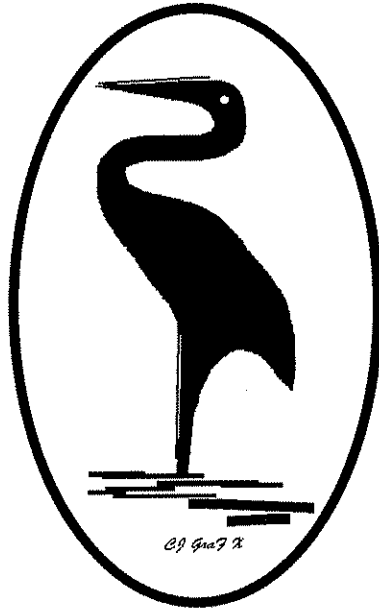


ON MOUND KEY

and all about Estero Bay



BK-000246

by:

*Captain Carl Johnson
& Captain Charles Weeks*

First Edition — 20 copies printed — July 1994

UPDATED

To Include 1994
Archaeological
Activities

\$25

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Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data

none

Manufactured in the United States of America

Computer Graphics by C.B. Johnson
Page setup on Microsoft Publisher
Reproduced at Bonita Springs Florida
Assembled at Bonita Springs Florida

First Issue — 20 copies
July 1994

Paraphrasing the great William:
"To © or not to ©. That is the question..."

We have always liked to see a statement written in books something like, "...full permission is freely granted for non-profit educational use of this printed matter."

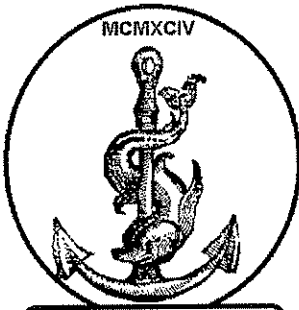
Going one step farther, to me, the entire concept of copyright seems an inane and selfish scheme whose time has expired. Possibly it is just one more shyster plot devised to swell the coffers of the legal profession? So, for our first edition, we claim no greedy rights. This may change in the future, but for now, Enjoy!

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**PRINTED
IN
BONITA SPRINGS
FLORIDA**



**UNITED STATES
OF
AMERICA
1994**



Johnson & Weeks

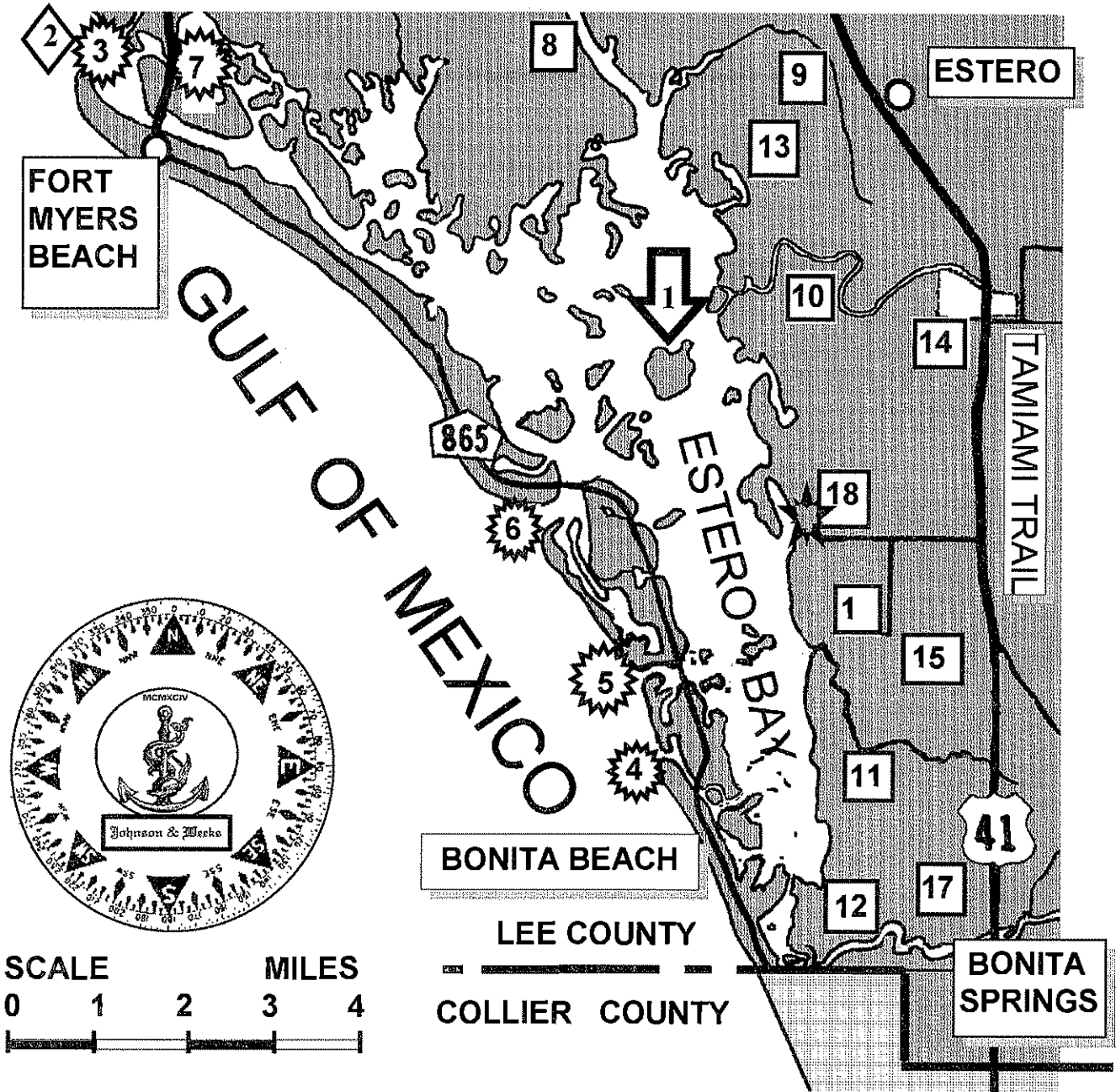




**KING
NEPTUNE**

“... for the call of the running tide ...”

ESTERO BAY AREA MAP



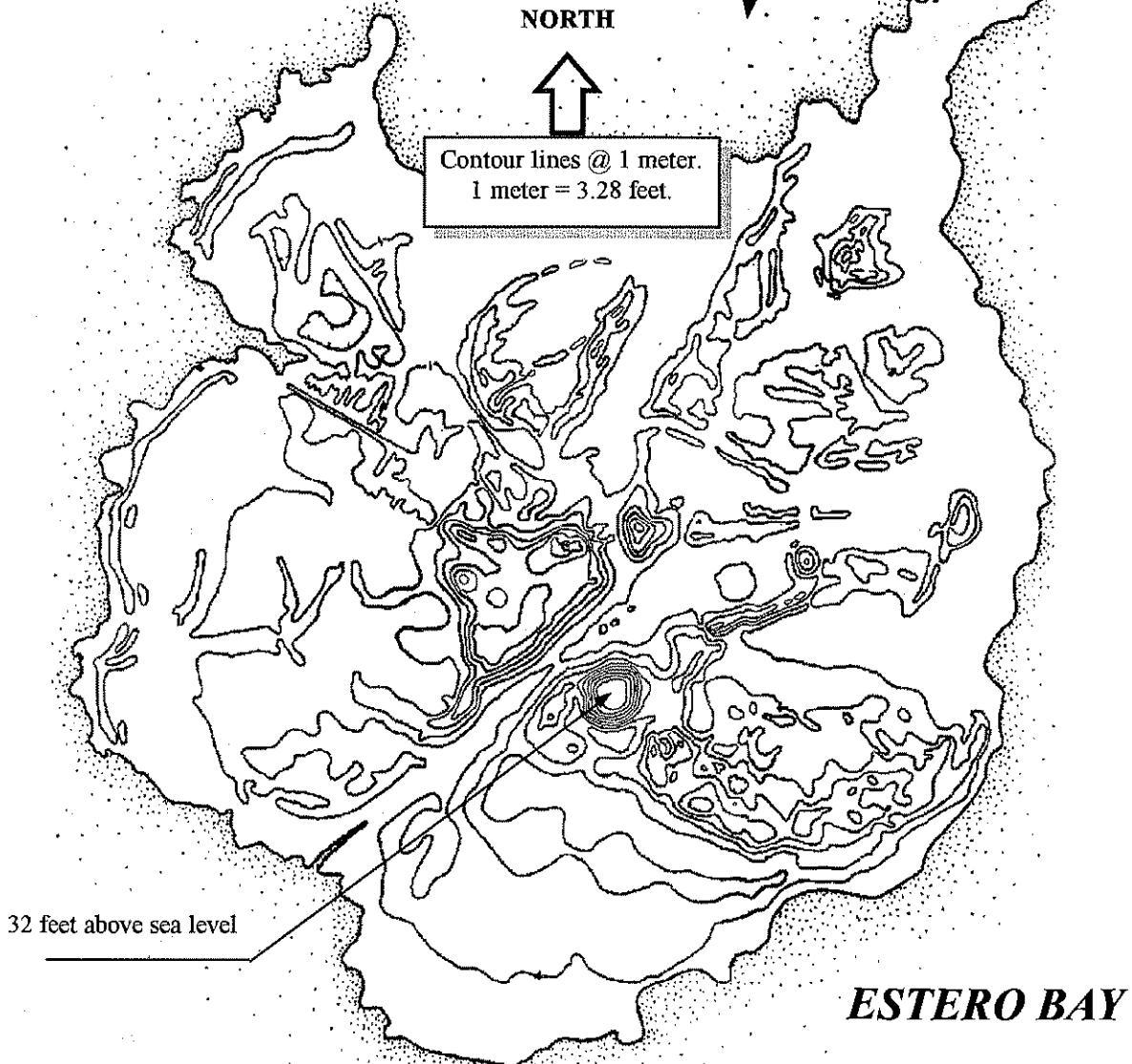
LEGEND

- | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1. MOUND KEY | 7. HURRICANE PASS | 13. MUD CREEK |
| 2. SAN CARLOS BAY | 8. HENDRY CREEK | 14. KORESHAN SITE |
| 3. MATANZAS PASS | 9. MULLOCK CREEK | 15. PELICAN LANDING |
| 4. BIG HICKORY PASS | 10. ESTERO RIVER | 16. SPG.CR.VILLAGE |
| 5. NEW PASS | 11. SPRING CREEK | 17. BONITA BAY |
| 6. BIG CARLOS PASS | 12. IMPERIAL RIVER | 18. COCONUT POINT |

ARCHAEOLOGICAL UPDATE

ON MOUND KEY

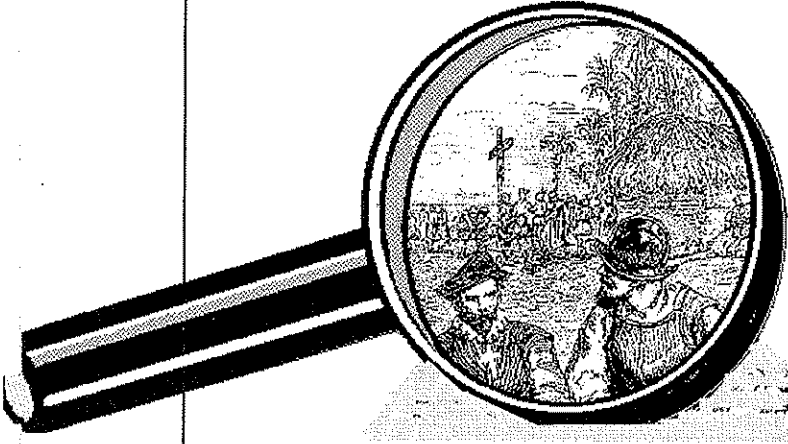
The first project for 1994 on Mound Key was to survey it.



Hundreds of dedicated Volunteers ~ Thousands of hours ~ Buckets of sweat ~ and more-than-a-few drops of blood went into making this contour map. It took axes, machetes and saws to clear underbrush from the sight-lines. It took skilled surveyors with high-tech laser transits to generate the numbers and computers/plotters/printers to produce this image for you.

Prologue

January 1994



Last month, archaeologists began chipping away at the mysteries of Mound Key in a first-ever-serious attempt to uncover its long-hidden secrets. We may soon have their amassed data to help construct more accurate pictures of the past.

Currently lacking this scientific exactitude, we must rely solely on sketchy accounts and reports fraught with errors, opinions, and outright exaggerations to piece together when and why what happened to whom. There are heaps of information out there. Here we try to bring some of it into focus.

Supplementing these historical speculations, we describe today's Estero Bay. We offer as credentials to do this the fact that we are on the water almost every day. Much of this information was taken directly from our carefully-researched tour lectures and offered to you in a semi-digested format intended to neither waste your time nor insult your intelligence.

We have included *Tidbits*, a *Glossary*, and a *Chronology*. Near the middle of this book there are mini-biographies or *Profiles* for some folks who may or may not merit printed mention in history. You decide...

Captains Johnson & Weeks
Bonita Springs Florida USA

CONTENTS

DESCRIPTION	PAGE(S)
ESTERO BAY AREA MAP	1
MOUND KEY CONTOUR MAP	2
PROLOGUE	3
INTRODUCTION	7
ABOUT OUR GRAPHICS	8
COME TOUR ESTERO BAY	9 - 35
Estuarine trees	12 -13
16th century Florida map	17
Topographic map Mound Key.....	18
Calusa, the early moundbuilders	15 - 24
Dolphin	26
Manatee	27
Birds	28-34
State, County, Local maps	36-38
Fish	39
FISH IN ESTERO BAY	40-43
TIDBITS	
Mullet	44
Shrimp	44a
Horseshoe Crab	44b
Bluecrabs	44c
Manatee	44d-44e
Raccoon	44f
Great Horned Owl	44g
Oyster	44h
Fiddler Crab	44j
Propagule (Red Mangrove)	44k
Sea Horse	45
SHELLS AND SHELLING	46-49
BORABELLA	50
BULLETIN (On Archaeological Activity).....	51-54
ILLEGAL ARCHAEOLOGY	55
MOUND KEY TIDBITS (the importance of context)...	56
FROM OLIVE JARS TO BEER BOTTLES	57-61
ABOUT THAT SPANISH OCCUPATION	62
MISSION CARLOS LOCATION ??	63-68

CONTENTS

DESCRIPTION	PAGE(S)
1994 ARCHAEOLOGICAL UPDATE.....	69
Timelines & Truths	70
THE CALUSA RELIGION	71-75
THE WATER COURT	76
THE (GOLD?) COIN MYSTERY	77
LOCAL JUSTICE	78
TIDBITS — AGAVE SUTURE	79
YOUR IMPACT ON MOUND KEY ????	80
PROFILES	81-129
Ponce de Leon	82
Pedro Menendez	83-85
King Carlos (Escampaba).....	86-89
Father Juan Rogel	90-91
Don Felipe	92-93
Juan Lopez de Velasco	94
John Butterfield	95-96
Elwin E. Damkohler	97-98
Frank W. Johnson	99
A Family Tree	100
A.D.May & J.Furen	101
The Collier Family	102-104
Father Clifford M. Lewis	105-106
Rolfe Schell	107-108
Hedwig Michel	109
Kurt Griesshaber	110-111
John H. Hann	112
I. Mac Perry	113
Lee Co. Schools	114
Marquardt, Dr. William H.	115-118
Corbett Torrence	119-121
Sam Chapman	121-122
Weeks, Captain Charles	123-125
Johnson, Captain Carl	126-127
Csonka, Tina	128-129

CONTENTS

DESCRIPTION	PAGE(S)
NEWTHINK 2000 A.D.	130
SO IT WENT (A Chronology of events).....	131-146
Inserts	
Invention	133
1500 Relevant People	134
Poor Richard's Almanack	139
Robert E. Lee	141
Relevant Happenings	142
Lindbergh	144
GLOSSARY	147-153
ADDENDA MODERN MISCELLANY	154
COME TO FLA / BUY A BOAT.....	155
WETLANDS	156-157
A WEDDING ON THE BAY	158-159
BOAT LAUNCHING	160-162
ADOPT AN ISLAND	163-165
SWEET SUE	166
PROPINQUITY	167
THE BLACK DRINK	168
EPILOGUE	169
INDEX	170

ON MOUND KEY and all about Estero Bay

INTRODUCTION

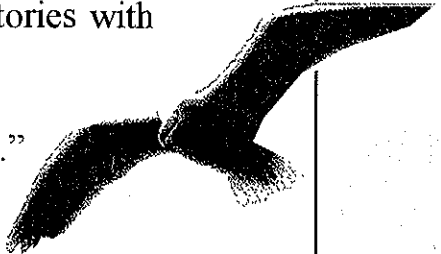
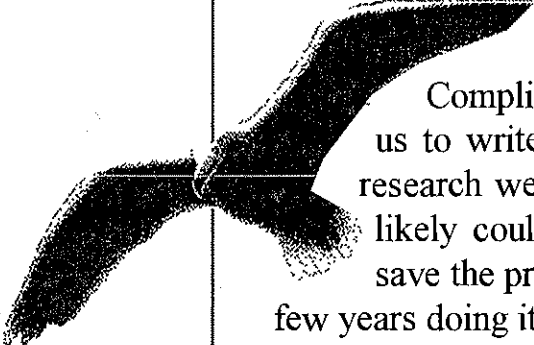
“Great trip!”

“... of all the rip-offs there are in Florida, this tour is not one of them.”

“I’m a scientist for Florida’s (*something environmental*) Department at Tallahassee. You tell your stories with wit, but they are accurate and true.”

“... fifth trip this year; this time I brought my...”

“We’ll be back.”



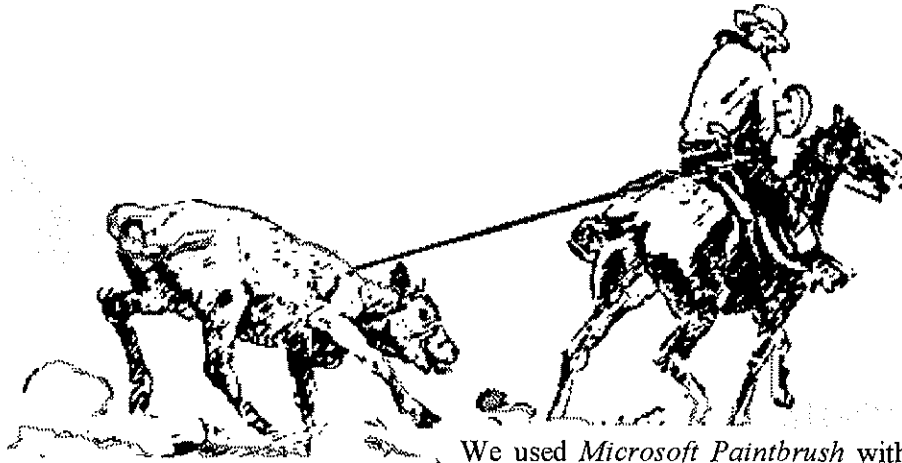
Compliments? We think so. Does this qualify us to write a book? Probably not, however the research we did to develop our lecture tours quite likely could. You might do the same thing and save the price of this book, but plan on spending a few years doing it.

We have *created* very little for you to read. We are merely passing along what we were able to amass and perhaps garnish with overviews. These are not tales of suspense woven into a bundle to be unraveled on the last page. Indeed, in this assemblage, the last page might fit very well at the front of the book. Many of these presentations are single page (or less) write-ups focusing on a single thought. Others are more involved. Combined, they should blend together for you to form a picture of Estero Bay and its most historic island.

It works for us.

ON MOUND KEY and all about Estero Bay

Now, about our graphics...



Remember reading cowboy adventures as a kid? I do. One thing I recall fondly were sketches before, during, or after a chapter which, to me, sort of set a mood. (*Call it comic book mentality, if you must.*)

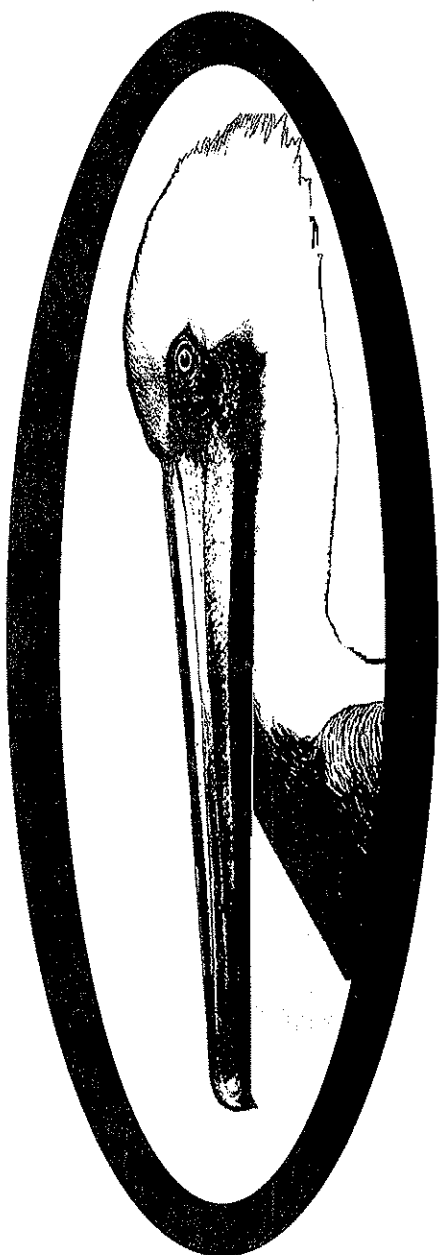
We realize these graphics are a far cry from the quality available using modern color photographic techniques. It was a case of “**what you do with what you got**” and we have a limited capability. Someday maybe we can re-issue with glossy pages and color pictures. Meanwhile we believe the literature fills a void and graphics help .

We used *Microsoft Paintbrush* with color capability held to black and white; same for *Corel Draw*. *ImageX-change* re-processed many images and a scanner was used for some effects.

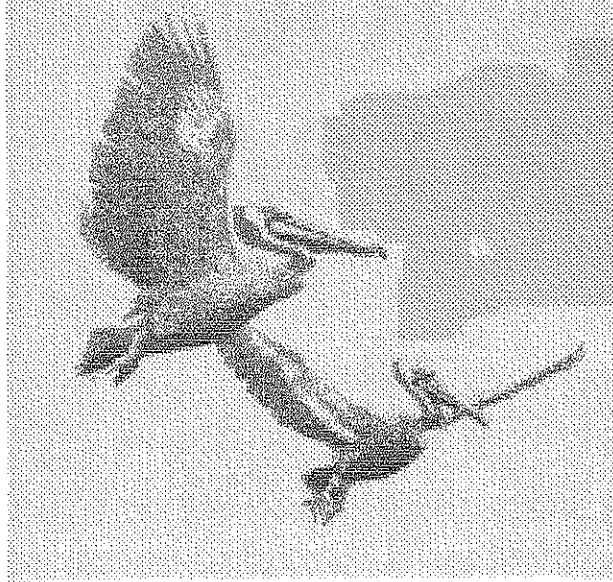
A few pictures were drawn(?) from scratch. Some are modified commercial clipart. We were also able to feed video into the computer and print it out. The cowboy picture above was lifted outright from an old book.

We looked at our book without graphics — they stayed in. Try and you may see something in some of them which isn't actually there; or is it?

COME TOUR ESTERO BAY



COME TOUR ESTERO BAY



“Good Morning Ladies and Gentlemen. Welcome aboard HORIZONS.”

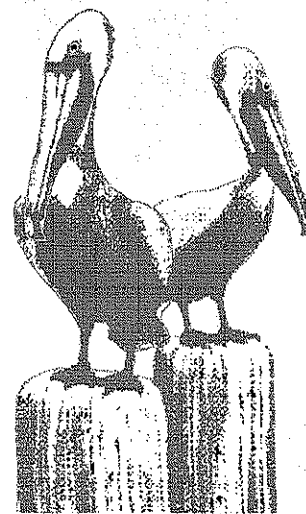
How many times have we raised our microphones to say that as we reversed out of our moorings? How many trips? How many years? Does it ever get old? Or boring? No, certainly not, for each trip is different. No two are ever the same and that keeps us fresh. If the Captain gets bored, up to 40 passengers would notice it right away. We keep that in mind and try to infect people with enthusiasm for we know over three-fourths of the business is repeat business.

Former passengers, wanting to enjoy it again., marvel at all they missed before and many bring a neighbor, visiting friend or relative to share the adventure.

The tour continues:

Today we will journey across a small part of Estero Bay. This is Florida's first **Designated Aquatic Preserve**. The northern half of the bay was so entitled back in 1966. 1983 saw the area doubled to include the southern part which borders Weeks' Fish Camp, our port.

Just recently, the tributaries feeding fresh or brackish water into the bay were named **Outstanding Florida Waters**



ON MOUND KEY and all about Estero Bay

The titles reaffirm many commitments to maintain and improve the quality of the water and to watch over the birds, fish, mammals, trees and plants. Is it working? For sure!

We see many causes for optimism and tell our passengers we have only good news for them and that if they want bad news they should go home and watch “*Oprah*” or some other current talk show. Seems such TV fare feels they entertain us in vying to see who can get the weirdest people to interview.

We are optimistic about the nice green tint to the water where a few years ago it looked brown as the muddy Mississippi. Back then also, you could not have seen many stretches of shoreline without Styrofoam, wood, cans, plastic bags or other junk caught up in the roots. Today we can almost dare people to find litter here.

People who measure such things say the ‘numbers’ are good; numbers which tell about oxygen in the water, the pH factor (acid alkali), salinity, turbidity, etc. Haven’t you read about this or seen it on TV? Prob-

bly not — it seems those people can only sell *negative tales of woe*..

We appropriated the name “Estero” from the Spanish. They were the first Europeans to explore our area *and leave a written record about it*.

In Spanish, “Estero” loosely translates into “Estuary”. The most simple definition for Estuary in the dictionary is that it is a body of water created when sea water flows up into a river. This is not a good description of our bay because it is more complex than that. We have sea water, or Gulf of Mexico water, flowing through five passes. This saltwater mixes with fresh water from two rivers (*Estero and Imperial*) and many small creeks and streams.

The water is estuarine [Es’-choo-ah-reen] or estuarial which may be easier to pronounce. So are the birds, fish, mammals, trees, and water plants which means our bay is appropriately and aptly named.

As we look out over our railings we see the most significant element in the estuary — in any estuarial ecology — the Red Mangrove Tree.

COME TOUR ESTERO BAY



Well over 90% of the trees we see from the boat are Red Mangroves. They are easily identified by a root system which resembles fingers pointing down into the water. These roots are called proproots or support roots and they are very efficient at removing nutrients from the water for the tree's use. They do equally well in removing pollutants and fertilizers which, if left in the water, would promote the growth of undesirable plants. Without the cleansing action of the proproot system, we would now be boating amid lily pads, algae, pond scum and yucky stuff. We cannot overemphasize the importance of the Red Mangrove root system to the health and clarity of our waters.

These roots are also primary to the marine food chain. In the densely knitted roots, fallen leaves and twigs are trapped to decompose there and nourish the plankton at the very bottom end of the food chain; microscopic plants and animals on which bigger creatures feed. At a high tide there will be billions of small fish,

crabs and shrimp in there eating and growing and well protected from predators in the dense areas.

Out a distance from the root systems, bigger fish wait for a low tide to bring the little guys out for lunch. The bigger fish will be eaten by even larger fish and on and on it goes. This is how a food chain works, of course. Up at the top end of the chain are the tarpon, snook and redfish — the largest fish in our bay. Also on top of the chain are the dolphin and many birds. Our point then must be that all of these creatures — great and small alike — owe their existence (at least, their abundance) right back to the mangrove root systems.

If you see a mangrove island where no land is visible, there will be only red mangroves growing there. It is the only one of the estuarine trees which can tolerate so much water on its roots. Once land builds on an island the other estuarine trees can take root. (Land builds on islands from centuries of shell growth, centuries of decaying organic materials, or, more rapidly, by sand and silt being kicked around by wave action in a storm.)

If we list the estuarine trees in order of tolerance for the water, first would be the Red Mangrove which can

ON MOUND KEY and all about Estero Bay

grow right in shallow water. Second is the Black Mangrove which roots in sediment that accumulates where water once stood. Third comes the White Mangrove which takes root at or above high tide waterline.

The fourth estuarine tree is the Buttonwood. (Called that because it grows little 'button-like' pods or called that because its wood was once used to make buttons?) Distinguishable from mangroves by a pointed leaf, this tree was valuable to our ancient Indians and early settlers. They used buttonwood for firewood. It burns like charcoal and the smoke from it imparts a most savory taste to meats being cooked. No so long ago, most of the smoked fish found locally was smoked over buttonwood fires.

Once these other trees take root on an island, the Red Mangrove then grows mostly at the perimeter of the island. It grows extremely slow so it takes centuries for these islands to build. There are severe penalties for removing, damaging or unauthorized trimming of mangrove trees. We cannot repeat too often just how important islands are to the ecosystem

and we should also note the backbay islands and barrier islands bear the brunt of storms and hurricanes away from the mainland. Fitting then that we jealously guard our islands against abuse, misuse and pollution. What has taken centuries to grow can fall in the flick of an eyelid to a chainsaw.

Not all the trees you see here are so highly prized as the mangroves. On the down side, our state forestry department's has a hit list.

While all trees are beautiful, some truly must be considered weeds. They were imported for various reasons or else accidentally escaped from private gardens. While they may have been held in check in their native lands, many have no natural enemies here and they are free to run amok. In doing so, they seriously deplete our water supply, fuel forest fires during dry seasons, and worst of all, they crowd out native vegetation. This alone is reason enough to get rid of them for in taking the place of Florida plants, they drive off our native birds and animals. This we cannot allow.

COME TOUR ESTERO BAY

One victim of these “weeds masquerading as trees” is the Sea Grape. It attracts over a dozen species of birds. It also has a root system that stabilizes the soil (sand) so it would be most beneficial on our barrier islands. However, it will not grow where the Australian Pines are — little else will either.

There was a local impassioned controversy on saving Australian Pines at Bonita Beach. People who advocated keeping them should have put their money where their mouth was — like buying insurance policies for the damage these trees were certain to do during a future hurricane. Fortunately the state mandated all pines should be removed from barrier islands and somehow these were mysteriously killed off and taken away before the folly of such marginal thinking could be tested.

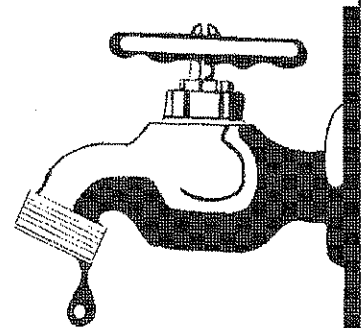
Other trees on the hit list are the Melaleuca (*also called, Paper Tree, Punk Tree, Cajeput Tree*), and the Brazilian Pepper sometimes referred to as *Florida Holly*. They are all considered exotic — definitely not native to Florida.

These trees were not here when the Calusa roamed our area. Around the turn of the century, farmers imported pines for windbreaks. Credit our an-

cestors also for introducing the melaleuca into the Everglades to dry up swamps. This job they did well and, sadly, still do. Now we war against this for we no longer wish to see our wetlands become dryer than they already are. A local group, which would prefer to be un-named, imported melaleuca into Lee County to experiment with making paper from them. The quality of the paper was not even good enough for newsprint. The idea died but their trees live on.

Inland in the Everglades, thousands of acres are completely dominated by melaleucas so dense even small animals cannot penetrate into their groves. They continue spreading at a rate of 50 acres per day!

One acre of these trees uses 52,000 gallons of water per day. Is it any wonder we now face water shortages?



ON MOUND KEY and all about Estero Bay



CALUSA MOUND BUILDERS

The first people to enjoy the cornucopia of our bay may have been the ancestors of the Calusa Indians. Over 4,000 years ago they evaluated the richness of this area and found a super-abundant food supply in secluded waterways shielded from the open waters of the gulf by barrier islands. Settling here they avoided contact with stronger, landlubber, nomadic tribes foraging on the mainland.

They trusted life here would be Utopian. It came close. For thousands of years they dwelled in a paradise unknown since the Garden of Eden.

Not so long ago, we supposed the Calusa were descendants of the Maya and drifted across the Gulf of Mexico from the Yucatan Peninsula. Now it is more popular to believe they were aboriginal to this locale. Heated debates still persist about ancestral ties with the Maya due to some cultural similarities between the two peoples. One respected source in our state bureaucracy suggested in 1992 that maybe the Maya were ancient descendants of the Calusa. (smile)

When the fog lifts, we may determine the Maya and the Calusa had common ancestors; perhaps the *Arawak*?

A less argumentative notion about the Calusa is that they built their nation along the gulf shoreline from up near Port Charlotte southward to the Ten Thousand Islands. We believe at their prime, they exercised control over a much larger area — Tampa to Cape Canaveral to Miami to Key West — with headquarters on Mound Key exacting tribute from all the tribes within that area..

COME TOUR ESTERO BAY

Being coastal dwellers, the Calusa took most of their food directly from the water. They supplemented this seafood diet with birds and mammals from the nearby shores. There are accounts of them using some plant products but this may be questioned. Some reports say they were totally non-agricultural. They did not plant or harvest and only gathered minimally. (nuts, berries, gourds for net floats?)

We believe they were shrewd traders who traveled the inland waters often and occasionally ventured onto the open seas to Cuba and beyond. They were good archers and able seamen. Mention was made of their watercraft as "un par", and "pairs of canoes", which leads us to suspect they may have actually invented the catamaran, or twin-hull boat. We can find no reference to such vessels prior to the 16th century reports by both Ponce de Leon and Father Juan Rogel.

(Archaeologists today do not concede such craft existed and likely will not until a pair of canoes lashed together are dug up. —cbj)

The only watercraft of that time even remotely similar to catamarans were outrigger canoes of the South Pacific islands. Difference; Catamarans have two equal-sized hulls to carry

loads; with outrigger canoes only one hull is loaded; the other just stabilizes.

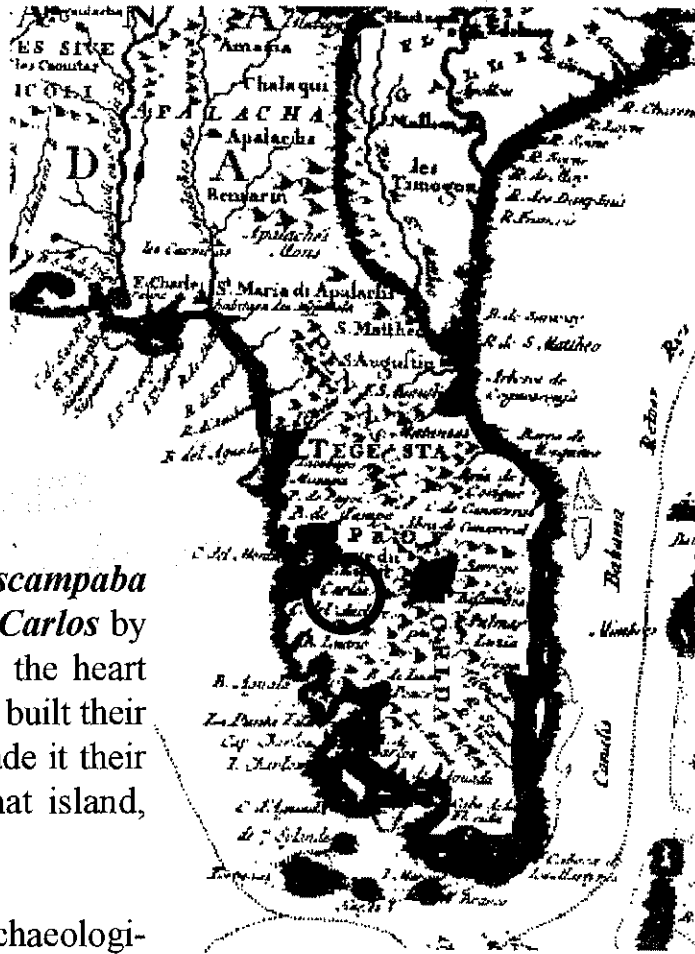
These mangrove people were mound builders. If you think on it, you will realize the only durable materials available to them in great quantities suitable for building mounds were sea shells. They transported the shells dug in the shallow bays or found on the gulf's beaches back to their mounds to heap on the piles. Through the centuries, their mounds grew in number and in size. They built over 300 mounds in their nation which varied in shape and ranged in size from 50 feet across up to over 125 acres.

Certainly there was religious significance to some to the mounds, but reason dictates there were practical aspects also. It would have been highly desirable to remain close to their food supply, so abundant in the pristine waters of the bay. However, then as today, the low islands were subject to flooding during storms and devastation by hurricanes. If they moved inland to escape adverse weather they would be away from their bountiful store and coastal way of life and perhaps may have felt threatened by unfamiliar tribes hunting there. With all their options considered, they wisely created mounds above flood level on which to live, play, raise their children and worship their idols.

