



Grocery Store Karma!

OMG! I need to VENT!!! Because I'M pissed!!

So today I went to Aldi supermarket on the mainland to pick up a few things and while I'm waiting in line I dropped a \$20 bill (that's me trying to hold everything because I didn't have .25 for a cart).

The lady in front of me picked it up, I held my hand out and thanked her, and she said "The things found on earth are to be kept by the collector." and walks away.

WTF? I was like, "OH NO YOU DON'T!" I looked at the person behind me standing in line, they couldn't believe it either. I'm like, this can't be real right now, like seriously? (God, do you remember what's going on in my life right now?)

So I took a deep breath and I turned back towards the lady/thief/or whatever you want to call her and as I approached her I said, "Hey, do I look like I'm in the mood?" She ignored me, and left the store with her groceries. I left everything and followed her into the parking lot.

She was almost running at this point to get away from me. When she got to her car she put her bags on the ground, trying to get her trunk open.

I was boiling at this point!

I decided that her "finders keepers" rule just presented the perfect opportunity for a great teachable moment... SO... I caught up with her, grabbed her grocery bags, and headed to my car with her yelling at me from behind, "Hey! Those are mine!"

I said to her what she had said to me earlier: "The things found on earth are to be kept by the collector!"

As I'm laughing hysterically, I hop in my car, ignoring her. I had a sense of satisfaction. So anyway, I get home and open the bags and what do I find?

3 T-bone steaks,
2 pounds lobster,
1 pound of red potatoes,
garlic bread,
everything to make a nice salad,
and a very nice bottle of wine!
(Not really a wine drinker but I will try it.)

Dang that's the best \$20 bucks I ever lost!

On the back of the shirt is Carol's original image of a Cuban migrant fishing vessel, brought ashore in 1988 and propped in front of Alabama Jack's in the historic fishing village of Downtown Card Sound Road.

Carol photographed the boat with her film camera and some years later returned to hand-paint the now digital image on her computer.

The passage of time has erased most all the evidence of this once-thriving spot in the Florida Keys, the fishing boat vanquished back to sea with the Category 5 hurricane Andrew. However, the image still survives as a reminder of an earlier time.

SPF 50, long sleeve fishing performance shirt

MORE DESIGNS
MORE COLORS
SIZES SMALL TO XXXL

SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW

ORIGINAL LOCAL ARTWORK BY

Little Salt by Carol Ellis
PHOTOGRAPHY

305-451-7778

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

A Glimpse into the Past: Exploring Key Largo's Historic Old Settlers Park

by Karen Beal



View of Tavernier, looking north, early 1950s. Future Old Settlers Park land with the large Albury house visible in upper right. The house built on this land by Roger and Sarah Albury in 1922. Photograph taken in early 1970s, after the house had stood vacant for many years.



TAVERNIER (text from the sign):

What is today Tavernier was originally inhabited by the Calusa and Tequesta Native Americans. The Tequesta occupied the area around Biscayne Bay, while the Calusa inhabited Southwest Florida.

In 1513, the Florida Keys were discovered and mapped by Spanish explorer Juan Ponce de León who named the islands Los Martires (The Martyrs), as they looked like suffering men from a distance.

During Florida's First Spanish Period, the Keys remained isolated from imperial administration, as Spain focused its colonial efforts in Central and South America.

In 1774, British cartographer Bernard Romans created a detailed map of the Keys, including Tavernier, which he mapped as Key Tabona.

The Tavernier vicinity offered a favorable anchorage for Bahamian fisherman and wreckers due to its location near the hazardous Carysfort Reef.

All of Tavernier's earliest settlers originated in the Bahamas. No settlement occurred in Tavernier during Florida's Territorial Period, although Key West began to grow as sponging, turtling, and wrecking became prominent in the economy of the Lower Keys.

Tucked away in the heart of Tavernier is a gem that many visitors and some locals might overlook: Old Settlers Park. Oceanside at the 92.5mile marker, this isn't just any park; it's a place with a rich history that whispers of the Keys' early days.

The park is located on the very site of the original Keys settlement of Planter. While the town of Planter was eventually erased by the arrival of Henry Flagler's railroad in the early 1900s, this site remains a tribute to the pioneers who first settled here. The park's name itself is a nod to a colorful former Monroe County mayor, keeping the memory of our local heritage alive.

Today, Old Settlers Park is a hub for our community. It's a place you will find butterflies and birds and a welcoming, laid-back atmosphere. You'll find a pavilion and picnic tables for a relaxed outdoor meal. Open from 7:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., it's a place where families gather and locals enjoy the simple pleasure of a beautiful day in the Keys.

While the park isn't known for large festival-type events, it's the backdrop for other smaller, community-focused events. The park is a testament to the strong community spirit of the Upper Keys..

Whether you're a history buff, an avid birdwatcher, or just looking for a peaceful spot to relax, Old Settlers Park offers a unique blend of historical significance and modern-day community life. It's a place where you can truly feel the heart of the Upper Keys.



Modern view of the shoreline.



Fruit of the lignum vitae trees, which are found in the Park.



A rocky part of the shoreline with mangroves.