

**Coconut Telegraph**

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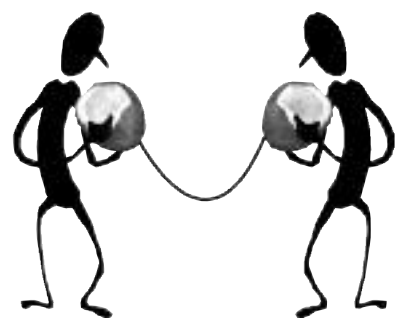
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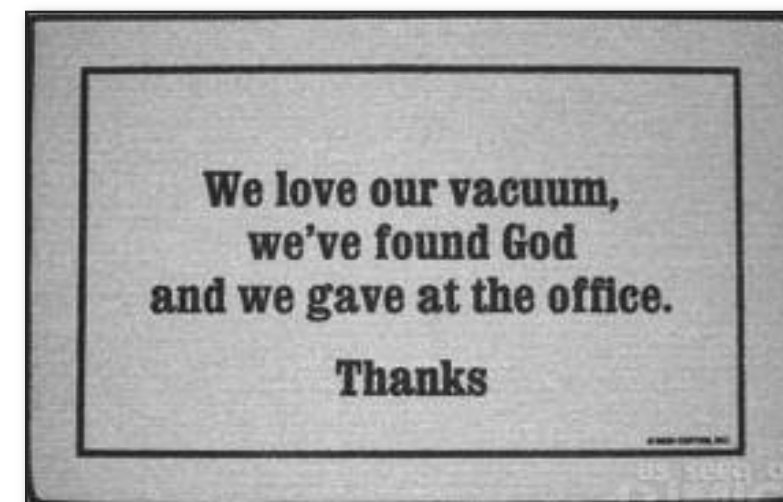
**Sue Beal**



**Articles**

Enchanted Sea Crystals.....4  
Tibetan Monks Bless Centennial Bank.....5  
Artist of the Month, Bob Gintel.....6  
Junior Girls VFW Auxiliary.....7  
Entertainer of the Month, Billy Davidson.....8  
Twenty-One Students to Study Abroad.....8  
Bartender of the Month, Angie Liberty .....9  
Empowered Forgiveness, Apologies .....11  
Getting from Here to There- map page .....12  
Ban the Bag, Eliminate Single-Use Plastic Bags .....14  
Largo Lodge Earns Green Business Certification.....15  
Original Ladies Dolphin Tournament, June 10 & 11.....16  
Conch Characters.....17  
Adopt a Key Largo Animal Shelter Pet.....18  
Dear Anny Bannanny.....20  
Business in the Keys .....21  
Coconut Funnies.....22

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**Editorial: Holy Fracking Shale! What a gas!**

A few days ago I received a phone call from a genealogist who works for Shell Gas. She told me my great-grandparents on my mother's side had sold 72 acres of property in Tioga, Pennsylvania and had retained the mineral rights. The genealogist said that a representative from Shell would be calling me in a week to offer a contract with a bonus for me to sign allowing them to begin drilling. After the drilling has begun and the wells are producing gas I would receive a check each month most likely for the rest of my life. I was utterly "shale" shocked!



The property is located in an area of northern Pennsylvania that is called the Marcellus Shale. The Marcellus Shale, named after Marcellus, N.Y. a place discovered to be rich in natural gas. The gas companies extract the gas from under the ground with a process called "fracking". With fracking they drill down into the earth and then horizontally.

After hearing the news, the first thing I did was call my brother,

Tim. My father had been receiving a residual from a well on ancestral land in New York, which my brother and I inherited. As it trickles down to us we receive and share \$25 a month. Big fracking deal, right? My brother, who holds a Master's degree in real estate, is a professor of commercial real estate appraisal at C.U.N.Y., and runs his own commercial appraisal company, even decided to take some courses on The Marcellus Shale for which I berated him.

"Forget about it," I said, "why should you go through all that when we are never going to get more than just our \$25 a month?" Now I may have to eat those words...

Since all this transpired I have received three marriage proposals, and seem to be acquiring more friends, ha ha ha. My friend Barry even started singing the theme song from The Beverly Hillbillies. His version about me goes something like this...

Continued on page 3...

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**Editorial**

...continued from page 2

"Come and listen to a story about a girl named Denise, a poor Keys publisher, who barely kept her cat fed and in one piece... Then one day she was shooting the breeze, when her Android rang with news that almost brought her to her knees... Gas that is, Pennsylvania gold..."

So folks, y'all come back now to hear more about this Keys publisher and her future fortune. Will Denise be buying a yacht and sailing to Aruba or will she just be upgrading her cat's food to Eukanuba?

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