ON MOUND KEY and all about Estero Bay

This 16th Century map locates **CARLOS** in our area. (Circle) — cbj

Visiting my house May 27, 1994, Mr. Kurt Griesshaber casually mentioned he had found this map in a German dungeon. (He also gave me permission to use it. Thanks, K.G.)
—CBJ



Estero Bay, once called *Escampaba* and later named *Bahia de Carlos* by the Spanish, was nearly at the heart of the Calusa Nation. They built their largest mound here and made it their capital. Today we call that island, **Mound Key**.

It is now a Florida State Archaeological Site. The public is welcome to visit it anytime, but it is only accessible by boat. There are no facilities on the island. It is under the care of the DNR Park Rangers headquartered at the Koreshan Historic Site just up the Estero River east of Mound Key.

There is a shallow inlet and beach on the south shore of the island. A slightly deeper inlet is located on the northwest shoreline and a path across the island connects these two landings. The path crosses over several different mound groups.

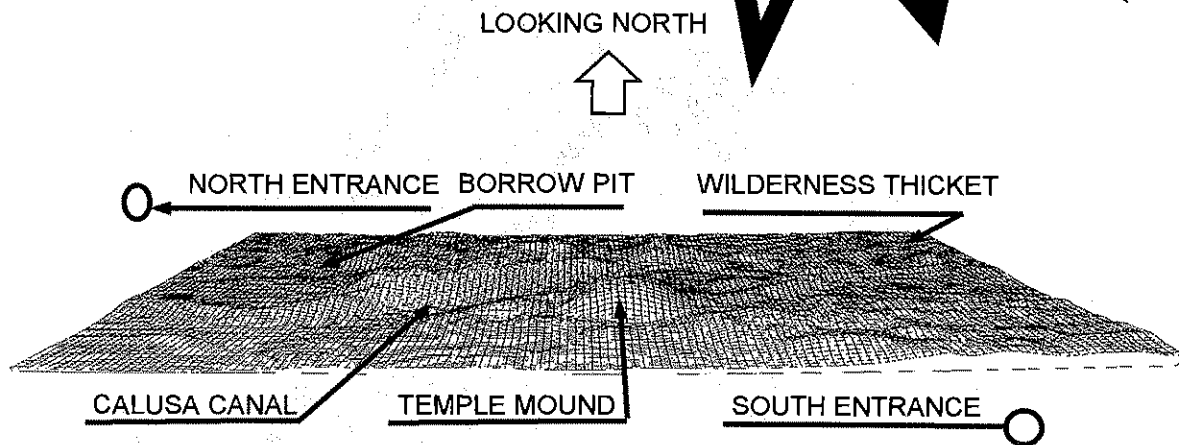
One of the island's higher mounds is called the *Activity Mound*. We suggest it was used as a city park, or school playground, or something more like a bandshell.

The Calusa allegedly dressed up and staged plays they created. They may have educated their children by role playing, particularly in matters pertaining to what their heritage and their religion entailed. It is highly probable they taught survival skills and everyday arts and crafts in this manner as well.

ON MOUND KEY

ARCHAEOLOGICAL UPDATE

MOUND KEY IN 3D



The "TOPO" above is a not-to-scale-take-off from a plotter drawn rendition made using measurements taken during the 1994 survey. The plotter drawing was greatly out of scale — height exaggerated 3-times-size for study purposes — and this drawing only partially corrects for the error. It should, though, indicate the major contours of Mound Key. The mounds are of aboriginal times; the holes and pits are of more recent doing.

ON MOUND KEY and all about Estero Bay

The Calusa situated a series of mounds neighboring the *Activity Mound*. These *Domiciliary Mounds* were for their chickee type huts; posts supporting thatched roofs.

The floor of the huts may have been suspended above the ground to further distance them above flood waters and also allow cooling breezes to flow under. The shells on the island are excellent solar-heat collectors so the cooling feature would have been greatly appreciated during the hot afternoons. Elevated floors would also keep them above heavy morning dews and furry or slithering nocturnal visitors.

We think they wove and attached side curtains over the openings in the huts. Rolled down and secured, these curtains snugly enclosed the cubical within.

They probably used the huts mostly as a place to sleep, to keep their babies, or to escape harsh weather. The Calusa were communal in their social order insofar as getting foodstuffs, cooking, dining, and craftwork. Their

social relationships may have also been communal to where Christian Visitors might well judge them immoral.

They had fishtraps nearby where they placed woven palm-fiber nets over the outlets at high tide. At the next low tide they could pick fish up off the dry bottom or from the nets. Today wild cotton plants still grow on the island. They produce the size and type of fiber used to weave pieces of cloth (and net?) found at archaeological digs of Calusa mounds on nearby Marco Island.

Across a canal from their living area, they built their great Temple Mound or **Pyramid*. Fitting and proper for their capital, it was 200 feet on a side and rose 60 feet above sea level. Today, after centuries of erosion, it is not 40 feet high but it is the highest spot of land in Lee County. From atop this mound today one can view a most impressive panorama of the bay and the islands dotting it.

** (Waxing eloquently, 1994
Archaeologists renamed it
Mound One. —CSA)*

COME TOUR ESTERO BAY FIRST ENCOUNTER



With but a tiny mental nudge . . .

Today, from atop the Temple Mound on our most famous island one can empathize the anxiety, the forebodings and the apprehension surely felt by the first Calusa to see a Spanish sailing ship go at anchor in what is now Big Carlos Pass. He probably called out to his friends and together they stood in awe watching as soldiers scaled down the side of the tall ships into longboats. A few may have run away in fear sensing that the future would deal a cruel fate to some who should have fled but did not.

The account above differs from some claiming the Calusa met Ponce de Leon in force in 1513 - repelling him, capturing a ship etc. (all with only a 16 hour notice of his arrival! and a year before he received his commission to explore here.) The accounts I believe indicate the 1513 trip was a *sail by* and it would be years later when he landed with settlers to establish a colony here. This attempt was aborted after Ponce received a fatal wound.

One can imagine how magnificent the view must have been when the mound was at full height (with perhaps a platform yet another 20 feet or so higher?).

For the next few decades, many Calusas would face abuse and torture as gold-hungry Spanish tried to discover where they had hidden their wealth. Holy men would hound them relentlessly to accept something they would never understand. Before they became aware they had an enemy, they were persuaded to adopt young Spanish boys and girls who naturally and quickly learned the Calusa language and customs. Some became interpreters for the priests and spies for the military. They could monitor any covert actions the Calusa might plan and report it to the Spanish. Meanwhile, the Spanish shipped some of the wives and children of the more im-

ON MOUND KEY and all about Estero Bay

portant tribal leaders off to Cuba, and even Spain, on the pretense of educating them. What better hostages could they have chosen to keep the heathen chieftains in line?

The Calusa were not entirely blameless in the conflict that reached its peak shortly after 1565. Under the leadership of their chief, Carlos, they allegedly made human sacrifices out of Spanish Sailors. Father Juan Rogel, who headed the Jesuit Mission on the island, protected the Calusa chief from immediate retaliation. The soldiers at the Fort of San Antonio, also located on Mound Key, were forced to wait for revenge. When the priest visited Havana in 1566, Captain Francisco de Reinoso took advantage of this absence to execute Carlos.

In 1571, the Indians rebelled against the Spanish. Captain-General Pedro Menendez Marques, by order of his uncle, the Adelantado (Governor Menendez), beheaded the reigning chief, Don Felipe (successor of Carlos) and some 21 to 27 of his loyal principals. The soldiers abandoned the fort soon after that — some two years after the Mission Carlos had given up its job. We pick this time to be the last impact the Spanish had on the Calusa while the Calusa still had strength. Years later, a greatly weak-

ened Calusa petitioned the Spanish for missionaries. This time Franciscan friars came. When the trinkets, honey and cornbread used by the Friars to entice the natives to services ran out, the Calusa decided they needed no more of that religion. They stripped and beat their mentors and cast them adrift in the gulf. Miraculously, they were rescued by the same captain who had brought them here earlier — telling them at that time it was a bad idea. Now perhaps they agreed with him.

Efforts to make Christians of the Calusa failed for many reasons. One may have been the crusade mentality of the missionaries (*believe as we do or off with your heads!*) did not work here as it had in Europe, Asia, and Africa. With the same compassion the missionaries had shown the Conversos and Moors back home, they scoffed at the Calusa's heritage, culture, and shamanism religion. Many of the less-adamant Calusa would accept the Spanish faith if they were allowed to add it as a supplement to their own. They refused to give up their own divinities and this attitude was not acceptable to the Spanish.

One of the Calusa Divinities must have been a Spirit of Lifestyle. Ironically, while the Spanish explorers searched futilely for local treasure, they were

COME TOUR ESTERO BAY

looking directly at it all the time. The Calusa's true fortune was a bounty unequaled anywhere — living in tune with the spirits of nature; in harmony with the universe. Those arrogant Spanish thought they could improve on that?

Of the Calusa, the Spanish retaliation for their uprising of 1571 destroyed most of their leadership. Knowing the Calusa custom of sibling marriage, one can imagine the entire "Royal Family" was slain. Left with little sense of direction, these simple folk migrated inland to avoid the Europeans and south to flee stronger tribal immigrants from the north. Contact with Christianity had confused their religion and contaminated their gene pool. Thus weakened in mind and body, they gradually fell to attrition from European diseases (smallpox?) and dissolved slowly into extinction.

It was not quick and decisive warfare that finished the Calusa. It was their lack of immunity. When the Spanish arrived early in the 16th century, there were thousands of Calusas. Later, when the Seminoles came into the area from Alabama, only a few beleaguered Calusas had survived the foreign plagues. The Seminoles

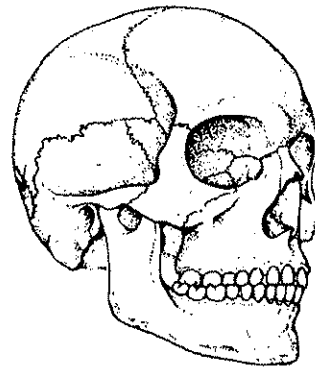
quickly took them into slavery — or worse.

Last reports of anyone seeing this race were in 1840 when a small band was living with Seminoles on Indian Key. In 1850, another sighting found a few on Pine Island, also living with Seminoles.

The most recent credible sighting was by a Professor John Gifford from the Forestry Department at the University of Miami. While exploring around Cape Sabal in 1903, he saw what other experts later concluded were Calusa.

There have been no confirmed sightings reported since then and we assume they now belong to history.

A modern idiom seems timely here:



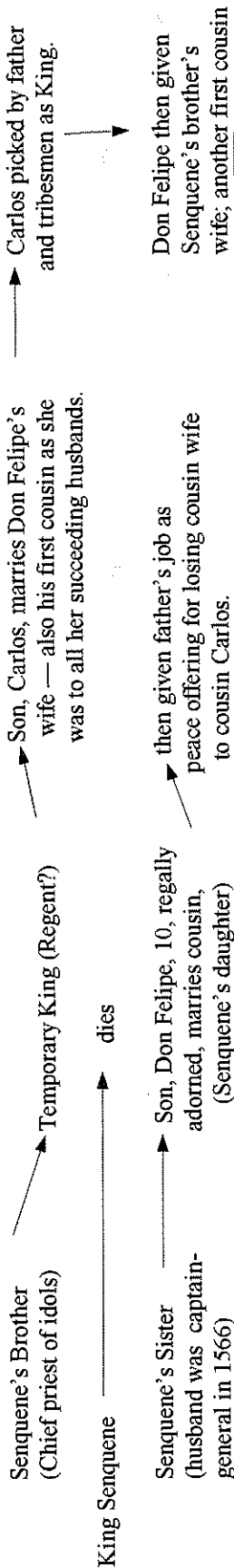
EXTINCTION IS FOREVER

5,000 B.C Mangrove people (Calusa Ancestors) roamed Southwest Florida ~ 1,000 A.D. Calusa break away as a race, nation, people. They became coastal dwellers, totally dependent upon the water and nearby shorelines for their diet. They neither planted nor harvested food from the soil.

CALUSA TIME LINE

1500? (1513 Ponce deLeon sails by) 1530? (3,000 Calusa speak Muskogean tongue — Compton's Encyclopedia) 1540?

(1521 Ponce slain by Calusa)



1550? 1560? 1566 (Menendez/Rogel) 1569

King Carlos (Escampaba) marries older sister ———> then breaks off marriage for 20-year-old maiden and ———> then urges sibling ex-wife to wed Governor Menendez ———> Carlos executed.

1569 1571 1612

Don Felipe succeeds Carlos as cacique (Chief of Calusa) ———> Don Felipe executed by Spanish. ———> Succeeded by Don Pedro a cousin of King Carlos ———> Spanish report visit to area now led by another "King Carlos."

1600-1800 1840 1850 1903

Nearly leaderless, weakened by diseases, poxes and Euro-diluted genes, their faith confused by exposure to Christianity, with no hopes or aspirations beyond survival, they migrated east to avoid the white man and south to escape slavery and/or abuse by stronger natives.

Calusa reported living with Seminoles on Indian Key.

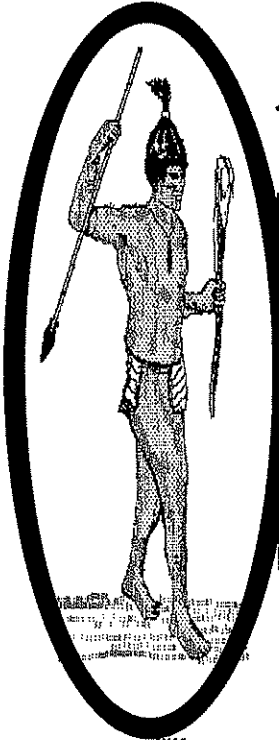
Calusa reported living with Seminoles on Pine Island.

Dr. John Gifford, Forestry Department, University of Miami exploring down around east of Cape Sabal reported seeing a "different" kind of native. From his descriptions, experts proclaimed them to be Calusa. This was the last known credible sighting. It was in 1903. We assume they are now extinct.

R.I.P

CALOS

CALOOSA



Calusa



CARLOS

CALLOS
CAALOS



MOUND KEY TIDBITS

What is this 16th century artist trying to tell us about the people in this picture? Are the natives Calusa? Are the sailors Spanish?

We can have some fun with this — match up the number with our interpretation given below.

Care to differ? Send us your analysis and you may win a prize.



1. Archer aiming for bird in the tree. This indicates a high degree of skill for a bowman.

2. Naked lady putting shells in basket.

3. Naked lady transporting shells or ?

4. Quonset-type huts? Enclosed in fence? (Fort? Has one opening.) Would seem to say several natives shared a single hut. (only three huts - many people.)

5. Naked lady picking something from the water.

6. Many archers — standing Army?

7. Shaman? (Bird headdress) throwing curse or something more at ship.

8. Native waiting for handout.

9. Soldier arguing with missionary about giving handout to man #8.

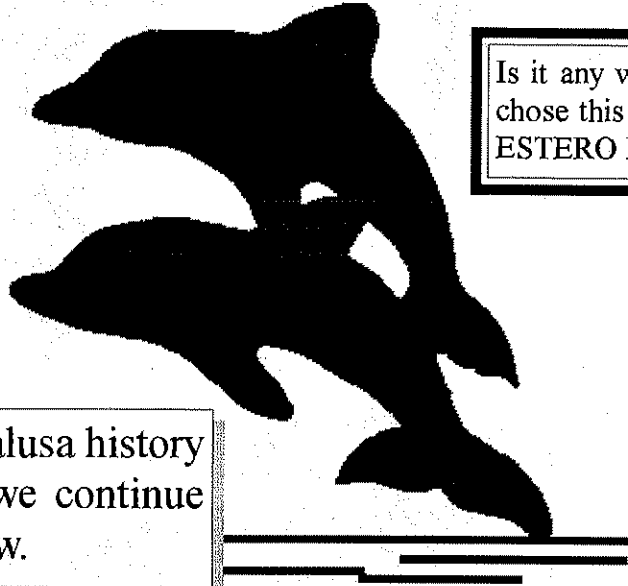
10. Observer.

11. Helmsman at starboard (steering board is oar shown)

12. Bird atop bow. Leading troops to attack ship?

13. Man just pulled live shell from the water.

COME TOUR ESTERO BAY



Is it any wonder Captain Charlie chose this pair to be the logo for ESTERO BAY BOAT TOURS?

With the Calusa history put to rest, we continue our tour now.

We expect to see dolphin on almost every trip. How well they will play with us is an uncertainty. It ranges from them totally ignoring us to swimming and jumping alongside for the ultimate delight of our passengers who clap their hands, jump up and down and cannot keep from beaming the widest of grins. Unlike times when we are with the manatees and try to be very quiet, the dolphin seem to revel in applause and become highly excited and attentive when they hear the high-pitched squeal of small children aboard. Watching the children's eyes as they watch the dolphin, they seem to share an empathy. It's difficult to determine who loves whom more.

These are bottle nosed dolphin — just like Flipper on TV. They do not migrate and seem to remain in a fairly small area. They will go to sea to feed sometimes but appear to return to the bay for most of the time where often they will be found playing with us.

One question commonly asked is, "What is the difference between dolphin and porpoise?" Well, if you check the dictionary (please do) you will find confusing descriptions for each which ends with the suggestion that you look up the definition for the other one. We know only that they "make" the sightseeing trips for us. Even after hundreds of trips yearly, we never tire of playing with them.

ON MOUND KEY and all about Estero Bay

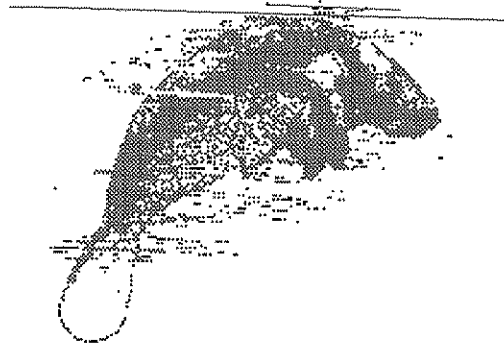
We remind our passengers that the dolphin they see on area restaurant menus is not this lovable mammal we see here in the bay. We assure them the Menu Dolphin is a delicious gilled foodfish. All marine mammals are protected; particularly the dolphin and manatee locally.

When the water is warm we see many manatee (sea cow). In cold weather they go up the rivers to warmer water. They particularly like, and can be found in great abundance up the Caloosahatchee River east of I-75 near the power plant where the water is warmed by the generators there.

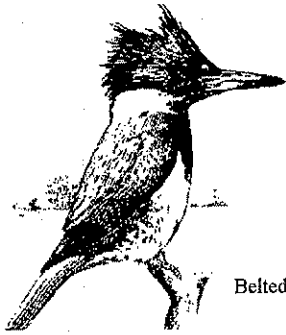
These lovable gentle giants are completely herbivorous. They feed on the grasses and other sea plants which abound in the shallow waters of Estero Bay. Our technique to play with them (actually, just watch them) is to shut down our motors upwind from them and let the wind carry us through their midst. Curious about us, they often come up to nibble at any growth on the pontoons or to scratch their back on the boat. They have their own kind of beauty. They surprise many people who had no idea they can grow to be 12 to 13 feet long and weigh over 3000 pounds. We see more each year and question

if they are truly as endangered as alarmists claim they are. We are sure their count is wrong for there are **hundreds** right here in Estero Bay.

In 1992 there was a mix-up at the top level of the state services where different groups were busy grabbing for power (and money) and informing the public what the severity of the manatee situation was. It got so bad that the Department of Natural Resources locked the "manatee people" out of their offices claiming they were duping their volunteers and not telling people the truth about manatees. Appeals were made and many in the legal profession gained wealth at the taxpayers expense until finally some liberal east coast judge gave the funds to the wrong party. Who won? Who knows? Certainly neither the public nor the manatee are any better off for it all.



COME TOUR ESTERO BAY



Belted Kingfisher

Major portions of our tours are spent in finding, identifying and discussing the birds of Estero Bay. Serious bird-watchers associated with the Audubon Society tell us that in 1993, 108 species of birds were counted between Wiggin's Pass and Mantanzas Pass. Estero Bay makes up most of that area. The actual total exceeded 12,000 birds for that season's annual bird count.

This book, published in black and white, makes no pretenses of trying for recognition as a birdwatchers guide. There are many, very colorful books available for those who develop a serious interest in ornithology. Here, let us warn you, it is a fulfilling, interesting, and contagious hobby which can carry you to whatever depths you desire. The three books which we found particularly good are currently available locally. They are:

1. "A GUIDE TO FIELD IDENTIFICATION — BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA" by Golden Press, New York. Illustrated by Arthur Singer

2. "Florida's Fabulous Waterbirds - Their Stories" World Publications - St.Petersburg Florida. Photographs and Stories by Winston Williams.
3. "The Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Birds" Alfred A. Knopf, Inc. - New York.

We think it is perfectly in order for us to relate some of our lecture relative to the more popular birds of our bay. Starting with the brown pelican which so often thrills our tourists, you will notice that some have white on their heads while others are all brown. The ones with brown heads and necks are immature. They will get white heads when they are about two years old and become adults. Then every spring these adults will get a brown stripe down the back of their neck; that is their summer plumage. In the fall this brown stripe will molt and come back in white so that the adult pelican's winter plumage is a totally white head and neck. The yellow tinge on the adult's forehead is its nesting plumage; or their

"Hi Honey, I'm home!" feathers.

White pelicans, bigger than our brown ones, visit us on their migrations through the area. They spend the night only and will be gone the following morning.

ON MOUND KEY and all about Estero Bay

REDDISH EGRET



A 'real fun' bird to watch capture its prey is the reddish egret. At low tide they can be seen running along sand bars as shown above. It will run, stop quickly, flip around, flap its wings and generally behave goofy, but it makes its prey move to give away its position. From a long distance away this bird can be identified by this hunting method. Close up it is sometimes mistaken for the little blue heron but the adult has a definite rust-colored head and neck. It is also somewhat larger than the little blue heron. This bird can also exist as a white bird from "color morphism" (more on morphism later). Both colors have the pink bill with a dark tip on it. If they interbreed, the chicks will not be a hybridized mix. It will be like one of its parents.

For nesting plumage, these egrets have gorgeous 'frizzy' plumage and this shows up significantly when they are provoked to react to a threatening condition.

The hunting (fishing) technique of the little blue heron is quite different. Like the great blue heron, it slowly stalks its prey or stands like a statue waiting, waiting, waiting...

The little blue heron starts life out as a white-feathered juvenile and can be easily confused with the snowy egret except its legs are greenish/yellowish (chartreuse?) both as a white youngster and later when it becomes an adult and gets its blue plumage.

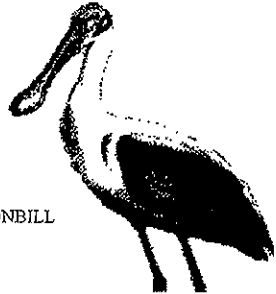
The great blue heron does the best job of impersonating a statue — surely the best symbol for patience there is. It also has color-morphism with a pure white counterpart and a white faced duplicate called the Wurdemann's heron. These birds also may nest together and their chicks will be like one parent or the other; no mixed offspring.



GREAT BLUE HERON

COME TOUR ESTERO BAY

The most colorful bird we have in our area is the roseate spoonbill. It is called roseate because of its color and spoonbill for the 'gravy ladle' bill it has.



ROSEATE SPOONBILL

The most 'formal' bird around is the black-crowned night heron. It has all the regal bearing and dress of a penguin with its gray 'vest' and black jacket. Two beautiful features it possesses are ruby-red eyes and a long white plume from the top of its head.



BLACK CROWN NIGHT HERON

Another night heron is the yellow crowned. As the name suggests...



YELLOW CROWN NIGHT HERON

The "black ducks" you see sitting on pilings or in the trees are double-crested cormorants. Called double crested for the tufts they grow above their eyes during nesting season — sort of overgrown eyebrows. These are diving birds.



DOUBLE-CRESTED
CORMORANT

In Asia some fishermen harness these and put them to work. They put rings on their neck so they cannot swallow fish they catch and keep them on leashes. They launch 10-12 from a small boat and when the bird comes up with a fish, they haul it in. After it catches some fish, they remove the ring to let it swallow a reward or two before putting it back to work again. They have fished this way for over two-thousand years so it is very effective and efficient for them and the kind of fish they seek. Obviously they are limited to fish up to a foot long weighing about a pound. Even that size is impressive for such a small bird to catch. We often marvel at just how big a fish cormorants out-manuever, catch, bring up, and swallow.

ON MOUND KEY and all about Estero Bay

The cormorant and the anhinga, both diving birds, have little or no oil in their feathers. Nature saw to this for oil would trap air bubbles and make them too buoyant to be effective underwater. Without this protective oil, their feathers soak up water like an ink blotter and they soon become so waterlogged and heavy they can hardly fly. You see both birds often postured with wings spread to dry as posed by the anhinga below.



ANHINGA

Noticeable distinguishments between the two birds are that the anhinga has a needle sharp beak and is a more slender and graceful bird. Swimming, the anhinga's body is totally submerged and its head and neck move with a jerky motion, giving origin to the nickname, "Snakebird". It also has long tail feathers tipped in silver which it can spread like a wild turkey; hence its second nickname, "Water Turkey."

It violates bird kingdom standards somewhat because the female has the color and the beauty; and don't they know it. Just see them pose.

Most majestic in Estero bay are our bald eagles. We believe we have 6 pair at the present time with three youngsters. One of the eaglets is starting to get its colors (white head and tail) and this happens when they are 3 to 5 years old. As youngsters, they are dark brown to black in color.

BALD EAGLE
ADULT



From afar, it is easy to confuse the osprey with an eagle. Notice that the osprey has a white belly, white under its wings and a dark stripe through its eye.



OSPREY

It is not as big as the eagle but is a much better fish-catcher. We estimate that 99 times out of a hundred, when the osprey splashes the water, it will come up with a fish. Usually

COME TOUR ESTERO BAY

it will turn the fish headfirst for streamlining. This enables it to carry a heavier load and this is important because its talons may lock. Consequently, fishermen find bigger fish sometimes with osprey talons embedded in them. Some osprey had picked a fish too heavy to carry and was drowned. (We know it was osprey talons because they have two talons in front opposed by two hind ones. A hawk or an eagle have three talons fore with a single one aft.)



BACKBAY WIGGLEBUTT

Birdwatchers, bird lovers, forgive us. We just had to rename this little sweetheart for you.

Audubon must agree with us somewhat because they chose "Swivel Tail" for its nickname. It can be found around our bay and its tail is constantly in motion; bobbing up and down and we bet that you cannot watch it without breaking out your best grin.

Its official name is the "Spotted Sandpiper" but this doesn't seem to do it justice for it has spots for what seems like only a couple of weeks each year.



THE MAGNIFICENT FRIGATE BIRD

(MAN-O-WAR BIRD)

Magnificent indeed is this greatest of soaring birds. Spectacular in flight because of its "bent wrist" wing shape — a wing chosen by artists to paint when wanting to denote a storm at sea.

When the winds are 50-60 knots or more, these birds love to go to sea and soar. They are adept to picking fish from the crest of a wave and in boiling seas there are many wave crests. Ornithologists will tell you that the wing loading (ounces per square inch) of the frigate bird is less than any other bird and its proportion is not approached by any other. To put numbers on this ratio; a three and a half to four pound frigate can have a seven and one half foot wingspan.

The males are all black. The females have a white throat. Immature ones have white heads. The most memorable feature of the male frigate is a bright red pouch under its chin which it can inflate to the size of a volleyball. It does this to let its sweetheart know it would like to rub beaks. (nesting season)

ON MOUND KEY and all about Estero Bay

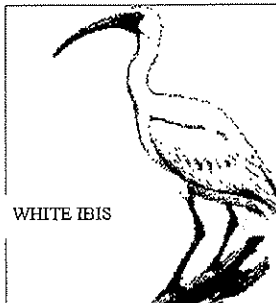
What's the bird below doing in this book? It's a land-lubber bird! OK, the mocking bird is also the Florida State Bird; many are found on the mainland but seldom seen around the estuary.



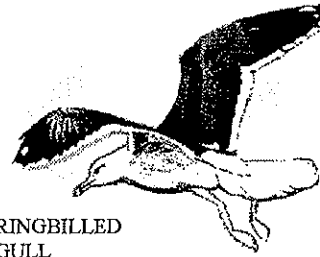
MOCKINGBIRD

A most talented bird; we have one at home that "does" robin better than robins do. It also imitates the blue-jay, two different woodpeckers, the warble of the male zebra finches in our aviary out back, and I swear I heard it bleetle-EEP the sound of our cordless phone from its perch just last week.

Now back to our estuary birds, the white ibis is plentiful in the bay. It has the orange-to-red bill gracefully turned downward and during the nesting season its legs are bright red. If you see this beak shape on a dark bird here, it is not a brown ibis. It is an immature bird that will turn white when it becomes an adult. Ibis were sacred birds to the ancient Egyptians and can be seen sometimes in their hieroglyphics.



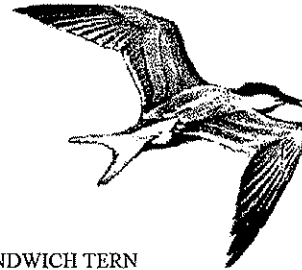
WHITE IBIS



RINGBILLED
GULL

Next to pelicans the most-watched birds locally are the gulls. Tourists just naturally associate these two birds to our area.

Sometimes we have other gulls visit but the four most common here are the ring-billed, the herring, the black-backed, and the laughing gull.



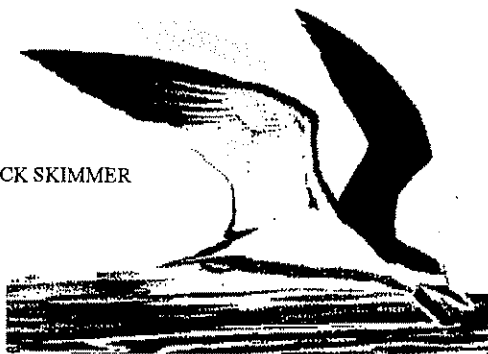
SANDWICH TERN

Aside from visitors, our four terns are the sandwich, common, caspian and royal tern.

An interesting difference between gull and tern is that the tern dives into the water; the gull will not. The gull will swim in the water, eat fish it finds there, steal fish from other birds but not dive in. The tern hits the water with a great splash then pops right back into flight. It does not swim in the water as the gulls do.

COME TOUR ESTERO BAY

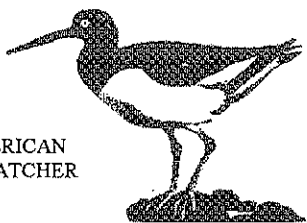
BLACK SKIMMER



A colorful and beautiful bird in flight the skimmer loses some of its grace and symmetry afoot due to having a lower bill longer than its upper one. (This is only a personal opinion) Pictured above, you can see why it is so configured. It flies low over calm waters with the lower bill raking the water for its diet.

On sandbars and oysterbars the skimmer is often mistaken for the oyster catcher depicted below.

THE AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER



This illustration falls way short of showing this bird to be the most beautiful bird in Florida. Just imagine it with a bright orange beak, a black head, brown wings, white belly and ivory legs. Better would be for you to buy one of those colorful bird books — better yet, come to Estero Bay and see one in 3D living color.

There are so many species we would need a much thicker book to discuss them all. We have attempted only to skim the surface and whet your appetite to see them for yourself. Every single one of them has a story to tell and you cannot claim to have seen Florida until you listen to, watch, and let your spirits soar with our colorful flyers.

Even the (lowly?) vultures and buzzards play a vital role in the ecosystem. There are the pretty little red crested mergansers which grace us with their presence every winter. Other ducks like the freshwater inland, but the merganser prefers the Estero Bay saltwater. And there are the loons which Floridians believe to be mute. (What??? you snowbirds ask — then say the loon has the most soulful tune there is! Well, not in Florida.)

There are crows, fishcrows, boat-tailed grackles, doves, hawks, humming birds, owls, falcons and we almost completely omitted mentioning the sandpipers — dozens of species of sandpipers — too many to attempt to list and the mix varies each month of the year.

‘Auduboners’ found 108 species here one given day — perhaps that many more visit us. Come see!

ON MOUND KEY and all about Estero Bay

Not as visible on our bay as the birds are our fish; many, many varieties and most are delicious. One that isn't eaten though, but is highly prized as a trophy fish, is the tarpon. It is the largest fish in our bay and once in awhile we thrill to the sight of one 'rolling' on the surface of the water.

A partial list of fish which may be caught in the passes or the bay are Spanish mackerel, pompano, permit, flounder, seatrout, black drum, whiting, sheepshead, pinfish, mangrove snapper, and sand bream; tasty fish all. Some others which are fun to catch but their edible qualities may be questioned are the hardnosed sea catfish, the gafftopsail catfish (sailcat), stingrays, jack cravelles, ladyfish and eels. Then there are the downright double-uglys. These are sea robins, guitar fish, cowfish, and puffers (burrfish). Some people eat these. Of course, some people eat squid, snails, barnacles, and grasshoppers covered with chocolate. We don't.

A saltwater fishing license is now required to fish in these beauties. That is, unless you are over 65 or under 16 and are a Florida resident citizen fishing from land or from a pier or bridge. It gets complicated, so best buy a license or else fish with a charter captain who has already paid dearly to

cover those who fish from his boat. There are headboats in Fort Myers and Naples which charge a small fee per person to let you fish with 30 to 60 other people. (...by the time you reel in your fish, it may have 30 to 60 other hooks and lines tangled in with it.)

Locally we have '6-pack' boats you charter and it, with a captain, is yours to command. The crew does the work — you and your guests enjoy life. How much? Varies.

(Following this chapter is a section devoted exclusively to fishing.)

Well folks, that concludes today's tour. We covered some information on our bay's history and ecology. The rich history of Mound Key was enhanced by many people from the earliest Indians up to settlers who lived there a few short years ago.

There was a brief and violent period of Spanish occupation, but other than that, several generations of many types of people found a serenity there not too unlike Utopia for their brief span of years on this earth.

In keeping with that, we end our tour with this toast:

"May your future be as kind!"

