

Fine Feathered Friends

Story and photo by Rich Peine

Rachel and I found a dove on the road while driving in Islamorada back in May. We picked it up and took it to the Wild Bird Center. We were assured that the bird would be OK in a few days and would be sent back into the wild.

Being the bird nuts that we are, we walked around the place and were surprised to see a roseate spoonbill. It's an odd looking bird because its bill really does look like a spoon.

This one, dubbed Rosie, has been at the Center since last April. She was found in the middle of the highway at about MM 95. She had a fractured right wrist, and although she can fly short distances, she will never be able to survive alone in the wild. Rosie is about two years old, and her feathers are a light pink. As she gets older they will turn a deeper pink with some red areas.

Roseate Spoonbills are one of six spoonbill types found worldwide and the only one found in the new world. Over the past century and a half they have been prized for their feathers, and as a result their

population has dwindled to "threatened" status. They are found mainly in Central and South America with small populations in Florida and Texas. They are 28 to 34 inches tall with a wing span of over 47 inches.

The Wild Bird Center always runs on a shoestring budget, and as most of you know, the Conch Republic Coconut Telegraph (not to be confused with J. Buffett and his many enterprises) supports the wonderful work they do in helping the many species of birds that wander around and through the Keys. Stop by the next time you're in Tavernier and say hello to Rosie and the fine staff that watches over her and the rest of the avian residents. Be sure to check out the gift shop. There are some really unique finds for a birthday or holiday.

The Wild Bird Center can be reached at 305-852-4486 or www.flwbc.org

Next month, in this space, meet Lord Bryon the Brown Booby.



Restaurant of the Month Doc's Diner

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Owner of Doc's Diner Dr. Jim Boilini.

August's eatery of the month is a "locals' place" that surely caters to the locals and welcomes visitors like they live here. It is one of my favorites, and I've been eating there since I moved to the Keys.

Doc Jim Boilini opened the place in 2004, and it's been a fixture ever since. They have specials for breakfast and lunch every day, and Tuesday is Italian Day. Doc makes up the Italian food himself. Everything is made from scratch including the famous homemade soup that Mary prepares. My favorite is the chopped steak platter. Rachel likes the tuna melt.

The service at Doc's is second to none. I stopped in a few weeks ago and saw over twenty Boy Scouts and their leaders in the bayside corner ordering. My first thought was, "Damn, I guess it'll be a while before I eat." Ten minutes later I was chowing

down. The staff is always relaxed and on the ball.

Doc moved down to Key Largo in 1975 to help out a friend with his optometry practice and wound up buying the business. It is located in the same strip center as the diner: MM99.6 bay side.

Since moving to the island, Jim has very been active in civic affairs. He has been awarded the Chamber of Commerce Man of the Year on numerous occasions. He was instrumental in getting the Key Largo pool and park constructed, works with the scholarship fund and is deeply involved in the yearly Cook Off held in November each year. This is just to name a few.

Doc's Diner is open every day from 6am to 2pm. Phone number 451-2895. Be sure to take in the 10% off coupon in our paper to get your discount.

A Pirate Has Attorneys



By Christine Squier and Micky Squier

Brother, brother Buffett, we have heard your songs, wanted to see all your concerts for all so very long, we know your songs, we know your songs.

Watched you make a fortune, watched you live your dreams, and in your hands, you hold a treasure few have ever seen, living your dream, living your dream.

Then came a local paper; the Coconut Telegraph, we enjoyed the reviews and read some news, the pictures sometimes made us laugh, they made us laugh, such a few staff.

It's just a small newspaper; doesn't make much cash, we see Denise with her new camera; she travels to every bash. She thought it could last, thought it could last.

And we have all drunk now for several years, we passed out and we partied and we sprung a few tears, but we got to stop suing; got to start wooing, get off rock bottom, my friend, so few friends, so few friends.

Along came your attorneys; who sent a letter or two; "Change your name, it's Buffett's claim to fame, or he will have to sue". Buffett's going to sue, Buffett's going to sue.

Brother, brother Buffett, after the websites we've found, the phrase you say that you coined, has always been around, we feel let down, we feel let down.

We feel let down, going to head uptown.

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