

**PONDERABLES**

Do infants enjoy infancy as much as adults enjoy adultery?  
 Why doesn't glue stick to the inside of the bottle?  
 Why is bra singular and panties plural?  
 Insanity is my only means of relaxation.  
 Why don't sheep shrink when it rains?  
 Can fat people go skinny dipping?  
 Why is the word abbreviation so long?  
 When companies ship styrofoam, what do they pack it in?

**Critters in our Midst**  
 Carol Ellis

Introducing a stunning new book about wildlife in the Upper Keys with stories as told by and photographed by Carol Ellis

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 at Wynns Supermarket - Ocean Reef  
 Shell World - MM 97.6 Key Largo  
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**It's Kitten Season! Fix Those Felines!**

Please help "fix" pet overpopulation by spaying and neutering your pets.

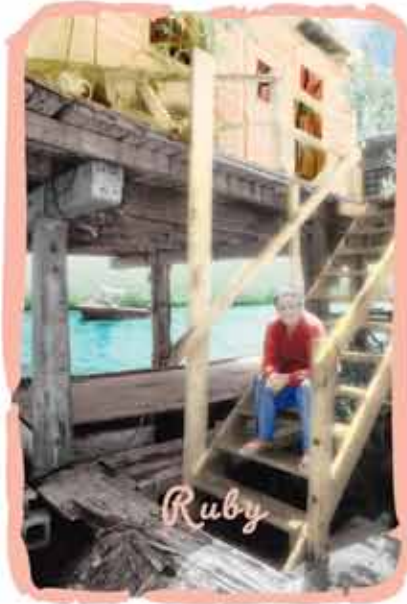
Free spay and neuter clinics at Key Largo Animal Shelter, normally every 2 weeks.

This program is privately funded by Humane Animal Care Coalition for Upper Keys residents.

Please call the shelter for details and appointments.

Open Monday to Friday 9am to 6pm and Saturday 9am to 5pm

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Ruby Stern known as "Miss Ruby", was the matriarch of Downtown Card Sound. She was a familiar site to travelers across Card Sound bridge.

ORIGINAL LOCAL ARTWORK BY  
 Little Salt by Carol Ellis  
 PHOTOGRAPHY  
 305-451-7778

On the shirt back is Carol's image of Ruby Stern, matriarch of Downtown Card Sound Road, a place that doesn't exist on any map... yet was home to a community of free spirits, fishermen and independent thinkers who took up residence there. Located on the west side of the road south of Alabama Jack's, and the toll booth, the shack was originally built by workers who constructed the toll bridge around 1968. In 1972 Ruby moved in and lived there for 27 years. She'd sit on the steps of her shack, with an old Colt 44 daring anyone to throw her off the land. She stayed. Not even the destructive forces of hurricane Andrew and the county's condemnation of the shack could send her from her spot on the bay on Card Sound. She moved to a trailer alongside and lived there until 1999 when she had to leave due to illness, and died at age 90.

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



SPF 50, long sleeve fishing performance shirt in aqua, limeade and white

**The Easter Bunny and Other Traditions**

The Bible makes no mention of a long-eared, short-tailed creature who delivers decorated eggs to children on Easter; nevertheless, the Easter bunny has become a symbol of Christianity's most important holiday. The exact origins of this myth are unclear, but rabbits, known to be prolific procreators, are an ancient symbol of fertility and new life.

The Easter bunny first arrived in America in the 1700s with German immigrants who settled in Pennsylvania and bought their tradition of an egg-laying hare called "Osterhase" or "Oschter Haws." Their children made nests for it to lay its colored eggs.

Eventually, the custom spread across the U.S. and the fabled rabbit's Easter morning deliveries expanded to include chocolate and other types of candy and gifts, while decorated baskets replaced nests.

**Easter Eggs**  
 Easter is a religious holiday, but some of its customs, such as Easter eggs, are linked to pagan traditions. The egg, an ancient symbol of new life, has been associated with pagan festivals celebrating spring. From a Christian perspective, Easter eggs are said to represent Jesus' emergence from the tomb and resurrection.

Decorating eggs for Easter is a tradition that dates back to at least the 13th century. One explanation for this custom is that eggs were formerly a forbidden food during the Lenten season, so people would paint and decorate them to mark the end of the period of penance and fasting, then eat them on Easter as a celebration.



Easter egg hunts and egg rolling are two popular egg-related traditions. In the U.S., the White House Easter Egg Roll, a race in which children push decorated, hard-boiled eggs across the White House lawn, is an annual event held the Monday after Easter.

**Easter Candy**  
 Easter is the second best-selling candy holiday in America, after Halloween. Among the most popular sweet treats associated with this day are chocolate eggs, which date back to early 19th century Europe. Another egg-shaped candy, the jelly bean, became associated with Easter in the 1930s. For the past decade, the top-selling non-chocolate Easter candy has been the marshmallow Peep, a sugary, pastel-colored confection. The original Peeps were handmade, marshmallow-flavored yellow chicks, but other shapes and flavors were later introduced, including chocolate mousse bunnies.

**Easter Parade**  
 In New York City, the Easter Parade tradition dates back to the mid-1800s, when the upper crust of society would attend Easter services at various Fifth Avenue churches then stroll outside afterward, showing off their new spring outfits and hats.

Average citizens started showing up along Fifth Avenue to check out the action.

The tradition reached its peak by the mid-20th century, and in 1948, the popular film "Easter Parade" was released, starring Fred Astaire and Judy Garland and featuring the music of Irving Berlin. The title song includes the lyrics: "In your Easter bonnet, with all the frills upon it/You'll be the grandest lady in the Easter parade."

The Easter Parade tradition lives on in Manhattan, with Fifth Avenue from 49th Street to 57th Street being shut down during the day to traffic. Participants often sport elaborately decorated bonnets and hats. The event has no religious significance, but sources note that Easter processions have been a part of Christianity since its earliest days. Today, other cities across America also have their own parades.

