first time through and then (depending on how hungry they are) will make the casserole on this page to serve four ran about \$12.91 (six pounds) at Bailey's. And, I might add, the lamb was excellent.

BUTTERFLY LEG OF LAMB

The secret to this dish, besides the excellent lamb, is in the marinade. Mix the following ingredients and marinate the lamb for an hour to an hour and a half. Broil it in an oven or grill it on a barbecue if the bugs aren't too bad. Ten-fifteen minutes on each side should do it. Serve while it is still pink, with the lamb juices.

MARINADE

Mix together the following:

- 1 jar Dijon mustard
- 2 tsp. rosemary
- 1 tsp. ginger
- 1 crushed clove garlic
- 3-4 tablespoons of soy sauce
- 2 tablespoons olive oil

I sprinkle the lamb with some extra rosemary, garlic and crushed pepper just before cooking.

Even though the lamb is THAT good, you should still have enough left over to make the following casserole, which probably originated on a far-flung Anatolian plateau in a small village where sheep, lambs and goats are just about the only meat available.

LAMB CASSEROLE

For four:

- 2 pounds string beans, cut into 2" lengths
- 1 pound leftover lamb cut into chunks
- 1 cup finely chopped onions
- 6 medium-sized, fresh, ripe tomatoes, peeled, seeded and coarsely chopped or, the easy way, 2 cups chopped, drained, canned tomatoes
- 1 tsp. salt
- freshly ground black pepper

- ½ tsp. freshly ground nutmeg
- ½ tsp. ground allspice

Spread beans evenly in the bottom of a heavy 4-6 quart casserole and set aside. Place cooked lamb on top. (If you prefer, you can quickly saute the lamb pieces in a light film of oil before placing them in the casserole.) Cook onions in a tsp. or so of olive oil over medium heat for five minutes, or until they are soft and transparent, but not brown. Spread onions over the lamb and cover them with tomatoes. Sprinkle the top with salt, a few grindings of pepper, nutmeg and allspice.

Place the casserole over a low heat, cover tightly and simmer for an hour without stirring or until the beans are tender. Serve at once from the casserole with rice.

Co-op attends planning meeting

The Planning Committee meeting tomorrow, Wednesday Sept. 7, will be asking questions of those operations on the Island who supply our life support systems, in an effort to draw up guidelines about the reasonable rate of growth permissible for the Islands. This has arisen primarily because of a request from the Island Water Association for a definitive statement on how much growth is going to take place and when.

The retiring Homer T. Welch of Lee County Electric Co-operative will be accompanied by his successor, James D. Sherfey.

They plan to bring maps for use in illustrating their long-range plans.

"Our current substation is not logically located to take care of growth at the lighthouse end of the Island," Welch said. "We plan to extend each way."

Sherfey, 43, is described by Welch as an "old-time utility man" from Bristol, Tennessee. "He has taken over full operation of the co-operative," Welch said, "and I'll be staying on as an advisor to the end of the month."

The Lee County Electric Co-op team will also include their chief engineer.

planners create CLUP advisory panel

Top planning officials from throughout Lee County met in Cape Coral Thursday and pledged co-operation in several areas of mutual concern.

Planners from Cape Coral, Fort Myers, Sanibel, Lee County and the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council agreed to seek the creation of a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to guide the completion of the intergovernmental coordination element in state mandated Comprehensive Land Use Plan.

Lee County Planning Director Bill Johnstone, suggested that the TAC should consist of the plan-

ning directors from each of the jurisdictions represented, "rather than have a committee of laymen."

The formation of TAC evolved out of the group's discussion of the need for co-operation in the intergovernmental coordination element of the comprehensive land use plan, although the creation of a less formal committee was discussed initially.

The planners agreed to go back to their respective council or commission and recommend the appointment of the chief administrator of the governmental entity, or their designated representative,

to serve on the TAC.

Planners privately admitted that they hoped that the actual planning directors would be asked by those "chief administrators" to represent them on TAC.

Sanibel City Planning Director Carleton Ryffel said that the intergovernmental coordination element in the comprehensive plan dictated that each jurisdiction review and comment on the other's plans and that the TAC could serve as an "interface between jurisdictions."

"The Sanibel plan is formed around hurricane evacuation," pointed out Ryffel, "and we had to

coordinate with Lee County to be sure that our plans were not at cross-purposes to each other."

He pointed out that, "affordable housing," is one of the most pressing problems on Sanibel, "and we would like to compare and examine how other areas deal with such issues."

He cited the example of creating interlocal agreements asking the county or other cities to submit rezoning requests that could have an impact on Cape Coral to the city planning department for its comments also.

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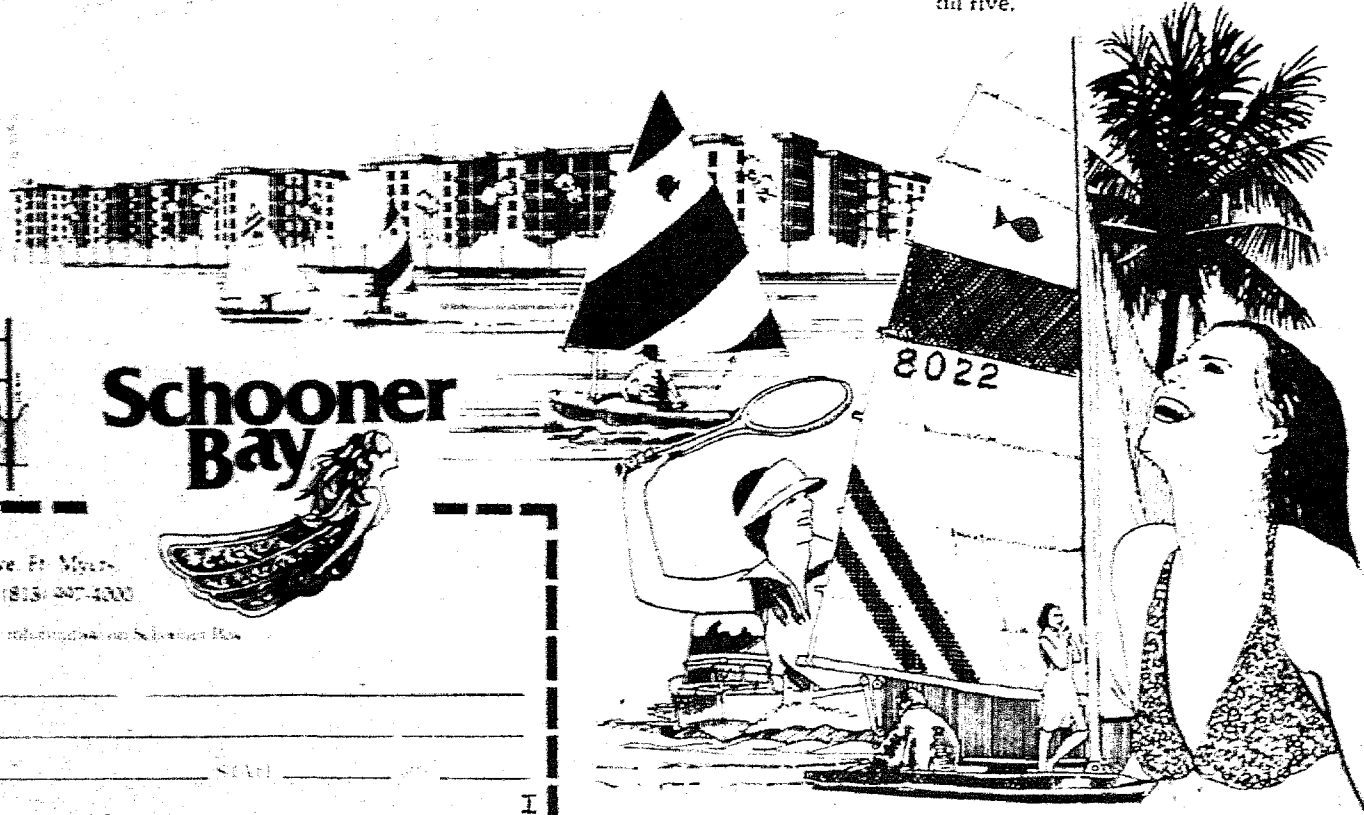
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police report

Employees of the Lee County Mosquito Control District called SPD last week to report that a Captiva resident was highly upset about the Mosquito Control helicopters which fly over his house. The Islander had threatened to shoot at the helicopters, according to the complainant.

As the incident involved Captiva, Lee County Sheriff's officials were notified to handle the case.

Thus far, CROW members have not reported caring for any injured helicopters!

An Island resident called the station to inform SPD that her son and another Island youth had not returned home at the appointed time one day last week.

The complainant told SPD that the lads had left early that morning to spend the day on Bowman's Beach and asked patrolmen to be on the lookout for the kind of car they were driving.

While there was some speculation that the boys might have been kidnapped by a tribe of wild nudists known to frequent the secluded beach, no unclad or unarily persons were seen by SPD upon their arrival at Bowman's.

Rather, they found one of the missing youths still waiting for his friend to return. His friend, it seems, was already at home in the bosom of his family.

Thus, mother and son were reunited by SPD and the search was called off.

Island patrolmen were surprised one night last week to find a snazzy red convertible abandoned in a ditch and partially blocking an Island thoroughfare.

When the driver of the

vehicle, a Fort Myers man, finally appeared, he explained that he had been driving along the road when he turned off his headlights to enjoy a scenic view of the full moon as he sped by. The man added that bright lights from a home near the pavement had blinded him momentarily, and so the car wound up mired in the sand along the road.