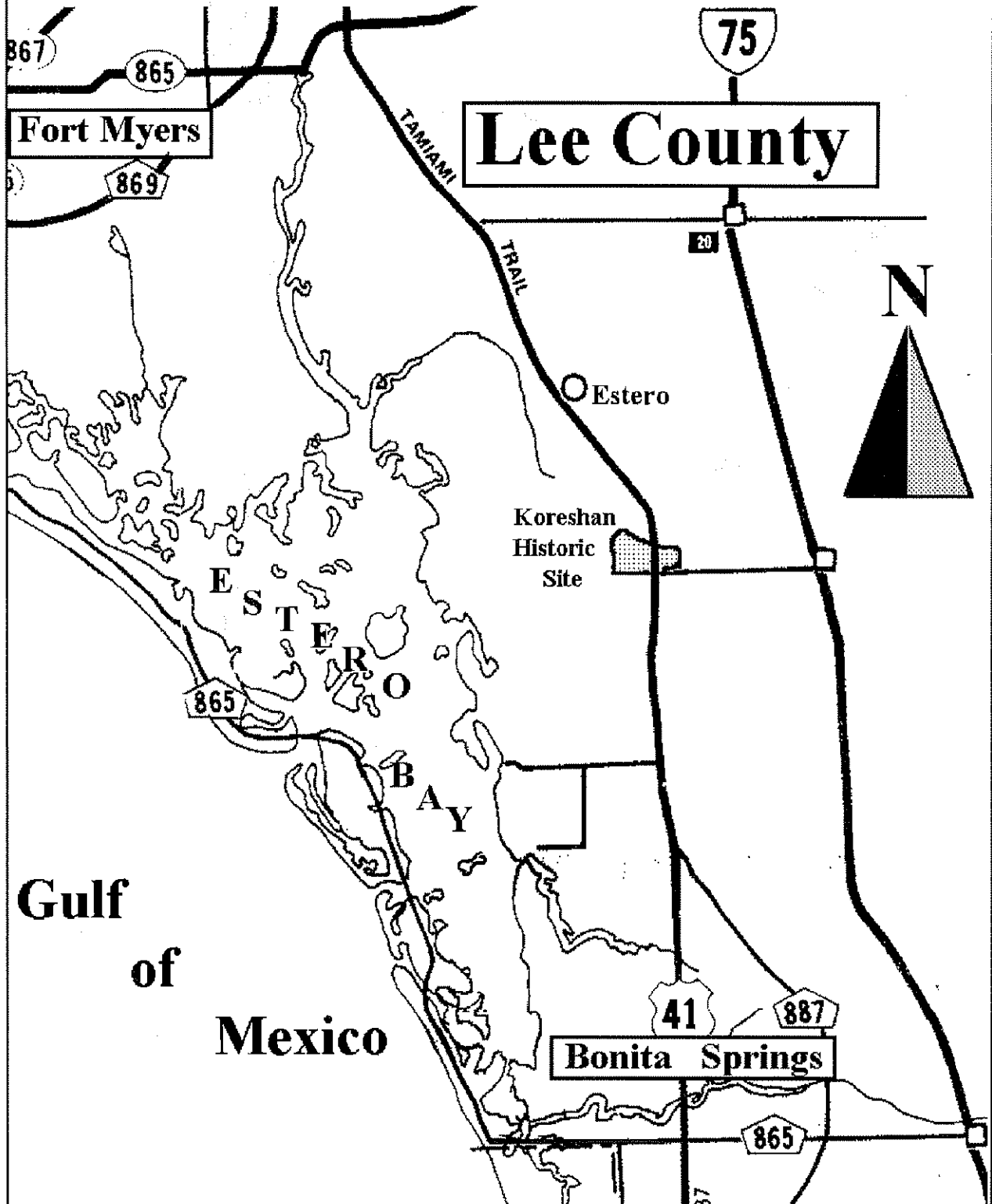


COME VISIT US



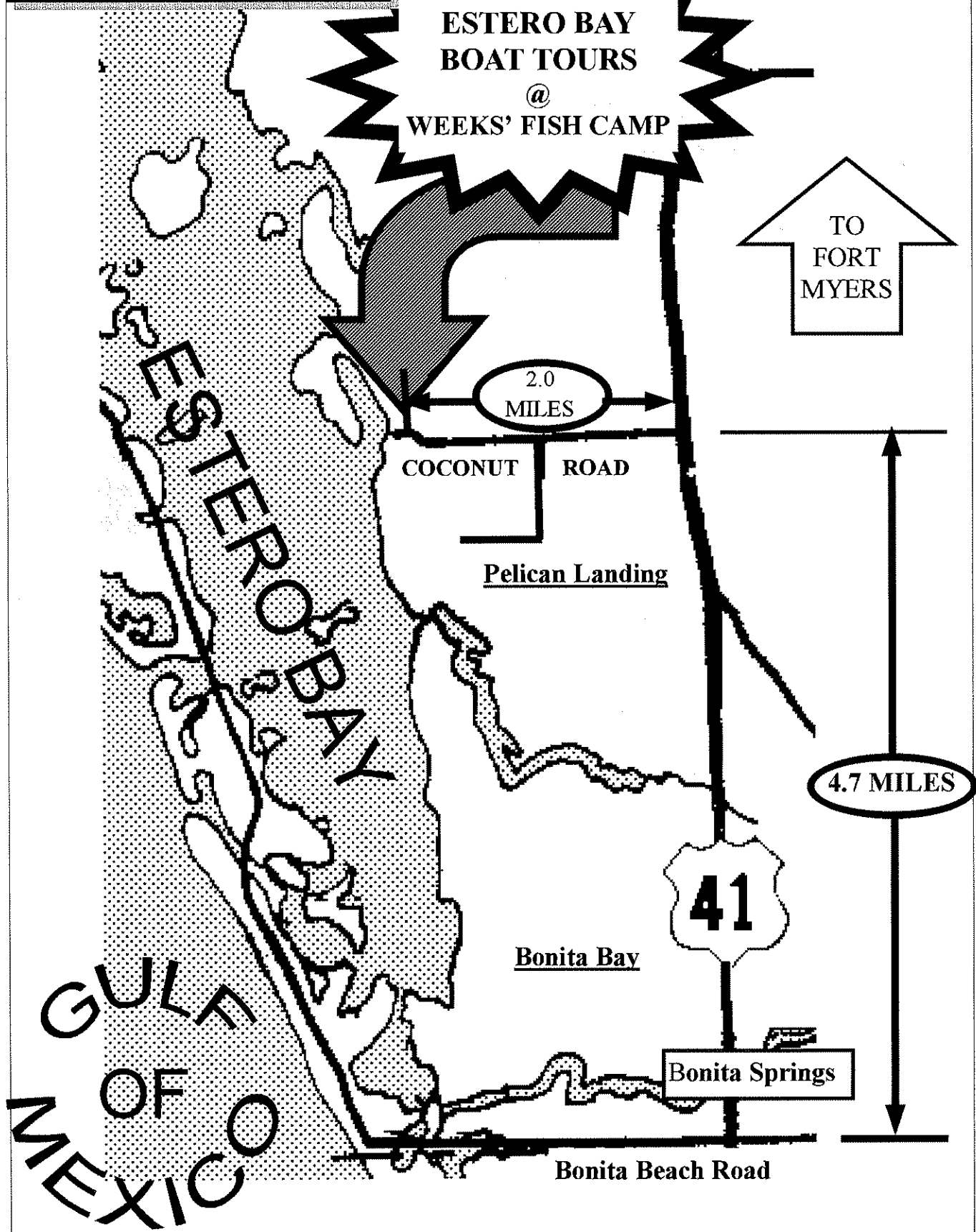
THIS POINTS THE WAY

THIS GETS YOU CLOSER



AND YOU'RE HERE

**ESTERO BAY
BOAT TOURS
@
WEEKS' FISH CAMP**



ESTERO BAY FISHING

... and to catch a fish, just keep telling yourself that your brain is bigger than the fishes brain. Believe it. Then when the fish jerks the line, you jerk back and the bigger jerk will win.

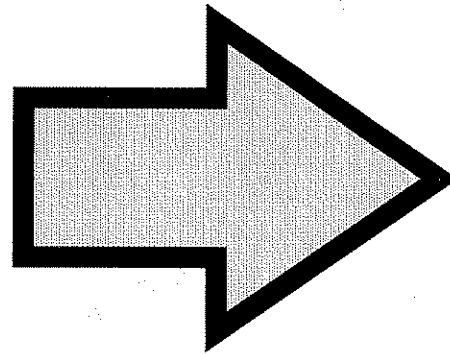
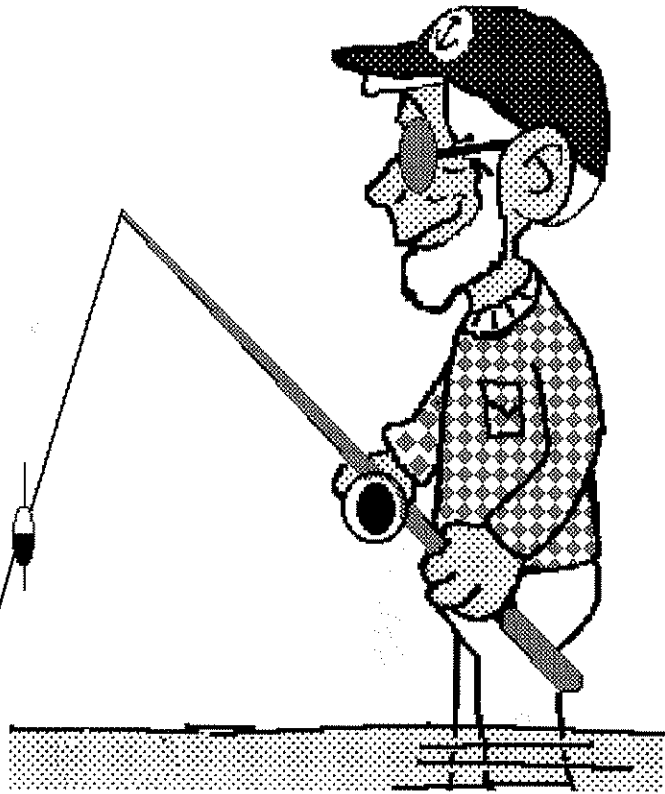
In our bay
are many fish

... AND

THERE IS
FISHING

FISHING

FISHING

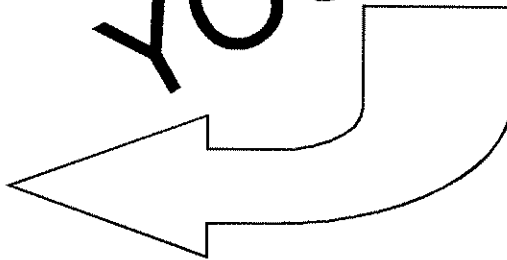


... and all about Estero Bay

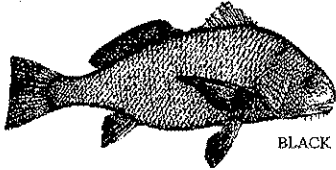
Catching the big ones



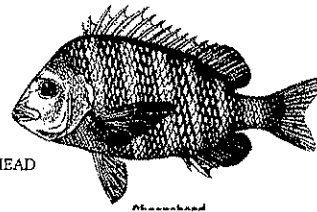
**TARPON
YOU BET!**



There are also —



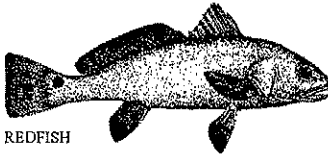
BLACK DRUM



SHEEPSHEAD



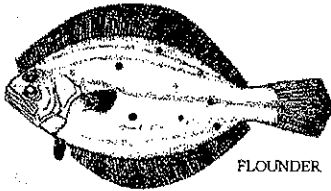
SALTWATER CATFISH



REDFISH



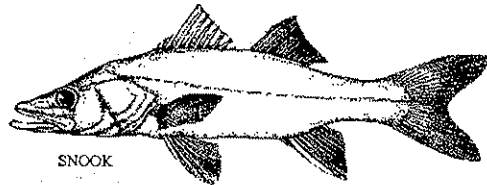
SPANISH MACKEREL



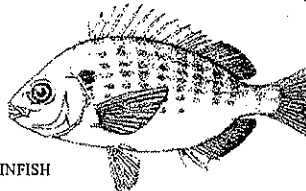
FLOUNDER



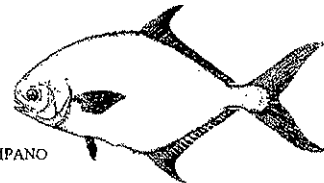
SPECKLED SEATROUT



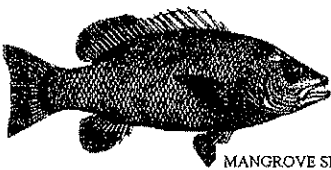
SNOOK



PINFISH



POMPANO



MANGROVE SNAPPER

... AND
DOUBLE-UGLIES



SEAROBIN

TIDBITS ON THE BAY — FISHING

“YOU GOTTA BE AN OPTIMIST to go fishing — a pessimist won’t even pick up a fishing pole.” We have heard that a few times. Don’t you believe it. Fishing in Estero Bay will elate an optimist and make a pessimist ashamed of himself for having been so negative — honest. (Remember once having a charter fishing trip with some Illinois bankers — they told us, “Nothing makes a pessimist like financing an optimist.”)

If you want action in Estero Bay, we recommend using live bait. Shrimp is most common and readily available at most marinas. Using plugs, jigs, or lures (crank bait), you are apt to get only what the lure was developed to hook. Using live bait though, you can catch almost anything; from the spectacular to a double ugly something you may not be able to identify.

Some techniques in fishing that have stood the test of time are to stay well away from the mangrove islands and cast toward them. Slowly turn the crank until your line is barely snug so you can feel the nibble you would miss if your line was slack; then let the shrimp work for awhile. This works well for mangrove snapper, redfish and sheepshead. You should avoid trolling the bait over the oyster

beds around the islands. Oysters will generally snag the hook and break your line and leader assembly. Some people reduce the probability of getting snagged on oysters by using a bobber and some people call this “Yankee fishin’.”

Near the grassy flats when going after the trout or whiting, you may want to remove weights from your line. If so, use an oversized swivel to get weight enough for casting. This reduces the likelihood of getting snagged in the grass. Using live shrimp is good for such fishing — let the shrimp work. The absolute best bait for the trout (used by commercial fishermen) is a shiner some call “pig-nosed”. The trout find it irresistible. You will have to net it for yourself because there are none available at bait shops. They just will not last long in captivity so you must use them right away. Catching your limit of trout is no big chore anyway.

We have seen the “poppin’ bobber” (normally used for redfish) used to fetch in the trout. The “glootch” sound it makes seems to attract the attention of the fish — or some folks believe it makes the fish mad enough to strike out at the disturbance — whatever.

... more on fishing

Shrimp will work well on sheepshead but the singularly-minded, devoted purist seeking sheepshead (there are hundreds around) will use tube worms. For some reason, sheepshead find the tube worms most tasty and cannot resist them. Estimates run as high as ten times more sheepshead can be caught on tube worms at the exact same area and time as can be brought in with any other bait. Sheepshead have a very delicate nibble so fishing them calls for a quick reflex. We believe ladies have that deft sense of touch that usually enables them to outfish the men when around sheepshead. (Sorry, guys.) By the way, Sheepshead make the most delicious fish chowder possible.

If you like whiting (*and you would be weird if you didn't*) we know one deep-sea captain who will trade grouper, one-for-one for them. They are actually that savory. A method that works quite well is to drift the shallow areas well inside the passes. Use live shrimp and wait until the bait is fully taken to reel in the fish. Unfortunately, this method also works well on the (highly undesirable) hardnosed saltwater catfish.

The snook is positively the **most prized local fish**. This is due to its fighting ability as well as being the hands-down best tasting fish ever.

There are snook experts all over. Talk to them. Read the many books they have written on how to catch our greatest sport fish.

Our only contribution to the art of snook fishing could be the single, most-important technique you will ever read on the subject. That is: After you have fought the snook for awhile and he is starting to tire as you crank and pump him nearer the boat (or the shoreline), the natural tendency you may have will be to tighten the drag a little on your reel. Wrongo! Wrongo! Wrongo! Do just exactly the opposite! **Loosen the drag!** Once the snook sees the boat (or the net or the gaff, or you) he still has at least one good run left in him. Let him have this run or you stand a good chance of loosing him at this point — after all that hard work. You're welcome.

Quite a few anglers feel that one of the most fun-fish to catch in the backbays is the ladyfish. This worthless (in food value) fish has meat the consistency of braunschweiger and thousands of tiny bones but you can hone your skills catching them. As with any fish which jumps — bass, snook, marlin, etc.) you must keep your pole pointing up. Anytime you want to loose a fish, just point the tip of your pole at him. Enjoy fishing Estero Bay. Good Luck!

ALMOST EVERY MORNING about Estero Bay

This is another column that didn't get published in the paper.

VIEW FROM THE HELM

It's still dark-thirty in the morning and marinas in the area are beginning to buzz. J & J Bait trucks zip in, unload, and zoom on to the next stop. Wide-eyed kids pace the docks and launch ramps as their sleepy-eyed elders hustle to prepare then re-prepare what was hastily ill-prepared. More stoic charter captains go through their motions. What they do, they do daily and will likely only do it one time.

Deep sea mates and deckhands give half effort doing some bait thing. Charterers sip one more cup at the restaurant and enjoy one more smoke. (Gonna quit any day now.) Nearby patrons sniff, scowl, and with hand motions fan away smoke they think they smell.

Back bay fishermen head for the pass to find out which way the tide is flowing. Deep sea fishermen head for the pass to make their way into the gulf. Cars and pickup trucks head for the pass to cast their lines into the incoming/outgoing tides. Some wisely avoid the pass.

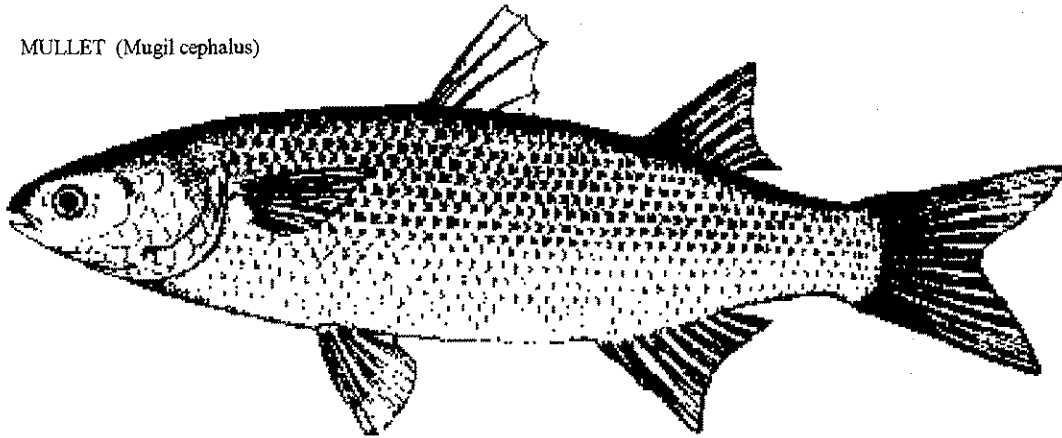
At the pass, the boated fishers anchor off the shore just far enough that they can cast to the shore. The landbound anglers cast out as far as they can; usually about to where the boats are anchored. The water between them, now spanned with wetted lines, becomes an expressway for sailboats, wave runners, a jet ski or two, sight-seeing rubbernecker, and that deadly dreaded wakemaker whose hormones react excitedly to the mighty drone of too much horsepower. Tempers flare. Fists are raised. Various fingers are used in answer to salutes between these comrades of the waterways.

Damn, I love this fishing kind of life!



ESTERO BAY FISH

MULLET (*Mugil cephalus*)



The best tasting fish I ever ate was a black mullet Charlie Weeks caught, prepared, and cooked. — CBJ

Fitting and proper that we end our section on fishing with a tribute to the mullet. These fish are vegetarians and not readily catchable on a hook. They are taken with gill nets and are Florida's most commercial fished fish. This is apt to change very soon because groups who fish for fun and call themselves Sports fishermen want all the fish and are working to have the nets banned. They have the political connections and dollars to make it happen.

Many netters, who fought this for awhile, now seem to have focused their attention of how much money the government will give them to go out of business. This is tantamount to surrender and, to me, seems to sound the death knell to what has been a major industry here since man first came to Florida.

The people who want to ban netting accuse the netters of taking fish other than what they are licensed to catch and maintain that the nets are environmentally unkind.

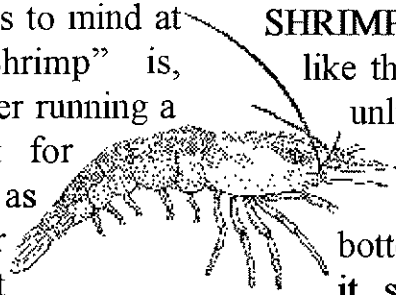
Commercial fishers cite figures as high as 75% of Florida's fish being taken by pleasure fishermen. They claim their gill nets are designed and made to catch only specific fish and the bye-catch, or incidental catch of other fish, is less than 3%. And this small amount has uses such as crab trap bait. And who can begrudge a man keeping some of the (more sporty?) species to take home and feed his family? Gill netters point out their nets are weighted to stay in place and are not dragged over bottom to harm the habitat. This has fallen on deaf bureaucratic ears and sadly we may soon witness the passing of a specific local way of life many have loved.

ESTERO BAY TIDBITS — Shrimp

First thought that comes to mind at the mention of “Shrimp” is, “Delicious !” Then after running a Charter Fishing Boat for over 10 years, using as many as 200 shrimp per day for bait, the first thought that comes to my mind is still, “Delicious !” Love ‘em.

Shrimp is offered up at most diners all over the country. Even more popular than (a passing fad?) pizza, shrimp comes in all sizes from jumbo near-lobster-tail to tiny “popcorn” niblets. It is spiced to suit any preference ranging from the heavy long-lasting taste of scampi to Chernobyl-hot Creole. The odds-on favorites though remain both ‘peel ‘n eat’ and breaded deep-fried. Almost any restaurant, even those that do not serve seafood per se, may have shrimp somewhere in their menu — perhaps as part of a salad.

Many of us believe the shrimp should take the place of the hot dog as the “All-American Food.” Which do you eat more of — more often? This may change soon because rabid-anti-netters want to do away with all nets and we cannot catch shrimp on a baited hook.

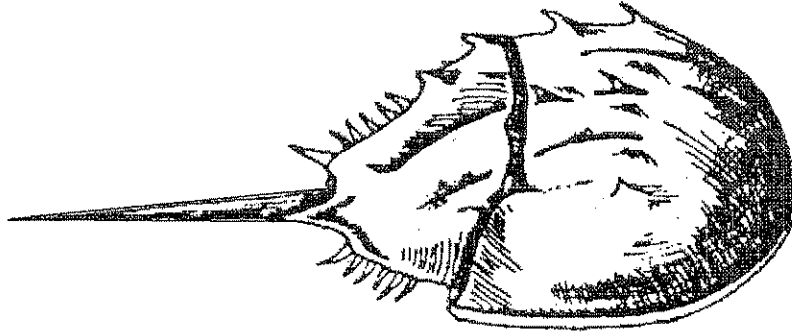


SHRIMP — another Crustacean, like the crab it has 10 legs, but unlike the crab (and lobster), its nearest relatives, it does not crawl on the bottom of the sea as much as it swims. Those tiny little “legs” behind the 5 pair of jointed ones are “swimmerets” and are almost hypnotic to watch as they propel the shrimp along.

Shrimp coloration varies with the environment where they live. As camouflage perhaps for those living in sea grasses tend to be olive-drab greenish and brown ones live over the sandy bottoms. Here in Estero Bay we catch “glass shrimp” which are translucent. They remind one of a modernistic telephone made of Lucite to show its innards. The glass shrimp clearly shows its “brain” and its “intestinal system.”

Shrimp is the most popular bait found at local marinas. It is great for action. If you use specialized baits or lures, you will likely catch only one specific kind of fish, but use shrimp for bait and it’s like Christmas morning — You never know what you are going to get.

ESTERO BAY TIDBITS — Horseshoe Crabs



LIMULUS POLYPHEMUS A Marine Anthropod

The *Horseshoe Crab* is more closely related to the spider family than it is to crabs. To accent how odd this creature is, it is sometimes called, "The world's oldest living fossil." It apparently, like the cockroach, is a survivor and it dates back nearly to the days of the trilobite. Do people eat them? No.

We more often see evidence of them (their discarded shell) than we actually see them alive. In the spring, however, they are in abundance on the backbay side of Big Hickory island, Lover's Key and at both entrances of Mound Key. Locked up in breeding, the male hangs on and is dragged through the shallows by the much larger

female. They then bury their eggs ashore, much like the turtles do, where they are hatched out by the heat of the sun.

The females grow to about the size of an Army helmet; males are less than 3/4ths that size. The smallest I have ever seen measured 5/8ths of an inch across its back.

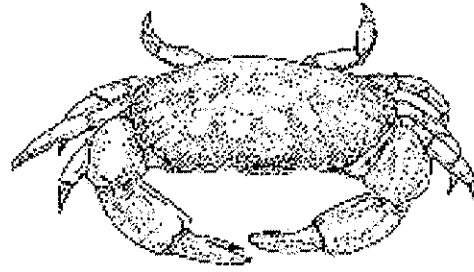
We heard scientists are somewhat baffled by the gill system of this crab. They say its gills are too inefficient to supply enough oxygen to sustain its life. These may be the same scientists who say, given a bumble bee's mass of body and area of wing, it is impossible for it to fly.

ESTERO BAY TIDBITS — Crabs

Touring Estero Bay you will often see Styrofoam balls about 4-5 inches in diameter floating on the surface. They will range from shiny-new white to orange to two-colored to an unrecognizable blob of barnacle/oyster growth. These are crab trap marker buoys. If you feel tempted to pull one up and check it out, be advised that local crabbers catching you doing this feel about it much like a western cowboy might feel about finding a cattle rustler.

In the bay, they use a wire-cage type trap to catch blue crab. These are the same blue crabs trapped all the way around our coastline from New England to Texas. Delicious.

From a boating standpoint it is wise to give the floats a wide margin. For some reason, propellers have a predilection to reach out and become high-speed underwater winches and retrieve the line attached to these floats. At the other end there is a nautically rustic trap used by many area diners to enhance their marine motif. By the time your engine clanks to an abrupt halt, the crab trap enfolds your propeller with a death grasp and has the appearance of a nest of angry coat hangers. Consider yourself warned!



CRAB (a CRUSTACEAN)

A marine animal — order Decapoda
The carapace (shell) covers its large cephalothorax (yes, we peeked at a dictionary). Its pincers (pinchers) are on the front two of its ten legs. While they can move in any direction, you will normally see them sidle left or right. Its eyes are located at the end of short movable stalks.

Crabbers keep a special container for soft shell crabs. These are ones caught right after they molted, that is, they loose their shell and for a short time are “soft shell crabs” which sell for a premium.

Offshore, crabbers use a wooden trap to catch stone crabs. From them they remove a claw then put the crab back in the water where it will grow a full-sized new claw within 18 months. They can grow 5 sets of claws in a lifetime.

The largest crabs in the world are spider crabs (not local) with a 1-foot wide body and legs 4 feet long.

ESTERO BAY TIDBITS — Manatee

Note: Environmental Alarmists say there are only 1400 manatee left !



PLAYFUL? YOU BET!
We normally ‘play’ with manatee by letting them play with us. When we find them, we go upwind, shut off the motors and let the wind drift up into their midst. They sometimes are as curious about us as we are about them. They come along side and look us over, nibble at any growth on the pontoons and show no apprehension about our presence.

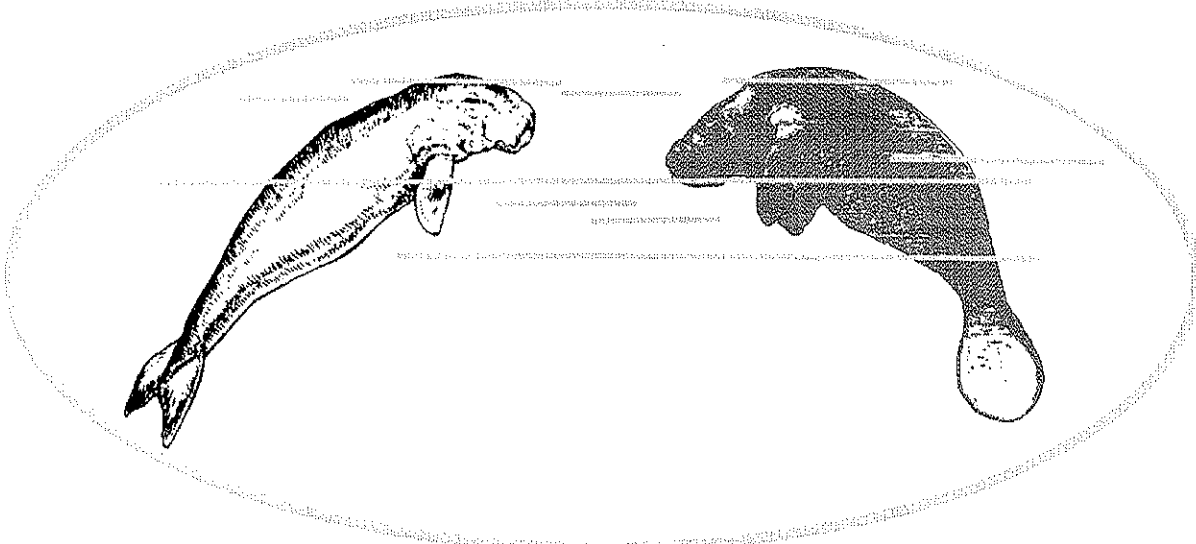
At the risk of making a few enemies, we believe the “manatee people” may be a tad untruthful. They tell us there are only 1400 left in the world. We believe there are that many in Lee and Charlotte Counties. Could it be bureaucratic mentality in that only with a big problem can one justify a big salary? And if the problem is ever solved, the job is gone?

The image above was taken from an 8 X 10 Glossy color picture hanging at the Weeks’ Fish Camp Bait Shop.

We tell people that the manatee become friendly enough to pester fishermen in the back bays. Even to the point of taking the anchor line in mouth and swinging the boat around. This, of course, is the kind of story one can tell only if one has the picture (as above) to back it up. You can see that the manatee is swimming on its back, a very common posture for them as they often bask upside down to catch a few rays it seems.

This photo credit goes to Captain George Hann. He snapped it from the deck of one of the *Horizon* boats one beautiful July day in 1993.

MANATEE - Continued



What's this? Some weird fork-tailed variety of manatee? No.

Portrayed above is a *dugong*. This is an Old World marine mammal that frequents their tropical waters. It too, like the manatee, is herbivorous. The tail fin, notched deeply, must somehow have fitted into its evolution timeline and environment better than the rounded 'beaver tail' of our local sea cow. The dugong is listed as a variation of the Malay *duyong*.

Back to our local manatee, we have many stories to tell. We are, of course, always very careful when we believe them to be in the area. Sometimes the most awkward position we find ourselves in is in trying to get away from a large herd of them. Once they settle in to the fact we are in the area, after they check

us out to their satisfaction, they go about their business completely ignoring us. **But**, just start an engine to idle away and watch them all come running (swimming) for the bubbles. To play it safe, all we can do is shut off the engines and wait until they mosey farther away.

One day, to the utter delight of 30 passengers, I idled slowly away and here they came! We counted seven that herded up behind us. When I thought they were getting too close I speeded up. They continued swimming at the surface, not making any attempt to dive at all. They followed us, like cattle following a hay wagon, for a quarter mile. Captain Bob O'Donnell (Miss Daisy tour boat), and Captain George Hann (another Horizon tour boat), followed beside and their 70+ passenger's applauded in sheer glee.

MOUND KEY TIDBITS — The Raccoon



You may not find one this cutesy but raccoons are plentiful up on Mound Key. They are one of the strongest swimmers in the animal kingdom. (Just ask any coon hunter how he lost his dog.) All of the islands in Estero Bay have been visited by them at some time or another.

The “Little Rookery” island over by Black Island was abandoned by the birds for 3 years (mid 80’s) after some raccoons swam over and ate all the eggs one time.

If you want to see a mess,

1. Leave a brown bag lunch on your boat next time you trip across Mound Key.
2. Return a half hour later.

ESTERO BAY TIDBITS — Great Horned Owl

A more threatened species than the *Charter Captain* is the Great Horned Owl. Looking like a very, very tall screech owl, this bird stands nearly two feet tall. It has a wingspan of about five feet.

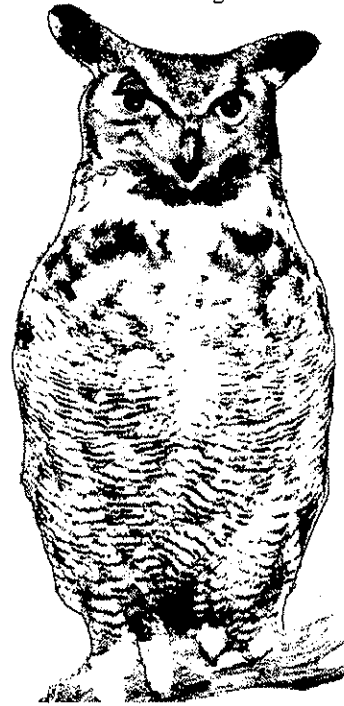
Catlike in appearance due to its tufted ears, this nocturnal bird preys on fish and mammals. It is the only bird we know of which can back down the powerful bald eagle. It can carry off rabbits, dogs and driven to a point near starvation, it has been known to attack humans.

It lives in both North and South America, but chiefly in the Eastern United States. Because of monotone booming sounds it can make, it is classified as one of the "Hoot Owls." It can also emit an eerie high-pitched shriek or scream, but rarely does.

On the plus side (personal opinion), it keeps snakes and reptiles in check.

While they mostly prefer to live in swamps, woods, and mountains, more than one has taken up residence locally in planters outside condo penthouses.

Bubo virginianus



Our personal experience with these creatures is most recent: For many years, one of the rookery islands has been the nesting sight of great blue herons, cormorants, pelicans, and (in the root systems) doves from the mainland. In the spring of 1994 we were somewhat awestruck when the island turns up barren one day — there was not a single bird to be found there anywhere. After a few nights of inspection, we discovered why. Two owls had taken over one of the great blue heron's nest.

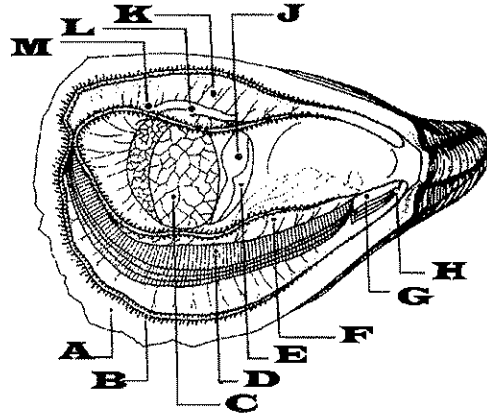
Apparently, other birds are suspicious of (and very nervous around) birds that hunt quietly at night. Not wanting to wake and find eggs or nestlings gone, they moved away until the owls left. It seemed like so short a time (4-6 wks?) that we believe the owls failed to hatch out any owlets there.

ESTERO BAY TIDBITS — OYSTERS

Shuck an oyster and what do you find?

This oyster's labeled parts are:

- A. Shell
- B. Tentacles
- C. Muscle (adductor)
- D. Gills
- E. Pericardium
- F. Mantle lifted to show organs
- G. Labial Palps
- H. Mouth
- J. Heart
- K. Mantle (Right)
- L.&M—You do not want to know.



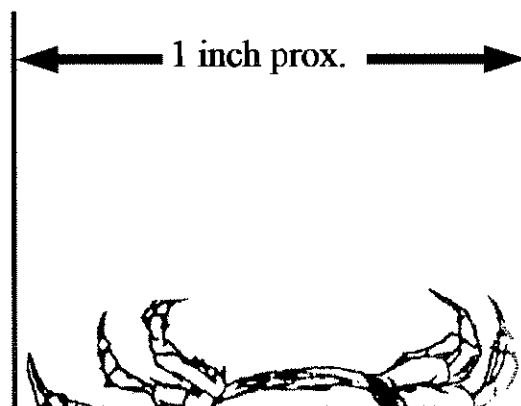
Oysters made up only a small part of the foodstuff eaten by the ancient Calusa. Looking at the abundance of shells on Mound Key, one would naturally think they were a major part of their diet, but not so. Nearly 3/4ths of what they ate was fish. After all these years, fish bones are not nearly as much in evidence as the various shells, but they were discovered in abundance by the archaeologists screening material from their test pits.

You would not want to eat the oysters you see in Estero Bay. Reason one is that the Red Mangrove root systems have done such a good job removing nutrients from the water that the meat in the oyster might be

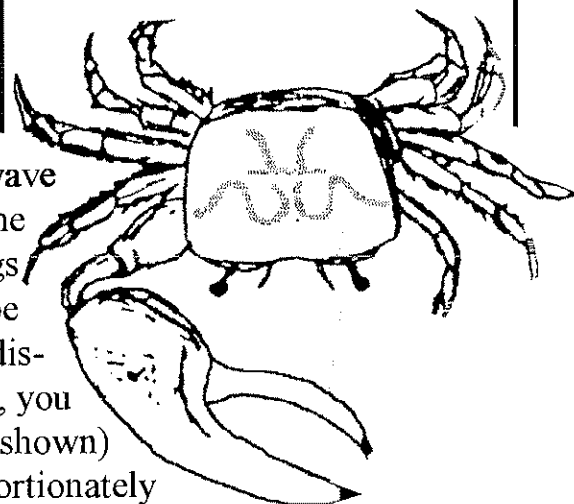
about the size of your little fingernail. Reason two is that many of those you can see may have been exposed to air at low tides. This can allow a toxin to develop in the oyster which is similar to (and deadly as) salmonella.

At the present time there is a ban on picking oysters in Lee County. When conditions become such that the ban is lifted, and you want to take a few to eat, make sure they are in water deep enough that air has never reached them. To assure the meat size is sufficient to warrant the work involved, get those growing at the mouth of rivers and creeks which bring *nourishment* into the bay. Bon Apatite!

ESTERO BAY TIDBITS — Fiddler Crab



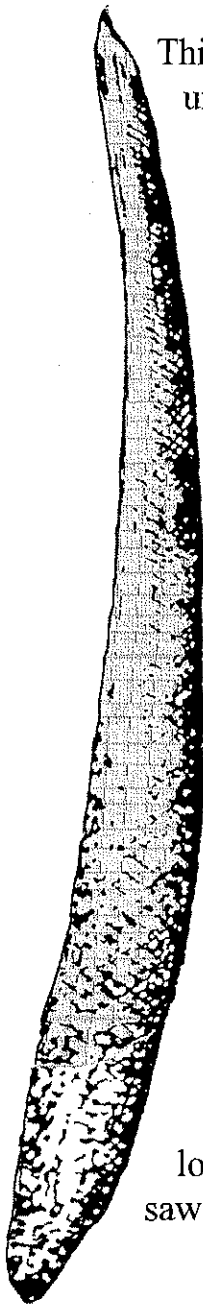
Like a great red wave undulating over the shorelines, throngs of “fiddlers” can be seen from long distances away. Closer, you watch the males (shown) waving a disproportionately grotesque claw like some mysterious white flashing signal. You step on the beach and they scurry away to disappear into holes drilled in the soil at water’s edge.



Crabs fit into the ecology in that they eat dead plants and animals. They also catch and eat live fish. In the case of the tiny fiddler crabs, the fish must very recently have been an egg. They also fit into the marine food chain.

Note that the male pictured above is right-handed. They come both ways. The female of the species has two small claws. Both male and female make good bait. We highly recommend them, particularly when fishing for sheepshead.

ESTERO BAY TIDBITS — Propagule



Think “propagation” to remember this item. This is a fairly unique *green bean* and you will see them floating all around Estero Bay and up onto the beaches.

