

Dress like a Florida Keys local and be comfortable in the sun in our DRI-FIT shirt designed by Carol Ellis | Little Salt Photography featuring original artwork of the HISTORIC FISHING VILLAGE OF DOWNTOWN CARD SOUND



SCAN CODE WITH YOUR SMARTPHONE TO PURCHASE



DRI - FIT FISHING SHIRTS

SPF 50. long sleeve, fishing performance shirt in aluminum, blue mist or white.

Discount code "CONCH" for 10% off fishing shirts



FRED'S TILTON HILTON - DOWNTOWN CARD SOUND ROAD

On the back of the shirt is Carol's original image of Fred's Place - the "Tilton Hilton." The restaurant, complete with slanting dance floor, blue crabs and cold beer, was located on the curve just across the Monroe County line, in the historic fishing village of Downtown Card Sound.

The photograph, taken in 1988 is a reminder of the once thriving community of nonconformists, squatters, and fishermen, who made their living from the surrounding waters, mostly by selling blue crabs. In its peak during the late 50's, this area was home to 100 residents, some who had State issued leases for "fishing camps."

Hurricane destruction, along with the politics of environmental safety, ushered in clean-up crews and by 2010, just a few wooden docks, and Alabama Jacks remain in Downtown Card Sound.

ORIGINAL LOCAL ARTWORK BY



Big Daddy's Grub & Beach Pub

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The lil café inside of Bud N' Mary's, serving breakfast and lunch all day every day.

Breakfast sandwiches and boat sandwiches, fresh baked biscuits, egg plates, omelettes & breakfast burritos.

Open 5 AM - 3 PM, seven days a week.

Inside Bud N' Mary's, MM 79.8 Oceanside



From a postcard: Florida East Coast Railway, moonlight on the ocean, train at sea crossing, Key West. c. 1912

Railroads, Highways & Horses

The US standard railroad gauge (distance between the rails) is 4 feet, 8.5 inches. That's an exceedingly odd number. Why was that gauge used?

Well, because that's the way they built them in England, and English engineers designed the first US railroads. Why did the English build them like that?

Because the first rail lines were built by the same people who built the wagon tramways, and that's the gauge they used. So, why did they use that gauge?

Because the people who built the tramways used the same jigs and tools that they had used for building wagons, which used that same wheel spacing. Why did the wagons have that particular, odd wheel spacing?

Well, if they tried to use any other spacing, the wagon wheels would break more often on some of the old, long distance roads in England. You see, that's the spacing of the wheel ruts. So who built those old rutted roads?

Imperial Rome built the first long distance roads in Europe (including England) for their legions. Those roads have been used ever since.

And what about the ruts in the roads?

Roman war chariots formed the initial ruts, which everyone else had to match or run the risk of destroying their wagon wheels. Since the chariots were made for Imperial Rome, they were all alike in the matter of wheel

spacing. Therefore the United States standard railroad gauge of 4 feet, 8.5 inches is derived from the original specifications for an Imperial Roman war chariot. Bureaucracies live forever.

So the next time you are handed a specification and wonder "What horse's ass came up with this?", you may be exactly right. Imperial Roman army chariots were made just wide enough to accommodate the rear ends of two war horses. (Two horses' asses.)

Now, the twist to the story:

When you see a Space Shuttle sitting on its launch pad, there are two big booster rockets attached to the sides of the main fuel tank. These are solid rocket boosters, or SRBs. The SRBs are made by Thiokol at their factory in Utah. The engineers who designed the SRBs would have preferred to make them a bit fatter, but the SRBs had to be shipped by train from the factory to the launch site. The railroad line from the factory happens to run through a tunnel in the mountains, and the SRBs had to fit through that tunnel. The tunnel is slightly wider than the railroad track, and the railroad track, as you now know, is about as wide as two horses' behinds.

So, a major Space Shuttle design feature, what is arguably the world's most advanced transportation system, was determined over two thousand years ago by the width of a horse's ass.

Ancient horse's asses control almost everything!

Rest in Peace
KAREN RUSSELL



"Krazy" Karen Russell was born in Cambridge, MA and passed away at her home in Ocala, FL on March 10th. Karen, a long-time resident of Tavernier, was an accomplished business woman who was well known for owning "Tint the Keys." She was a licensed Nurse, admired for her honesty, intelligence and hard work ethic. There will be a Celebration of Life for her at the Elks Lodge in Tavernier on Saturday, April 22nd from 4 to 8 p.m.

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C.E.C., CCA.



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