Perceiving the butt of a marijuana cigarette, or "roach," in the ashtray of the car, the patrolman waxed businesslike and issued the befuddled driver a small host of traffic tickets for such nefarious offenses as no valid registration for the car, no license, no valid inspection sticker, and to top it all off, careless driving.

The unhappy visitor will be out over \$200 for his impromptu moonlight ride.

Islanders called SPD last week to report a renewed barrage of prank phone calls on the Islands.

As with numerous others in recent weeks, the calls were of the variety where the mysterious caller says nothing and soon hangs up.

Although a number of Island telephones have by now been equipped with tracer devices, the annoying calls continue and no clues to the identity of the prankster have been unearthed.

Could he be just a friendly guy with nothing to say for himself?

Another Islander called SPD last week to complain that a low flying helicopter was disturbing the peaceful tranquility for which the Islands are famous.

In this case, the identity of the aircraft and of its passengers could not be determined.

Another group of worthless checks was passed on the Islands last week.

Few details of the case were available at the time of this writing.

SPD discovered a lost boy on the Islands last week. It seems that the lad got off of a school bus at the wrong stop, and was in somewhat of a quandry as to who could have stolen his home and neighborhood.

With the assistance of SPD, the youngster was delivered to his destination.

Another Island youth got off of the school bus at the wrong stop last week.

He, too, could not understand where his home had wandered off to.

Two Island teenagers of the female gender reported receiving an obscene phone call last week from what sounded like a middle-aged man who claimed he was a doctor taking a medical survey.

The girls said that the caller, who probably singled them out because their number is listed as a teenage number in the phone book, took advantage of his alleged "survey" to ask some very personal questions of a lascivious nature, at which the modest young ladies immediately hung up.

Thereafter, they called Lee Memorial Hospital and learned that no such surveys were being conducted that day.

A high ranking official at Lee Memorial informed SPD that the hospital receives numerous complaints of this nature on "rainy days."

As a result, local psychologists have initiated a study in the attempt to

correlate rainy days with untoward attacks of lubricious thoughts among middle-aged males.

SPD received a call last week from an Islander who is watching the home of another Islander, who is away for the summer and whose house, therefore, is vacant.

The complainant reported that the man who reads the water meter of the vacant home had just told him that the meter indicated that over 100,000 gallons of water had been pumped to the home over the past month.

Upon entering the home, it was determined that the phenomenal water waste was occasioned by a leaky toilet, which has obviously proved quite expensive for the vacationing homeowner.

An Islander called SPD to complain that his automobile had suffered a flat tire as a result of driving over a sizable pothole in an Island thoroughfare. The complainant added that he was unable to avoid the pothole because of poor drainage patterns along the road, its pavement being covered with water from a rain shower, as it were.

The complainant informed SPD that he had photographed the scene of the difficulty to forward to the City with a bill for the ruined tire.

Islanders and other Lee County residents have been bothered of late by

telephone solicitations for a Police Association, or some such non-existent group.

Lee County Sheriff's officials wish it to be known that they recognize no such organization and advise area residents not to support this mysterious group.

A complainant called SPD last week to report the sighting of a number of alligators milling about in the vicinity of an Island condominium.

SPD advised complainant to call Island naturalists George Campbell and George Weymouth, who are well qualified to handle the transport problem of alligators.

Under no circumstances should unqualified persons attempt to tamper with an alligator, as such actions are both illegal and potentially dangerous to the tamperor.

In what seemed like a pretty slow week on the Islands under predominantly cloudy skies and intermittent thunder showers, SPD investigated two accidents on the Island, one report of a suspicious vehicle, issued seven traffic citations for offenses ranging from speeding to driving while intoxicated, escorted one large construction truck across the Islands, secured two insecure premises, and rendered miscellaneous assistance on at least fourteen occasions.

The Sanibel Fire Department was called into action six times last week, which emergency medical service was required twice.

And despite all we can do to stop it, time marches on.....

Actor's wife files charges

Deborah Gould Lawford, estranged wife of actor Peter Lawford, filed aggravated assault charges against John Sudduth, a Miami attorney last week.

Ms. Gould alleged that Sudduth, with whom she had been staying at South Seas Plantation, threatened her with a kitchen knife, a broken ashtray and ripped

her clothes off. Nude, Ms. Gould sought help at a neighbor's home.

The Lee County Sheriff's office made the arrest. Sanibel Police Department officers were called in to assist because Sudduth had been thought to be armed.

Sudduth was released on bond.

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Bond honored at conservation center

The Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation's new Conservation Center was the site of a reception last week in honor of Glen Bond, Jr., who will soon be leaving the Islands after 3½ years as manager of the J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge here on Sanibel.

Bond's term of duty as manager of the 4,700-acre Darling Refuge will officially come to an end tomorrow, September 7, although he and his wife, Jeannie, will not be leaving the Islands until September 13, Bond said last week.

He has been transferred by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to the Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge, which consists of two islands in Chesapeake Bay area Virginia Beach, Virginia. Bond will begin serving as manager of the Back Bay Refuge immediately upon his arrival.

A small group of friends and well-wishers turned up at the Conservation Center last Wednesday morning to bid Jeannie and Glen a bon voyage.

The couple were presented with an original wildlife print by Island artist Ikki Matsumoto and commemorative tee-shirts emblazoned with the emblem of the Conservation Foundation, while Sanibel Vice-Mayor Zee Butler read a resolution adopted recently by the Sanibel City Council in recognition of Bond's meritorious service in the Field of nature conservation and in appreciation of his close cooperation with the young city government throughout the past two and a half years of home rule.

The Bonds expressed some regrets over their upcoming departure from

the Islands last Wednesday, although it more likely to be Islanders who will miss Glen Bond's competent and courteous service as manager of the Darling Refuge.

As of our deadline for this issue, his replacement had yet to be announced by Fish and Wildlife Service officials.



Glen and Jeannie Bond were honored with presents and fond wishes at a bon voyage reception held last Wednesday at the Sanibel-Captiva Foundation's Conservation Center.

The Bonds will be leaving Sanibel for Virginia Beach, Virginia, next week.

islanders at work & play

In the week following Labor Day, these Island restaurants will be closing for varying periods of time. Should you be planning an evening out at one of them this week, a phone call in advance would be a wise idea.

- Casabel-Casa del Mama
- Letizia's
- Mucky Duck
- Timmy's Nook
- Scotty's Pub

Businesses closing include Art Fac, while they expand their store in the area that used to be Parcels and Gentry, the Artisan Shop, Jade Butterfly, Elsie Maloane and the Last Straw.

Sally and Ralph Woodring have bought out Mary Horack's interest in Ada's Health Food Store—which is now Woody's and located on Periwinkle Way across from the Bank of the Islands. Plans for a small center in

that area are going ahead satisfactorily. Sally and Ralph now own the Island shop and Woody's on Fort Myers Beach while Mary Horack owns Ada's in Fort Myers.

The Kennedy family had an interesting summer... Judy Kennedy was sent by the Sanibel Community Church to attend a seminar at St. Olaf's College in Northfield, Minnesota for the Choristers Guild. (Mrs. Kennedy directs the Community Church's Youth Choir.)

Daughters Anne and Heather accompanied their mother and attended choir and music camp while Mrs. Kennedy was in the adult sessions.

There were 485 adults attending the seminar from all over the United States and Canada and topics ranged from directing children of different age groups to small discussion

sessions on musical theory and problems to sacred dance.

After the seminar, they visited King Tut's treasures in Chicago, which was a fascinating experience according to the Kennedys and took a camping trip through the Black Hills of South Dakota on their way home. All were very impressed with Mt. Rushmore.

The oldest daughter, Jennifer, who was home for a visit, left for Kent State yesterday to begin her sophomore year as a music education major. She gave a violin concert Sunday at the Sanibel Community Church.

The seminar will be held in St. Petersburg next year and Mrs. Kennedy hopes that Jennifer will be able to join them in attending that one.



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"Wildlife—it's the love of my life. I'm goin' up on the mountain for the rest of my life, Find me a cave and talk them bears into takin' me in. Wildlife—it's a man's best friend!"
 Don Van Yliet

Most newcomers to Sanibel and Captiva arrive on Island shores with the dream of discovering an undisturbed world where rare and unusual wildlife abounds, and although Don and Nora Dietlein share that dream, they represent a minority among new arrivals on the Islands in that they were fortunate enough to be able to bring their own small collection of wildlife with them.

An internationally known zoologist, Donald Richard Dietlein and his wife, Nora, a research biochemist who has achieved considerable prominence in her own field; moved to Sanibel this past summer to enable Don to accept the position of Director of Science and

zoological director for a number of this nation's largest zoos renders him especially well suited to his new role at Conservation Center, although that is not the subject of this article.

Rather, we have chosen to present the family members which make up the Dietleins' somewhat extraordinary household—extraordinary because over and above their German shepherd, Yorkshire terrier, common house cat and collection of turtles and tropical fish, the Dietlein "family" currently includes several...an African grey parrot and an Asian clawless otter.

"I've always loved animals," says Nora Dietlein. "I've never lived without them."

Born and raised on a farm, Nora said that her parents had never seen her walk until one day when she was about nine months old. Young Nora, it seems, disappeared that day, much to the consternation of her parents, who finally located her in the barn, where she was walking along quite admirably carrying a cat in her arms.

Nora has kept and cared for both wild

From London, Nora moved to Boston and joined a team of scientists from the Harvard Medical School involved in working on the prototype of the membrane lung which she developed. That scientific team was eventually transferred to the Irvine campus of the University of California Medical School, where Nora later joined Bentley Laboratories as director of heart-lung research.