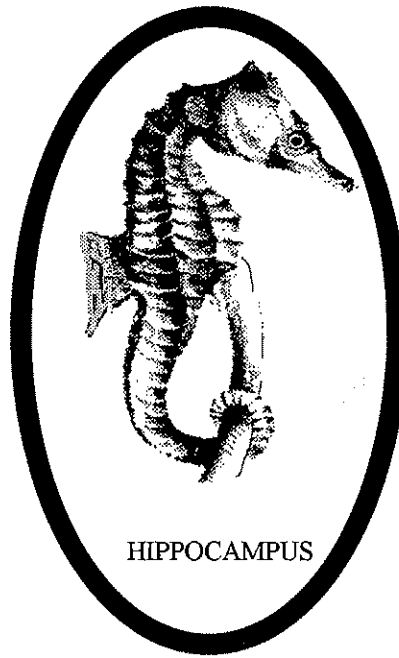
It floats vertically (as shown) and almost totally submerged — approximately a quarter-inch extends above the surface of the water. When the bottom of the propagule gets caught in shell or sand and conditions are right, it will take root, leaf out and in about a century become a mature red mangrove tree.

We tell our passengers that the red mangrove trees **BEAR LIVE YOUNG**. Reason is, this propagule is not a seed. Seeds can be stored in a dry place for years and years* then put in the soil and watered whereupon they germinate and grow, but if a propagule is kept from the water, it will die; as would any plant. The propagule is a fully germinated baby when it falls from the tree into the water — therefore “live young.”

The red mangroves growing at the perimeter of an island may be considerably older than you might think. They grow very, very slow. We know of one (we call the “rose bush”) about 4 feet tall and nearly 30 years old! So, it takes centuries for islands to develop. What has taken so long to grow can be felled in the flick of an eyelid by a chainsaw — Something to think upon.

** We have been told that seeds from pyramids were successfully germinated. Obviously, these seeds were quite old. They were purported to have produced a very poor quality of wheat (by today’s hybridized standards) but nevertheless, recognizable as wheat.*

... and all about Estero Bay
sea critters



Known better as the *Sea Horse*, this creature with its prehensile tail, horselike head and body covered with bony plates is abundant in the bay. Don't be surprised to pull your anchor someday and find one locked on the cross rod. It happens.

We saw the birth of thousands of these in an aquarium at the tackleshop once. The nearly-microscopic youngsters are tiny clones of the parents — exactly proportioned as the adults. A feeding frenzy ensued among the shrimp in the tank, but miraculously a few seahorses survived. In the wild only a very small percentage ever become adults. This is why the parents produce so many — perhaps hundreds of thousands — at each birthing.

MOUND KEY and Estero Bay BAY AND GULFSHORE SHELLS

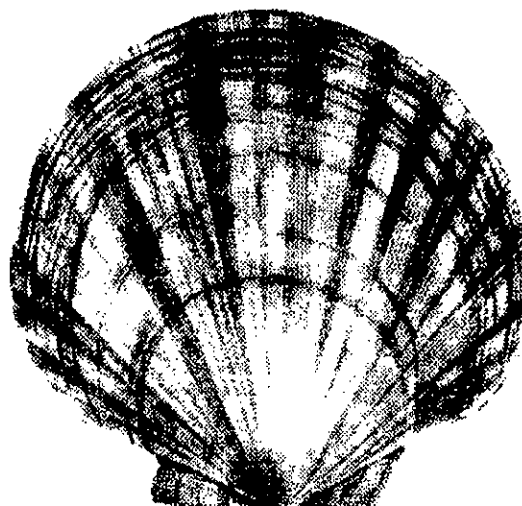


We would be most remiss in telling about our area if we failed to mentioning something about our shells. Many types of mollusks (phylum *Mollusca*) can be found locally, including two you may not suspect. Those two are squid and octopus. WHAT??? Yes indeed, they are also mollusks, but here we are interested in Univalves (*Gastropoda*) snails, and Bivalves (*Pelecypoda*) like clams and scallops.

Our apologies to “Shelling Experts” of which we know there are many locally. We do not mean to insult you with the most basic or elementary shell knowledge, but we also do not want to claim knowledge we do not possess. So, at best, these pages will present the barest fundamentals of shell information.

Shells can be found everywhere on earth — north and south, in snow-covered mountains or in the ocean’s depths, but tropic waters will show you the most abundant quantities and varieties. Shells have been here for more than 600,000,000 years and there are now over 50,000 species of them — way too many for us to identify.

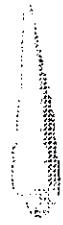
These shells, which house an animal inside, are made mostly of lime crystals. This seems like an excellent fortress against attacks from predators, however, look carefully at those you find and you often see they have holes in them. Most of these holes were made by other shells which feed on them.



ABOUT ESTERO BAY SHELLING

Shell reproduction is simple in nature but complex in variety — running the gambit from being bisexual to asexual and some even change sex. Most lay eggs. Some retain their eggs while others send them out. The female oyster finds a cloud of sperm to broadcast her eggs into after the male is long gone; now there's a twist in nature as we thought we knew it. To assure that the species will live on, she may spray out 100,000,000 at one time.

As to shell collecting, have at it! There seems to be an unlimited supply, BUT (and its a **BIG BUT**) watch it! There is a maximum legal limit of **two live shells** (1993) so why bother? Take the ones that are empty inside. You will be helping the ecology, staying legal, and avoiding a less-than-desirable smell coming from the trunk of your car because a live shell fell out of your bag to decompose. Also, a live shell is an outright nuisance to clean where nature already emptied and polished most of those up on the beach.

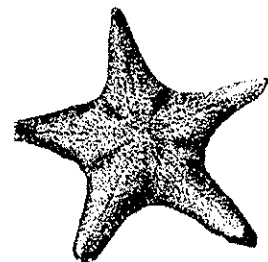
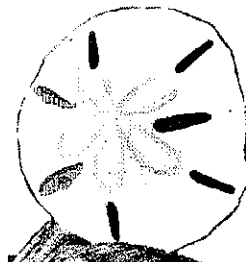


A hint on showing off your shells. Make sure they are clean then coat them with olive oil or baby oil to enhance the shine and colors.

When are the best times to go shelling? At low tide you will find more shells which have not been picked over so much. It may be rewarding to go out soon after a big storm has washed up a new supply on the beaches. By far the absolute best time to go shelling is at low tide after a big storm. Make sense?

If you become really interested in shelling (and it is addictive), there are many wonderful, colorful shelling books available for you.

While you're shelling, you may run across sand dollars and starfish as shown below. Put 'em back!



ON MOUND KEY and all about Estero Bay

More About Shells

One of the finest gentleman involved in archaeology one could ever meet is a **Mr. Art Lee**. Among his many other activities, he edits and publishes the Monthly Newsletter for SWAFAS. (Southwest Florida Archaeological Society) In February's newsletter he issued a very interesting page on "*The incredible, edible whelk.*" I asked for (and received) his permission to reprint it here.



READ IT ON THE NEXT PAGE

I first met Mr. Lee at the Craighead Lab in Naples. There he walked me through a most refreshing tutelage on statistical analysis of shells. The resulting computer program to run the reports was done on my computer, but in all honesty, it was Mr. Lee who designed the system.

THE INCREDIBLE, EDIBLE WHELK

It Was Food, and It Was Axes, Adzes, Anvils, Hammers, Sinkers and Saucers

Ordinary folk call them Lightning whelk. Shellers and scientists call them Busycon contrarium. The Calusa and those who preceded them in Southwest Florida, if they followed classic linguistic habits, had a variety of names for them depending on size, robustness, and similar distinctions.

Whatever they called the mollusks, the early inhabitants of this part of the world would have had a sorry time without them.

They provided food, though most of the aboriginal diet along the coast was bony fish. But their overriding importance came from the fact that they were the material of good tools — and that made all the difference in an area well removed from sources of stone that could hold a cutting edge.

B. contrarium, unlike many whelk, is left-handed, that is its whorls, if looked at from above the spire, grow in a counter-clockwise direction. It is a relative of *Busycon perversum*, a rarer species which has more prominent nodules on its shoulder and a swollen waistline. A variety in the Charlotte harbor area blends characteristics of the two. To complete the picture, *contrarium* comes in two varieties, a thin-walled type that grows in protected waters, and a thick-walled cousin that prefers the rougher, saltier waters of passes. In the Craighead lab they are called the gracile and the robust. After their contents had served as food, the gracile shells found limited use as dippers and spoons, but they were not suited to heavy work. Shells of the robust, on the other hand, were used in a myriad of applications.

So many, in fact, that a cottage industry has developed in classifying and naming the tools made from them. Base of the currently-used system of classification is a manuscript of John M. Goggin, unpublished but widely copied. It has

been revised over time, the latest modification is that of Dr. William H. Marquardt in *Culture and Environment in the Domain of the Calusa*.

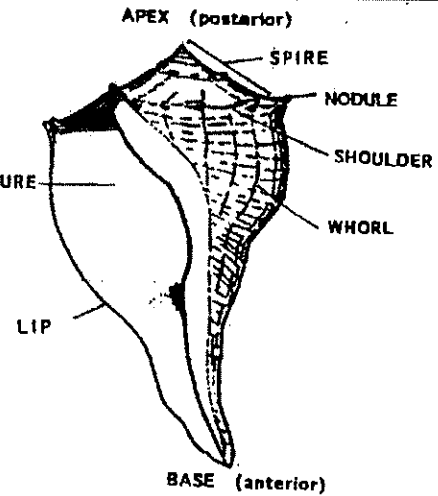
John Beriault has published an algorithm tracing the fate of shell from its natural state to a broken hammer discarded on a trash heap. George Luer has made an ingenious composite drawing showing the same progression. Arthur Lee devised instruments and a system for measuring cutting edges and hafting-hole placements. All are unified in admiration of the intimate knowledge the Indians had of their material, and the skill they expressed in utilizing it.

Study has yielded some penetrating analyses; two of them by Dr. Karen Jo Walker were particularly dramatic. Rectangular objects of several materials, including the lightning whelk, had been found in digs for years, but no satisfactory use had been identified for them. Keeping in mind that these were the product of fisherfolk, she spotted them as gauges for use in the manufacture and repair of nets.

Similarly, she looked at objects made from the whelk columella and other materials through the same lens and realized that what had been loosely tagged as pendants were, in fact, sinkers for fishing. (Not all the secrets of the busycon have been revealed, however; whorl discs on the order of 70 mm. in diameter, the edges unpolished, have been found on more than one occasion with nothing in their association to provide a clue to their use.)

At Useppa island a group of *Busycon* shells was found implanted in the ground, spire side up, their spalling attesting employment as anvils.

There is evidence that manufacture of *Busycon* tools was not necessarily an individual undertaking. At Useppa there were signs of wholesale tool manufacture, and in salvage work at Big Mound Key Luer uncovered a cache of preforms —



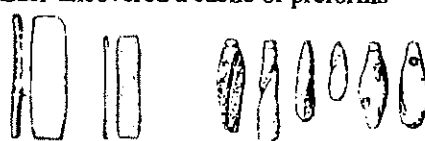
shells partially modified for use as implements.

Some of the cutting-edge tools have a notch on the lip and a hole on the whorl for hafting. Others, to place the blade at a different angle, have two holes. In some cases holes were pierced in the spire, but not in others. Some found at Key Marco still held the remains of rawhide lashing.

In one series of hammers holes were placed so the columella impinges slightly on the hafting line, presumably to provide a tight fit.

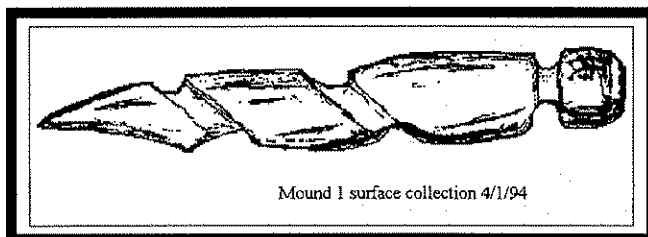
Study of *Busycon* tools continues to point up the great boon the shell was to early residents. And, when it demonstrates placement of hafting notches and holes measurable in millimeters and degrees, it brings an even greater appreciation of the artisans' marvelous ingenuity.

Legend
Right edge, top to bottom: Type A tool, Type B tool, cup, scoop, abraded disc of unknown use. Bottom row, left to right: Type G hammers, net gauges, sinkers, celts. Most drawings from *Culture and Environment in the Domain of the Calusa*.



ON MOUND KEY and all about Estero Bay

The Calusa Borabella —



an overlooked tool ?

April 1, 1994

Over the pathways of Mound Key, there are millions of shell fragments. Experts in laboratories have sorted and classified them into several different tools ranging from hammers to anvils (i.e. something to hit with and something to hit upon) and as scrapers, knives, net weights, axes and awls. Common arrowheads are scarce and we know why.

We think the Calusa improved upon arrowheads considerably with the introduction of borabella heads fitted to their arrows. We can see these were shaped from columellas and took advantage of the spirals to impart a spin to the arrows in flight which continued on to bore or screw deeply into the targeted victims. (*Modern bullets are made to spin to achieve better accuracy because the projectile cannot tumble in flight due to gyroscopic forces set up by the rotation.*) We concede Calusa

had no knowledge of inertia, trajectories, precession, and the conservation of angular momentum, but results from our tests on borabella are irrefutable. They work!

We believe anthropologists still overlook this scientific marvel of the lost ages, thinking it to be just part of another broken shell. Once we knew what we were looking for, we found them scattered all over the island. Everyone else had just kicked them aside looking for something better. Except for catamarans, there has never been a better example of Calusa inventiveness. This simple tool spelled final disaster to many a critter — including human types.

So to archaeologists everywhere, professional and amateurs alike, we offer this up for your amusement this April Fool's Day 1994. **Gotcha !**

— *Carl & Charlie*

BULLETIN

**HOLD THE PRESSES !!!
THIS JUST IN !!!**

After days, weeks, months of perusing, scanning, poring over records and publications, I was able to write:

"In 1927, Mr. Furen received OK..."

"Mr. A.D.May excavated cubic yds..."

"Father Lewis explored ..."

"Mr. Cushing found a buried ..."

"The boys thought it was..."

Get the idea? All of the above is about DIGGING on Mound Key. This is the sort of information that I (and others) craved; but to have been there!

To have been there? One can imagine it — and sense the feelings these people surely had when they did their bit. This was the message I tried to present to people who might happen to read the book I was working on, or see the video I had in the works, or “page down” an electronic book on their computer screen. (a new concept I think— saves trees) But that was then and this is now. “Captain Carl?” Charlie Weeks



shouted into his cordless phone one day in May 1993. “How about taking some archaeologists over to Mound Key? I volunteered to furnish a boat and captain.”

How about it, indeed! I would have begged to captain that trip. (See, I pilot one of Charlie’s 40 passenger tour boats and give lectures on Estero Bay and its most famous island, “Mound Key.”) Was this a chance to become slightly immortal or not? An opportunity, you bet!

Playing all the angles I could think of to cover as much ground as I could, I first contacted the Executive Editor of a local newspaper. He wanted in. I played hard to get. He suggested paying me to cover the trip for them. I was tempted.

BULLETIN

A week later I stopped by his office to drop off an item about a free tour we were giving to promote a cause relative to the ecology of the bay. He greeted me and gave me two rolls of 35 mm. film and asked me to get pictures of the 'big dig' for them. He offered me a camera too. This man was a good friend even though he once canned me as a columnist, I could hold out no longer. I mentioned I could call the Park Manager and see if it might be OK to invite the press. He was thrilled.

I called the Florida Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Park Manager at Koreshan Historic Site under whose auspices the care of Mound Key fell. She wasn't in. I left my cellular number since I would be driving to Naples. She returned my call. I was out of the car.

When I got home there was a message from her on the answering machine. I called back. She was out. I left my home phone number and promised to wait at my desk until she returned. She did. Afterwards I called the editor and told him he was invited to join us. He was orgasmic; to the point of furnishing his own boat, a reporter, and a photographer from his parent paper, The Naples Daily News. Meanwhile, unbeknownst to me, Charlie had alerted the Fort Myers News-Press.

We now had the makings of some good competitive news coverage of our venture into archaeology — and I had my trusty 8 mm. videocam with its 3" LCD color TV Monitor and hoped that all this media limelight would not be met with disfavor by the "State" people we were taking to the island.

First to show up on the big day was my friend the editor, and two lovely assistants. The reporter, the photographer, he and I sat talking on our boats which were rafted together in the canal at Weeks' Fish Camp. Next came uniformed Kathy, Park Manager of nearby Koreshan Historic Site and finally the guest of honor van with 9 people in it.

The Fort Myers News-Press failed to show — their loss.

What a fine day. We met and instantly liked all the "State" people. Imagine that; liking bureaucrats!

Among them was Dr. Bill Marquardt, Associate Curator in Archaeology, Department of Anthropology, University of Florida, Gainesville. He received a grant to study Mound Key and we were committed to ferry his crews to and from the island. Little did we know at that time just how involved we would become — but that is a story to be continued.

BULLETIN

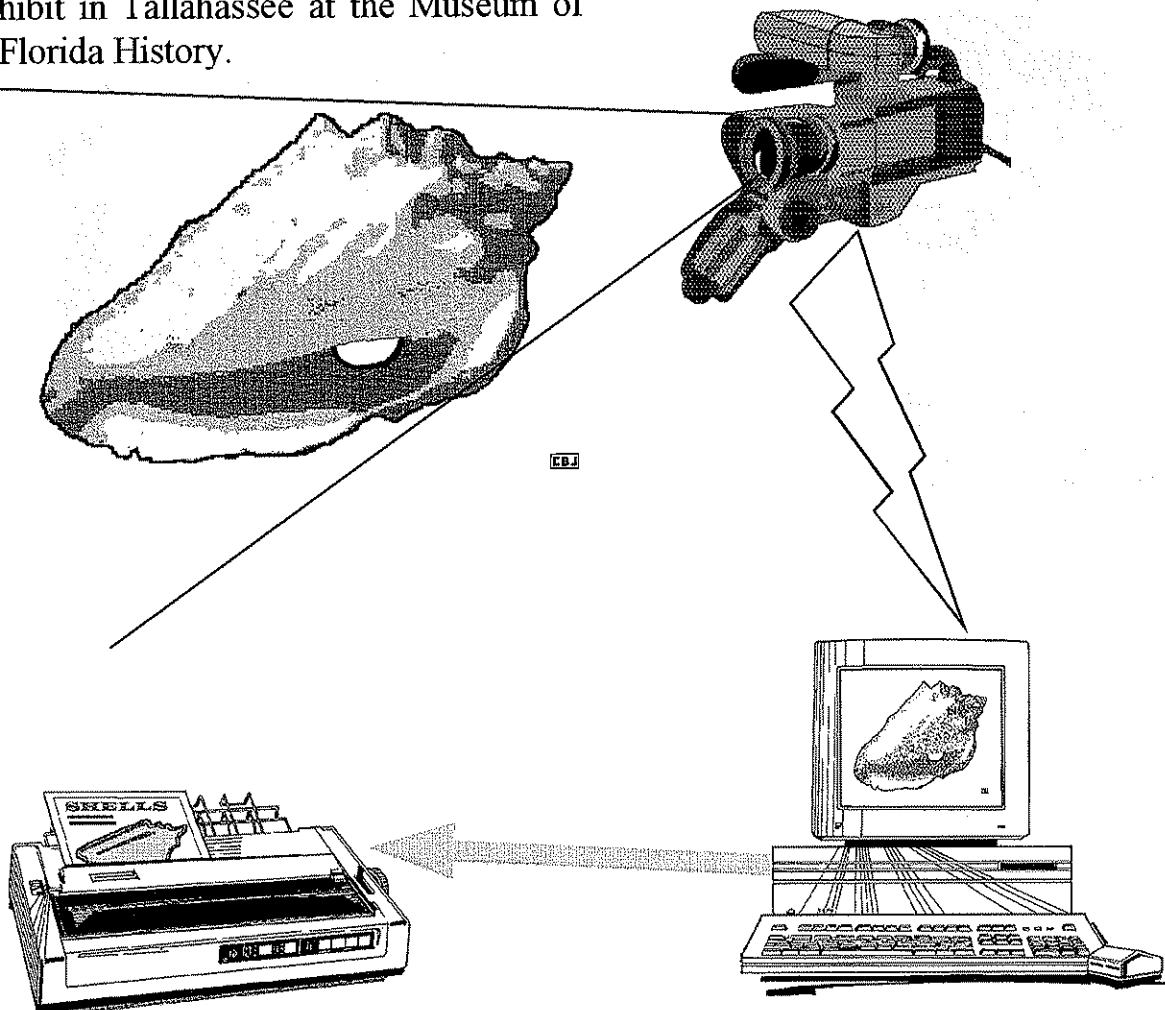
The group informed us that their plans were to do some preliminary surveying and make layouts of the island. They they would take core samples through the shell mounds to determine exactly when they were built and how long it took to do it. There were thoughts expressed that these mounds were built sometime after 500 A.D., rather than the three to four-thousand years ago we hear elsewhere.

Then the project will help create a 4,000 square foot three-dimensional exhibit in Tallahassee at the Museum of Florida History.

Dr. Marquardt said it would take several years to uncover all the information preserved here and that today's knowledge is very fragmented.

Park Manager, Kathy Close, said the knowledge gained from this endeavor will be passed on to the public.

We too, plan to stay on top of whatever happens and you can look for revisions in this book when we amass information, photographs and video on these trips.



MOUND KEY and all about Estero Bay

"... with the publicity being given to today's archaeological activities, we see an increase in interest ... (and fear this will) ... bring more unattended visitors..."

See: "...from olive jars to beer bottles." next pages.

Shown below are some samples from January 1994 local papers:

Mapping Mound Key



Pictured at left —
Corbett Torrence at
the helm of the
AFRICAN QUEEN

UF archaeologists of major find on Mound

BY KEVIN LOLLAR
News-Press staff writer

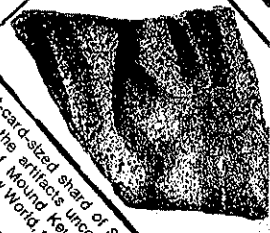
They're close. Very close. They
most have to put it — yet. But they
of Florida archaeologists — Pedro
to say that. In fact, five months after
the site of the Calusa capital. A Spanish garr-

we had to prove it beyond a shadow
of doubt we could do it. You've
of it's like baking bread. You've
baked it, it's out of the oven cooling.
but you can't eat it. It's right there.
The historical facts are certain:
Pedro Menéndez de Avilés, gover-
nor of the Spanish colony of Flor-
ida, met Parmunt chief Corbett
king of the Calusa in February
1565. The following year, Jesuit mis-
sionaries established a mission in
the Calusa capital. A Spanish garr-

A credit-card-sized shard of Spanish pottery
is among the artifacts uncovered during an
excavation of Mound Key. The pottery was
made in the New World, scientists said.

back page this section

See CALUSA /



Archaeological team digs into 'mysteries' of island's history

By WENDY WILSON/Staff Writer

For years, Mound Key in Estero Bay has stirred imaginations and inspired storytellers to pass along whimsical tales of Indians, pirates, gold diggers and Spanish invaders from generation to generation.

The history of the rustic island is as tangled and confused as the intertwining tropical plants that have grown over its scattered mounds. But its mysterious, alluring past has entranced many.

Now an archaeological team from the University of Florida is beginning to dig into the heart

Call for volunteers!

Volunteers are needed at Mound Key to assist archaeologists in clearing vegetation and collecting artifacts. No past experience necessary. Boat leaves Weeks' Fish Camp off Coconut Road at 8 a.m. and returns at 3:30 p.m. For more information call

and beautiful gardens, vegetables and key avocado trees. They had cows. Grandma Sylvia's surrogate had a sweet cow. They grew the watermelons on the

d Key school closed and children began school in Estero. In 1927 chased bushes from the eventually Mound school for the

who has remained

WRITER'S

'Indy Jones' is no hero of archaeology

By WENDY WILSON
Staff Writer

Until recently, most of what I knew about archaeology came from Hollywood's Indiana Jones trilogy.

I didn't fall off the turnip truck

PEOPLE

Archaeologists take first step to unlocking Mound Key's secrets.

1B

ON MOUND KEY and all about Estero Bay

ILLEGAL ARCHAEOLOGY, Don't even think about it !!

The next time you hear about the 1979 Archaeological Resource Protection Act, it may be costing someone a quarter of a million dollars, time in prison, and loss of property. It is not a pretty thought at all so be forewarned and tell others.

Like many laws, this one sort of goes against the grain of human nature. It might seem an All-American attitude to grab a shovel and dig for riches because since childhood we have played "Pirate" and sensed the lust ingrained in our species for gold and jewels, and for the adventure associated with their acquisition. This could be called the "Indiana Jones" complex?

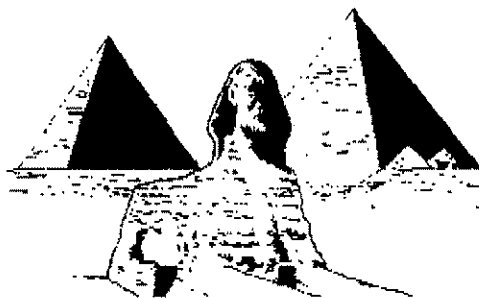
There is a market for human remains, but be advised that digging for them is strictly against the law; on both private property and public lands.

With more than 20,000 sites, Florida authorities have a big patrol problem. This should be

the type of felony where convicted perpetrators are given long sentences and heavy fines to "make an example" of them in hopes of discouraging others with similar intentions.

The real victims of archaeological crime are you and me and future citizens. Private acquisitions are nearly always lost, or damaged and thrown away. Lacking the museum skills, preservative techniques, and equipment, the individual may watch his artifact simply outgas and disappear into thin air in our warm moist atmosphere.

Bumbling fools having a "pot hunter" mentality can ruin the future with their ignorance — and their damage lasts forever.



MOUND KEY TIDBITS



While directing the Mound Key Survey and initial collection activities in 1994, Corbett Torrence performed some good deeds for us all when he took time off to visit with school children on tour of the island. He was never too busy to answer their questions, which were many, and deliver a short lecture on archaeology.

One particularly good message he delivered was about artifacts. Specifically, that one lone artifact will not tell much of a story. Only when it is studied in its context with other artifacts will it begin to give up its secrets. An example he used, which I thought was excellent for the purpose, was to ask us to imagine an archaeologist a few thousand years in the future trying to figure out something about today's people. It went something like this.

"He finds a cup. What can he say? Only that we had a vessel suitable to drink from. He might think further that it could be used for hot drinks since it has a handle to insulate our fingers from the heat.

"He then observes more cups at what he determines were work stations. He can deduce that we drank something while we worked. (Coffee Break, anyone?)

"Then he finds cups in abundance nested together densely and discerns that these were used often by many people and several were kept at the ready. Some distance away he finds these cups (and other ware) arranged in groups of four. Now he gets the idea that we often dined in small groups rather than en masse (as in a mess hall)"

Get the idea? We did. We think this example, however simplistic, gets the message across about the value of leaving sites undisturbed.

It is easy to see why Indiana Jones is not one of Corbett's favorite people. "That guy is (an archaeologist's) nightmare!" Corbett says. "Remember the scene where he rips off a golden idol and escapes arrows, rolling rocks and other defenses in the ensuing action? So what did he end up with? What knowledge did he gain? He knew only that these people had gold."

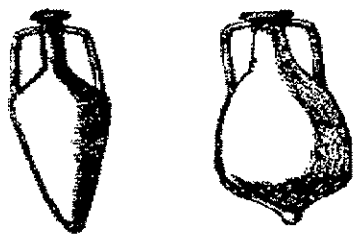
Corbett said he would have been more curious about how these people had rigged the arrows to fire from the walls. What engineering was involved in triggering this by the weight of the idol? What mechanism released the gigantic rock to roll down the tunnel in its defense of the idol?

Then there was another scene where Jones glances at an inscribed tablet — does he make a rub of it? No. He glances at it then breaks it. His colleagues are going to believe what he tells them it said, right? "Sure!" Corbett says, "And I'll buy the Carl Johnson Park from you."

Corbett gave us several messages. I liked them all.

TIDBITS ON ESTERO BAY

FROM OLIVE JARS TO BEER BOTTLES



Pottery bits can be discovered along the paths over Mound Key. Some Authors wrote prolifically about this and to them we refer you for greater detail on the exact nature and history of the types uncovered here. Certainly enough evidence can be picked up here to be sure trading took place between the Calusa and distant tribes. Proof of Spanish occupation is also conclusive.

Father Clifford Lewis wrote that Clarence Moore made "persistent excavations" in the canal muck. That is the sediment which filled in where water once stood.

Moore wrote in 1900 that relics of European origin were presented to the Museum of Science and Art of the University of Pennsylvania by a Mr. Willcox.

In 1968, John M. Goggin, Yale University, reported finding olive jar sherds from the 1500's.

He believed one piece of ceramic to be of Isabella Polychrome majolica.

Father Lewis visited the island four times between 1965 and 1969. He ruled 150 foot squares on a map made over an aerial photograph taken in 1958. Sherds cataloged to the squares listed were turned over to the Florida State Archaeologist in Tallahassee.

Many olive jar sherds were found along with one peice of majolica. The thickness of the sherds matched what would have been expected for the sixteenth century.

Father Lewis stated that Indian pottery was then (1969?) abundant on the island and it was mostly Glades Plain or Glades Red. Exceptions found, he listed as Plantation Pinched, Englewood Incised, Aucilla Incised, and others assumed to be Fort Walton.

Other relics found were picks or hammers, arrowheads, a columella pendant, and a piece of broken granite grindstone.

MOUND KEY —Today & Tomorrow

Keep in mind that Mound Key today is not at all as the Calusa or the Spanish left it.

Since then, for over 200 years, itinerate Cuban fisherman stayed on Mound Key while working this area.

During the last hundred years, fishermen and settlers built dozens of homes sheds and barns, worked, lived, and died upon the island.

This century also, uneducated diggers have ruined and carried away evidence which today's archaeologists could possibly have used to clear up many mysteries. Numerous children have roamed the mounds in play and innocent destruction of what today might be considered priceless. The ground has been tilled and planted with gardens, small farms, and orchards.

The entire surface of Mound Key has been grazed upon and run over by countless wild and domesticated animals. **Relics have been broken and strewn over a wide area, trampled into the soil, or ground into powder beyond any chance of recovery.** So, logic directs that little significance can be attributed to anything now visible above ground and that the true history of Mound Key lies well below the surface.

In a statement of significance (Site file No. 8112) Florida State's Bureau of Archaeological Research says, "... *the potential for increasing the archaeologist's (and the historian's) knowledge of the period of occupation that the site represents is inestimable .. pottery, both aboriginal and Spanish, but Hopefully, in the near future archaeologist will have a chance to investigate this still relatively undisturbed and protected (as a State Park) record of a way of life long since gone.*"

(Sigh) The Indian or Spanish residue today is scant and mixed with broken shell, turn-of-the-century glass fragments, cartridge casings, and bits of bone. Brown glass chips have also been added to the mix by recent tourists who dashed their bottles over shells so that we might remember their sojourn among us. We do.

On a more personal note, we had the good fortune of accompanying two archaeologists over the island one summer day in 1992. They had just finished a contract with a local commercial endeavor to examine a nearby, newly discovered shell mound. We will honor their request for anonymity and their employers shall also remain un-named.

TIDBITS ON ESTERO BAY

FROM OLIVE JARS TO BEER BOTTLES

While walking along the path, they brought up an interesting point which may deserve some thought from all of us — you too, of course. To some measure, we and our descendants may have a say in what the future of Mound Key will be.

One archaeologist wondered aloud if the State of Florida decided to restore the island, what period of time would they choose to pattern it around.

1. The Calusa's time before the Spanish arrived?

2. The active period when the Spanish manned Mission Carlos and the Fort of San Antonio here?

3. The late 1800's when Koreans gardened here?

4. The early 20th century when 17 families lived here with their gardens, orchards, pens, barns and livestock? (Also with their children and their schoolhouse!)

5. A time during the early construction of our local roads when thousands of cubic-yards of shell and artifact were dug up and ferried inland to be used for roadbeds? [Note that this could be considered Mound Key's Industrial Period. There were trams running on rails (of wood?) and ingenious (for that time) dumping mechanisms which transferred the

shell to the lighters (barges) to be transported up the rivers.]

6. Then there was the 18th to 19th century twice-annual occupation by Cuban fisherman camping here to enjoy the bounty of the local waters?

Could perhaps a replica of the Spanish fort and the Jesuit mission exist along side of a restored 1900 era settler's shack? A theme park? **A theme park!** This gives us cause to think, right? So make your choices wisely.

All these periods of time combine to represent the total history of the island. Is one era more important than another? In whose opinion?

Should the island be left alone to suffer time-induced disintegration? We say, "Definitely not!" after watching the Temple Mound shell paths erode into deep ruts in just the last 12-14 years.

Each year there are more and more sightseers wandering over the island. With the publicity being given to today's archaeological activities, we see an increase in interest in touring and assume this will bring more unattended visitors also. We tour only those areas covered by the main path

MOUND KEY —Today & Tomorrow

which connects the north and south inlets (entrances) to the island. Others may wander off the path and haplessly stumble into more sensitive areas. Therein is a difference.

There are some who build fires and have overnight encampments. There are others who come along later and pick up their litter.

In a 1968 revision of his 1962 book, "1000 Years On Mound Key", Rolfe Schell expressed sadness that his first edition may have sparked "a sudden rash of irresponsible excavations." He implored everyone to refrain from this illegal act.

Park Rangers from nearby Koreshan Historic Site patrol the island to insure tourists "**Take only photographs and leave only footprints**", but there remains a distinct potential for damage to this priceless piece of tropical paradise. Yet there are those who may say it should be left alone.

Surely, somewhere between erecting an electric fence with guarded gates around Mound Key, and transforming it into a Disneyworld-South there is a happy solution out there.

What do you think?



TIDBITS ON ESTERO BAY
MOUND KEY — TODAY & TOMORROW

“THERE WILL BE A JUNK FOOD RESTAURANT UP THERE IN A FEW YEARS ...”



the New Yorker said, pointing to the top of the Calusa Temple Mound on Mound Key.

A line of people stopped to look back up the path.

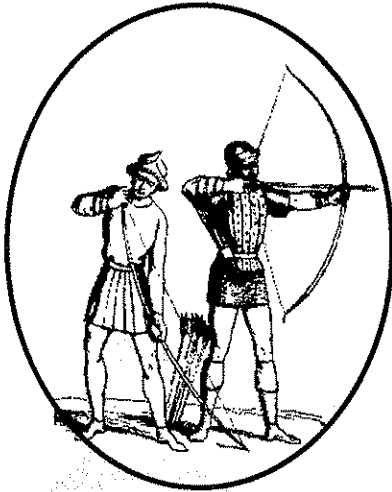
“No Way!” The Captain leading the tour retorted. “The State owns this now. I know they will keep it this way.”

“Money talks.” The tourist pursed his lips with arrogance only a New Yorker can muster. He looked down his nose at his Guide ahead, and circled his forefinger with his thumb.

The Captain thought a moment. “No way” he repeated, not quite so certain anymore.

ESTERO BAY...about that SPANISH OCCUPATION

THE SPANISH WERE NOT CALLED CONQUISTADORS BECAUSE THEY PRACTICED GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP



Estero Bay was not one of the Spaniard's favorite places. They visited sporadically for over two centuries, mostly to retrieve shipwrecked sailors, but failed to cement a lasting bond with the area's natives. They attempted to settle here once in 1521 but this met with violent opposition. In 1566 they built a fort and a mission here then occupied it for only a scant 5 years.

Why was this? Why, when other places managed to attract them to build cities and remain through the centuries, did they make such a poor showing locally? Were the Calusa just "too much" for the Spanish Main? Certainly not! In the Spaniard's own words, "these heathens had no mine products." Please allow us to

interpret that: There was no gold here. For the Spanish, **GOLD was the name of the game.** Gold and only gold; so don't buy that altruistic bunk about them caring for the souls of the natives. They had no overwhelming compunctions to save the natives from everlasting damnation brought on by heathen beliefs. They explored only for the fortunes to be found.

Quickly, they realized there was little profit to be taken from Estero Bay. They soon decided that it was a waste of their time and money to maintain clergy and military among people who could muster no better tributes for the Spanish Crown than colored feathers.

