

Church Bulletin Bloopers

"The Scouts are saving aluminum cans, bottles, and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children."

"Ladies Bible Study will be held Thursday morning at 10. All ladies are invited to lunch in the Fellowship Hall after the B.S. is done"

"The pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday morning."

"Low Self Esteem Support Group" will meet Thurs. at 7 pm. Please use the back door."

"The pastor will preach his farewell message, after which the choir will sing 'Break Forth into Joy'."

"A songfest was held at the Methodist Church Wed."

"The eighth-graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the Church basement Friday at 7 PM. The Congregation is invited to attend this tragedy."

"Thursday night Potluck Supper. Prayer and Medications to follow."

"The rosebud on the altar this morning is to announce the birth of David, the son of Rev. and Mrs. Adams."

"Tuesday at 4 PM there will be an ice cream social. All ladies giving milk will please come early."

"At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What Is Hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practice."

"Weight Watchers will meet at 7 PM at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use large double door at the side entrance."

"Mrs. Johnson will be in the hospital this week for testes."

"Please join us as we show our support for Amy and Alan who are preparing for the girth of their 1st child."

"The Lutheran Men's group will meet at 6 PM. Steak, mashed potatoes, green beans, bread, and dessert will be served for a nominal feel."

"The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new tithing campaign slogan last Sunday: 'I Upped My Pledge - Up Yours.'"

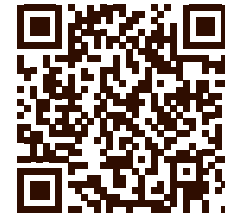
"This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs. Lewis to come forward and lay an egg on the altar."

"Eight new choir robes are currently needed, due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones."

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



305-451-7778

1970 Keys Memories - Were You There?

by Karen Beal

Someone asked the other day, 'When you first moved to the Keys, what was your favorite fast food place?'

We didn't have fast food in the Keys in 1975, I informed him. 'All the food was slow.'

We couldn't afford a restaurant. Pilot House Marina charged \$3.95 for all you could eat grouper and \$5.95 for all you could eat lobster and you sat next to cans of bottom paint and boat parts - but we couldn't afford that very often. Instead, our gang would combine our fish, shrimp, lobster and conch catch and have a "12-entree feast" sharing the bounty. We even had blow-fish once - fugu, right? But we didn't know about sushi back then.

Later, Tahiti Village restaurant was great fun with a floating tiki bar, fabulous buffet and a Polynesian floor show. The Coral Grill was the other place you went for special dinners and always left groaning and vowing you would approach the buffet with better sense NEXT time.

US1 was not a heavily trafficked road. Going up the stretch we would count the cars driving south - maybe we would pass 20. Might I add we were traveling at some high speeds in our land-yacht, vintage Cadillac. There were no officers to patrol that 18 mile stretch of road and there were frequent and tragic head-on collisions. There was a sign posted at the top of the stretch that would say the number of deaths on US1 that year. The blue barrier you see now makes a huge difference to the number of fatalities.

We would drive all the way to Sears in Cutler Ridge to shop for "what we couldn't get here" about once a month - and have a Big Mac for dinner up there, which was the first McDonalds north of Key Largo. It was a treat. The ride between the top of the stretch and Sears was mostly passing lime and avocado groves and not much else - except Coral Castle. There was no real Cutler Ridge Mall then - just Sears - and the first credit card we could get was called a revolving charge card. The card was good only at Sears. Does anyone

remember the Serpentarium? That is how we knew we were getting close to Sears.

Back in Key Largo, US1 only had one lane each direction - and what is the northbound now was a scruffy road that teenagers would have drag races on sometimes. It really made it tough when they changed the road to what it is now. Lots of folks would head out the wrong direction and there were many accidents.

We had no library - we had a van that brought books up from Key West Library once a week then I remember the Civic Club hosting the library, then it was in little shop at Waldorf Plaza about where Walgreens is now. Then above the bank, which was either Marine or Nations Bank, and finally to the current location.

Everyone had side hustles to make ends meet. Many people were wreck salvage-hunters and sometimes would actually find cool stuff. If you had a boat you would get your "six-pack" CG license and be a dive captain. We would get amberjack from the charter fishing boats at Holiday Inn Docks - after the photo op the crew would toss them - and we would smoke the fish and sell it back to the bait shops for fisherman to purchase. We had a brown sugar glaze recipe that was delicious.

Back then, all our water (from Miami as it is now) came to the Keys via an 18 inch pipeline that was above ground and right along the highway down the stretch all the way to Key West. Often it would get broken or damaged by a vehicle hitting it. Everyone was used to being without water suddenly and often. What did come out of the tap was warm, even on the Cold setting.

When the pipe was finally improved and buried under the ground down the center of the highway, the increased pressure caused pipes to burst in people's yards or homes. Those were some exciting times.

We learned to live without electric at a moment's notice and for days at a time. Power was often interrupted when



Karen with her catch, 1973.

a wooden pole was hit by a car. Folks now probably don't realize how lucky we are to have the concrete poles and fabulous maintenance of FKEC.

All of the major dive shops would close and take their staff over to Cay Sal Banks for 2 weeks of diving and boat-camping - for free. Well, in place of paid vacation time. Crew and staff from Carl Gage Diving's Henrietta, Tropic Isle's Good Time Charlie, Bobby Klein's Plus Ultra, Ocean Divers and others would dive blue holes and caves and spearfish for our dinner each night. We would go as a group from island to island around the atoll (legally, there were customs agents there back then) and never see another boat the entire time.

The nationwide gas shortage in 1978 really played havoc with people's income. We had none. That is the poorest I've ever been and everyone was in the same boat (which would be a row boat because no one could get fuel). Looking back at old tax returns, our combined income was under \$4,000. I invented the string bikini because I could make one out of two bandanas bought at Salvation Army. I should have patented the design back then!!

It is not my intention to make you think that these things were hardships. Even being broke was OK because all your friends were too, and we just shared what we had and gave what was needed. It was a pretty amazing place to live. You know... it still is!