It was at about that time that Nora began taking advanced courses in wild animal management from the University of California extension school for her own amusement. One of those courses required Nora to journey to Africa for field study and resulted in a romantic meeting with Don Dietlein, who happened to be teaching the course through an agreement between the University of California and Lion Country Safari, Inc., Don's employer at the time.

The couple therefore met in Kenya in August of 1974, and true to the phenomenon of love at first sight, they were married that October. At the time of their marriage, Nora's personal family consisted of two dogs, two cats, fish, tortoises, and an otter.

"When Don asked me to get married, I told him I had an otter who slept with me every night and that I wouldn't get rid of him," Nora recalls fondly. "But Don said he'd give it a try."

By this time, however, Don Dietlein was well accustomed to living in close contact with wild animals.

Don said that his first real experience with caring for wild animals came in the early 1960's while he was working as a parasitologist in the Sudan, where native villagers began bringing him young, orphaned animals to care for. Among other species, Don raised a young serval, a crocodile, a number of antelopes and an ostrich during this period of his life.

Upon his return to the United States in 1963, Don was offered the position of special assistant to the director of the National Zoological Park at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C. Within six months of accepting the post, Dietlein was promoted to the position of general curator of the zoo, and his future was set.

In 1968, Don was appointed director of the Kansas City Zoo, in Kansas City, Missouri, a position in which he was given the opportunity to raise infant members of a number of wildlife species; among them a baby polar bear, a gorilla, a leopard, rehsus monkeys, and a Sarus crane, one of the largest species of crane in the wildlife kingdom.

Don said that the crane, dubbed "Ichabod," was reared in the living room of his home and was "one of the most enjoyable animals I've ever raised."

He resigned his post as director of the Kansas City Zoo in 1971 and returned to Africa to continue his doctoral studies at the University of Kenya. Don came back to this country two years later and was immediately named corporate zoological coordinator for Lion Country Safari, Inc., a firm which at that time owned six wildlife parks throughout the country, the nearest of which was in West Palm Beach.

It was in this role that Dietlein began teaching extension courses in wild animal management for the University of California and in which he ultimately met Nora. Shortly after their marriage in 1974, the Taft Broadcasting Com-



For Ramses, a serval, the Dietleins' live in the savannahs of his African homeland.

pany of Cincinnati, Ohio, bought two Lion Country Safari parks, and as a result, Don went to work for King Productions, a division of Taft Broadcasting.

Thus, the newlywed Dietleins moved their wildlife family to Cincinnati, where Don served as corporate zoological director for Taft Broadcasting, a position which he still holds. The firm currently owns three theme parks in the United States, two of which include large collections of wild animals. Don is responsible for the selection, collection and breeding of the animals displayed in the parks, which are located in Cincinnati and in Richmond, Virginia.

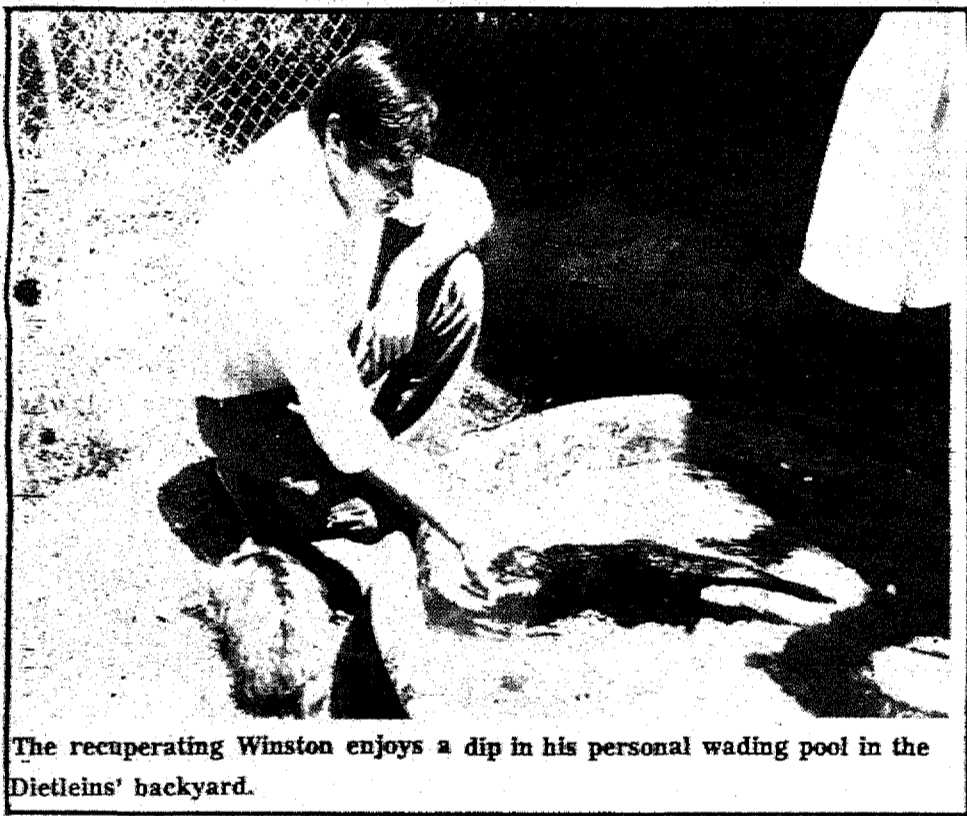
Nora's marriage to Don provided her with the perfect opportunity to raise a more diversified group of wild animals in her own home. In their three years of married life, the Dietleins have taken in a small host of infant animals born in the Taft Broadcasting parks and in other zoos across the country. Among other animal species, their "children" have included a young clouded leopard, a serval, a spider monkey, an ostrich, a spotted hyena, tiger cubs, and even a baby bluejay which fell out of a tree in the backyard of their Cincinnati home.

Nora said last week that of all her pets, perhaps the most demanding was the baby spider monkey, which lives upon the body of its mother for its first year of life in the wild. Nora said that after finally accepting her as its mother, the infant simian lived in a small pouch sewn into her clothes for over three months. The baby monkey slept on Nora's pillow at night and wore Pampers, she added.

Although the Dietleins have by this time become thoroughly accustomed to the pitfalls inherent in raising wild animals in captivity, the job of keeping their pets healthy and happy in an American household is by no means a simple matter. And the problems become progressively more acute when the Dietleins find themselves moving their menagerie from one city to another.

Nora's first otter, for instance, died soon after her move from Boston to California in 1970 due to what Nora called a "tragic veterinary error." The departed pet was soon to be replaced by another Asian clawless otter named "Winston," who is now seven years old and still a member in good standing of the Dietlein family.

Winston, as well, nearly died during the Dietleins' recent move from Cin-



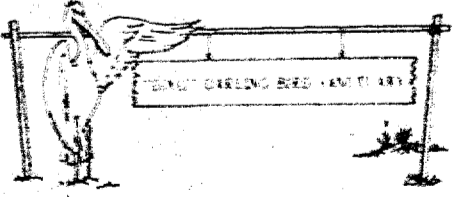
The recuperating Winston enjoys a dip in his personal wading pool in the Dietleins' backyard.

Education at the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation's new Conservation Center just off Sanibel-Captiva Road. Don Dietlein assumed his new position at Conservation Center last week, and his duties will include the preparation and coordination of the various educational programs to be conducted by the Foundation at their ambitious new facility.

According to Foundation Director Dick Workman, Don's past work as

and domestic animals throughout her adult life. She acquired her first otter while living in England, where she was taking postgraduate studies at the Royal Postgraduate Medical School of the University of London. It was there that she earned her Ph.D. in Biochemistry for developing the membrane used in the artificial lung, a type of heart-lung machine employed to keep the patient alive during prolonged open-heart surgery.

Mid-Island Real Estate



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Dietlein household

by rich arthurs



om carpet is a far cry from the

eggs, and fish which it catches in shallow, rocky streams. In Cincinnati, Winston ate lion food supplied by the parks where Don worked, but on Sanibel his diet consists of a mixture of hamburger, dog food and essential vitamin supplements. Nora said that for domestic living, Winston requires a fenced area and wading pool in which to cavort, although he is also given a relatively free run of the Dietlein household.

Among other endearing tricks, Winston can open the refrigerator at will, turn water taps on and off, and customarily gets into just about everything. With the playful Winston around, said Don, toothbrushes are subject to mysterious disappearances if left unguarded, and articles of clothing can often be found wadded up in Winston's water dish if he does not receive the amount of attention he thinks he deserves.

"You've got to have a sense of humor with an otter," Nora said. "Without one, you'd be lost!"

Nora revealed that it was only in March of this year that the Asian clawless otter was finally placed on the endangered species list in its native Malaysia. As such, it is now subject to more stringent importing regulations in this country as well.

The Dietleins' relocation to the Islands over the past summer also necessitated a non-stop, 22-hour drive from Cincinnati with Don, Nora, two dogs, a cat, a serval, turtles and fish crammed into their Volkswagen microbus—a pilgrimage which, no doubt, tried the limits of even Nora's admirable sense of humor. Among other headaches, the fish required a battery-powered aerator for the journey and the batteries had to be changed every few hours throughout the trip.

Aside from a large tank filled with various colorful fish of the tropical variety, the Dietleins have one large Oscar, a carnivorous South American fish of the cichlid family which in Cincinnati devoured an average of \$150 worth of pet-store goldfish per year, according to Don's calculations. Don hopes that the minnows in Island waters will provide a less expensive diet for the greedy "Oscar," an appropriate name for their pet.