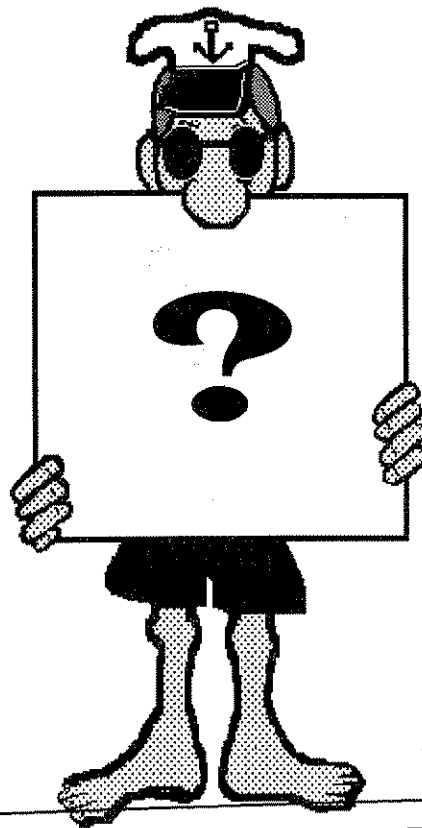
This, we concluded after digging through information to write the mini-biographies or "profiles" on the following pages. There will always be disagreements as to which history reports one should believe — we chose ours based on apparent credibility after analyzing their fit with consensus along with how well ensuing events tended to verify them.

Don't be surprised when you get settled into a comfortable position relative to a specific historical truth to find it then runs afoul of a wonderful new archaeological discovery. Seems it always happens.

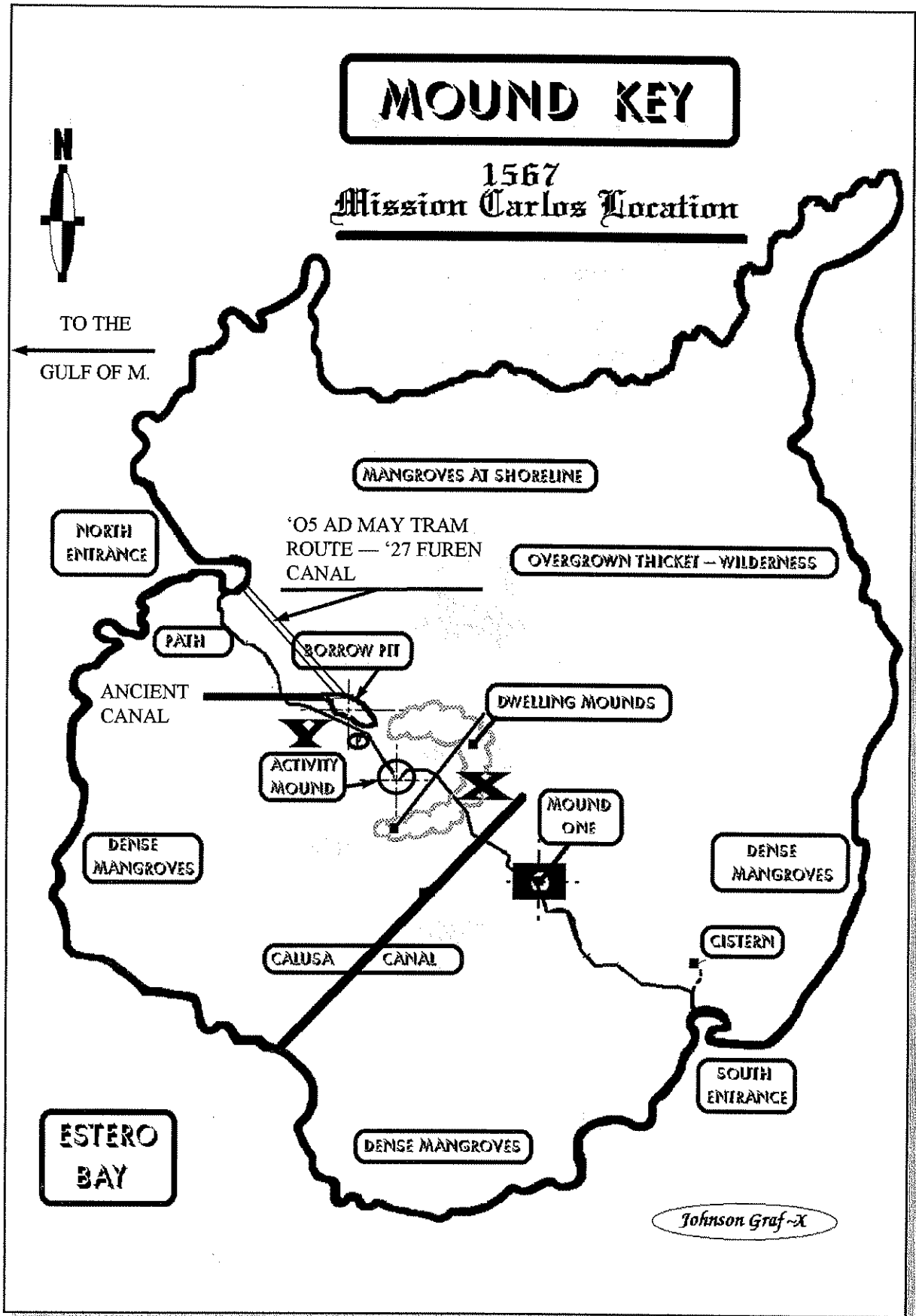
ON MOUND KEY and all about Estero Bay

Mission Carlos Location

Corbett & Sam have the credentials, the expertise, and the archaeological collections to proclaim the site — We only have a hunch, an idea, and an explanation of why we disagree. (*but of course there is some support for our selection — read on.*) Nevertheless, on this matter we can only shout out:



C. Johnson Graf - X



ON MOUND KEY and all about Estero Bay

Mission Carlos Location ???

During the December 1993 through April 1994 archaeological survey of Mound Key, Charlie Weeks furnished the boats and took the archaeologists and their 10-20 volunteer helpers over to Mound Key from Weeks' Fish Camp. Then I picked them up in the afternoons and brought them back. For these 5 months, neither Charlie nor myself ever received payment — this was our donation to the cause as records should show.

Certainly, Charlie received a little publicity for his *Estero Bay Boat Tours, Inc.* business by spending his own time and money. I also was rewarded with the the opportunity for several discussions with Corbett Torrence who supervised the survey and Sam Chapman (both men were working on advanced degrees). Sam's speciality was (is) location of Missions in Florida.

Corbett and Sam stated that they hoped to prove Mission Carlos and the Fort of San Antonio was indeed located on Mound Key. *[As if there was ever any question about it?]* This, they said, would make Mound Key one of the most valuable archaeological finds in America today.

Soon after the project began, Sam mentioned he suspected the Mission may have been located on the mound across the old Calusa Canal to the northwest— see “X” on the map on previous page. This site was suggested 20 years ago by Father Clifford Lewis as being adequate in size to have contained the fort and mission. This sounded a sour note with us for we believe these mounds to have been Calusa dwelling mounds. The close proximities of these people just does not compute. Now we will admit Sam has the credentials and we have only glandular reckoning and the itch to debate this location in the following manner.

1. To us, logic dictates the Calusa would never have allowed the Spanish to locate a Mission and Fort between where they lived and their temple.
2. The Spanish, (not totally trusting the natives) would not have wanted to be hemmed-in at that location either. Rather, they would have preferred a mound as near to the bay toward the Gulf (west) side of the island as they could get. Right? Think on it.

ON MOUND KEY *Mission Carlos Location*

3. Sam says that they hope to find artifacts of Spanish origin to 'prove' this location. We think any such artifacts found at this location could be explained away as having been taken home as loot by the Calusa before they completely destroyed any and all evidence of the Spanish ever having had a fort or mission anywhere in their midst. This would have happened, We guess, right after the 1571 uprising soon after the Spanish left.

So, what mound location would the Spanish have chosen which the Calusa could have accepted? What location fits well into the scenes described by the Spanish soldiers and priests about Calusa activity? There is one. Or rather, there WAS one, and it is located at "Y" on the map. Right—the Borrow Pit!

You ask; Why would we believe the hole in the ground to have once been a mound? Answer: Once again let's apply some logic. Early in the 20th Century, Mr. A.D. May mined this area to get landfill for areas inland. He constructed a tramway to haul the shell from the quarry to lighters (barges) in the bay. We contend that:

a. After all the effort and ex-

pense involved in this project, he surely would have chosen a high mound to mine rather than level ground.

b. He would have selected the biggest mound NEAREST to the bay.

Going on, if this was once the location of a mission/fort mound, how does it fit into the Spanish reported comments and descriptions of events? Answer, "Quite well." Father Rogel gave an account of how a "religious procession" came up the hill toward the fort until the leader was struck by the fort commander. Then they retreated to their homes and stood in the doorways waving spears and boatpoles in a menacing manner. (*Indicating they could see these homes from the fort.*) Reading his account over and over, "Y" fits this situation. "X" does not.

For whatever weight you may attribute to it, additional support comes from seven spiritualists on tour of the island with me one day in February while the archaeological project was underway. We had just scanned an aerial photograph with my computer setup, digitized it, ran a trace program, then printed the-most-accurate-to-date chart of the island.

ON MOUND KEY and all about Estero Bay Mission Carlos Location

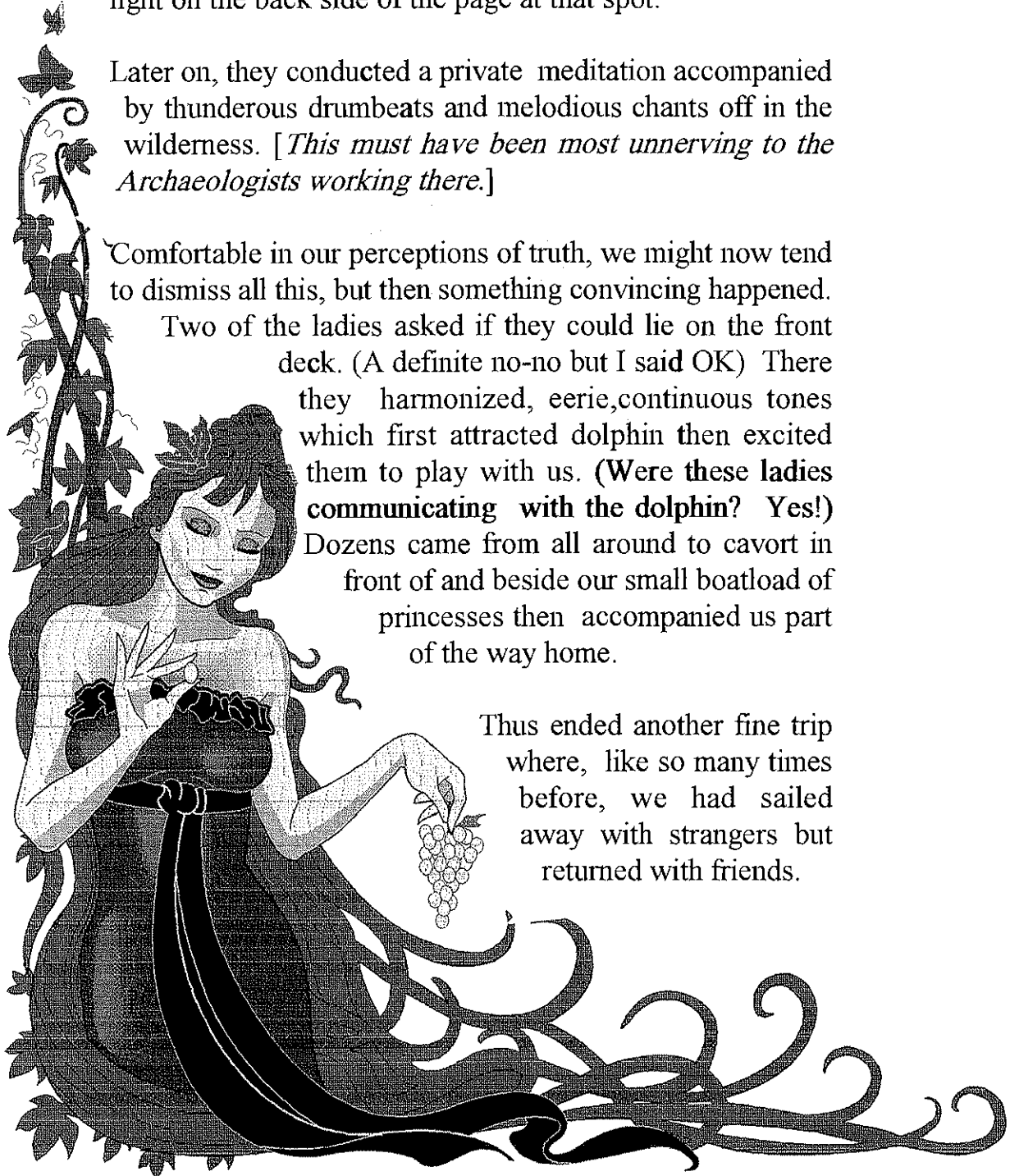
One of the seeresses felt heat from the map at the borrow pit location. Turning the map over, another “saw” a flash of light on the back side of the page at that spot.

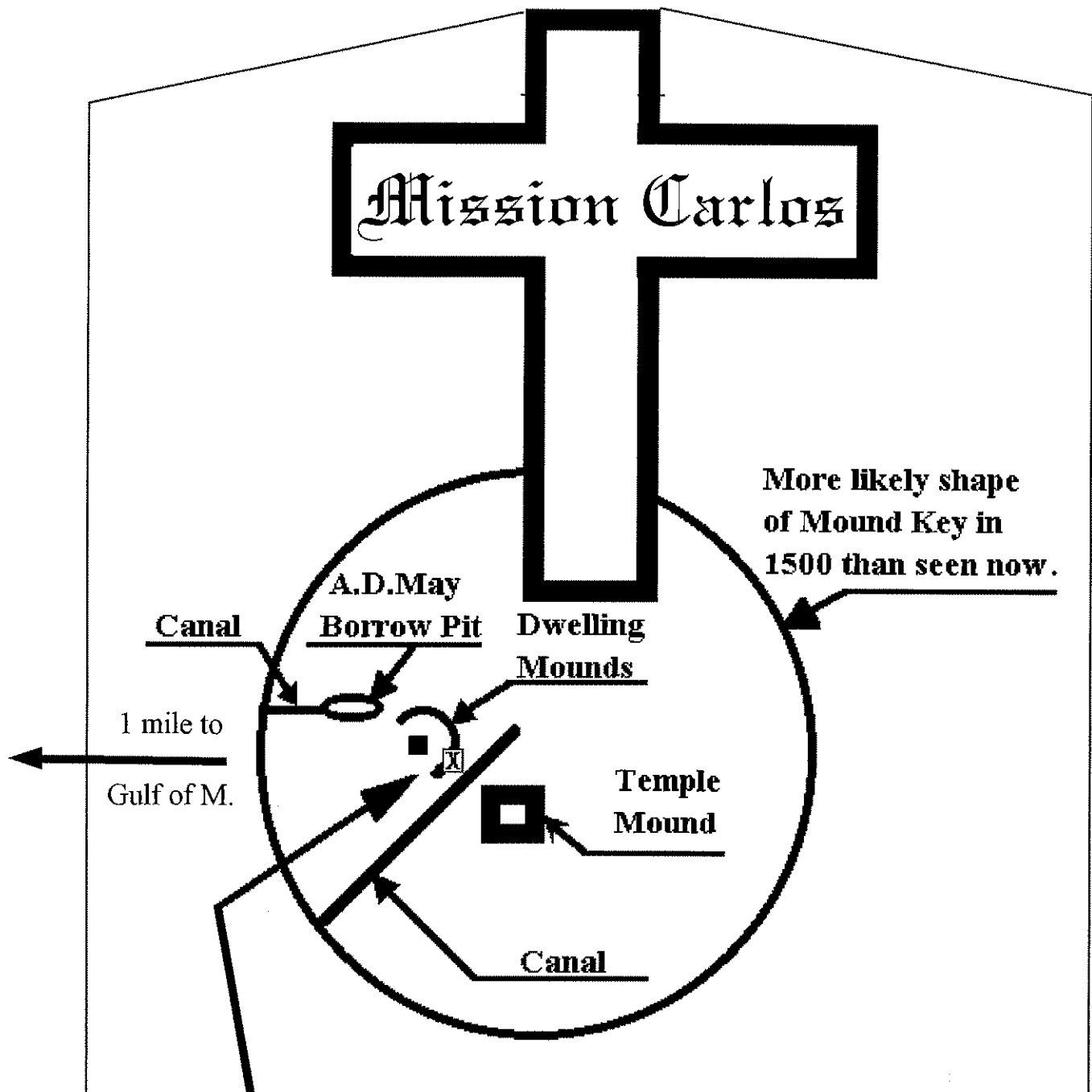
Later on, they conducted a private meditation accompanied by thunderous drumbeats and melodious chants off in the wilderness. [*This must have been most unnerving to the Archaeologists working there.*]

Comfortable in our perceptions of truth, we might now tend to dismiss all this, but then something convincing happened.

Two of the ladies asked if they could lie on the front deck. (A definite no-no but I said OK) There they harmonized, eerie, continuous tones which first attracted dolphin then excited them to play with us. (Were these ladies **communicating with the dolphin?** Yes!) Dozens came from all around to cavort in front of and beside our small boatload of princesses then accompanied us part of the way home.

Thus ended another fine trip where, like so many times before, we had sailed away with strangers but returned with friends.





Archaeologists say "X" marks the spot — Hmmm ... We wonder?
 Let's look at it one more time.

Two Arguments against site "X".

#1. We think the Calusa would **not** have allowed the Spanish to have a fort and mission between where they lived and their temple.

#2. The Spanish would **not** have wanted to be so confined.

Two Arguments for the Borrow Pit site:

#1. For economic reasons, A.D. May would have selected to mine:
 "The largest mound closest to the bay."

#2. To cover their butts for retreat, the Spanish would have wanted:
 "The largest mound closest to the bay."

ON MOUND KEY



**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
UPDATE**

A LUCKY STRIKE

April 13th, two days before the 1994 project ended, volunteers uncovered square postmolds (decomposed residue of posts) found in a last-minute dig at location "X". If the materials from these are determined to be 16th century, it indicates the Spanish Fort of San Antonio was indeed located there. (The Calusa would have had only round posts.)

Square posts were used in the 20th century also so there is a chance they are of more *recent origin, *otherwise this find could deal a crippling blow to our suspicion that the fort and Mission Carlos were located where the A.D. May borrow pit now is.*

—*CBJ*

*Location "X" sits squarely upon the old homestead of the Johnson family. The postmolds are located only a few feet from where a plowshare (moldboard or plow-shovel?) is imbedded in tree roots at ground level.

TIDBITS — TIMELINES & TRUTHS

On our tours we are often asked, "Why did the Calusa build mounds?" We answer one practical reason for this was to keep their people and belongings safely above water level during storm tides. This was an alternative to going inland and risk danger in meeting more-warlike northern nomads foraging there. This motive, along with possible religious considerations, we still think plausible.



One scholar of history dismissed our opinion curtly with, "Not true — the Calusa dominated this region and would not have feared inland tribes."

Who is right? Maybe we all are. When we apply timeline to the statements, we can believe that during their peak period the Calusa ruled the area. Initially though, they had to start somewhere in their climb to power and they chose our area to build mounds in which to anchor their roots.

You will also hear that inland tribes visited the Calusa daily bearing fruit and water to trade for fish and shellfish. They probably did at some time (or times), but not starting when the Calusa arrived or ending precisely in 1571 at the Mound Key Massacre. Some place (or places) along the timeline this activity fits quite well.

It is easy to see then that one must keep timelines in mind when observing records of history. What sounds profound may or may not be true. If true, it was only so for a slice of time. This clears up mental conflicts arising from such declarations as:

"The Calusa were fierce fighters" —
"The Calusa were at peace with themselves and other tribes."

"The Calusa rallied a standing army in 16 hours to man 80 war canoes and repel the Spanish" — "The Calusa decided to go after the Tequesta but first, a few weeks were needed to make weapons, indicating they rarely needed weapons and did not have many at hand."

At certain times in their millennia, all of these statements were surely true, but none were true all of the time.

Nothing is forever.

ON MOUND KEY and all about Estero Bay

THE CALUSA RELIGION — SHAMANISM

The Calusa believed everyone had three souls (or were possessed by three spirits). One was the pupil of the eye. Another was in one's reflected image and the third was the shadow one cast.

The Calusa Shaman were greatly neglected in reports written during the Spanish contact with them. Could it be that the self-importance of the missionaries might suffer if their counterparts of alien belief were mentioned? Often in print now we find the King (title given to the Calusa chief by the Spanish) was credited to be the spiritual leader of the tribes although mention was made that he routinely conferred with his advisors. (Shaman?) Father Juan Rogel, Jesuit authority at Mission Carlos, made various references to "Chief Priests of Idols" or natives with duties in the "house of idols", but he apparently never had direct contact or conversations with a bona fide Shaman. Could it be, for his own private reasons, he refused to recognize their existence in writing except as being "Heathen Devils?"

Father Clifford Lewis (circa 1950) reported an account where Father Rogel (circa 1560) wrote, "... they go to speak with the dead of the cemetery, and ask them advice about things that have to be done, as if they were alive; and I believe that there they get answers from the Devil; because many things that happen in other places or that come up afterwards, they (already) know by what they hear there."

Let's analyze that quote attributed to Father Rogel. Did he actually say he believed these people had powers of precognition, telepathy, ESP? **It appears he did.**

We gain more insight into the intricacy of shamanism when Father Rogel continues with, "They are also told (at the cemetery) to kill Christians and do other mischief; and when someone gets sick, they say one of his souls has left and the witch-doctors go to look for it in the woods, and they say they bring it back making the same movements that people go through when they try to put an

The Calusa Religion

unwilling wild goat or sheep in a pen. Later they put it (the spirit) back in the (sick) man through the top of his head by conducting some ceremonies over it. They put fire at the door of the sick person's house and the windows, so that the spirit would not dare to go out again."

Father Rogel continues with his opinion that, "They also have another error; when a man dies, his soul enters some animal or fish; and when they kill that animal, it enters another smaller one until little by little it comes to vanish." [*Here we must bring up a point to ponder — the Calusa laughed out loud at Father Rogel's idea of the hereafter. cbj*]

Most of the Calusa religious services were held on or around the temple mound, so it is unlikely the Spanish fort or the mission was located there. Calusa rites or ceremonies consisted of processions of singing men wearing costumes. They wore masks which some publications state were their idols in themselves and manipulatable by the bearer. Idols (called zemis) were carvings of such things as animals and vegetables. [*Vegetables? Seems odd since the Calusa are thought to have been totally non-agricultural.*]

Female roles in their rituals are not specifically described other than one statement by Father Rogel, "...and the women worshipped them (a Calusa religious procession) and sang praises to them."

Usually children and their mothers came to the Jesuits for instructions more than men did even though Don Felipe sometimes encouraged the men to do so. [*We reason that this may have given them (women and children) recognition which was lacking in their shamanism.*]

Looking at the Spanish religion through the eyes of the Calusa men, it may have been difficult for them to worship the mother of the son of a God; particularly considering the subservient roles played by the women in their society. Wives (and children?) were not treasured for they were often traded among themselves and to other tribes. Father Lewis wrote, "Carlos had given proof, by offering his former wife in marriage to Menendez, that marriage was not regarded necessarily as a permanent state, at least for the chiefs."

Father Alamo extended this attribute of impermanence to the whole tribe but other Jesuits were not so sure about it.

MOUND KEY — The Calusa Religion

Processional rituals were sometimes a prelude to the occasional sacrificial offerings. (Decapitations). These took place from one to several times each year. Some Spanish captives were beheaded but mostly enemies from other tribes were accorded this retribution. Father Rogel wrote about Don Felipe and his supporters dancing about with the heads of four of the fifteen chiefs he had slain after learning of a planned rebellion against his rule. Even after witnessing this, Father Rogel still defended the Calusa against Spanish allegations of cannibalism.

Two other aspects of their religion relative to death have been described. One is that they did not bury their dead immediately, but instead waited until the flesh left the bone. (Then buried the bones?)

A second tradition was a ceremony called "Killing the Pottery." (At the grave site?) Clay vessels belonging to the deceased were broken up into small pieces in the belief that spirits were trapped within them. Broken, the pots released the spirits which might have interfered with the after-life of the soul(s). "Killing the Pottery" might explain why almost no whole, unbroken vessels have been found around Mound Key. Only one

was ever discovered (on a shallow sandbar near the island) and its whereabouts today is unknown.

A simplistic religion, Shamanism used both the carrot and the stick philosophies to keep the populace in line for the chiefs. A reward for good behavior was being allowed to live in the land of plenty provided mysteriously by their king and his Shaman Priests. As long as they worshipped their Idols properly, they were afforded luxuries of the day and promises for a better tomorrow. Often enough, terrible examples were made of those who strayed from the leader's dictates. They became subject to the Shaman's sorcery, voodoo, ju ju, witchcraft and worse.

Negative reinforcement frequently took the form of bloody decapitations and evil spell castings if not outright blood-lusting devil worship. The successful chieftain was the one who could best balance the masses somewhere between morbid fear of punishment and gratitude for whatever form his blessings may have taken.

The childlike gullibility, over which Shamanism rode roughshod, made it easy for the Spanish to convert the humble Calusa. They simply did not have any deep-centered beliefs to let

The Calusa Religion

go of, so accepting what the Jesuits offered was easy, particularly when doled out with cornbread and honey, clothing, entertainment, and promises. This same lack of intellect just as quickly dumped Catholicism when the Spanish deserted them and left no one behind to administer the weekly refresher course.

It is doubtful that many Calusa ever comprehended enough of the new religion to fathom even its most simple precepts, let alone teach it to others; their own family, for instance.

Peasants aside, the Calusa leaders were not so quick to dance to Spanish tunes. King Carlos, when asked to cut his hair, wear clothes and accept a new religion, retired with advisors some distance away to debate the decision. Returning, he declared that he would wait nine months and then accept the new faith. There were surely Spanish smiles all around.

When the nine months elapsed, he agreed to honor his promise to take on the Spanish religion, however (a big however, here) he would add it to his current beliefs which he would not abandon. The Spanish smiles vanished.

He would not disavow his old doctrines because this would have meant losing his Shaman who were instrumental in the way his power was exercised over other tribes as well as his own people. Without the Shaman protocol, he would certainly lose his throne to someone wise whose first act would be to reinstate Shamanism. Neither Menendez nor the Jesuits liked this insolent attitude.

Carlos' later attempts to take Spanish merchandise and Spanish lives added to his disfavor in their eyes. A battle line was drawn and the situation deteriorated swiftly to where, in less than three years, Carlos and his successor and several important followers were executed (assassinated) by the Spanish who then quickly fled the area in 1571. Thus ended the Spanish impact on Calusas.

We theorize that after the Spanish annihilated scores of Calusa leaders (and Shaman?), the Catholic religion lost favor among those who survived. Likely, in the many grabs for power, even greater numbers of rightful successors were slain. Then there ensued something near to total collapse of authority — making conditions right for enterprising, even slightly intelligent strongmen to seize the thrones.

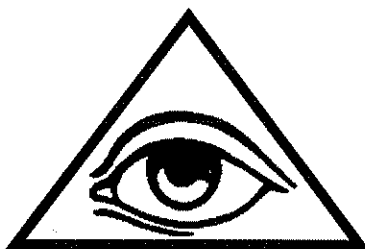
MOUND KEY — The Calusa Religion

The chieftains and the witch-doctors from other tribes violated the area with alien beliefs to supplement or replace lost rites and liturgies. The area became a plundered melting pot where both genetics and beliefs were diluted.

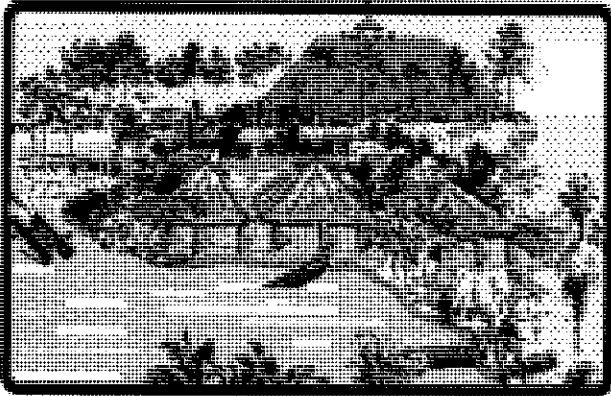
European diseases still continued to sap the strength and vitality of the Calusa. To survive two centuries longer, they moved away from the shorelines to avoid the white man and farther south to avoid unfamiliar, and perhaps threatening, northern nomads. Many of the idols they worshipped or

feared were left behind as they migrated, often swiftly in fear for their lives. It was a time when life was of little value to those who had it and worth even less to those who took it. Their artifacts now have decayed, been burned or lost, or sit lifelessly in a museum somewhere.

Spirits that dwelled among the trees and birds and seashells may now roam the area with no one to believe in them. Perhaps they have finally settled down to sleep eternally — **on Mound Key and all about Estero Bay.**



TIDBITS — ON MOUND KEY



Beyond the Calusa Temple Mound, at the end of the adjacent canal, there is a surrealistic scene. This was a water court for the ancient ones— likely where they kept their canoes— a safe harbor sheltered from the winds and currents on the bay. Silted-in muck has replaced the calm water. Black Mangrove trees abound. Acres and acres of their pneumatophores (air roots) poke up through the muck about six inches and are more dense than wheat stubble in a freshly cut field of grain. Just to walk through them is a most memorable experience.

More memorable though is the visual sensation one gets at the first sighting of this panorama.

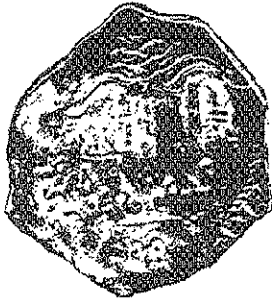
So unlike Corbett Torrence to lapse away from coldly scientific archaeological pursuits; nevertheless, this scene brought out the romantic Corbett hidden inside. In an outpouring of pure prose emoted:

“Here you can imagine scenes like the great chief and his court greeting his canoists returning from a successful trading venture — or maybe just a good fishing trip. As the tribesmen behind the welcoming big-wigs cheered the bounty, the children squealed in delight at the sight of something new and perhaps one of their loved-ones bringing it.”

Then a glow lit Corbett's face as he said, *“Just imagine how it must have been for a Calusa, who worshipped his reflected image as one of three spirits, to look in the absolutely still mirror of water and see his soul. Kneeling at waters edge he may have reached into the water with both hands and applied his soul to his face as a baptism ritual — then smiled when his face felt clean, actually and spiritually.”*



ON MOUND KEY and all about Estero Bay



All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy.

In this case, not Jack, but Corbett, Sam, & Carl and the “gold coin” above started it all. This is an actual computer scan of the coin; sized to scale, shiny gold in color, and very heavy. (We found it to be lead which was painted gold.)

After bringing home the Archaeologists and their 10-12 volunteer helpers one day, then doing a two hour sunset lectured cruise and afterwards putting the tour boat away for the night, I was met at the marina by Corbett and Sam. They presented me with a zip-lock bag marked with a felt tip marker:

“8LL1
Mound Key
C-14-1
“Gold” coin

From large chest bearing inscription *Butterfield - Do Not Touch*” and then there was a skull and crossbones. It was dated 2/9/94 (that day)

The sole article in the bag was the coin pixelized above.

In the near dark, tired, hungry and eager to get home, I was temporarily taken aback but Sam was not good at keeping a straight face when he told me this was sure proof that Jose Gaspar never existed and the Augustus Black legend is pure myth. (This because the legend says their gold was cast into one grapefruit-size ball.)

Revenge is sweet, but it takes awhile to plan it right — where the moment can be savored. It took me two days to come up with my response.

I remembered having seen a piece of highly glazed and colorful pottery in the rocks acting as mulch around the foundation plants at the front of our house. On my hands and knees I searched for a length of time and found exactly the right piece. It was about two square inches of glazed side with almost an equal amount of bottom still attached.

This I put in a bag similar to the ones the “real people” use. I marked it with the Site, location, bag, and level numbers — just like the “real people” do and dated the bag at the bottom. In quotes my message was:

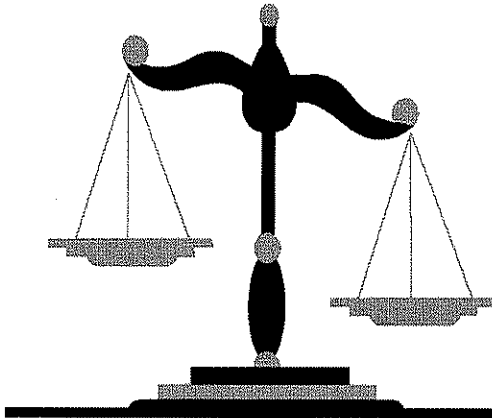
“Undisputable ‘proof’ that the Calusa traded with the Mayans.”

Neither Corbett nor Sam could argue with that because this pottery ‘sherd’ was special. It had been created by my lawn mower accidentally running into a potted plant placed among our shrubs. I recall picking up the pieces when it happened and strewing them over the gravel there. I remembered specifically the one piece recovered to bag for our Mound Key friends because on the white bottom there is large black print proclaiming:

“MADE IN MEXICO”

[*Note: These Archaeologists are serious people and the “moments” of the jokes were short-lived. The following weeks were filled with serious searching for artifacts and the continued hard work of surveying the island for its first real-good topological map. We never found out who planted the first “gold coin”.* —cbj]

TIDBITS ON MOUND KEY *LOCAL JUSTICE*



Yes, once again the Scales of Justice failed to balance as “the system” played politics and disregarded matters outside the mainstream of more popular or trendy crimes. January 18th, 1994 a circuit judge in Fort Myers chose to listen to fellow attorneys rather than what the Naples Daily News called, “A parade of archaeologists and historians.” Judge William Nelson sentenced pillager Donald Paul Williams to ‘community control and probation’ rather than any bit of a year in jail allowable under sentencing guidelines.

Williams’ crime was excavating mounds throughout Southwest Florida with a group that sometimes used heavy equipment to dig the heart right out of the mounds. This greed destroyed irreplaceable resources, but if Williams “keeps clean” for awhile, he can get his record wiped clean. So you folks in the future can put this

in perspective, the media today is concentrating on Michael Jackson’s fetish for younger boys and Mrs. Bobbit’s trial for carving her husband’s private parts—claiming rape as a defense. This is after a year of being feted with Woody Allen’s overfondness for his adopted daughter and Amy Fisher’s ordeal as a teenager interpreted three ways by three different movies.

Think, folks — Those one-on-one rapes pale in comparison to Williams rape of us all, of our lands and our history. Of no comfort is the prosecutor’s expressed disappointment, “...it (the crime) was at the bottom (of the sentencing guidelines list).”

Archaeologists pleaded with Judge Nelson to “Send a message.” The judge was unsure a jail sentence would do that, so he “howevered” one — **THE WRONG ONE.**

Update:

Just a short time after writing this page, I ran across the following news.

Unbelievable, what?

chj

3/26/94 West Palm Beach, Judge Walter Colbath sentenced Michael Warren to nine years for odometer tampering.

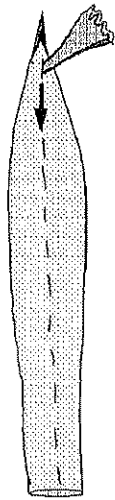
TIDBITS ON MOUND KEY



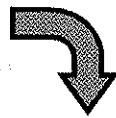
- An "old-timer" told us that the Calusa took spikes from the Spanish bayonet (*Yucca aloifolia*) or the century plant (*Agave*), shown left [both are plentiful on Mound Key] and made a most useful product.

We are unsure that the Calusa actually did this, but the more one studies the history of our not-so-famous tribe, the more one can believe this is the kind of thing the Calusa may have done.

— Carl & Charlie



2. Work with it until there are only wet, white, stringy fibers dangling from the sharp end.



1. Take a shell tool or the point of another spike and insert as shown. Then pull all the way down to the end of the spike.