Their amphibian friends are a pair of Florida yellow-bellied turtles they picked up recently at a tourist-oriented Seminole village in the Everglades.

The one member of the clan which did not make the marathon trip to Sanibel in the van was the Dietleins' African grey parrot named "Polly," Nora's birthday gift to Don of two years ago. The omnivorous Polly performs a number of clever tricks on command and counts scrambled eggs and Kentucky-fried chicken among his favorite foods, according to Nora.

The primary reason why Polly came to Sanibel independently of his fellows was because the African grey parrot is considered a rare delicacy by "Ramses," the Dietleins' serval, whose thin, elongated ears and lean features present a striking resemblance to Bast, the Egyptian cat goddess.

Don explained that Ramses, now two years old and declawed, was a gift from his close friend, Robert Baudy, owner of the rare animal breeding compound in Bushnell.

The serval is a small, wild African cat which ranges throughout savannas and low-lying forests south of the Sahara. The only spotted cat not on the endangered list at the present time, the

Don added that their German shepherd, "Leda," came with the house they occupied in Cincinnati. Don said that the previous occupant was going to have Leda put to sleep, saying that the dog was vicious—an incorrigible cat-killer. Rather than see Leda killed, Don and Nora asked if they could keep the dog, and Leda is now an integral, and gentle, member of the Dietlein household.

Their Yorkshire terrier is the most hyperactive member of the family, not to mention the oldest and the smallest of the quadropeds. The twelve year-old pup is named "Nuffie" after Lord Nuffield, a well-known English aristocrat who made liberal endowments to the medical school which Nora attended in London.

The Dietleins and their pets presently reside in a house on Poinciana Circle which they are renting from John Metcalf while awaiting the construction of their permanent home on a Gulf-front lot they have purchased off of West Gulf Drive. Understandably, they had anticipated having some difficulty in finding a

cincinnati to Sanibel. In order to facilitate the relocation of household furnishings and the other members of the Dietlein menagerie, Winston was taken to a rare animal breeding compound in Bushnell, Florida, for safekeeping, along with a young female otter the Dietleins had acquired a few months earlier to keep Winston company.

While in residence at the compound, both otters became infected with fleas and were subjected to liberal applications of flea powder, which had a severe effect upon their nervous systems and impaired their motor coordination. The female otter died at the compound before Don and Nora could get there to rescue their pets, while Winston had lost considerable weight and had reached the point where he couldn't stand up by the time they appeared to recover him.

For five solid days the Dietleins maintained a vigil over Winston, giving him hourly injections of atropine sulphate to counteract the effects of the flea powder. The ordeal ended early last week, and Winston is now on his feet again and steadily regaining his former strength and vigor.

"We're very lucky he's alive," said Nora thankfully. "We knew that minks, a relative of the otter family, are highly susceptible to this type of pesticide, but we just weren't thinking."

The Asian clawless otter is a carnivorous native of Southeast Asia which feeds upon small mammals,

A Dietlein Family portrait includes (from left to right) Nuffie, a Yorkshire terrier; Nora, Winston, the otter; a house cat named Sam, and Don.



serval like all cats great and small, is carnivorous. Even the domesticated Ramses eats only red meat and vitamin supplements.

In the Dietlein household, Ramses has the run of the house as well as of the communal backyard enclosure, and also shares a spot in the foot of Don and Nora's bed with an orange house cat named "Sam."

For such a diversified group, the Dietleins' pets have always lived in remarkable harmony with one another, said Nora, Ramses and Polly notwithstanding.

short-term landlord who would let them keep their odd menagerie in the manner to which they are accustomed, but, to their great relief, John Metcalf has gone out of his way to accommodate them, Nora said.

Don and Nora hope to be installed in their own home, which will be an elevated structure with an enclosure containing wading pools for Winston underneath, by next summer.

For the present, Nora is for the most part preoccupied with getting her home and family into shape, although she has

con't on page 22

STRETCH

SEWING CLASSES
With Evelyn Byars

NEW CLASSES

LINGERIE	FRI. 9/16	2-4 P.M.
NEW SEW-INS		
CREATIVE EMBROIDERY	MON. 9/19	10-12 P.M.
BASIC (4 lessons)	"	"
"	"	7-9 P.M.
BASIC KNIT (4 Lessons)	THURS. 9/22	7-9 P.M.
BASIC KNIT (4 Lessons)	FRI. 9/23	10 a.m.-12 ³⁰

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went to market and bought some wonderful things. Now she's checking her list to see what Tampa and Dallas brings.



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Howe's that?

by paul howe

Florida's thirty-seven member Constitutional Revision Commission's Fort Myers public hearing was offered a dazzling array of speakers last Tuesday. Their topics were varied and were split among those that concerned streamlining the state charter, and those that reflected only the narrow interests of groups probing how far the state will go to further their financial well-being. A number of speakers came from the Southeast Florida area and spoke on subjects not of particular import to those of Southwest Florida. Some of those speakers intimated that they planned to follow the Commission around the State and repeat their pitches at the other nine public hearing locations.

The meeting was held at the Edison Community College auditorium. In addition to the seven speakers specifically named on the distributed agenda, another forty took consecutively numbered cards to indicate the order of their presentations. No attempt was made to cluster the speakers by topics. This report covers from my arrival at the start when I picked up Number 16 card and, except for a half-hour lunch break, ends with speaker number thirty.

Very disappointing to me was the disproportionate amount of time allowed to the many unabashed lobbyists for such disparate subjects as: horse racing; construction subsidies; individual State departments for specific interests; collective bargaining of public servants; preservation of right-to-work laws; tax exemptions for new

industries; elimination of discounts for prompt tax payments; guaranteed profits for land developers; elimination or exemption or reduction of taxes for several groups of individuals and purposes; continuance of county constitutional offices; more equality for various minority groups; and a host of other pleas that sometimes cut across category lines.

It just seemed to me that too many of the subjects discussed failed to meet the test that only fundamental rights and policies deserve Constitutional status with administrative details for protecting those rights and implementing policies being handled by the three co-equal branches of governance. That observation was eloquently confirmed by a member of one of Lee County's oldest families when he reminded the Commission that our National charter only needed amendment twenty-six times in its 190 years, whereas Florida's has already passed that number within ten years of its adoption.

The Commission appeared somewhat miffed by the late afternoon tandem presentation of a series of fervent protests on sundry local problems by two Sanibelites and their mainland colleague. Our recent candidate for City Council, Carol Quillinan, deftly passed her reserved place on the agenda to the off-Island President of the Lee County Taxpayers Association. The latter rattled off with machinegun

rapidity a catalogue of real and fancied ills visited upon the local citizenry by their local and state public officials. That recital was eventually concluded with the orator's out-of-wind observation: "Well I guess that's all." Not content with that abrupt curtain-dropper, Sanibel's second notable, Paulette Burton, snowballed that one allotted speaking spot into an impassioned incantation of how ordinances, resolutions, statutes, court decisions, bills of rights, Federal and State Constitutions and inalienable rights and privileges had been violated and ignored by those same officials.

Guided by several Island exposures to the dispeptic effects of such presentations on a public hearing body, my discretion prompted abandonment of the option to make an oral presentation to the Commission that I had planned for several months. Accordingly, my written rewrite and comments on the Taxation and Finance, and the Local Government articles of the 1968 Constitution was furnished to the clerk for distribution to the Commission. I was assured that the thirty-seven Commissioners would prefer to read it in the more quiet atmosphere of Tallahassee in September.

Driving back to Sanibel, in a torrential downpour, did not dampen my ardor for the patience, tolerance, and devotion to public service displayed by the Commissioners. My best wishes go to them for a fruitful and timely accomplishment of a thankless job. They have a deadline of May 10, 1978.

City still pursues bike path grant

Sanibel Acting Mayor Zee Butler reported last week that the City of Sanibel is still actively pursuing a state grant for funds with which to extend Sanibel's much-travelled bike path from Periwinkle Way along the northern side of Palm Ridge Road and Sanibel-Captiva Road to the Sanibel Elementary School.

Acting Mayor Butler and City Manager Bill Nungester journeyed to Tallahassee last week, where they met with Lonnie Pyder, grants coordinator with the State Division of Parks and Recreation, administrators of a \$500,000 Bikeway Demonstration Grant Program.

The city has applied for a grant of roughly \$144,000 for the proposed expansion of the Island's popular bike path, although state officials have in the past indicated that the city is requesting too great a share of the available revenues in the grant program for a community the size of Sanibel.

After meeting with Ryder last week, Nungester said that the city will revise its application for the grant as well as its plans for the proposed bike path expansion to bring the estimated cost of the project down to a level where it can be seriously considered for the grant.

Vice-Mayor Butler indicated that a number of suggestions offered by Ryder to help the city's grant application along will be pursued locally.

Among others, Ryder suggested that a petition in support of the bike path proposal should be circulated among Island residents to be forwarded to state officials responsible

for awarding the grants. According to Mrs. Butler, Islander Judy Workman has volunteered to draw up such a petition and will be circulating it on Sanibel and Captiva in the weeks ahead.

Additionally, the Sanibel City Council will consider approving a formal resolution in support of the proposed bike path expansion at their meeting on September 12.

Acting Mayor Butler added that Ryder will be visiting Lee County in coming months and has agreed to come to Sanibel to inspect the proposed route and design plans for the

long-awaited extension of Sanibel's bike path.

Grants are to be awarded by the State cabinet early next year after reviewing the recommendations of a committee created to consider all applications received by the State for funding assistance with local bike path construction.

Although city officials have, until recently viewed Sanibel's chances of success in obtaining the grant as a long shot, both Acting Mayor Butler and City Manager Nungester said that their meeting with Ryder last week was "encouraging."



City officials travelled to Tallahassee last week to meet with State officials responsible for administering a \$500,000 State grants program to assist local governments in the construction of bike paths such as the popular one running along Periwinkle Way here on Sanibel.

in your opinion...

DO YOU THINK THAT THE MUCH-PUBLICIZED WATER SHORTAGE IS AS CRITICAL AS IT HAS BEEN MADE OUT TO BE?



No. Not with all the rain we've been having.
Vicki Hughes, Sanibel



Yes. I think it is because they are dealing with a fixed amount of water and the Island is getting too built up for the amount of water we have.
Noreen Twombly, Sanibel



Yes. I'm very enthusiastic that they're looking for off-Island water sources.
Madeline Fitch, Sanibel



If there isn't conservation now, there never will be because there won't be anything left to conserve.
Lou McClearn, Sanibel



I sure do. I think all the Islanders will have to become more conscious of the water situation.
Donna Berger, Sanibel



Yes I do. There should be an alternate source on the mainland.
David Frazer, Sanibel

outdoors

on the water

by mike fuery

Don't look now, but if you own a boat and keep it in the water, you are very likely to be the proud owner of a hard-to-get-rid-of colony of barnacles. Even if your boat is only in the water on the weekends, there is still a very good chance these pesky sea creatures are on your boat.

It's that time of the year when barnacles seem to get lonely and go out looking for something to attach themselves to. It's sort of like the same thing your brother-in-law would do.

Anyway, barnacles are persistent in this last of the hot summer days and once attached, they greatly reduce your boat's performance, clog engine intakes and really distract from the beauty of your waterline on that boat.

Barnacles and I have been doing battle regularly each fall. It won't be long before the weather cools enough to allow outside work and once again it

will be man against barnacle. While I toil away under the boat, surrounded by dead and dying barnacles, people I know have their own methods of getting the little monsters off their hulls.

Quite possibly the most dangerous method of barnacle removal involves the use of a badly fouled boat bottom, a slightly insane boat driver (of which there never seems to be a shortage) and a sandbar. This requires a fiberglass boat, equipped with an outboard, not inboard or stern drive, please. If you are in full control of your faculties, you won't try this at all, but let's get on with it.

Find a sandbar without oyster or other shells and wait for a medium low tide. Now, back off about 200 yards, put on your crash helmet and then give that engine throttle handle hell. As you approach at full speed, reach back and tilt the engine up as you turn off the

power.

By now you will be sliding up and over the sandbar, leaving behind a trail of barnacles and perhaps your boat bottom, but this method does work. There are many times when you will see a captain run his boat hard aground while cutting a marker and when asked about it later, will say that he was only scraping off barnacles. But we know better. With this technique, you will still have to take off the waterline barnacles by scraper.

If you really don't care for scraping off barnacles, there is the ole wait-'em-out method. This involves hoisting out or putting your boat on a trailer and simply waiting for barnacles to die and either fall off or become brittle enough to be hosed off with pressure water. If you are faced with a combination of a long stay in the county jail and a barnacle-encrusted boat bottom, this is what might be called an ideal answer. You will notice that many marijuana runners employ this system for their crafts.

There are the ridiculous methods

which deserve slight mention, but not elaboration because most are marginal in effectiveness. One company in Miami sells a set of stereo speakers you put on the inside of your boat hull with suction cups. There is a tape player attached to the speakers and a warning system so that when a small barnacle is about to swim up and attach itself to the boat, a recorded voice of a 500-pound barnacle comes on and bellows, "THIS IS MY BOAT!"

One firm marketed a unique idea. They would send you a dozen barnacles which had VD. The infested barnacles would be turned loose and would hang around the corners of your boat, giving the whole neighborhood down there bad name. Naturally, the other barnacles would soon move to another boat. You could then send back the original 12 and get your deposit back.

Another way to get barnacles off your bottom involves flipping over the boat along the road, and putting up a sign. That sign should read for the

con't on page 1



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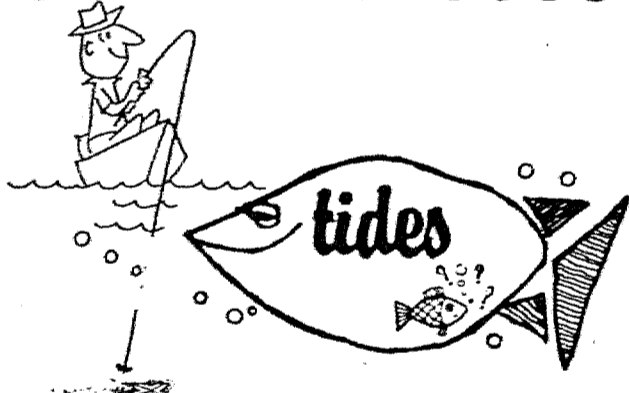
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for sanibel and captiva islands

SEPTEMBER

Day	Date	12 23 AM L	* 6 35 AM H	3:17 PM L	9:57 PM H
Tue	6	12 23 AM L	* 6 35 AM H	3:17 PM L	9:57 PM H
Wed	7	1 46 AM L	* 7 54 AM H	4 29 PM L	10 49 PM H
Thu	8	3 12 AM L	** 9 06 AM H	5 21 PM L	11 25 PM H
Fri	9	4 19 AM L	** 10 06 AM H	6 03 PM L	11 50 PM H
Sat	10	5 12 AM L	** 10 55 AM H	6 38 PM L	---
Sun	11	12 12 AM H	5 57 AM L	** 11 40 AM H	7 07 PM L
Mon	12	12 29 AM H	6 36 AM L	** 12 22 PM H	7 32 PM L

Tides courtesy of THE REAL EEL - Herb (Skip) Purdy

Conversion table: The above tides are for the lighthouse point of Sanibel only. To convert for Redfish Pass (north tip of Captiva), add 55 minutes to the time shown for every hi-tide, subtract two (2) minutes for every low tide. (NO, we don't know know why, but it works. Instructions following are even less sense-sical but as we stated, they do work.)

For Captiva Island, Gulf side, subtract 30 minutes from each high tide, and subtract 1 hour and 16 minutes for each low tide.

For Captiva Island, Pine Island Sound (Bay) side, add 1 hour and four (4) minutes for each high tide, and add 52 minutes for each low tide.

In between these points on gulf or bay --- guesstimate --- and have good fishin g and-or shelling.

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CAPT. HERB PURDY 472-1849

field notes

by fleur weymouth

Jim and Jo Pickens just celebrated their 25th year on Sanibel. They live in a house they built on Seagrape Lane at the east end of the Island, and to my mind, they represent the finest example of how beautifully all of us could live here and make use of the natural bounty which surrounds us.

Jim and Jo are the parents of Jim Ben Pickens who owns Photo Sanibel on Periwinkle Way.

Jim began gardening in his backyard ten or twelve years ago. He dug up the St. Augustine grass and planted in what looked like good black soil. The first crop came up fine but didn't do anything. He plowed it under after two or three weeks and replanted, along with some commercial fertilizer and some rotted horse manure from a friend's barn. He placed a jack fish under each hill of tomatoes and covered the sides with scrap lumber to keep dogs and raccoons away. The tomatoes were delicious!

He had his soil analyzed and he started making a compost heap with the aid of a fine shredder which he bought in town. He plants on two plots of earth now, each 25 by 30 feet and

adds as much as 150 bushels of compost each year to the whole plot, as well as some well-rotted chicken manure from an egg ranch in Naples.

His garden is a sight to behold. I'm his backyard neighbor, and I can say firsthand that his vegetables rank with the best I've ever tasted. Kentucky Wonder pole beans and October bunch beans grow luxuriantly beside peppers and onions and big, sweet turnips. Black seeded Simpson lettuce and radishes and broccoli and cabbage-collards and beets and peas and zucchini - summer squash too are all there, and all rotated each year.

Jim has not had root nematode problems and he thinks the crop rotation and possibly the compost and manure that are added make this a non-existent problem for him. He sterilized a portion of his soil with Nemagon once, only, he says, after he had grown tomatoes in the same spot for several years and had not rotated them. He saw no difference between the crops grown on sterilized and unsterilized soils, and never used Nemagon again.

"Healthy plants will resist disease,"

Jim says.

He and Jo freeze and can the vegetables whenever there's a surplus, and always have a two-year supply on hand. Right now they still have a supply of carrots, cabbage and turnips from last year's garden, to eat before the new garden yields its produce. They both can green beans and tomatoes, and pickle beets and sauerkraut, make relish of peppers, cabbage, onions and green tomatoes, and they freeze collards, broccoli, green peas, summer squash and peppers. They store carrots and cabbage and turnips in an old frig.

"There's one hell of a lot of work to raisin' a garden," says Jim. That's for sure! I see him working away out back, all winter long.

His compost heap is one of his secrets of success. He has made two bins out of four foot high chicken wire, each bine four feet square. He grinds up leaves, grass, palm fronds, and tree branches to three inches in diameter with his shredder and fills the bins with compost as soon as each is emptied on his garden and plowed in. He lets the piles compost for a year, keeping them wet and stomps them in tight. He says a pile gets oxygen all the way through it,

even stomped down - but that oxygen wouldn't be able to get into the middle of a bigger heap. He still uses a small amount of commercial fertilizer on his garden (666 and a small amount of highly concentrated nitrogen—viz: lawn fertilizer). He also adds traces of minerals in spray form which the plants absorb through their leaves.