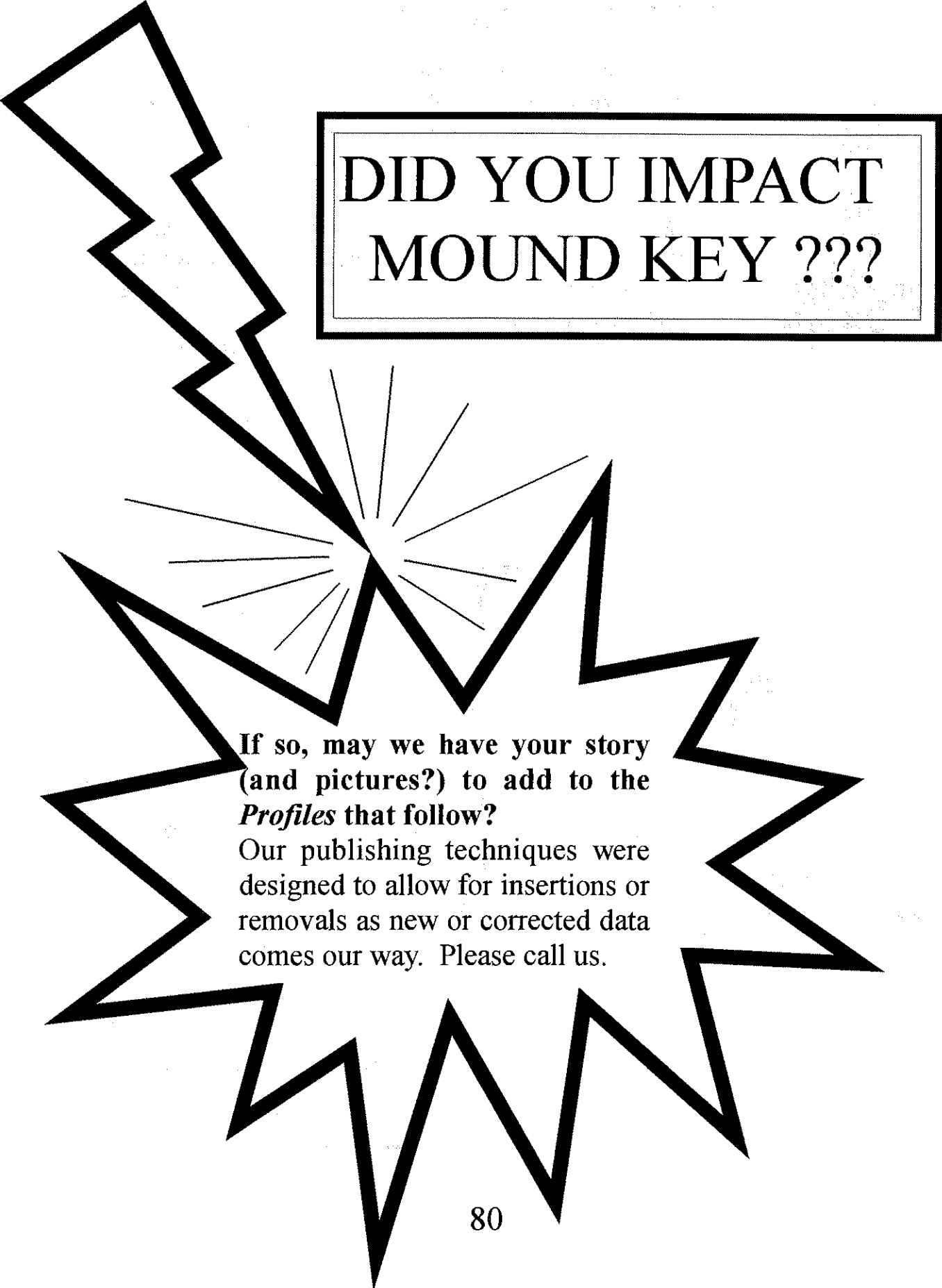
Do this over and over until there is no green meat left in the spike.



3. Then twist, tie a knot and let dry.

VOILA ! A NEEDLE AND THREAD.

ON MOUND KEY and all about Estero Bay



**DID YOU IMPACT
MOUND KEY ???**

**If so, may we have your story
(and pictures?) to add to the
Profiles that follow?**

Our publishing techniques were
designed to allow for insertions or
removals as new or corrected data
comes our way. Please call us.

MOUND KEY PROFILES



MOUND KEY has seen periods of tranquility and had its share of conflicts. The most cataclysmic era recorded was a half century of Spanish domination in 1500. Bad as it was, it is only because the Spanish explorations that written records of the Calusa Indians now exist.

But for English translations of Spanish reports sent home by explorers and priests, we would be mostly in the dark about these early mound builders. On the other hand, one might reason that but for these Spanish, the Calusa might still be here.

A single book cannot properly account for more than a small fraction of the people and events on

Mound Key which brought us to this point in time. There were individuals who had substantial impact, both good and bad. There were others who merely chanced to be here when something happened. And there were (ahem) those who studied and wrote about them.

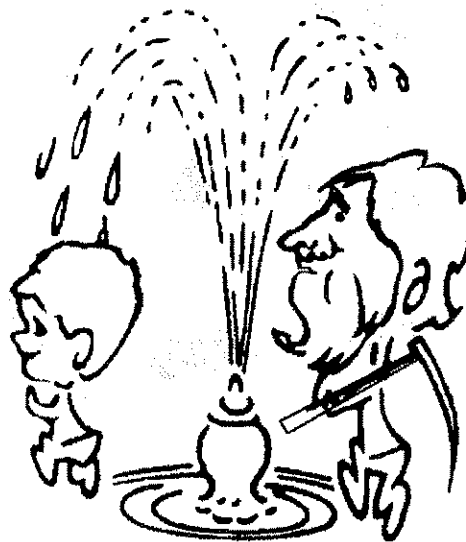
History has seen fit to record certain names and deeds. From many sources, we gathered brief accounts for our "Profiles" and we believe them to be based on fact. Our opinions and conclusions are made clearly obvious by [*brackets and italics*]. Any final, particular significance of these involvements is left up to you, your interpretation, and your imagination.

MOUND KEY PROFILES

— 1513-21 —

JUAN PONCE DE LEON

Juan Ponce was the first Spanish explorer to receive a commission to explore the southwest coast of Florida. A patent, granted by King Ferdinand II in 1512, was to discover and settle the *Isle of Bimini*. With three ships, he sailed right on by to where Saint Augustine now is around Easter time (Pascua Florida or Holiday of Flowers). He named the island "Florida."



Ponce's present day fame is based on his search for the "Fountain of Youth", a search he likely handed down to a lesser lieutenant and promptly set sail "for the gold" as all the 'real' Captains were doing.

So he made his way from the East coast around Florida probably to about where Fort Myers and the Caloosahatchee River are. He then explored the Florida Keys and returned to Borinquen (Puerto Rico) by way of Cuba.

In 1514 he received the royal commission to colonize the *Isle of Florida*, but did not return to Florida until 1521. In July of that year, in the only contact he ever made with the Calusa, he received the arrow wound from which he died upon his return to Havana.

There are reports which state that what is now Estero Bay is the location of Ponce's ill-fated attempt to land settlers with livestock, seeds and tools. There are other claims that the invasion took place farther north.

Juan Ponce made the first recorded mention of the catamaran boats of the Calusa Indians. Years later, Father Juan Rogel also talked of "pairs of canoes" but today's archaeologists will not concede the existence of such a vessel apparently until they dig up two canoes lashed together. Whatever, the sturdy Calusa craft are credited with making trips to the Bahamas and to Cuba on trading expeditions.

—*Mid 1500*—
PEDRO Menendez

Pedro Menendez de Aviles was Fleet Captain for all the Spanish treasure fleets in 1554.

Despondent at the loss of his son, Juan, in a shipwreck near Vera Cruz, and sensing French threats to Spanish shipping, in 1563 he re-considered a once-denied request from the Viceroy of Mexico to explore means of settling Spanish citizens on the Atlantic coast.

1565 recognition of his ventures resulted in his promotion to be the first Governor of La Florida and all provinces from Texas to Newfoundland. His responsibilities were to convert the natives to Catholicism and expel the French from the Atlantic coastline. He dealt with the French quickly, with no mercy in a religious fervor consistent to the inquisition years. He devised long-range plans to train the natives in religion systematically and often ended tribal clashes with bribes. The natives eagerly accepted the

foodstuffs along with entertainment he provided. He founded a Jesuit school in Havana to teach, with much propaganda, the wives and children of the more important natives. He knew he could use them as hostages to quell any uprisings.

Menendez forced the native tribes to adopt Spanish boys and girls who quickly learned the customs and language of the natives. They could be used later as translators for the priests and spies for the military.

In 1566, many years after Ponce de Leon left here mortally wounded, Menendez made a settlement at Escampaba (Mound Key) in the Bahia de Carlos (Estero Bay). He had found this island while searching for his missing son. After meeting Carlos, he thought it would be politically expedient to accept as a gift Carlos offered, and marry Carlos' older sister. (Note that Carlos himself was married to this same sister years before. Sibling marriages were common-place for tribal leaders

MOUND KEY PROFILES

though Carlos dumped her later for a younger prize.)

Menendez's new bride (Carlos' older sister/ex-wife) was then baptized by the Jesuits as Dona Antonio — after whom the Fort of San Antonio (on Mound Key) was later named.

The Jesuits did not approve of Menendez's sham of a marriage. (Maybe because Governor Menendez already had a perfectly good wife back in Spain?) and would not be a part of it, so we have no idea who performed the ceremony.

For a short time this 'marriage' may have enhanced the images of both Menendez and Carlos in the eyes of the native Calusa. Menendez may have thought so in that he believed the natives would think the Spanish had a deep and sincere desire to be intermeshed with their everyday lives even to the point of becoming 'family'. Carlos certainly must have believed the tribal chiefs would think him 'well-connected' and this could only help with his rule over them.

The settlement and the pledges

would last a scant five years before an uprising ended it all. Revolts at Mound Key resulted in rejection of the Spanish religion and forced the Spanish army into battle. When the Adelantado (Governor Menendez) got word of the uprising in 1571, he ordered Lieutenant Captain-General Pedro Menendez Marques (his nephew) to decapitate the cacique Don Felipe and 23 of his chieftains. (King Carlos had been similarly executed [or assassinated?] some two years earlier for using a Spanish sailor as a sacrificial offering.) This done, the Spanish army deserted the Fort of San Antonio. The Jesuits had already abandoned Mission Carlos so now the Calusa were free at last.

How it is known that "King Pedro" or Don Pedro, another cousin of Carlos, succeeded Don Felipe remains a mystery, as does much of the subsequent history of the Calusa.

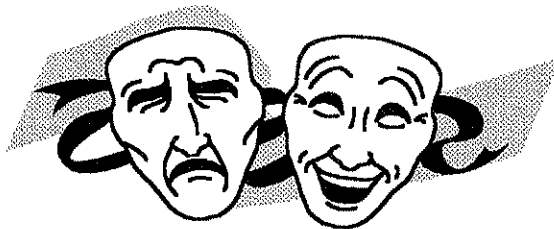
On withdrawal of the troops and priests, the Spanish influence over the Calusa declined considerably. Many of the Calusa retreated inland to avoid any future contact with the white man who continued to sail the offshore waters nearby.

MOUND KEY PROFILES

On the mainland they fled south to escape slavery or death at the hands of various nomads from the north. Many reports relate to the weakening physical condition of the Calusa as they worked their way toward the Keys and extinction.

There is no doubt that the actions directed by Pedro Menendez, no matter how pure and sincere his motives and intentions may have been, dealt the death blow to the Calusa.

Menendez died in 1574. His commission for his king had failed. One more Holy Crusade had floundered as one more group of innocents suffered an encounter with singularly-minded evangelists. One more time we can chalk up a tally for the tragedy and the comedy of history repeating itself.



MOUND KEY PROFILES

MID-1500 KING CARLOS

The Spanish had a propensity for using the letter "R" so it was only natural for them to name the leader (cacique or chief) of the nation of Calos, "Carlos". Check our glossary for the variations of Calos, Caalos, Callos, Calusa, Caloosa, etc. Not so long ago today's Caloosahatchee River was named, "Carlosahatchee" (River of Carlos), then the "R" was dropped — exactly when and by whom — we have no idea.

King Carlos, (Indian name "Escampaba"), was the nephew of Senquene — not directly in the line of succession to Senquene for the Calos throne. The order of succession fell to his sister's son (name unknown) whom the Spanish later dubbed Don Felipe. Don Felipe was about 10 years old when Senquene died and he was robed and adorned regally and given Senquene's daughter in wedlock.

At that time, Senquene's brother, who had been the Chief priest of idols (Shaman?), assumed the leadership of the tribes. As acting Regent, temporary King, he manipulated — boy, could he manipulate! He somehow wheedled Don Felipe's wife away to wed his own son,

"Escampaba", and proceeded to lobby the tribal leaders into selecting (at least, accepting) his son as their Cacique. Obviously, Escampaba was older than Don Felipe and able to assume the responsibilities of leadership but don't forget, with all the intermarriage of leadership, the people who accepted Carlos were more closely related to Don Felipe..

Once given the ball, Escampaba was free to run with it — and run he did. Don Felipe was awarded his father's job as Captain-General (a Spanish-named rank, not Calusa). This may have been a token payment for taking his wife. Don Felipe was then given Senquene's brother's wife (being Don Felipe's cousin means she was married to her uncle first) but how significant is this to a 10-year-old?

As this "Peyton Place" type saga on Mound Key continues, Escampaba marries an older sister. Sibling marriages are common to the Calos hierarchy and perhaps the tribesmen in general. (Sibling procreation would account for Don Felipe being in line for Senquene's throne because he was a product of Senquene's union with his own sister — whose later husband was Captain General.)

Mound Key Profiles — King Carlos continued

Escampaba, exercising royal prerogative, dismissed his sister from wedlock in order to take up with a 20-year-old maiden. Some years later, he would make a magnanimous gesture in giving that older-sister/ex-wife to Governor Menendez to cement their relationship.

Now that we have the cast of characters set, we can analyze some to the action. Our timeline figures Senquene would have headed the nation of Calos when Ponce de Leon attempted his ill-fated landing in 1521. When Governor Menendez met Escampaba over 40 years later and dubbed him King Carlos, he found Carlos to be more receptive to the Spanish presence. Then perhaps Menendez showed up with a mightier force than Juan Ponce had.

We can assume that while Senquene knew little about the Spanish invaders, King Carlos had a lifetime of education about them. He may have presumed he could outwit or outfight these little guys and set about to outfinagle them politically. He played along with their insistence that he accept their odd and complex religion. Stalling, agreeing, then reneging were his tactics in the matter. He accepted gifts for himself and his people. He offered, in return, foodstuffs

and colored feather items. These tributes were valued by his tribesmen but the Spanish found them disgusting.

King Carlos allowed his people to attend the mission services because the Spanish religion was doled out with bread and molasses, trinkets, and clothes. Our opinion is that he cautioned his people not to take what they heard too seriously for he surely didn't.

The “marriage” of Carlos’ ex-wife/older-sister to Governor Menendez may have been the all-time biggest event ever on Mound Key. This was a political touche’ for both Carlos and Menendez. Carlos believed this alliance would enhance his power among the outlying tribal leaders and put some fear in the hearts of his enemies. Menendez believed it would aid his cause by showing the natives he was eager to become ‘family’ by taking one of them as his own. The Jesuits believed this was an unholy sinful sham because Menendez was already married and this Indian bride had once been — maybe still was. Newly dubbed “Dona Antonio” believed she was getting an honest-to-goodness husband in the governor. How wrong could they be?

Mound Key Profiles — King Carlos continued

The honeymoon was soon over between Carlos and the Spanish. At ever turn it seemed, he thwarted them, baited them, took advantage of them, and attempted to do them in. Unknown to him perhaps, is the role Don Felipe played in undermining his actions ever chance he had. Don Felipe likely carried a grudge for losing his throne to Carlos and was playing ever angle he knew to get it back. He knew several angles because the Jesuits credited him with the ability to politically maneuver and control his people much better than Carlos. Constantly, he updated the Spanish on Carlos' plans and secrets to upset Carlos and to put himself in good stead with the Spanish. Both the military and the missionaries thought they had a good ally in Don Felipe. The battle-lines were drawn.

There is one foggy incident where the Jesuits? and Calusa? were removed from Mound Key to Estero Island? while the fort and mission were built? (You can note by the question marks as to how sure we are about all this.) On returning to Mound Key, Carlos (and helpers?) attempted to upset the Spanish boats and drown the sailors. Because of this, and more?, Captain Francisco de Reinoso decided to retaliate

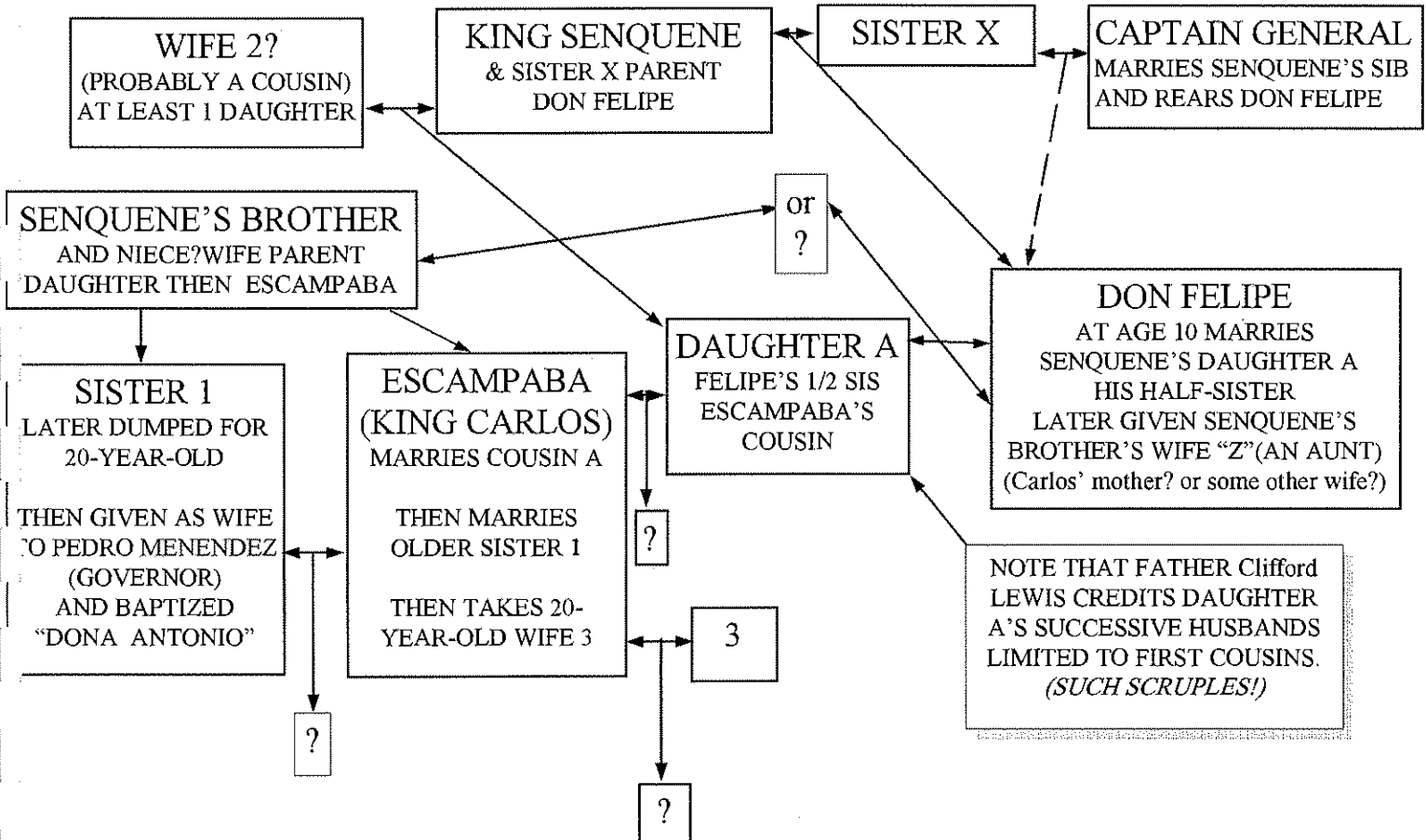
against Carlos. Father Juan Rogel, the Jesuit in charge of the mission, came to Carlos' defense. Acceding to Father Rogel's demands, the soldiers waited to avenge their grievance. Finally, they convinced Father Rogel he should journey to the Jesuit complex in Cuba for supplies and during his absence they executed (or assassinated) King Carlos. Ready and waiting for the Calusa crown was Don Felipe. He would keep the crown for a mere two years before meeting up with the same fate.

Carlos never had a Eulogy — an oversight we shall now correct.

Escampaba was handed a mighty nation which, at the height of its power, demanded and received tribute from tribes as far away as Tampa to Cape Canaveral to the Keys. Then the Spanish came. Overpowered and out gunned, his options were limited. Had he cowered to the Spanish whims, another Cacique would have taken the Calusa throne to the exact same fate. He did not bow to the Spaniard's will but fought them every way he knew how. In the end he lost it all. There was little else he could have done — no other way it could have ended.

Mound Key Profiles - Carlos continued

HOW'S THAT AGAIN ?



Note: "?" indicates we are uncertain about progeny.

Note 2: Don Felipe's wife "Z" could be his cousin as reported only if Senquene's brother had married his niece. At this point it seems entirely probable.

Note 3: If "Z" was Carlos' mother then Don F would be Carlos Step-father/cousin. If not, Carlos would be his cousin/nephew.

**A WHO'S WHO ON CALOS
AS WE RECKON IT.**

MOUND KEY PROFILES

— 1565-67 —
Father Juan Rogel

Translations of the correspondence of Father Rogel from 1567 to 1611 tell us more about the Calusa than all other sources combined. We acknowledge Father Clifford M. Lewis' efforts in gathering most of the translated materials developed from these early letters.

In charge of the Jesuit Mission Carlos from 1567 to 1569, he worked closely with the natives and their chieftains. He had good rapport (*compared to the the military contacts*) with the Calusas and openly discussed religious matters with them. There was a period of great expectation for his mission shortly after King Carlos was assassinated and Don Felipe succeeded in power but this was short-lived for soon Don Felipe made the same refusals as Carlos had done. (*Note that "King Carlos" and "Don Felipe" are the names given to the caciques (chiefs) by the Spanish*)

Father Rogel described one impressive run-in with the "pagan heathens". The Calusa came up the hill toward the Fort of San Antonio parading in their masks and carrying their idols. (*Some of their idols were*

manipulatable face masks.) Remembering a recent discovery where an entire fort and mission (*at Tocobaga*) had been slaughtered by the natives, Father Rogel alerted the Captain of the fort. Captain Reinoso took a spear and struck the Calusa leader in the head. The Indians retreated but angrily threatened the soldiers from the doors of their houses with boatpoles (*maybe atladls instead?*) and spears. (*Here we wonder why not with bows and arrows? The Calusa were reputed to be skilled and able archers.*) Writing about this same incident later on, Father Rogel implied the procession was after Don Felipe when they came up the hill. Their intentions were to catch their leader outside the fort and take him to their temple. They (*the Shaman?*) planned to sacrifice him there to make his people understand that, in spite of their reluctance, the Shaman would make them worship the idols.

After leaving Mission Carlos, Father Rogel worked the Atlantic Coast as far north as Virginia. His longest assignment was his last one at Vera Cruz, Mexico. We think he lived for over 40 years after leaving Mission Carlos for he continued to write about the Calusa until as late as 1611.

MOUND KEY PROFILES — ROGEL CONTINUED

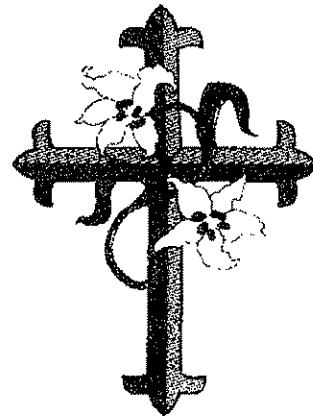
Father Rogel may have been the best Spanish friend the Calusas ever had. He often sided with the natives against the injustices of his countrymen.

Failure of the mission may be blamed to some degree on Calusa politics more than on mistakes the Jesuits made in their conversion attempts. Calusa politics? Sure. The tribal leaders all the way up to the Carlos or Don Felipe acquired a great deal of strength in part through ignorance and superstition of their masses. Shaman (witch-doctors) created the atmosphere of fear and mystery the leaders needed to function. When the missionaries insisted the leaders give up their own idolatry and shamanism, the leaders refused. To have done so would have weakened their control over the people they led. The Calusa chiefs, particularly Carlos, aspired to be empire builders. To expand their sphere of influence, they needed all the strength they could muster. It turns out they fell short of acquiring this dominance for their lot in life declined ever after.

The bright side of the picture for the Spanish was that it was easy to convert the workaday Calusa to their religion when it was seasoned with

bread and molasses, trinkets, and sometimes entertainment. The peasants had no real deep-felt doctrine to renounce. They had only a fear of their idols and those who controlled them. The “idols” the Spanish offered were less fearful and this made their decision easy. In the end though, those who converted quickly reverted to their old practices just as swiftly once Spanish pressure was removed.

Just as well then that Father Rogel could finish his days at Vera Cruz. There his religion continues to flourish 400 years after the Calusa rejected it.



MOUND KEY PROFILES

—*Mid 1500*—

Don Felipe

[sometimes spelled Philipe]

Successor to the slain King Carlos as leader of the Calusa nation, Don Felipe was installed as Cacique (Calusa King or Chief) by the Spanish in 1568. They believed he would work out much better for them than Carlos had.

Father Juan Rogel checked into the history of Don Felipe and found he had legitimate claim to the throne since, at the age of seven or eight, Don Felipe had worn the beads and regal decor as a temporary (honorary?) Regent.

The first chieftain of record for the Calusa was Don Felipe's uncle (mother's brother) King Senquene. He died when Don Felipe was ten to twelve years old. Don Felipe then married Senquene's daughter (his cousin) and later, when Carlos was chosen as King by his father (Senquene's brother who was Regent then) the young Don Felipe was awarded his father's

position as Captain-General and given Senquene's brother's wife (also a first cousin) as his bride.

Even while Carlos was still King, the Spanish considered Don Felipe to be more influential than Carlos because of his leadership qualities and his abilities in political manipulation. Behind Carlos' back, Don Felipe had worked with the Spanish against his leader. The Jesuit's initial expectations for Don Felipe's religious conversion faded as time passed. Father Rogel reported that he witnessed the chief worship idols and this was the "third ruinous sign" he had seen in the King insofar as becoming a Christian.

The first or second "ruinous sign" must have been when Don Felipe and his Shaman danced with human heads on poles — as seen by Father Rogel. Don Felipe, on discovering some of his outlying chieftains dispensed favors to his enemies, invited these chieftains to Mound Key for an Awards Ceremony. There they were beheaded and in the ensuing frenzy, the celebration

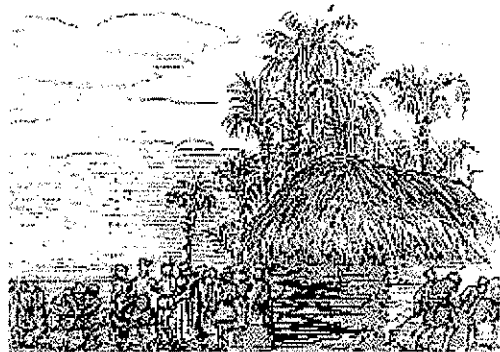
MOUND KEY PROFILES

Don Felipe continued

was carried up to where the gruesome finale could be witnessed from the Mission.

[One can only pity the poor borderland chieftains who resided equidistantly from the major powers. Constantly in contact with both sides they had to often choose which power to render unto. A certain and tragic fate awaited the wrong decision and sometimes there was no right decision. Prudent and wise leaders moved their flocks closer to a capitol site to escape the "no-man's land" where the tribes scraped together. cbj]

In 1571, the Adelantado (Spanish Governor) ordered his nephew, Captain-General Pedro Menendez Marques, to behead Don Felipe and over 20 of his principal chieftains to end a revolt of the Calusa on Mound Key. The soldiers then deserted the Fort of San Antonio and a Don Pedro succeeded Don Felipe. Many years later another King Carlos would head the Calusa Nation.



MOUND KEY PROFILES

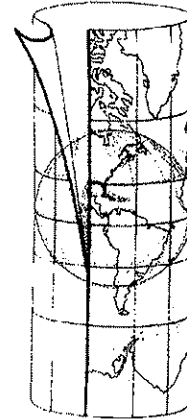
-1571-

Juan Lopez de Velasco

Doesn't it seem ironic that a significant contributor to the recorded history of Mound Key never set foot on the island — or anywhere else in North America? Juan Lopez de Velasco wrote the geography of our area in 1571 based on reports brought back to him in Spain. He finished the work in four years; after his countrymen had fairly well abandoned our area.

His GEOGRAPHIA Y DESCRIPCION UNIVERSAL identifies today's Estero Bay as Bahía de Carlos and Mound Key as where the Adelantado Pedro Menendez made a settlement consisting of 36 thatched buildings. The GEOGRAPHIA tells that the natives called the Bay of Carlos "Escampaba", the name of their cacique (chief), who was called "Carlos" by the Spanish.

(Authors note: The name, "Estero" translates loosely into "inlet" (or estuary?). One old chart labeled the bay around Mound Key, "Ostego



Bay" which was either an earlier name or else the cartographer could not spell "Estero." History, as written and rewritten, is never exact.)

Modern scholars credit Velasco with great accuracy. He clearly places the Spanish "Fort of San Antonio" and "Mission Carlos" right on Mound Key. His estimate of 26.5 degrees latitude is fairly precise, considering the date it was made. Remember, back then great distances were measured by leagues which varied from 2 to 5 miles and shorter distances were referred to as "harquebus shots."

Some confusion in analyzing his works is due to his reference to Charlotte Harbor as Tampa but historians are aware that this is an error.

MOUND KEY PROFILES

—1887-89—

JOHN BUTTERFIELD

When Mr. and Mrs. John Butterfield moved to Mound Key, they well may have been the first white settlers ever on the island. Fitting the pieces together, we think it likely occurred in the '80's' after they lost their fortune obtained from Augustus Black.

The Frank Johnson family moved to the island later and proved up their claim of homestead to receive the first deed from the government for the island. This was in 1891 and it was obtained under the fairly-new Homestead Act. To what (if any) extent their deed may have been clouded by Butterfield's squatter's rights is uncertain.

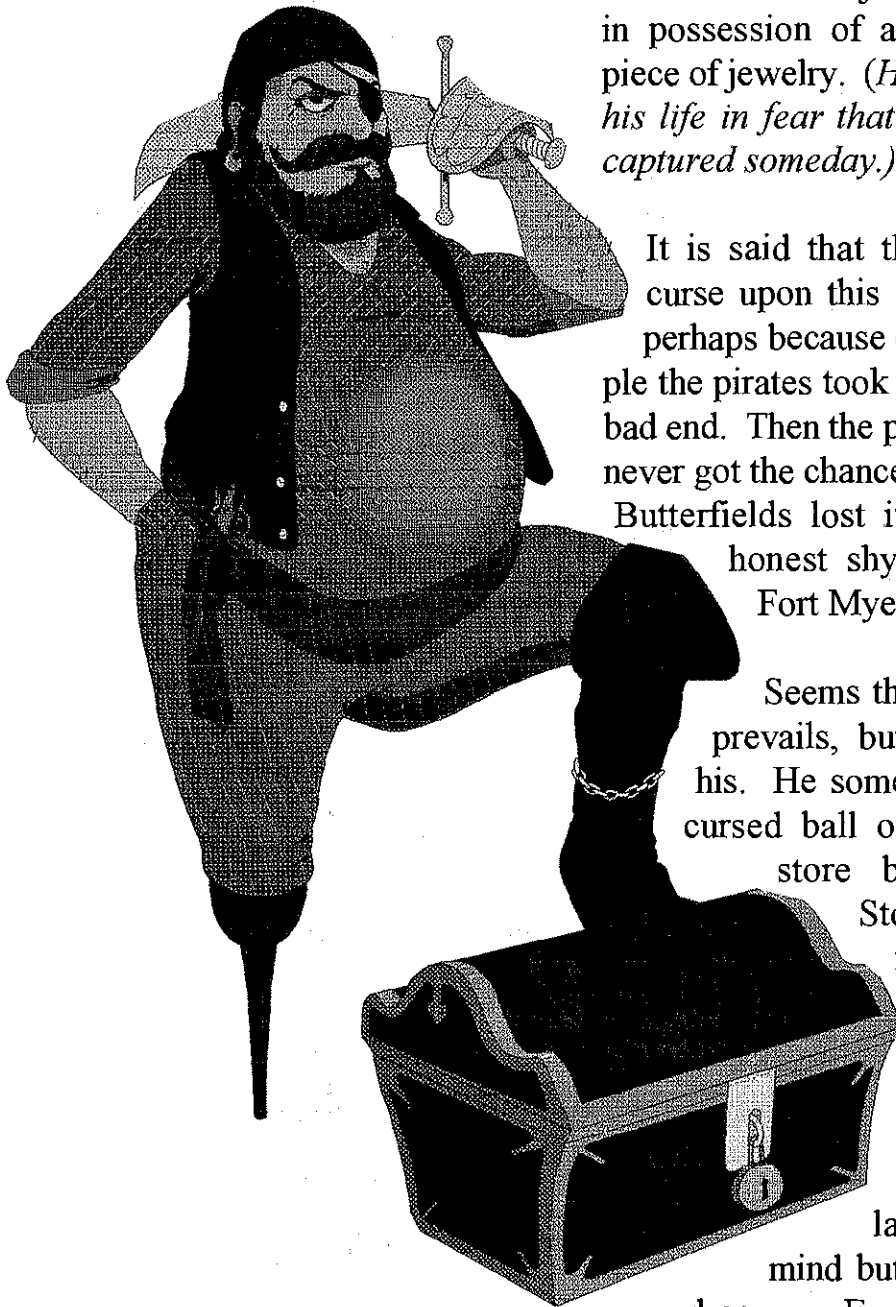
The *Butterfield Fortune* is a tale in itself and becomes more so considering that several people are sure there was never such a person as Jose Gaspar—a central figure in the tale. Gaspar, they say, was a product of the imagination of an inveterate drunken fisherman; a tale later used by a developer to entice a railroad to be built to his area. (*See? A tangled web is being woven.*) So, on with our story:

The fortune was said to be a solid gold ball about the size of a grapefruit. The Butterfields dug it up from the dirt floor of Augustus Black's shack on the island now named for him. (First it was *Black's Island*; now simply *Black Island*.) The old pirate died circa 1885 and he must have been nearly a hundred years old by then for he had been a partner of Jose Gaspar in the 20's.

Reports say the Butterfield's tended to Black during the waning years of his life. In his final moments, he told them about his stash. The gold ball was supposed to be his share of plundered booty from pirating with Gaspar. It could have been Gaspar's share too for when trapped by a Naval armada, Jose wrapped an anchor chain around his waist and stepped off the deck of his ship rather than end up being the star performer at a hanging party pending his capture.

Black escaped the trap along with Jose's cousin, Leon, and they (with a fragmented cutthroat crew) fled for Cuba. Black separated himself from the group in fear for his life by abandoning the ship one night just west of Big Carlos Pass. He melted the treasure down and cast it into a ball, reckoning that, if captured, he

MOUND KEY PROFILES — Butterfield



could not be traced to a specific crime or misdeed just because he was in possession of a certain coin or piece of jewelry. (*He obviously lived his life in fear that he too might be captured someday.*)

It is said that there was (is?) a curse upon this gold ball. True perhaps because certainly the people the pirates took it from came to a bad end. Then the pirates themselves never got the chance to spend it. The Butterfields lost it to a less-than-honest shyster-merchant in Fort Myers named Hixon.

Seems that justice seldom prevails, but Mr. Hixon got his. He somehow lost the accursed ball of gold when his store burned. (Burnt Store Road?) His fortune gone and his business failed, his wife deserted him and took the children. Years later, he lost his mind but lived on in pain and agony. Eventually he died a raving old madman all alone and dead broke.

MOUND KEY PROFILES

—1878-19??—

Capt. Elwin E. Damkohler

Both Father Clifford Lewis and Rolfe Schell cited Captain Damkohler in their reports on Mound Key. We found one more reference in a photostatic copy of an unidentified newspaper (or magazine?) with a penciled-on date of 10/24/52. Headline "HISTORIC MOUND KEY IS PROPOSED FOR SHRINE", with a subhead of, "Gold Reportedly Found on Campsite of Spaniards." The article states that Damkohler was a 78-year-old native of Estero then living in Fort Myers. This computes out that the good captain was born about 1874. Rolfe Schell had him 77 years old in 1955. This would agree with Damkohler's own report of being 12 years old in 1890 when he went digging with the Johnson boys on Mound Key. (This little in-accuracy is not bad at all for pinpointing dates in comparing old bits of information — close enough anyway to be fairly certain we are writing about the same person.)

Keep in mind when reading Damkohler's following account that it was written by a man nearing 80 years of age about something that happened when he was a lad of 12.

"Near the center of the burial mound was found a human skeleton and beneath this skeleton was almost a solid mass of other bones after the depth of 18 inches was reached. Located on the chest of what is believed to be the last person buried there was found the picture of a man. This picture was discovered by Hob Johnson and myself and was in a brass frame, 3 1/2 by 2 1/2 inches, with a convex horn front and brass back cover. Inside this horn was painted the bust picture of a man who closely resembled pictures of DeSoto. After removal of the back cover of the picture, a paper was found crammed inside. The writing on this paper was in Spanish in old wooden type printing. Upon attempting to remove the paper, it began to crumple so badly that we decided to send it where there were better facilities. Then too, we couldn't read Spanish."

MOUND KEY PROFILES

The article continues, "*We finally sent it to a Catholic priest in Tampa but in removing the paper, the picture was ruined. All that could be interpreted from the writing was the name 'Capt. Mercer Espindola,' (identified by historians as a cavalier of Genoa who was in charge of 60 hacberdiers.) I think this picture was of DeSoto himself.*

"I sent the original bits of paper to the Wisconsin Museum but they were lost in transit."

We think the reporter was most kind and considerate in his rewrite of what was given to him. The following is offered, not to mock the language of our forefathers, but to indicate some of the color (music actually) associated with local idioms of the past. For instance, a more colorful account is given in Rolfe Schell's *1,000 YEARS...* which quotes Damkohler: "*The above mentioned things, were all found near, and under the picture, and a mass of boans, of one person. The skeiliton under the picture, was the last person to be buried*

in the burying mound. Probbly put there by Indians, as Bandits and Pirates would have taken the valuable things.