He watches his garden each day for insects and fungus and he sprays for both only when needed. As he says, "healthy plants resist disease." Jim suggests that other people interested in raising a garden go to the Agricultural Extension Office at Page Field for the free leaflets on insect pests. People can also take their soil samples there.

Jim plants his garden in slightly elevated rows, and waters the hollows between the rows with a homemade version of a bubbler. This is a hose with a piece of pipe attached, itself attached to a board. The water falls on the board rather than directly on the ground and does not make a hole in the ground. Jim does not spray or use a sprinkler nor does he mulch.

Normally, he plants his garden late September through late October, and replants a number of vegetables all

con't next page.

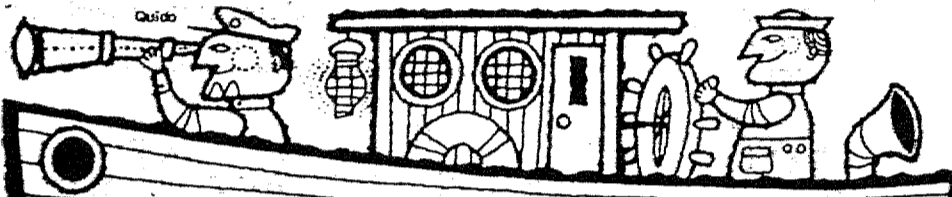
Sanibel Softball Association Summer Schedule

September

6th - Teams 12	9	7th - Teams 5	8
8th - Teams 14	11	9th - Teams 1	4
11th - Teams 6	7	11th - Teams 13	10
12th - Teams 9	11		

Key of number denoting TEAM NAMES

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| 1. WEST WIND INN | 8. SOUTH SEAS |
| 2. KIWANIS | 9. FOXES |
| 3. NAVE PLUMBING | 10. ANGLES |
| 4. IWA | 11. LIONS (WOMEN) |
| 5. LIONS | 12. E.S.I. |
| 6. TIMMY NOOK | 13. SEA HORSES |
| 7. WEEDS AND THINGS | 14. CEDER CHEST |



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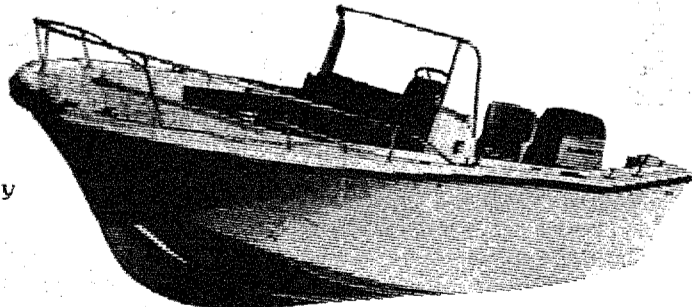
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field notes

from page 17

winter to assure themselves of a steady crop. He saves and plants his own seeds, and has done a number of experiments with them. He claims the seeds adjust to our climate and germinate much better year after year.

Jim plants according to the signs of the zodiac. The success of germination and the health of the plant, he says, firmly are both affected by the time of planting. The signs are different for top crops and for root crops. The Foxfire Books go into this, and Jim keeps them right where he can reach them. If you send a dollar to T.E. Black, P.O. Box 785, Andalusia, Alabama, 36420, you will receive a planting chart for 1978. The best signs and dates for sowing all seed beds, and tomatoes, collards, cabbage, celery, pepper, egg plant, okra, beans, peas, squash, cucumbers—in other words—all top crops—for the rest of 1977 are: September 7, 8, 9, 16, 17, 25, 26. October 4, 5, 6, 14, 15, 22, 23. November 1, 2, 10, 11, 18, 19, 20, 28, 29. December 7, 8, 16, 17, 26, 27.

The best signs and dates for all root crops—peanuts, radishes, beets, carrots, turnips, sweet potatoes, and Irish potatoes, are the following: September 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 20, 21, 22, 29, 30. October 4, 5, 6, 18, 19, 27, 28. November 1, 2, 14, 15, 23, 24, 28, 29. December 11, 12, 20, 21, 22, 26, 27.

Jim says that by saving the seeds from plants that are planted in the right sign, and replanting them for years, produce a much better quality vegetable than a vegetable planted ignoring the signs.

Jim saves the seeds from his biggest and best tomatoes. One variety is the Manalucie tomato, not a hybrid of course; this tomato was developed here in Florida in Gainesville, but it was never used as a commercial tomato because it doesn't ripen as well off the vine. Jim spoke with a laugh about the trucks one sees on the highway bearing "vine-ripened tomatoes," the tomatoes shining green as pickles through the slats! Burpee has recently developed a nematode-resistant tomato; a hybrid, resistant to nematodes and to two kinds of wilt, which Jim may try out this winter.

He feels that the best vegetables available at a nearby market right now are those at the big open barn on the left at Miner's Junction just after you turn left towards Fort Myers. He speaks also about 100 or more acres of tomatoes he has seen growing nearby which will probably be ripe in October for U-pick-it-ers.

Jim and Jo are aware also of the

fruits these Islands offer us, and Jo makes calamondin marmalade, seagrape jelly, guava jelly and carissa jelly. She cans guava shells and likes to eat them with cream cheese. These "shells" are the guava pieces that remain after the seeds and outer skin are taken off. They used to be commercially packed in Cuba and on grocery shelves here for years but have been unavailable for some time. Jo squeezes key limes and freezes the juice in ice cube trays, then puts the frozen cubes in plastic bags and has lime juice available all year long. She freezes peppers also by cutting them open, taking out the seeds and quartering them, then dropping them into plastic bags and freezing them. They are too mushy for salads, but are delicious in soups, stews and casseroles. She freezes their bananas too after mashing them up and measuring and freezing ¾ cup amounts for her banana bread recipes. The banana mash does not discolor.

These two people, to my mind, live beautifully. They are aware of the land and what it offers. How different their way of life is from that of a person who covers his ground with plastic and stones because he doesn't want to be bothered with the care of anything that grows. This person would find that Cape Coral would welcome him with open arms. Everything is perfect there—perfectly sterile. So sterile that those who have a lawn get fined if they

don't mow it.

Meantime, Audubon Societies up north are encouraging people to let their lawns grow up and bring in the birds and other wildlife.

I wish that a person's final home here on Sanibel might be a culmination of everything that person has learned about living on this earth. This Island cannot afford to barter its beautiful natural resources for green dollars only.

Little by little the soil on Sanibel is beginning to improve and darken because of yearly deposits of leaves and other vegetation upon the ground. There has been a tremendous growth of plants here since Hurricane Donna in 1960. Once upon a time, not so long ago, you could look all the way from the Lighthouse to Island Inn, and there wasn't a single Australian Pine to block the view.

When I see piles of fronds and leaves carted off to the dump, I think, what waste. What a waste, when we could have a place humming with fish and vegetables and wildlife and honey and trees full of citrus and other fruits and all the water you could dream of and cords and cords of Australian Pine wood which is unexcelled for fireplaces and woodstoves in winter, and jams and jellies and homemade wines and windpower and sunpower...

Jim has a woodpile of Australian Pine. He had, each winter. It's not a

con't on page 20

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on the water

con't from page 16

tourists, "RARE BARNACLES." Last chance before leaving the islands. Reduced to 25 cents. Make great necklaces.

This has been proven to be very effective and profitable because by selling the barnacles by the head, you

can raise the \$90 for a single gallon of good bottom paint.

As you can see, there are plenty of ways to get the mighty little barnacle from calling your boat his home. But rest assured that in six months, or maybe a year, they all will be right back there as determined to stay as you are to have them go.

For me, I use the old scraper. And it won't be long before I am ankle deep in

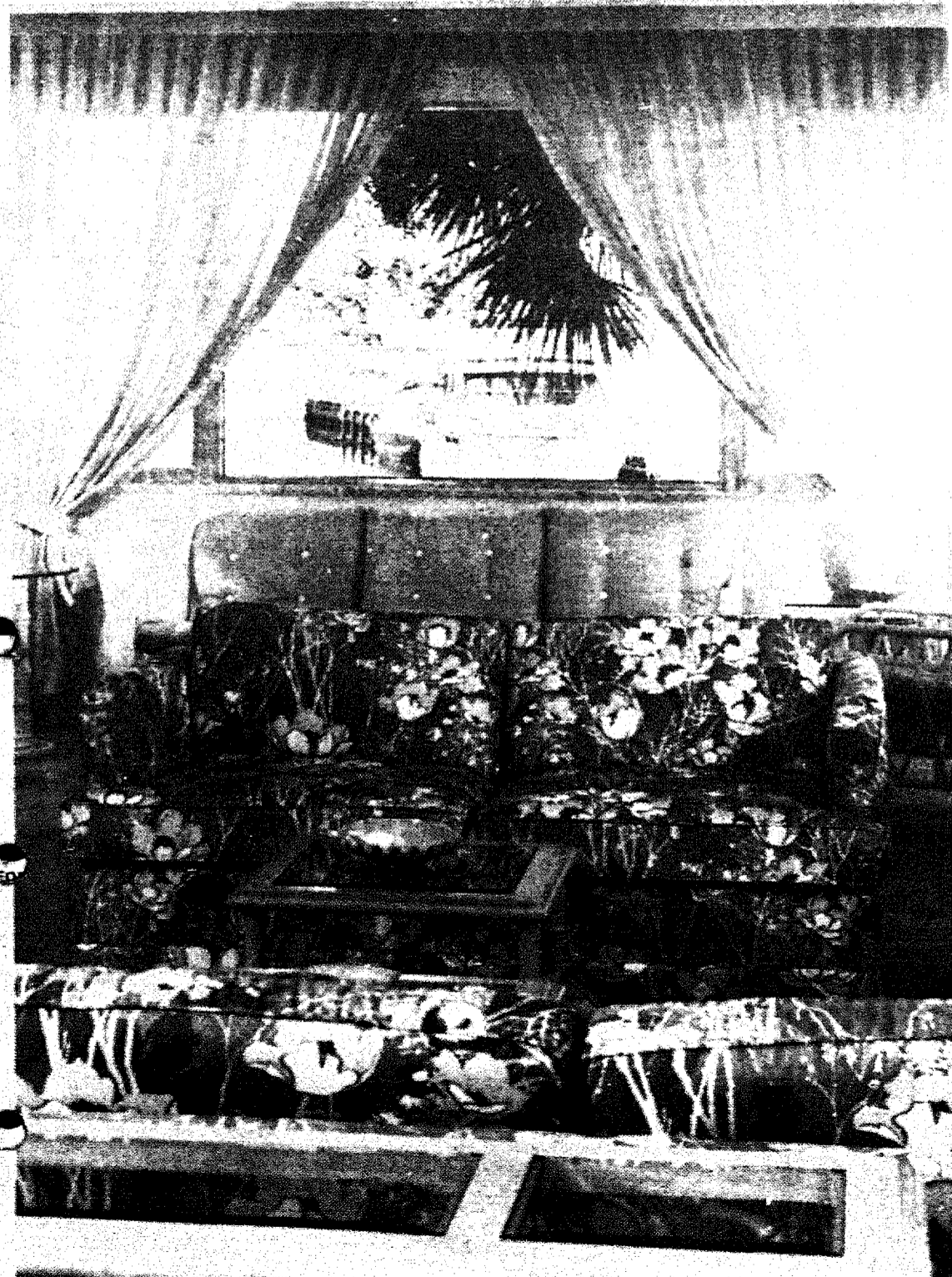
barnacles, suffering from a strained neck, paint spattered glasses and wondering why someone in this great land of ours can send a man to the moon, but can't keep a creature the size of a pea from attaching itself to our boats.

(Mike Fuery is captain of Captiva Charters offering both fishing and sailing from 'Tween Waters Marina, Captiva, Florida.)

Mike Fuery will be teaching a course called "Writing For Publication," at the Sanibel Elementary School, starting September 12, 1977.

The class will begin at 7 p.m. in Room 4, and lasts until 9:30 p.m. Registration can be made at the first class. It is offered in conjunction with the Adult and Community Schools program at a fee of \$5 for 16 weeks.

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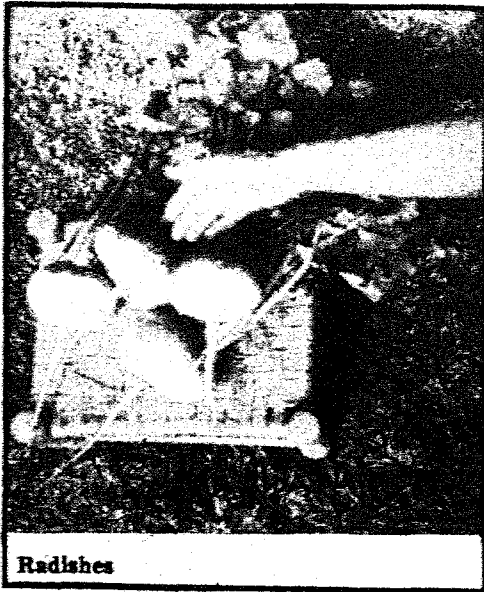
Our kind of neighborhood, from \$48,500.

*Free maintenance from date of purchase to January 1, 1980. Offer may be withdrawn at any time. Another community managed by G. E. Bieder & Associates, Inc., Realtor.

field notes con't from page 18

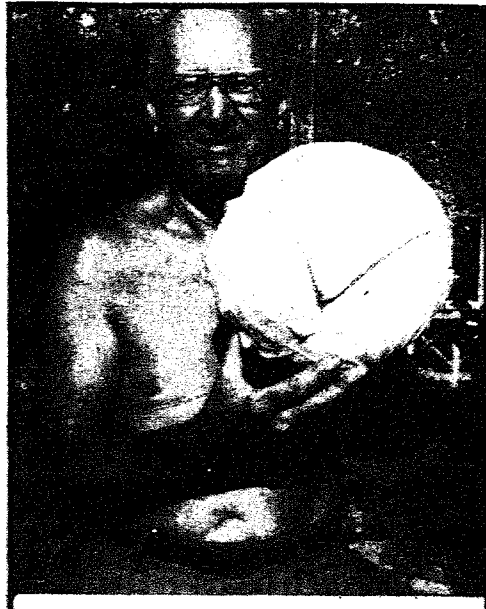
pine, of course, and has no pitch and doesn't pop or smoke. It's an extremely dense wood, and a piece will burn all night long. Those of you who have fireplaces or woodstoves could be warm all winter for no cost if you gathered yourselves some of this wood. Sanibel and Captiva would be grateful to anyone who would clear the land of this shallow-rooted tree. Some enterprising young person with muscles could make themselves a tidy pile by cutting wood and selling cords of it. Check with the Conservation Foundation and Vegetation Committee first on the wheres and hows.

Cisterns may not have much sense for condominiums, but they make great sense for private homes. Can anyone remember what bathing in

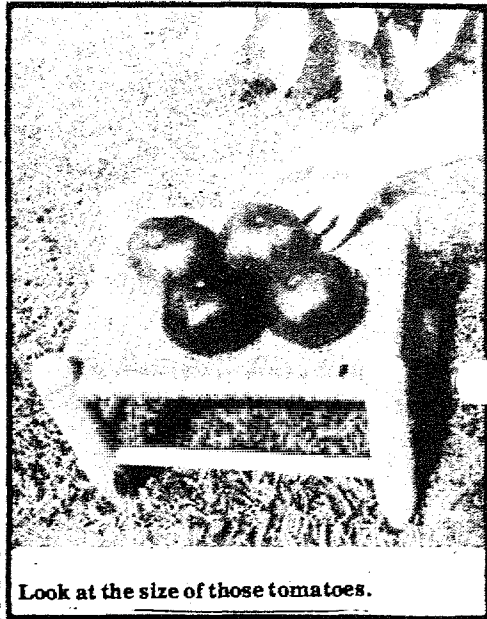


Radishes

rainwater is like? It's far different from bathing in water from underground—far more luxurious. It's like the difference between a tough steak and a tender one. Cisterns have been used by homesteaders here for years. They could be the answer now for watering plants and trees, for bathing and for clotheswashing.



Jim Pickens and one of his cabbages that made 5 quarts of sauerkraut.



Look at the size of those tomatoes.

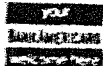
And, someday, perhaps, Bailey's Huxter's or Three Stars or the B-Hive or someone else will establish a beautiful open air market where we can buy local fruits and vegetables, homegrown and fresh, unpolluted with waxes or plastic wraps. Mean time, Jim and Jo Pickens grow and preserve their garden harvest and I am lucky to be their neighbor.

Great home-coming!

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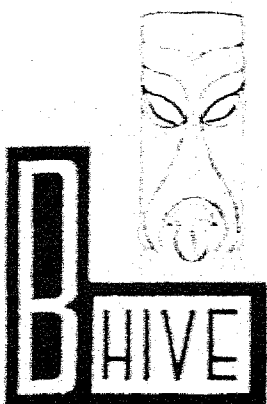
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Canada candidly

It shook me up a little when I recently returned to my hometown of North Bay, Ontario, and found so much anger and hostility directed at the people of Quebec. Its understandable, of course, but it never ceases to amaze me that the ones who know the least about a problem are the most vocal about how it should be solved.

In the first place, the people of Quebec are not stupid but they are, in so many cases, politically naive. Blow in their ear and they'll follow you anywhere.

In 20 years, we have lived under the Liberals, the Union Nationale, the Liberals again and now the Pequistes (PQ). And, I'm here to assure you that we'll keep going back to the polls til we get it right!

Rene Levesque blew in a lot of ears last Nov. He is a personable, and very persuasive man. Had he stayed in the Liberal party, he would be the leader today and we wouldn't be having all these problems. But, he cast his vote with the separatists and history is in the making because of it.

He promised us "good government" and it was on that mandate and THAT ONE only that he was elected.

Since, last Nov. the PQ have alienated business, labour and even the rural community from whence

most of their support came. With Bill 101 establishing French as the official Quebec language, they are also antagonizing the man on the street. If we all keep our heads while others around us are losing theirs, the PQ will likely hang themselves. Lately, everytime the government opens its mouth, it's for the purpose of changing feet. Mr. Levesque is then called upon to qualify and and-or amend some of his ministers' statements and actions.

It does no good for John Doe in the rest of the country to express his frustrations at Jacques Deau in Quebec. If the people at the grass root level in Quebec feel that the rest of the country really wants them in Confederation, that will be half the battle. More flies are caught with sugar than vinegar.

The French Canadians, among whom we live, have the same aspirations as the rest of the country's people; a decent standard of living for them and their children. Most of them have it now and are not about to lose it in a pioneer atmosphere with heaven knows what ahead of them.

The stereotype French Canadian family (Mere, Pere, and umpteen kids around the kitchen table) no longer exists. Most young

people here have 2 children at the most and the wives are working as well as their husbands. They enjoy their pools in the summer and their trips to Florida in the winter. They won't give that up unless hostility from the rest of Canada makes them too defensive. That, is the LAST thing we need right now.