"...the first, or lowest bones found, had all the eare markes of being cannibles.(?)"

[Shades of "Aarr me hardeez!"]

Damkohler revised his statements somewhat as time passed. Around 1965 Father Lewis interviewed him and reported that on the skeleton (with the picture?) were found swords, crosses, beads, bells and a gold bar which Damkohler said was sold to a Tampa banker for \$600.00.

The news article described Damkohler as an amateur archaeologist when he was not presiding as "Coconut King" over Florida's largest coconut nursery up near Punta Rassa. Much of what Damkohler wanted done by various civic and government groups has subsequently been accomplished. His drive to enshrine Mound Key may have spurred some of the several actions which followed.

MOUND KEY PROFILES

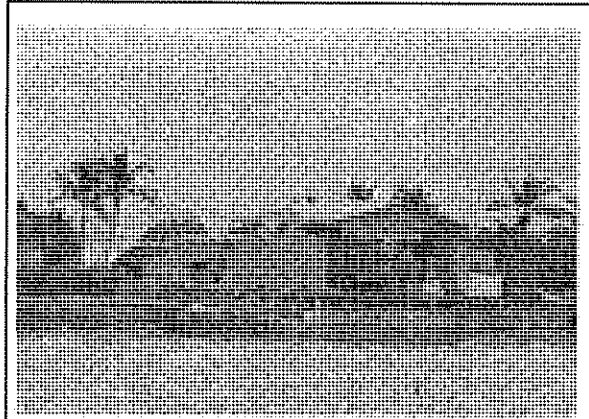
— 1891 —

FRANK W. JOHNSON

Throughout this book, and indeed any book about Mound Key, you should find references to Mr. Frank Johnson. In 1891 he was awarded a U.S Government deed for 125+ acres of Mound Key under the (then fairly new) Homestead Act.

Rolfe Schell's book, "*1,000 YEARS ON MOUND KEY*" shows an undated plat of the island sitting in "Ostego Bay" on page 19. There are several early settlers listed as landowners, so Frank and Mary Johnson may have done quite well as Lee County's earliest developers. Several prominent descendents of these Mound Key residents still reside nearby. The Johnson progeny abound around **Coconut Point** where many are still engaged in the fishing industry.

Ironically, Frank and Mary's very lovely great-great-granddaughter Tracy helped with the 1994 Mound Key archaeological project. At the site of the Johnson homestead ("X" on our map) she found a bead which could well have been a family heirloom from a full century ago.



Johnson's Fish Co—Coconut Point 1994

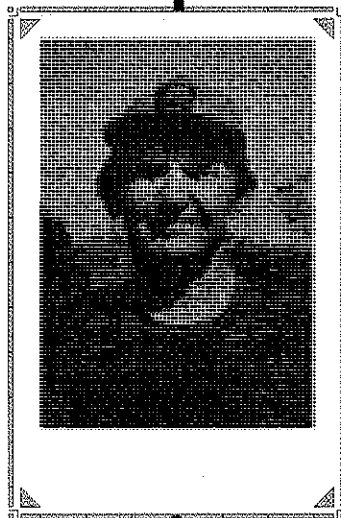
Father Clifford Lewis reported that Frank Hamilton Cushing talked to Mrs. Johnson and learned, "Here on the heights, many Spanish relics have been found: Venetian beads, scraps of sheet copper, small ornaments of gold and silver, and a copper-gilt locket." Father Lewis wrote that this information agreed with what E.E. Damkohler had given him.

It was Frank and Mary Johnson's son, Hob, who with Damkohler, "excavated" some of the gravesites. They were then pre-teenage boys with great imaginations and even greater memories for Damkohler wrote about all this 70 years later. (See page 97)

After Johnson proved up his island claim and was awarded the deed for it, it became known as "Johnson's Island" or "Johnson's Key." Wonder who changed it? Why?

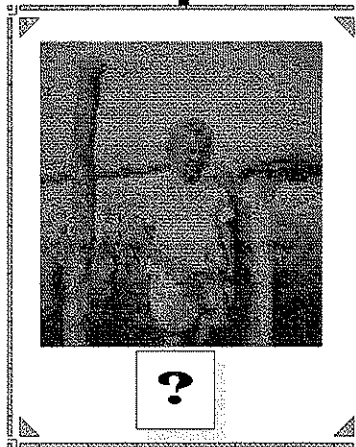
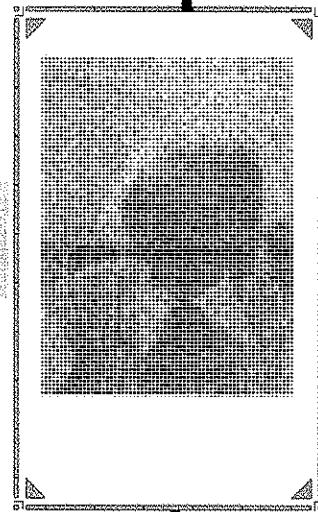
MOUND KEY PROFILES — A Family Tree

These folks were born circa 1880



circa 1910

Draine & Mamie Weeks
Bonita Springs Florida



circa 1950

*The tad in the bottom picture is Captain Charlie.
Now all grown up with grandchildren of his own.*

MOUND KEY PROFILES

—early 1900—

A. D. MAY & J. W. FUREN

The two men did more digging on Mound Key than all others combined. A.D. May dug the circular hole in the northwest section of the island shortly after 1900. (This “borrow pit” was called a “reservoir” on the map in Rolfe Schell’s book, **1,000 Years On Mound Key.**)

In 1927, J. W. Furen contracted with the Koreshan Unity to dredge to 6 feet below low tide a strip of shell 50 feet wide from the shoreline to where May had excavated earlier. Evidence of this canal exist between the north entrance and the May pit.

Father Clifford Lewis stated that these excavations may have destroyed valuable archaeological features on the island but made it easier to study the genesis of the island’s artificial formation.

May used trestle tracks to move the shell to lighters (barges) for transport to the mainland. We suspect the loading area for the lighters was where we now find the north “deep-water” entrance to the island.

Railbeds connecting these two areas were likely taken away by Furen’s canal.

A landowner named Furen is listed on old plats of Mound Key — same person who excavated the canal? There are also claims that someone dug and hauled away shell until the landowner caught them and put a stop to it. Could Furen have been this owner? Could May have been the digger who got stopped? This seems unlikely since May was enterprising enough to build sophisticated earth-moving systems; high-tech for that day. Somewhere therein is an unsolved mystery which probably will remain that way.

Author’s note: Shell mounds on the mainland were more accessible than ones on the island so they were destroyed in great numbers. Coconut Point shell mound was hauled off by horse and wagon to make roadbed for Route 41. It was located where Johnson Fish House now sits just south of Weeks’ Fish Camp on property now owned by Westinghouse Bayside Communities’ Pelican Landing.

MOUND KEY PROFILES

—1926-1940—

The Collier Family

Interviewed in 1982 by Captain K. C. Alvarez, who claims the title of *Interpretive Naturalist*, Mr. Calvin Collier told of his childhood on Mound Key. His family moved from Fort Myers to the Estero Bay area in 1924 when he was 4 years old. They lived on a home built on pilings over the bay. They kept a Model-T Ford on the mainland which they used to make the 2-day trip to Fort Myers for supplies. While on one such trip in 1926, a hurricane carried away everything the family owned. Calvin recalled that although his mother seldom accompanied them on the trip to town, they had coaxed her into going along on this one. He felt she would not have survived if she had remained at home then.

Sometime after the storm, they found his father's fishing boat miles away, capsized in the mangroves. To locate their new home on higher ground, they decided to move to Mound Key.

There were then 17 families living on Mound Key. With

their homes (shacks by today's standards) some had gardens, orchards, sheds, pens and barns for livestock — and lots of children. The tiny island proudly supported a small school house, but it too was carried away during the 1926 hurricane.

So, as the Colliers moved onto Mound Key, many other families were leaving for the Coconut or Estero communities nearby to enroll their children in school. For the next few years only a half-dozen or so families populated the island.

In 1928 another fierce hurricane took off part of the Collier's roof and it completely destroyed a neighbors kitchen. This was not an easy life for young Calvin. The elements were raw, times were tough, the work was hard and he was not happy there.

In 1929 he boarded in Fort Myers for a three-month school term. This he did enjoy. Sporadically, when funds became available, he completed a total of 5 terms of schooling during the next few years.

MOUND KEY PROFILES

The Collier family raised cattle, hogs, turkeys, and chickens. He said the hogs were unfit to eat because they would wander down to the shoreline and eat crabs. This apparently tainted the pork and made it so rancid that it was unfit for human consumption.

While most of the settlers on the isle ate fish, the Collier family disliked it. They ate pork (no doubt kept in pens away from the shoreline crabs), their other domesticated livestock and wild game including gopher tortoise, loggerhead turtles, and turtle eggs. Wild fowl in their diet included ibis (curlew) and night heron (squawk).

Mr. Collier remembered seeing bear tracks in the sand near Clam Pass while hunting raccoon there but did not mention if they ate bear meat or not.

Fishermen at that time received one penny per pound for mullet. They rarely ever caught their limit of 300 pounds per week.

Mosquito repellants of that day were smudge pots smoking with buttonwood, white mangrove,

and cow manure. The pots burned around the house constantly. They treated their door and window screens with kerosene to bar penetration of sand gnats (no-see-ums).

150 proof alcoholic beverages (called Aquadent?) was available from Cuban fishermen who fished the coast during the prohibition years. The Cubans eagerly bartered it for mullet which they needed for bait.

When Mr. Collier lived on Mound Key, it was not so grown over with brush and weeds because the animals kept it grazed and browsed. He recalled also that there were many fruit trees there and several families planted large gardens. One by one the families moved to the mainland and the island population dwindled down. Finally in 1940, the Collier family moved away also and Mound Key has had no families there since.

A lone "goat-man" purportedly lived there and maintained his herd for a few years after WWII. Many locals remember that but not much about the man. Perhaps he wanted it that way?

MOUND KEY PROFILES

Today, on trips across the island, one sees little evidence of early settlers ever having lived there. There are two water storage cisterns and where buildings once stood there are now floral descendants of ornamental shrubs used as foundation plants.

You can also see beautiful Royal Poincianas which Mr. Collier claims started when one of their fence posts, brought in from the mainland, took root and leafed out. Today's trees descended from that fence post.

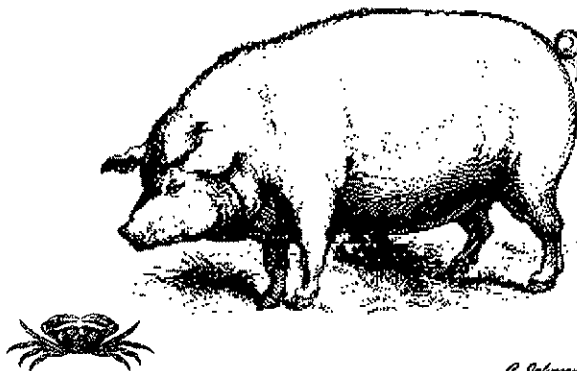
*

COULD BE TRUE ?

An old-timer told me that pigs catch crabs by standing still in shallow water until several crabs bite onto them. Then they wade onshore and wait until the crabs tire and let go. When they fall to the ground, the pig munches them.

So ... if anyone ever tells you a pig can't fish ...

cbj



C. Johnson Gra F-X

MOUND KEY PROFILES

—MID 1900—

CLIFFORD M. LEWIS S.J.

The Reverend Clifford M. Lewis entered the Society of Jesus in 1942. He was a native of Pennsylvania. He received his A.B. degree in English at Allegheny College in 1932 and his M.A. in Journalism from the University of Wisconsin in 1935.

He publicized the history of Mound Key in depth through articles in *THE AMERICAN EAGLE* over 20 years ago. The American Eagle, a publication of the Koreshan Unity at Estero, contained much information repeated later in a contribution to "TACACHALE - Essays on the Indians of Florida and Southeastern Georgia during the Historic Period."

Looking through the materials we amassed on the history of Mound Key and the Calusa Indians, it becomes readily apparent (in our opinion) that Father Lewis is THE ONE MODERN AUTHORITY on it all. It is clear also that it was his research and writings which most subsequent authors have used for reference in their

presentations. He dug deeply into little-known literature and did research on his own as well.

Father Lewis refers to many sources dating into antiquity, most of which are English translations of the original Spanish reports written in the sixteenth century. He gave credit to the original authors and those who translated the material and then added their own interpretations.

He summed up that the Calusa were aboriginal coastal dwellers occupying the area south of Charlotte Harbor. He blamed the Spanish more than the Calusa for the failures of their forts and missions here. At the same time, he hails Father Juan Rogel as a champion in his efforts to convert the Calusa and credits him with compassion for the natives and a sincere desire to learn what he could about them while teaching them the Spanish ways.

Many of the people who tour with us have a problem with the profundity of one statement made by Father Lewis. It was written in The American Eagle,

MOUND KEY PROFILES

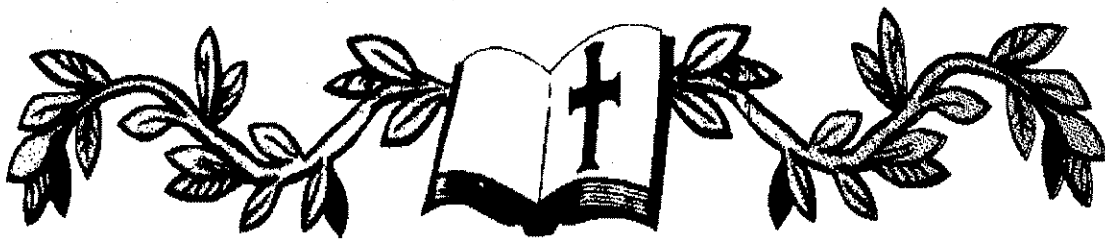
March 1970, Part 3 of "Mound Key / The Spanish Jesuit Mission of 1567-69 in Southwest Florida." Quoting Father Lewis:

"...Carlos was the first mission of the Jesuit Order anywhere in the Spanish Empire." Then he adds, "This says a good deal, for the Jesuit Order is the largest Missionary Order in the Catholic Church and the Spanish Empire was the most extensive in history."

Our thoughts explode, "SAYS A GOOD DEAL ..." INDEED! To use a more modern vernacular, this "Knocks the socks off"

people we inform about our little island's exalted significance in international historical import. This account is usually met with slack-jawed disbelief on the faces of our passengers on the boat tour. Then for theatrical effect, we follow up with, (ho-hum) "...by the way, close to where we are now, Ponce de Leon received the wound from which he died." Then smile and say, "Check it out."

We owe one more debt of gratitude to Father Lewis. We believe he is responsible for Mound Key being listed by the National Park Service in the "National Register of Historic Places."



MOUND KEY PROFILES



—1960-79 —
ROLFE SCHELL

For over 30 years “1000 Years On Mound Key” has been unquestionably the most popular book on our Calusa island. That Mr. Schell’s book continues to sell after this length of time is better recommendation for it than anything we can possibly say.

In six short chapters, Mr. Schell covers more history than anyone else has heretofore done. My biggest argument with his presentation is that I cannot agree to gumbo limbo trees being grotesque — and this is hardly an argument at all. It is not our purpose

to plagiarize this (or any other) book, but rather outline it in a manner to whet your appetite for it. We suggest that you purchase it and evaluate it for yourself. We believe you will find from the limited information available at the time, Mr. Schell delivered significantly.

After four printings of “1000 Years...” in 1979, the book was revised from its original printing. Prefaced by N. E. Miller, then director of the Florida Board of Parks and Historical Monuments, the book is recommended as being historically significant, interesting, comprehensive and convincing. We agree.

In Chapter 1, Mr. Schell tells of how the ancients may have arrived here from the distant Yucatan Peninsula. He mentions memoirs written by an escapee (Fontaneda) from Calusa captivity telling his story after 17 years among them. He had been captured by the tribe in 1545 as a lad of 13 years. At that time in history, the area was called the “Territory of Carlos” and the natives were called fierce but in their language, this indicated they were intelligent and brave. Back then the term “black man” meant one who was bold and daring.

Mr. Schell touches on the physical size of the Indians and cites an un-

Mound Key Profiles

Schell continued

earthed shin bone which exceeded 33 inches in length. From other sources we deduce that the Calusa were likely 5'10" to 6 ft. tall (5'8" if you listen to archaeologists) but a 33 inch tibia! You must remember that the average Spaniard of that era was nearly 5 ft. (5'4" if you listen to archaeologists) so anyone of much greater height, particularly one with a vertically-piled hairdo to add to the effect, would have seemed a giant among men.

In Chapter 3, we learn about the early white settlers on the island and Schell reports on some digs he personally made. He gives a topological description of the island which remains much the same today. He compares facing of temple mounds with conch shells to the Mayan practice of facing in stone which was available to them but not to the Calusa. He believed (and we must agree) that there is a "striking resemblance" between Mayan pyramids and Mound Key shell terraces.

Chapter 4 deals with treasures found on nearby islands and shell mounds, pirates, and only the scantiest amount of treasure ever found on Mound Key.

Chapter 5 and 6 discuss the Calusa's history, the Spanish fort and mission here, and up-to-recent white settlers.

We must argue with Mr. Schell when he calls these Indians "now-forgotten". A better adjective may be "nearly-forgotten" because they live on in our memories as long as people like him tell the Calusa story.



MOUND KEY PROFILES

—1961—

HEDWIG MICHEL

This century may be sadly remembered as when we sat idly watching the rape of local coastal islands. Environmentally apathetic developers fell trees and named their streets after them and the wildlife which perished from their removal. The view of a once pristine tropical shoreline became cluttered with towering tributes to the architects' talent and the developers' schemes. Abused sea oats, mangroves, sea grape, saltwort and other soil stabilizers soon disappeared and now condo dwellers wonder why their beach sand has washed away. Curious.

While this happened, one person stood up to be counted. Because of her, Mound Key was saved from the chain saws and bulldozers. In November 1961, the Board of Directors of the Koreshan Unity, under the leadership of Ms. Hedwig Michel, donated "A gift to the people", the 100 acre part of Mound Key they owned. It was given to the Florida Board of Parks and Historic Monuments. These lands were to be used for conservation, education, and recreation.

In *THE AMERICAN EAGLE*, July 1974, Ms. Michel wrote the following:

Mound Key was and is an integral part of the Koreshan history not only for the taxes paid since about the turn of the century. The Pioneer settlers lived on the island, raised their vegetable gardens there and vacationed and fished the area. After they moved to neighboring communities of Coconut and Estero the isolated island turned into a cultivated wilderness. Finally Mound Key was discovered by developers who made enticing offers to the Koreshan owners to change the isolation into modern living conveniences. But Koreshans wouldn't listen. Their treasured possession could not be bought. They were determined to preserve its unique history and archaeology "for future generations."

From the future, Ms. Michel,

"THANK YOU!"

MOUND KEY PROFILES

-1970-

KURT GRIESSHABER

At Martha's Natural Food Store in Bonita we found a 60 page magazine-sized booklet copyrighted in 1970 (1993 Revision) by Mr. Kurt Griesshaber. Titled, "*Calusa and Spaniard* FORGOTTEN HISTORY."

Throughout the issue are illustrations drawn by the author plus some he copied from drawings dating back to the 1500's. The text is interesting and informative. The artwork alone makes this book worth having.

Mr. Griesshaber mixes logic with fact to present new ideas to us about such things as:

1. how well behaved and happy the Calusa (and other Indian) children were.
2. how Hollywood often mis-dressed the 16th century conquistador in 17th century armor.
3. how and why Europeans taught Indians the art of scalping.
4. that there really was a Jose Gaspar.

ProCalusa and Anti-Conquistador throughout—you will enjoy reading this book and viewing draw-

ings of artifacts such as bone and shell arrowheads, jewelry made from bone, mother of pearl, real pearls and even musical instruments (flute fragment) carved from wood. He also drew the famous wooden deer head found down on Marco Island and a Calusa clay pipe found in Lee County. (The Calusa smoked tobacco? — or something?)

The author uses his artistic talents to draw the similarities of the Calusa Mounds to a Mayan mound (labeled erroneously by his publisher as Aztec), an Egyptian Mastaba, a Babylonian Ziggurat, a Chinese mound and a German Mound. Many feel the closest in form to the Calusa Temple Mound on Mound Key today is the Mayan type.

[Interesting - this booklet pinpoints 1637 as the downfall of the Calusa Nation. We picked 1571. —cbj]

Cash, cashiers check, Money Order
Cost, tax, S&H total = \$11.33 to
PO Box 634
Estero FL 33928
Allow 3 to 4 weeks for delivery.

MOUND KEY PROFILES



Mr. Griesshaber has a wonderful talent for sketching. His book contains, not only his own imaginative creations, but also some copies of other works which are most interesting to study upon. —CBJ

Above ... from the cover of his book, his drawing of a Calusa fisherman



His sketches above show (to me) a compassion Mr. Griesshaber had for the Calusa. From the little girl with a puppy (my favorite) the storyteller, the hunter and son, the shaman & canoers.

... and here are some copies he made of old woodcuts.



How this picture got in the book puzzles me for it shows natives engaged in farming.



Here we can clearly see a decapitation being enacted along with other suspect activities.

MOUND KEY PROFILES

-1991-

JOHN H. HANN

In his book, "MISSIONS TO THE CALUSA", Dr. Hann translates and edits his way through a maze of historical notes originally written in Spanish.

This book confused me by starting with the 17th century then jumping back to 1500 then forward again to the 18th century. Early on, one can sense the complexity of "MISSIONS..." when Dr. William H. Marquardt wrote five pages to introduce a 46 page introduction by the author.

Part II begins with another dozen pages of introduction for an accounting of the Calusa relative to our focus. [*'Our focus' being only information relative to Mound Key and the Estero Bay area.*]

In *Part II - The Documents*, Dr. Hann goes into great detail. Profuse with footnotes to add microscopic analysis of the messages and/or explanations of the messenger's reasoning, the next hundred pages require meticulous scrutiny.

[The writings of Father Clifford Lewis condensed much of this same material, but they did not expose the cultural bigotry common to missionaries of that (or any?) time. These Jesuits, and others later, came here fresh from the Inquisition and showed our natives all the compassion and understanding they exhibited for the Moors and Conversos back home. In doing so, their efforts to lure the Calusa into Christianity failed.]

*Perhaps the Peace Corps could have done a better job of it?
—cbj]*

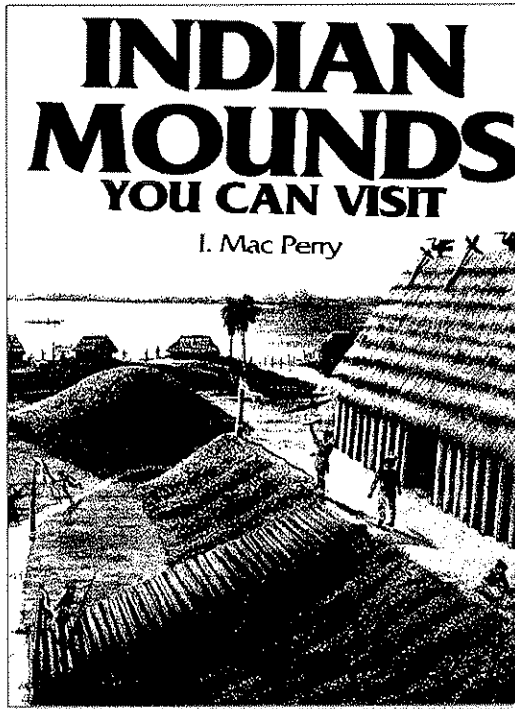
For those lacking advanced degrees or a burning yearning for intricate specifics, something less complex than "Missions..." might suit your needs better. We believe that serious scholars of archaeology and/or history will discover this book is the most authentic journal of local Calusa history they may ever find.

Published by the;
University Presses
Gainesville Florida

MOUND KEY PROFILES

-1993-

I. Mac Perry



In his 1993 book, "*Indian Mounds You Can Visit*," I. Mac Perry calls the Calusa ancestors "Mangrove People." He states they fashioned *Glades Gritty Ware* as early as 500 B.C. by tempering dense clay with sand then rolling, coiling, and smoothing it into pottery.

About the time B.C. became A.D., Mac believes these people started to develop an attitude about living and dying. They came up with unique, though

morbid, burial rites and subsequently worked all this into a religion of sorts which grew more complex with time.

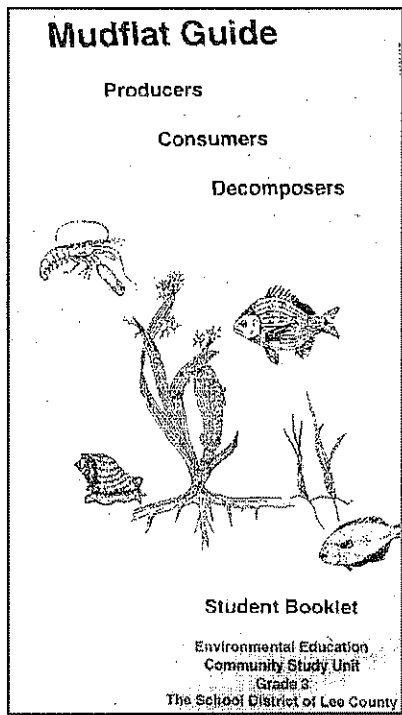
By the year 1,000 A.D. the Florida Indians separated into three distinct tribes — one of which was our local Calusa.

Mac's rather lengthy 320 page book devotes a mere 4 pages to our immediate area, but that alone is reason enough to purchase it.

The author credits impressive people (and organizations) with special thanks for their help in making the book possible. Quality illustrations and photographs are very well done in black and white..

The more serious of you claiming archaeology as a hobby (or profession) along with those who are just curious about Florida's ancient history should find a place on your bookshelf for this volume. The book has a soft cover which will soon become dog-eared from use and that may be the biggest compliment any book can ever receive.

MOUND KEY PROFILES — Lee County School System



A comprehensive and well arranged booklet is pictured at the left. If you can lay your hands a copy, you will have the best beginner's manual around. Don't be fooled by the grade level, this booklet goes into a depth sufficient for most who want a better-than-average knowledge of our area's environment.

The Environmental Education staff members credit members of the community and former EE staff members for contributions in its production. This is just one of the teaching units in community studies series developed by the School District of Lee County, Florida.

Our profile section seems to have become a book review section, so we could not let the booklet above go unmentioned. One of the EE teachers gave it to Charlie who said it was great — I agreed.

With midwestern visitors on our tourboats, we often see yellow school buses parked on the grassy right-of-way north of New Pass bridge. The shallow water east of the road is alive with children pulling seines and other capture devices — learning and enjoying.

Those midwesterner visitors lament remembrances of school days science field trips with only some old corn field to plod through. How lucky our local students are to have all this.

We also have a fine local school system, if the calibre of staff we meet from there are any indication. Some of the most dedicated professionals we know are in the school system ranks. To them we say, "Thank you for your efforts to create a better tomorrow."

MOUND KEY PROFILES

-1990-

DR. WILLIAM H. MARQUARDT

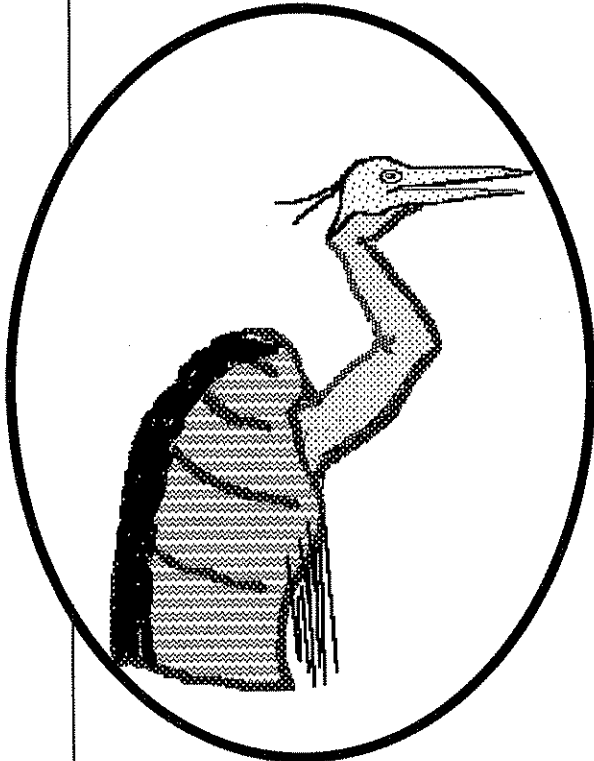
With over 25 years experience in archaeological survey and excavation in Florida, some other states, and in France, Dr. Marquardt comes with great credentials. Add to that his abilities in editing, management and planning and you can grasp the value of his time here.

".. thirty years ago the one-most-recognized authority on Calusa history was Father Clifford Lewis. Today the distinguished position of "authority on all things Calusa" unquestionably belongs to Dr. Bill Marquardt whose knowledge stems from additional recorded history with the science of archaeology capping it off."



CALUSA NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTHWEST FLORIDA PROJECT
INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND PALEOENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES
FLORIDA MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY



Dr. Marquardt edits a great magazine (Newsletter: Calusa News) for members of the Calusa Constituency. The December 1993 was a particularly good one. In it, artist Merald Clark suggested several techniques the Calusa Shaman (and tribesmen?) may have used to appear bird-like in ceremonies.

From a most elaborate model illustrated on the cover to quite simple hats made to resemble birds, Clark imagined several sorts of possibilities. The one we thought most probable is shown at the left where a suitable cover could represent the birds body, the arm its neck and then a carved head with the lower beak made manipulatable by the person's thumb.

Author's note: Not knowing how the Calusa News Editor or artist might feel about outright theft of such magnificent drawings, I used the drawing as a model and drew a much poorer-quality sketch with the computer using PC Paintbrush and ImageXchange programs. The pages of this book were all produced with Microsoft's PUBLISHER program Version 2.0 S/N 00-164-0200-86243158.

— C. Johnson

MOUND KEY PROFILES — Dr. Marquardt Continued



DR. WILLIAM H. MARQUARDT earned his B.A. in Anthropology (minor in Mathematics) at Florida State University in 1968. He received his M.A. in Anthropology (minor in Cultural History) at University of Kentucky in 1971 and his Ph.D. in Anthropology (minor in Archaeology) at Washington University in 1974.

He has been employed as an Assistant Professor of Anthropology, a Director of American Archaeology, a Research Associate, an Associate Professor of Anthropology and Associate Director of the Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology at various Universities. Then at Florida State Museum, U of F, he was Adjunct Associate Curator. Since 1988, he has been with the Florida Museum of Natural History, first as Associate Curator and now as Curator.

Many honors and awards have been showered upon Dr. Marquardt for his

“Meritorious Achievements ...”, “Excellence...”, “Historic preservation ...” and one of the most recent was the Frank C. Craighead Award, for “outstanding contributions to research, education, and preservation in the prehistory of southwest Florida.”

To receive those honors somehow seems quite natural considering Dr. Marquardt’s stated Research and Teaching Interests. These are:

To teach Archaeological Theory, Cultural Change, Dialectical Archaeology, Prehistory of North America, the Archaeology of the Southeastern United States, and finally, **Archaeology of Florida**.

To research Cultural change, the emergence of complexity among fisher-gatherer-hunters, early horticultural societies, processes of archaeological site formation, and archaeology and history in public education.

Dr. Marquardt’s writings date back several years. He has also contributed to, edited, and co-edited far too many books and papers to list here. He has written introductions for colleagues and reviewed many works, some of which are listed in our “Profile” book reviews. In a future revision, we hope he will write a few words for us — wait and see.

MOUND KEY PROFILES — Dr. Marquardt Continued

When Charlie and I contacted Corbett and Dr. Marquardt about sending information to us for PROFILES in this book, we received resumes and a copy of:

Chapter 9

The Role of Archaeology in Raising Environmental Consciousness An example from Southwest Florida

William H. Marquardt

The present drains the past to irrigate the future.
—Henri Bergson

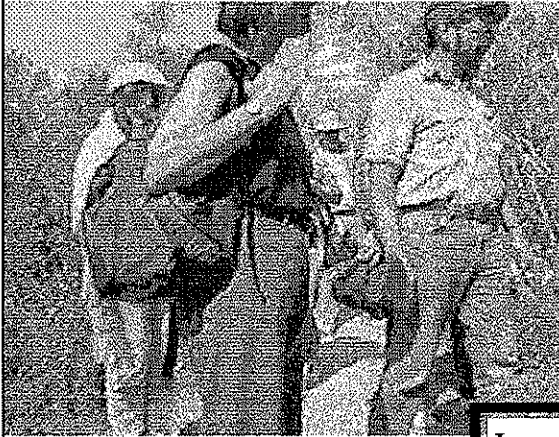
We assume we are permitted to use all or any part of this missive since it was freely given (we think) in trade for the donations Charlie made in transporting them and their volunteers for the last 5 months activity on Mound Key.

It relates impressive and you should not be deprived of its essence. We will not thrust all this upon you, but if you are extremely serious about furthering your knowledge, look for: *Historical Ecology: Cultural Knowledge and Changing Landscapes, from "ARCHAEOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSCIOUSNESS"* edited by Carole L. Crumley, pp. 203-221. School of American Research Press, Santa Fe, N.M. [ISBN 0-933452-85-3]

Dr. Marquardt's following statement you can take to the bank. From **THE WORLD OF THE CALUSA** page 207, "When Europeans arrived in southwest Florida in the sixteenth century they found a complex and powerful society. the Calusa were divided into nobles and commoners, supported an elite military force, and received tribute from towns hundreds of kilometers away. They possessed a belief system that encompassed daily offerings to ancestors and a notion of an afterlife. Elaborate rituals included processions of masked priests and synchronized singing by hundreds of young women. They painted, carved and engraved. The walls inside the temple were covered by carved and painted wooden masks. The head chief's house was said to be able to hold two thousand people without being crowded. (He cites Fontaneda, Hann, Solis de Meras, Vargas Ugarte and Zubillaga.)

Could be that with a lot more education and experience we might begin to fathom the significance of Dr. Marquardt's Archaeological endeavors. For now, we know only that his crew is going after something we believe in and we are honored to share these experiences.

MOUND KEY TIDBITS



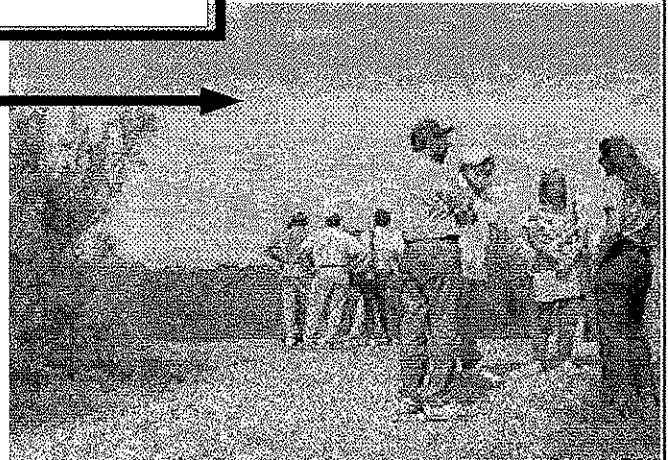
Pictured at Left

Dr. Marquardt leads group
of visiting museum experts
over MOUND KEY. May '93

Images on this page
were taken from videos
made by the authors.

AT RIGHT

ATOP MOUND KEY
NEAR GROUP — left to right
Dr. Bill Marquardt
Capt. Carl Johnson
Reporter Karie Wobrock
DNR Ranger Kathy Close



AT THE WATERCOURT

Teeming with Black Mangrove
trees and their pneumatophores
(air roots). May 1994

"Where Spirits Still Dance?"

MOUND KEY PROFILES

—1994—

CORBETT McP. TORRENCE



In 1983 Corbett earned Bachelor of Arts Degrees in both Geography and Anthropology at the University of Vermont. Expected in 1994, his M.A. Anthropology (Specialization in Ecological Archaeology)

Before supervising the 1994 Mound Key Project, his 10-years-plus professional experience includes research, cartography, surveying, recording, and photography. He has been a crew chief, lab assistant, sound technician, field assistant, field coordinator and field director. He has worked in New England, the Caribbean, and Florida. He has been employed by Universities, Archaeological firms and consultants, Museums and once was associated with National Geographic.

By our reckoning, he has authored and/or co-authored over a dozen Research Reports on Archaeological Reconnaissance, Topographic Mapping, Survey and Site Evaluations, and his Senior Thesis, Department of Anthropology, University of Vermont was titled "*The Present State of Rural Haitian Society and Culture.*"

From 1987 to today, Corbett taught Archaeological Field Methods informally at several locations. As to classroom teaching, he taught Beginning Archaeology at Edison Community College and, in 1995, he has been hired to teach the same course at Elderostel, Ocala.