Quebecers are concerned more right now with the high cost of living and unemployment. The PQ was put in to create new jobs and to ward off the many strikes we have suffered under the Liberal regime. They are not doing that, being too preoccupied in their ivory tower over language and cultural sovereignty.

Dr. Laurin, who drew up Bil 101, is one physician who should go "heal thyself". Morin, the educational minister is so anti English, I'm sure he eats some of us for breakfast. Laurin and Morin-The Gold Dust twins. Between them, they have set Quebec back about 50 years and Levesque is hard put to explain them away.

But, the voters will do that come next election time. In the meantime, I hope that Canadians everywhere will put a lid on it as far as the Quebecers are concerned. They're decent people and this country will be poorer without them.

Columbian physicians visit Wegryn clinic

Dr. Jaime Uribe, a general surgeon from Bogota, Colombia and his brother Dr. Carlos Uribe, an orthopedist, visited the Wegryn Memorial Clinic on Sanibel last week to consult with Dr. Stanley P. Wegryn on the technique of using cryosurgery for hemorrhoids, a procedure which has proved to be a successful alternative to conventional surgery.

Dr. Uribe's interest in cryohemorrhoidectomy was brought about by Dr. Wegryn's article on this procedure published in the Spanish edition of the Medical Tribune in February of 1977.

Dr. Uribe completed his residency at the Nashville General Hospital in Nashville, Tennessee in 1953 which afforded him a fellowship at Boston's Lahey Clinic from 1954 to 1955. During 1955 through 1957 Dr. Uribe was made assistant professor at the Colombia National University and Javeriana University and has been in private practice since 1957.

He was very impressed with Sanibel's beauty and "paradise-like" atmosphere.

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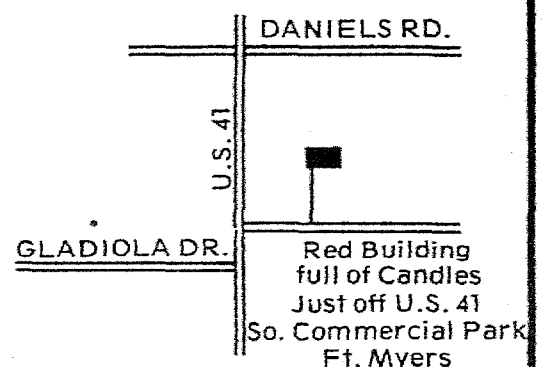
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planning from page 3

parking area at the church is anticipated in the near future.

The city planners also voted last week to approve the issuance of a development permit requested by David G. Thompson as agent for Virginia Pearce to enable the construction of a 64-seat fast food restaurant on a parcel of land lying to the north of Periwinkle Way and to the east of the Seven Seas Shop.

Island realtor Stan Johnson, a partner in the venture, informed the commission that the restaurant will require an average of only 1,000 gallons of water per day, and assured commissioners that all take-out orders will be packaged in biodegradable wrapping materials.

The planning commission voted 4 to 1 to grant the request last week, with Commissioner McNurtry dissenting.

In other action last week, the commission voted unanimously to recommend that the city council approve specific amendments to the land plan proposed by:

-The Sanibel Moorings Condominium Association to permit the enlargement of the laundry and storage area in the complex for use as a maintenance shop; and

-William and Vera Wilkes to permit the completion of a single-family home at 995 Black Skimmer Way in the Gulf Pines I subdivision.

The Wilkes' request was given a first reading in ordinance form last Tuesday in a special session of the Sanibel City Council.

Construction of the dewilling was commenced with a city building permit before the city building department noticed a discrepancy in the width of the right-of-way of Black Skimmer Way on old plats of the subdivision.

Thus, the foundation for the house has been completed in violation of the setback from the road called for in the city land use plan.

When asked if a precedent would be set by the adoption of the proposed specific amendment, City Attorney Neal Bowen told the council that the case is "a one of a kind situation." He added that the case will have no precedent-setting value because it is the result of an error "prompted by circumstances beyond the petitioner's control."

Work has been halted on the home and cannot legally be resumed until the proposed amendment can be enacted into law by the city council.

The council has scheduled a second reading and possible approval of the amendment for a special meeting to be held at 4:00 p.m. on September 29.

The city planning commission will meet again this Wednesday, September 7, at 9:00 a.m.

wildlife: from page 13

also volunteered to set up and oversee the Conservation Foundation's research laboratory they are planning to install at Conservation Center.

"I hope to become active in the Conservation Foundation and am very much interested in CROW (Care and Rehabilitation of Wildlife)," said Nora. "I have a keen interest in abandoned baby animals and would like to work with CROW very much."

Despite the Dietleins' obvious affection and utter devotion to their pets, the ISLANDER could not help but wonder if Don and Nora's unusual family is really worth all the trouble, time and expense required to care for them.

Don replied that prior to coming to Sanibel, the expense involved in keeping his little brood was actually rather nominal because proper food for the pets was always readily available at wholesale cost from the zoos and exotic wildlife parks where he worked. In fact, the Dietleins have little idea what it costs to feed any member of their family other than "Oscar," whose diet of pet-store goldfish was easily calculated in terms of dollars and cents.

"I'd really prefer not to know what it costs to feed them," said Nora with a

mild shudder.

Their recent move to the Islands also marks the first time that the Dietleins have not lived in close proximity to a qualified exotic animal veterinarian, although thus far, Dr. Phyllis Douglas has proved very helpful in caring for Winston during his recent brush with death, Nora reported.

"We've been very lucky with our animals up until now, but I can foresee how this might be a problem," Nora added.

"The time required in caring for them is really very little, although it's a constant sort of undertaking," Nora continued. "You can't just go away and leave them whenever you feel like it. The otter, in particular, is a very demanding animal, while the rest not."

"And it's a little bit hectic to try to move them over a great distance," she admitted, adding, "We're not planning to move again."

"It's very difficult to wallpaper a room with an otter in your water tray and a monkey around your neck," said Don rhetorically, recalling to mind a time in Cincinnati not so long ago.

"I guess they are a lot of work," Nora conceded finally, "but I have found it to be incredibly rewarding."

"As a child I always wanted to work in a zoo," Don added. "There's no other kind of work I ever wanted to do. I studied for that purpose in college, but it wasn't until years later that I finally got the chance."

Now that Don and Nora have grasped the opportunity to live out their childhood dreams at home, Don summed up the type of life they lead around the Dietlein household very succinctly when he said, "If everything gets quiet around the house, you know something's wrong."

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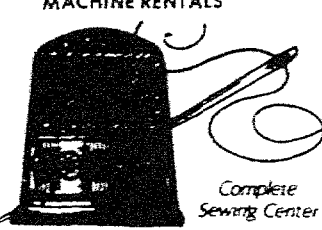
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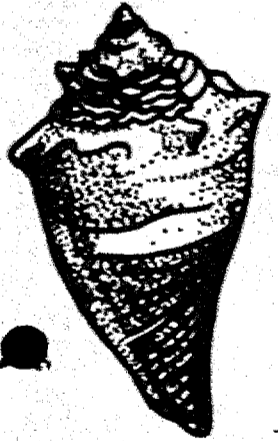
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CLIP AND SAVE



Vicki Hughes of Sanibel Beach Club holds a newly hatched caretta.

hopes dim for remaining eggs

Sanibel Beach club turtles hatch

Last weekend's rain was more than just inconvenient for Charles LeBuff, Caretta's hard-working director—in all likelihood, it sealed the fate of the remaining embryonic and newly hatched Island turtles.

Rain affects the young turtles in two ways, according to LeBuff. It lowers the sand temperature around the eggs and can kill the embryos or, if the turtles have already hatched, the rain can flood out the chambers in which they are born and literally drown the turtles as they make their way to the surface. A heavy rain, dangerous to newly-hatched turtles, is considered two inches.

Friday afternoon produced over four inches in just five hours, according to readings taken at the Island Water Association.

Sanibel, however, is not alone in its problems. "It's happening all over the loggerhead nesting areas," LeBuff said. Although at first disappointed with what has turned out to be a bad nesting situation, LeBuff said, "In retrospect, with the poor weather we've had, maybe its just as well."

In 1977 a maximum production of 1,000 eggs were laid compared to 1971 when 6,000 were recorded.

The sharp decline in the eggs is due to the

increasing mortality of the adults, LeBuff maintains. The decrease is due to the increased development up and down the Gulf Coast poaching, predators such as raccoons, storms and shrimpers. According to LeBuff, while Gulf shrimp boats are responsible for the inadvertent slaughter of turtles every year ranging in the hundreds... on the Atlantic Coast, the number ranges in the thousands.

LeBuff tested one group of eggs in the hatchery at Sanibel Beach Club late last week and found they contained dead embryos. "A drop in sand temperature of ten

degrees, which is not unusual during a heavy rainstorm, can kill the embryos," he said. The incubation temperature is usually about 88 degrees.

LeBuff will know for certain later this week if there is any life in the embryos at the hatchery. A thermometer inserted in the hatchery beds should indicate a definite increase due to the heat generated by developing turtles before they hatch. If there is no rise in temperature, it will point to the probable death of the embryos. "We'll pray for sunny weather," he said Thursday.

The rains came Friday.

what islanders did over the holiday week-end with no fish fry, no softball and no picnic



Mopped up.



Cheryl Maurer gets some sun



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What Mark Bruno does most of anyway - fished.



Bill Hatcher mowed instead of batting.

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