He has made nearly a score of Presentations on Archaeological matters, but none more important than those he took time to give to our tours **ON MOUND KEY and All About Estero Bay**. See below:



MOUND KEY TIDBITS — 1993-94 PROJECT

This sign greeted us every morning and bade us farewell each evening. It is located at the North Entrance of Mound Key (not visible from the bay) just inside the cove dug there by A.D. May nearly a century ago.



The island's only palm tree stands halfway between the entrance above and Mound One. Fittingly for State Lands, it is Florida's State Tree — the Sabal Palmetto, or Cabbage Palm. Not terribly beautiful, but native and freeze hardy enough to live in the northern part of the state where most other palms would not survive.

Activity on Mound Key attracted many visitors interested in history and archaeology. They came by cruisers, pontoons, canoes and even flew over at tree top level to catch a glimpse of history being made — at least, history being sought after.

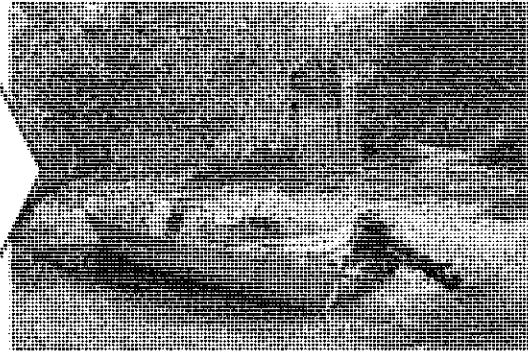


Some lucky visitors may have seen such activities as volunteer Barbara Toomey, at left, sketching and/or graphing what specifically was found exactly where in this 1 meter square pit. Note this site is located at "X" on our Mound Key Map. Here they dug for evidence of the 1557-59 Mission Carlos inside the Fort of San Antonio.

MOUND KEY TIDBITS — 1993-94 PROJECT

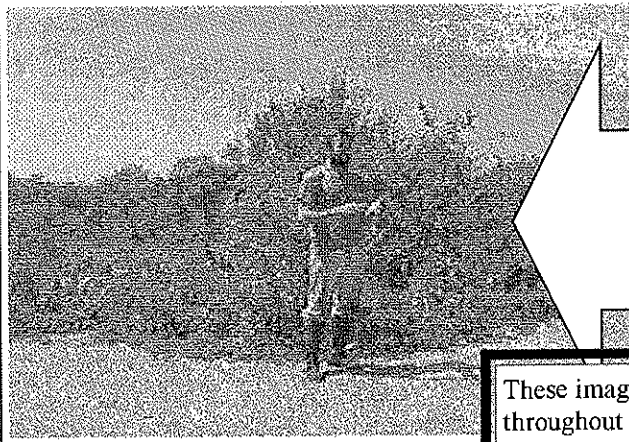
Corbett and Sam had a yacht to use while working Mound Key. This is it!

THE AFRICAN QUEEN



Any major (or near-major) discovery warranted a rally-'round. Here Sam and Corbett are describing what their volunteer helpers have discovered.

Here Sam Chapman leads the way.



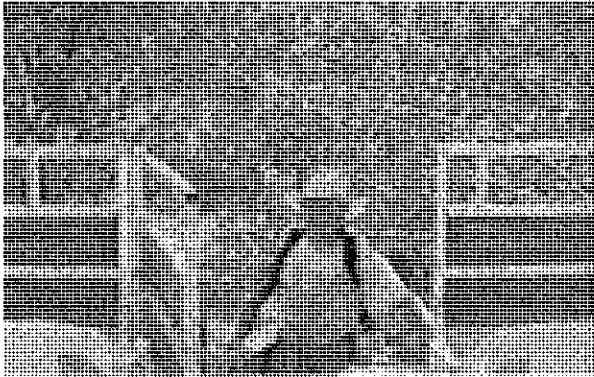
Corbett Torrence waits for the troops to "Fall In." He has the daily instructions ready to deal out.

These images, along with many others throughout the book, were taken from video tapes made by the authors.

MOUND KEY PROFILES

1993-94

Samuel J. Chapman



Above, Sam loads shuttleboat after a long hard day on Mounds.

Sam writes that he is expecting his M.A. Anthropology (University of Florida) this year. We would add that he deserves the degree in our opinions. With special interests in Spanish colonial sites archaeology — emphasis on Spanish/Indian interaction and resultant cultural modifications — he belongs here to work on Mound Key.

He is one of those rarities, a *Native Floridian*, hailing originally from Ft. Lauderdale. He earned his B.A. Anthropology and History at Florida State University in 1988. He is versatile and talented in such allied crafts as typography, cartography, surveying, laboratory analysis and has used these skills in employment ranging from archaeological crew member to assistant archaeological field director.

Much of his experience is centered on projects for the Florida Museum of Natural History, concentrated on *The Southwest Florida Project*, of which Mound Key is a part.

Sam was the second-in-command for the 1993-94 Mound Key project. So good at leading (or providing an inspiration for) the volunteers working on the various jobs, were Sam and Corbett that when we picked them up everyday, they were always smiling. No matter how much grime and black muck stuck to them and their clothes; no matter how hot and sweaty the conditions and regardless of bugs and varmints encountered, the group of ladies below epitomizes all those folks who did their job so well.



Above: Underpaid (no pay)— Overworked (often) — but (most assuredly) Greatly Appreciated were these Volunteers.

MOUND KEY PROFILES

—1947-....—

Captain Charles N. Weeks, Sr.



FROM VIDEO BY CBJ 5-21-94

Captain Charlie co-authored this book. It was built upon the lecture tours he created over many years plying the local waters. I sincerely hope this profile will offer up some the thanks I owe him for engaging me as one of his charter captains a few years and for his input, editing, and cooperation in getting this book completed.

—Carl Johnson

Early on in this century, a very young Draine and Mamie Weeks moved to the Estero Bay area and founded what would become popularly known nearly a hundred years later as “Weeks’ Fish Camp.”

Earning their living at water’s edge, they managed to interrupt their life of hard work nine times to have children. In 1947, Charles Neal Weeks became their fifth of six sons.

As youngsters, Charlie and his siblings were free spirits and at ease in and on the waters of the bay. Charlie has fond memories of going to Mound Key to chase (and catch) rabbits. These rabbits were brought home to cook because Draine Weeks demanded that his children never kill anything they were not going to eat. This included some of the local birds which were considered delicious then, but are now protected species. The Weeks kids were not aware that theirs was a hard and labor intensive life. They knew it was a happy time but then sibling rivalry could sometimes evolve into minor scraps if not outright free-for-alls.

This spirit of competition, a lack of dreads and fears more common to today’s children and a desire to succeed served Charlie well during his school years. Later on it all sustained him as a successful, albeit *non-water-allied* businessman.

Returning to life on the water, Charlie fished, crabbed and shrimped commercially. Later he found his true

MOUND KEY PROFILES — Weeks Continued

niche in life — TOURISM — where today more people are afforded the panorama of Estero Bay from aboard his boats than on all other tour boats combined.

I remember when Charlie started. Many local people believed (and said) that in Fort Myers or Naples a Headboat might work, but in Bonita Springs it is the quickest way to go broke they could think of. Add to that, it was almost impossible to get a highway sign installed to point to Estero Bay Boat Tours. *(As of today, there are still no signs on Rt. 41)*

So, how did Charlie make it work so well? And the answer is: **By giving a quality trip for a reasonable price.** Not only did his customers get information on the local history, the ecology of the bay, its trees and waters, and the identification of some 100 birds in the area, but they got the message from a man who was enthusiastic about it. This feeling was contagious and the message got out mostly 'by word of mouth'. Today, no captain works for Charlie without first undergoing an apprenticeship program with him or one of his seasoned captains.

On the subject of Civic Involvement, does Charlie contribute? You bet! When the 'State' needs local water-

way information or transportation, who do they often turn to? You guessed it. I recall many 'freebie' trips with members of the DNR, various people from museums, universities and the like. (See next page.)

Archaeologists on Mound Key said their 1994 expedition would not have been possible without Charlie's donations of boats for transporting 10 to 20 volunteers daily. This was from December into April and that's a lot of donation in fuel and maintenance.

Some of the Weeks' relatives are native to Mound Key. Growing up, Charlie heard many stories from them about the island and learned firsthand lore which could be lost in the future. A few are still around, each with their own account of life there and **each having their own distinct, yet different memories** about their early home. We hope to garner as much of this as we can for you. You can count on Charlie to see to it while he continues to show the world the best of tours — — — **ON MOUND KEY and all about Estero Bay.**



Mound Key Profiles — Weeks continued



Virginia B. Wetherell
Executive Director

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Marjory Stoneman Douglas Building
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

District 8 Administration
1843 South Tamiami Trail
Osprey, Florida 34229
January 31, 1992

Lawton Chiles
Governor
Jim Smith
Secretary of State

Bob Butterworth
Attorney General

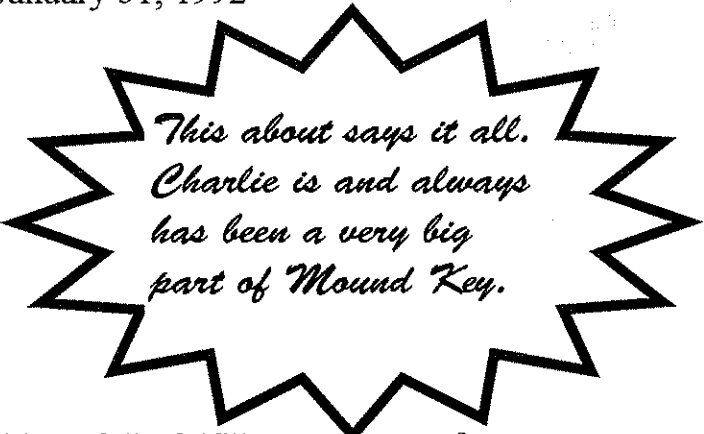
Gerald Lewis
State Comptroller

Tom Gallagher
State Treasurer

Bob Crawford
Commissioner of Agriculture

Betty Castor
Commissioner of Education

Captain Charles Weeks
Estero Bay Boat Tours, Inc.
5231 Mamie Street S.W.
Bonita Springs, Florida 33923



*This about says it all.
Charlie is and always
has been a very big
part of Mound Key.*

Dear Captain Weeks:

The information enclosed will hopefully fulfill your request for materials on Mound Key and its original architects, the Calusa's.

I can not thank you enough for your ongoing support of, and assistance with, our efforts at both Mound Key and Koreshan. Without your able assistance we simply could not achieve the gains made thus far. I also particularly enjoyed your tour of the key. Your easy going style, anecdotes and broad knowledge are the very kinds of worthy traits we try to instill in our interpreters. You also have something which is the quality I most admire — an emotional attachment to the resource. There just are not enough folks like you around.

Again, many thanks; I hope the enclosed material is of benefit to you

Sincerely,

/s/ *Robert*

Robert Dye
District Manager

RD/bh
cc: Valinda Subic

125

COPY

MOUND KEY PROFILES — Captain Carl Johnson



Safety Harbor
Museum
of Regional History
329 Bayshore Blvd. S.
Safety Harbor, FL 34695
813/726-1668

TRUSTEES

- Marilyn Bartz
- Brian Evensen
- Gail Fuhr
- Charlotte Hoolihan
- Marge Houglund
- Richard Learn
- Don Mahoney
- Sally Monroe
- Joan Schnatterer
- Toby Shugart
- Joyce Swatash
- Guy Waters
- Carol Wood

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President
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Vice-President
- Marge Houglund
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Treasurer

ADMINISTRATOR

- Mickey Pleso

FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATOR

- Wendy Montgomery

HISTORIAN

- Hector C. Borghetty

... AND THE BOSS (Charlie) is
not the only guy that gets nice
letters ...

This must be the most compli-
mentary letter I ever received.

— *C. Johnson*

June 9, 1994

Captain Johnson
Estero Bay Boat Tours
5231 Mamie St. SW
Bonita Springs, FL 33923

Dear Captain Johnson,

We want to thank you for your most informative, and may I say caring, boat tour any one could ever imagine having.

Captain Johnson, your love for Estero Bay and the surrounding land is incredible. Arden and you were a real team. I watched your expressions and saw such excitement when you shared your knowledge with all of us. You are just fantastic.

You know, one could read every book in the world and never feel or capture the feeling of just being there. Your love for the islands and sea are very strong and it sure shows. If we could bottle your caring and sharing, we all would be millionaires.

Captain Johnson, THANK YOU, for your extra input and caring for the preservation and education of history. That is the mission of the Safety Harbor Museum and none of this could be possible without caring people such as you.

We are looking forward to your visit Sunday.

Sincerely,

Mickey Pleso
Administrator

COPY

MOUND KEY PROFILES — C. Johnson Continued



What can I say ?

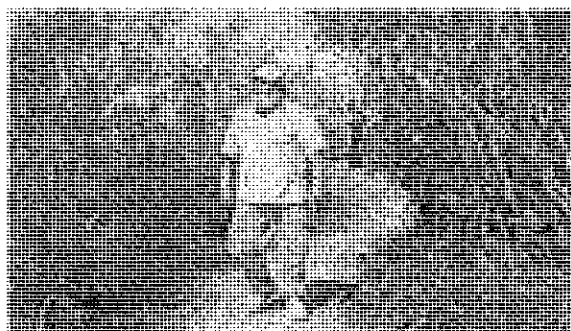
To start with — “THANKS.” Thanks for reading this book. Thanks for taking our tour. Thanks for caring about the ecology, the environment, and the history of our local area.

On our first visit here in the 70’s, Sue and I decided we would never be happy anywhere else. Ask any newcomer though, and they will tell you the first years here are tough. We transplants had been spoiled and grossly overpaid to manage Yankee Industry. Florida salaries were (and are) a joke. No one should come here expecting to earn money — you had better bring it with you.

I paid my dues to King Neptune in the early 1980’s by partnershiping a commercial marine towing and salvage operation.

We towed hundreds of distressed boaters home from the gulf, off sandbars, or in for fuel or repairs, and refloated submerged ones. Then one New Years Day, terribly hung-over, for 16 hours we pumped and towed a sinking, burned-out, 72-foot, wooden-hulled shrimper that kept re-igniting. The stench of cooking rotted fish was so bad that about midnight, as the last fire extinguisher went, “P S s s s s s” and our big gas bilge pump ran out of fuel, I opted for a career improvement. For the next 10 years, I skippering my own charter fishing boats. Then since 1991, the best years were spent conducting lecture tours over MOUND KEY (below) and Estero Bay.

Retired now, deeply into video and computers, I still occasionally captain one of the *Horizons* for *Estero Bay Boat Tours*. Like all the captains there, I carry a Coast Guard Master’s rating as a Merchant Marine Officer; kept valid, current, and active.



Title this, “*Captain Carl quit smoking 4 years ago*” (and gained over 30 lbs.)

MOUND KEY PROFILES

~~-1993-94-~~

Tina Csonka



We decided early on that any event occurring *on Mound Key* or *all about Estero Bay* would be fair game for this book.

One particularly nice series of events took place which restored our faith in the younger generation, in the school systems and in the future — Tina Csonka came our way. A teacher-extraordinaire in our opinion, she led several classes from Bonita Springs Middle School on our tours of Mound Key. Sometimes they brought along laboratory apparatus and performed tests on and in the water. A sample sheet (with comments) is on the next page where you can see we learned as much from the activities as they did.

On Mound Key, Tina provided a wealth of information for us in identifying various plants, trees and shrubs — another one of her fields of knowledge.

Tina's husband, Gene, is also associated with the school system and joined many of the trips to video and photograph what there was to see for the school media center — his bailiwick. They plan to spend the summer working together with the Corkscrew Regional Environmental Watershed identifying, photographing and videoing plants and animals and developing curriculum material.

Tina's real love is teaching Marine Biology. With the new Florida Gulf Coast University opening soon, she plans to work for her Master's degree in Environmental science.

(...and I know you football fans wonder if the Csonkas are related to Larry (former star player for the Miami Dolphins. Yes they are. cbj)

MOUND KEY PROFILES — CSONKA

Chemistry

Dissolved oxygen: #1 6 ppm #2 7 ppm
 pH: Site #1 8 units #2 8 units
 Carbon dioxide: #1 40 ppm #2 40 ppm
 Nitrate: Site #1 22
 Phosphate 2.4
 Salinity: 23.2

Microbiology

Three trawls —
Copepod Naupli
Calanus species
Ostracods speci
Amphipeds spec
Isopeds species
Shrimp larva

Weather

Air temperature:
 Cloud cover:
 Wind:
 Rain:
 Recent Conditi

Physical Condi

General Site des
 Water temper-
 atu
 Water depth
 Flow
 Discharge
 Tide (lunar phase
 Turbidity:
 Total dissolved s

Macrobiology

Faunal species
 Benthic macroin
Starfish (2)
Fighting Conch
Unknown Snai
Lightning Wheel
Shrimp (6)
Crabs (4)
Comb jelly (1)
Hermit crab (1)
Pinshell (1)
Olive snail (2)
Sea urchin (1)

Vertebrates:

Trumpetfish (1) *Pipefish (1)*
Pinfish (1) *Stingray (1)*

Lee County Rivers Projects Data Base Report Form 1.0

Use this form as your final record of data from each site monitored, use a separate form for each date and each site. Specific sampling techniques are described in detail in the "Field Manual for Water Quality Monitoring", and in the "Lee County Rivers Projects Manual". (More info on this form continued... ch)

Site and Date

General locale: Estero Bay
 Specific sampling site location: Site 1 - Mound Key (West)
 Date: 4-15-94 Site 2 - Mud flat East of
 Time Site 1 - 11:16 Carl Johnson Park
Site 2 - 1:30

Observers

School: Bonita Springs Middle
 Class: 5th period
 Individual names:

Samples of 3 sheets
 filled out on one trip.

Water Quality Index

	A	B	C	D	E
1 Parameter	Test Results	Q-Value	Weight Factor	Total	
2					
3 DO	76%, 88% sat	83 95	0.17	14.11-16.15	
4					
5 Fecal Colif	(tests not done)				
6					
7 pH	8 8 units	85 83	0.11	9.35-9.13	
8					
9 BOD	(tests not done)				
10					
11 Temperature	18C, 22C	20 17	0.1	2-1.7	
12					
13 Total Phosph	1.3 1.3 mg/l	3.5 3.5	0.1	3.5-3.5	
14					
15 Nitrites	.22 22 mg/l				

Well folks — I don't know how YOU feel
 about this, but I am impressed; all this from
Eighth Graders !!!! — *CBJ*

NEWTHINK

2000 A.D.

What is NEWTHINK?

Since childhood, we knew dinosaurs were cold-blooded reptiles.

NEWTHINK — NOT !

People now know dinosaurs were the ancestors of warm-blooded birds!

Now let's apply NEWTHINK to the subject of Mound Key and consider:

1. Mound One (Pyramid / the Temple Mound) was actually the homesite of the Calusa Kings-Chiefs-Caciques. To show off their power, wouldn't they have picked the highest spot of land from which to be 'master of all they surveyed'? Just who would say not to?
2. The 'Activities Mound' was their Temple Mound/Pyramid or Religious/School site — right amid, and in view of, their domiciliary mounds.

3. The mounds southeast of Mound One were used by the King's servants, attendants, guards, shaman etc. Separated from the masses by a canal, he would have wanted such. (As far as we know, no one to date has ever attempted to explain this mound group.)

How does all this effect the theory that the borrow pit was the site of the fort and mission? It adds ammo; Would King Carlos have allowed the Spanish a location to observe him at will. Rather, wouldn't he have wanted his tribal huts as a buffer zone between his mound and the fort/mission?

ON MOUND KEY

SO IT WENT

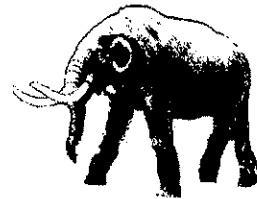


There are those who believe the ripple of time is such that because a banker missed his train in Peoria one summer morning in 1922, world events were altered for all time. Surely if Adolf Hitler had died at birth, if Albert Einstein had stayed in Germany or Christopher Columbus had become a farmer, or if Bill Clinton had inhaled, the world and our place in it would be very different today.

Knowing the reason you (and I) failed to be elected to the 1978 Illinois Senate could have been because of Mrs. O'Leary's cow or Old Hogan's goat if proof enough that all of the events listed in this chronology had effects on Mound Key and Estero Bay. Some, admittedly, were more profound than others.

20,000,000 B.C. Florida rose from the sea to be carved by future winds, waves and financial considerations.

7,000,000 B.C. World's largest mastodon dies in Marion County, Florida to be dug up in 1987 AD



20,000 B.C. Florida coastal outline was much like it is today.

10,000 B.C. Nomads arrive in Florida after crossing the land bridge which then connected Siberia to Alaska.

5,500 B.C. Ancestors of Calusa in Southwest Florida.

4,000 B.C. Pottery was invented

2,500 B.C. Farming introduced into Florida but the non-agricultural Calusa hunted and fished for their foodstuffs.

300 B.C. Euclid wrote the "ELEMENTS" — on mathematics.

Relevant Happenings

64 A.D. Rome burned. Nero fiddled.

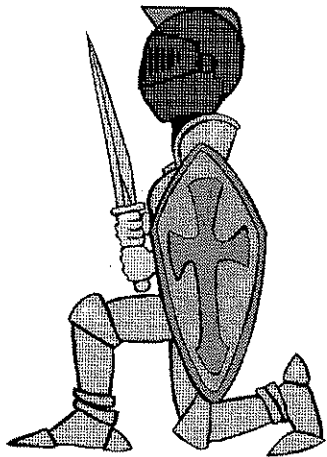
400+ A.D. Calusa gather shells to build mounds. These mounds would satisfy both religious and practical needs and assure them a degree of immortality.

500+ A.D. The Roman Empire fails and barbarians overrun all of Europe. Civilization falls into darkness, need, and ignorance to be led by feudal leaders.

700+ A.D. Norsemen raid France, Germany, and Russia and settle Ireland and Greenland.

800 A.D. Maize and squash developed in America but Calusa ate conch, whelk, shrimp, fish, birds, and mammals.

1000 A.D. Lief Ericson finds America's northeastern shores.



1096-1270 THE CRUSADES

1200+ Feudalism fails; succeeded by a rule by Monarchy. Renaissance starts civilization back up again. John Gutenberg invented the printing press.

Patriotism discovered in many countries.

New products and ideas brought home by the crusaders established a demand for more. This created a lust for exploration (and plundering) on faraway lands.

Navigation methods and tools were improved (and/or copied from Arab and Asian ships encountered.)

Land travel was slow, unsure, and often dangerous. It limited the scope of travel and it was expensive. This made travel on the oceans more desirable and better ships were constructed in a frenzy as each kingdom strived for "dominion of the seas."

1418 Prince Henry "The Navigator" started a school to teach navigation.

1488 Bartholomew Diaz rounded the Cape of Good Hope.

1490 The Calusa in Florida were pleased with their laid-back existence. They were amid a superabundant food supply and were at peace within their own tribes. They successfully avoided the warring inland tribes. They had not yet heard of the Spaniards and never suspected that soon their existence would experience the beginning of the end.

1492 Christopher Columbus set foot on the island of Guanahani in the Bahamas. He renamed the island, "San Salvador."

1493 The second voyage of Columbus. He found the Spaniards left on Hispaniola the year before were dead and their supplies were gone. He visited Cuba, Jamaica, and Guadalupe. He returned to Spain in 1496 and advised them of the effects of European diseases on the North American natives. One crew member on this voyage was Juan Ponce de Leon, about whom the world would hear more later.

1494 The treaty of Tordesillas set boundaries dividing the world between Portugal and Spain. Spain got us.

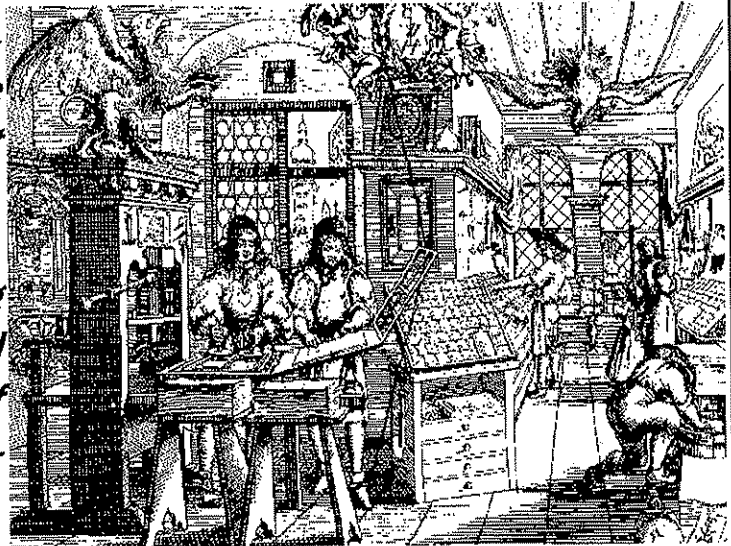
AN INVENTION



Once upon a time there were scribes, highly skilled in calligraphy, who copied the great works of literature. Royalty, the Clergy, and the wealthy learned to read. Some also learned to write.

Came the printing press making books (or at least papers) affordable and education for the masses began. But, was it progress?

Pompous critics resented giving intelligence to the unwashed and complained that the quality of the art waned from mass production. It had.



Time passed — the technology advanced. Nearly anyone could enjoy the luxury of reading. Worldwide, people became more intelligent, happier and very considerate of each other — or not. Could the printing press be the most important invention ever? (Or maybe the laser jet?) Time will tell.

RELEVANT PEOPLE

COLUMBUS 1492
SCANNED FROM VERY OLD OIL PAINTING



COLUMBUS' SPONSOR
SPAIN'S
QUEEN ISABELLA



CORTEZ



DE SOTO



1513 — BALBOA WADES INTO PACIFIC OCEAN

Someone should have warned him
what saltwater would do to his armor!

ON MOUND KEY

1497 **John Cabot** claims North America for England.

1498 **The third voyage of Columbus.** First to Trinidad, then to South America and back to Hispaniola to find it suffered the same fate as before. Columbus and his two brothers were arrested and taken back to Spain in 1500.

1498 **Vasco da Gama** reached India after sailing around the Cape of Good Hope at the south tip of Africa.

1499 **Amerigo Vespucci** sailed the North American coastline. America took its name from this man

1500 Approximately 100,000 Florida natives await arrival of Spanish Conquistadors.

1502 **The fourth voyage of Columbus.** He was denied a landing on Hispaniola by his successor as Governor of that island. He went on to Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, Jamaica and then returned to Spain in 1503.

1504 **Queen Isabella** died and Columbus finds disfavor in Spain.

1508 **Cuba** settled by the Spanish.

1506 **Christopher Columbus** died in his bed attended by his loved ones. Nearby in his dresser was his fortune amassed by his life's work. He did NOT die alone, in chains and financially distressed as some reports claim.

1513 **Juan Ponce de Leon**, having received a commission from Spain to explore Bimini, sailed eventually up Florida's Gulf of Mexico coastline.

1513 **Vasco de Balboa** crosses Panama to discover the Pacific Ocean.

1517 **Captain Hernandez de Cordoba** (known to be ruthless in kidnapping and killing natives)

while on his way to the Bahamas for slaves, stopped to visit Ponce de Leon. At anchor, they were attacked by natives. (Calusa?) Hernandez was wounded and died soon after returning to Cuba.

1519 **Hernan Cortez** began voyage at Vera Cruz to the heart of the Aztec Empire in Mexico.

1519 **Alvarez de Pineda** explored north of Ponce's discoveries to realize that Florida was not an island. (As thought theretofore.)

1519-22 **Ferdinand Magellan** (Portuguese) circumnavigated the world.

1521 **Hernando Cortez** (Spanish) conquered Mexico.

1521 **Ponce de Leon** attempts to settle here in our area and failed. His livestock, seeds and supplies were taken and his soldiers and settlers repelled by the Calusa. Ponce received the wound from which he later died.

1526 **Panfilo de Narvaez**, said to be cruel and stupid and the most incompetent of all conquistadors, received a charter to explore the Florida gulfcoast around to Mexico. More on his bumbling later.

1528 **Panfilo de Narvaez** sailed from Cuba to Florida. Two months later (190 miles) he arrived somewhere between here and Tampa. (With his navigation abilities, it could have been Fort Myers area.) In the voyage he lost 40 horses in what he called, "a series of mishaps." With 400 men and 40 horses which miraculously survived the series of mishaps, they encountered fierce attacks from the natives and fled in quickly-made flatboats of dubious design and floatation ability. This leader and all but three of his men were lost at sea. The three were enslaved in Mexico for 8 or 9 years before being rescued.

Relevant Happenings

1531 **Francisco Pizarro** (Spanish) conquered Peru. He occupied it for two years.

1534 **Jesuit Order** founded by Ignatius Loyola, a former soldier.

1534 **Jacques Cartier** (French) explores the St. Lawrence River.

1539 **Hernando de Soto** lands at Bahia Honda with 500 men. After exploring inland through Georgia, the Carolinas and Tennessee, they returned to Mississippi where de Soto died of an illness in 1542 after years of arduous marching.

1540-41 **Coronado expedition** (Spanish) crosses the Rio Grande to explore Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas.

1545 **Hernando de EscalanteFontaneda**, age 13, shipwrecked, captured then lived with the Calusa for 20 years. He claimed that Carlos ruled over 50 villages. Some of this time was surely spent on Mound Key.

1554 **Pedro Menendez** named Captain of the Spanish Fleet in the Americas.

1559 **Tristan de Luna y Arellano** with a dozen or more ships and 1500 people reached the Florida panhandle region. A hurricane destroyed most of his ships (and supplies) and drowned many settlers. Starving survivors mutinied and sailed back (to Cuba or Spain?).

1561 **Angel de Villanfane** evacuated the remainder of Luna's settlers. He lost half of his 4 ships and 60 people in another hurricane off the Carolinas and abandoned the project. (leaving the settlers where?)

1563 **Pedro Menendez's son, Don Juan Menendez** was lost in a storm sailing on a treasure ship from Vera Cruz.

1565 **St. Augustine** (other coast) was founded.

1566 First recorded visit of Governor Menendez to Estero Bay in February where he planned the establishment of a settlement in the Calusa village of Chief Carlos.

1566 **Menendez** captured Fort Caroline, renamed it San Mateo, expelled the French and executed Jean Ribault and his followers at Mantanzas.

1567 **Menendez's nephew, Pedro Menendez Marques**, appointed governor of Tequesta, Carlos, and Tocobaga nations.

1567 **Mission Carlos** established near Fort of San Antonio on Mound Key. Father Clifford Lewis claims this to be the **first Jesuit mission ever** for the Spanish Empire.

1568-9 **King Carlos**, (name given to the Calusa chief by the Spanish) executed by Captain Francisco de Reinoso during the absence of the Jesuit priest (Father Rogel) who had protected him after Carlos allegedly sacrificed a Spanish sailor. Don Felipe succeeds Carlos as Chief or King or Cacique.

1569 **Mission Carlos** on Mound Key abandoned.

1570 First major disease epidemic in America.

1571 **Don Felipe** executed along with 21-23 of his principle tribal chieftains during an uprising. Spanish soldiers then deserted the Fort of San Antonio and fled the area. Don Pedro succeeded Don Felipe.

1574 **Governor Pedro Menendez** (the adelantado) died.

ON MOUND KEY

1576 Spanish lost Santa Elena in a battle with the Indians.

1577 Indian attack nearly destroys St. Augustine.

1577-80 **Francis Drake** (English) explores America's west Coast.

1580 **One-fourth** of the Spanish men in Florida have Indian Wives.

1586 **Francis Drake** raids St. Augustine.

1586 Second major disease epidemic.

1591 America's third major epidemic.

1605 **Cervantes** published Don Quixote.

1606 **The London Company** made first English settlement in Virginia. This same year, the Plymouth Company is not successful in its attempt to colonize Maine.

1608 **Quebec** founded by Samuel de Champlain.

1609 **Henry Hudson** (English) sailed the Hudson River.

1612 Spanish trader visits this area to find Calusa fragmented, weak, under leadership of a chief named "Carlos." (This could be hero worship or maybe the Spanish habit of calling the leaders by the tribal name.)

1619 **First boat load of Africans** reach Virginia.

1620 **Mayflower** brings the Pilgrims to Cape Cod.

1623 **Dutch West India Company** built a town on Manhattan Island and called it, "New Amsterdam."

1628 **Massachusetts Bay Colony** started.

1630 **Puritan** migration begins Boston.

1633 **Connecticut** founded by Massachusetts malcontents.

1634 **Maryland** settled as Catholic haven.

1636 **Harvard** founded.
Rhode Island founded

1639 First printing press set up in Mass. **New Hampshire** became a crown colony.

1664 British take over Dutch Empire and rename the city, "New York."

1674 **13,000 Christian Indians** in Florida were tended by fifty Franciscans.

1681 **Pennsylvania** chartered.

1682 Entire length of **Mississippi River** explored by Rene de La Salle. (French)

1693 **William and Mary** founded.

1698 Northeastern Florida **Timucua Indian** population near 550. They had numbered in the tens of thousands before the Spanish visits of 1500.

1701 **Yale University** founded.

1702 English raid, sack, and burn St. Augustine.

1704 First American Newspaper published. It was the, "**Boston News-Letter.**"

1713 **Peace of Utrecht** gave the English permission to use Spanish ports only once each year. Smuggling into the ports runs rampant.

Relevant Happenings



1731 **Benjamin Franklin** starts first library — in Philadelphia.

1732 **Georgia** chartered.

1739 British begin “War of Jenkin’s Ear” and took Florida and Georgia from Spain. (Jenkins was a pirate. The Spanish caught him and cut off his ear. This ear [or one like it?] was exhibited by Parliament to show Spanish cruelty and the fight was on.)

1746 **Princeton** founded.

1747 **John Paul Jones** is born. He went on to become an American Naval Hero and died at the age of 45.

1750 **Creek Indians** from Georgia migrate to Florida.

1756 England and France at war. Spain takes sides with France.

1763 **Spain cedes La Florida** to Great Britain in return for the English leaving Havana.

1776 **Thomas Paine’s “Common Sense”** published.



1776 **UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**
DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

1777-8 **George Washington** winters at Valley Forge.

1778 **Captain Cook** lands in Hawaii.

1780 **Bernardo de Galvez**, the Spanish Governor of Louisiana took Mobile Alabama.

1781 **Galvez** takes West Florida with a lucky shot to a powder magazine in Pensacola.

1783 **Treaty of Paris** gave America its independence. Florida returned to Spain by Great Britain in trade for Bahama Islands. 1st Florida Newspaper — St. Augustine’s “**East Florida GAZETTE.**”

1793 **Eli Whitney** perfected his cotton gin.

1795 Spain sold West Florida to France.

1808 U.S. officially ends slave trade.

1811 **Shawnee** defeated at Tippecanoe.

1812 **Andrew Jackson (Old Hickory)** wins battle of New Orleans.

1813 U.S. **Population** about 8 million.

1814 **Andrew Jackson** fights British in Florida. **Napoleon** defeated in Europe.

1815-20 **Indiana, Mississippi, Illinois, and Alabama** get statehood.

1818 **First Seminole War.**

1821 Spanish lands become part of United States for \$5 million. Nationalism peaks and everyone speaks English.

RELEVANT HISTORY

Poor Richard, 1733.

A N

Almanack

For the Year of Christ

1 7 3 3,

Being the First after LEAP YEAR:

<i>And makes since the Creation</i>	Years
By the Account of the Eastern Greeks	7241
By the Latin Church, when Christ	6932
By the Computation of <i>W W.</i>	5742
By the Roman Chronology	5682
By the Jewish Rabbies	5494

Wherein is contained

The Lunations, Eclipses, Judgment of the Weather, Spring Tides, Planets Motions & mutual Aspects, Sun and Moon's Rising and Setting, Length of Days, Time of High Water, Fain, Courts, and observable Days

Fitted to the Latitude of Forty Degrees and a Meridian of Five Hours West from London, but may without sensible Error serve all the adjacent Places, even from Newfoundland to South-Carolina

By **RICHARD SAUNDERS**, Philom.

PHILADELPHIA,
Printed and sold by *B. FRANKLIN*, at the New Printing Office near the Market.

One of Benjamin Franklin's most famous works.

ON MOUND KEY

1823 President Monroe in his Monroe Doctrine warns Europe to keep hands off the U.S. (They had stated their intentions to reconquer former Spanish colonies.)

1824 First U.S. federally funded highway connects St. Augustine to Tallahassee.

1824 U.S. Department of War creates Bureau of Indian Affairs.

1825 Florida Territory has 13,000 inhabitants.

1829 Andrew Jackson, president, started negotiating to ship Florida Indians to Oklahoma.

1832 Cowford Florida changes its name to Jacksonville.

1835 A mule-powered railroad connects St. Marks to Tallahassee.

Dade Massacre starts 7 year war.

1836 Second Seminole War. Group of "blue-eyed" Indians kidnapped slaves from Florida plantations. Later found to be white men.

1837 John James Audubon paints birds in Pensacola.

1838 Miccosukee Chief Neamantla forecasted bad times ahead for his people.

1839 Public Education begins with township authorization.

1840 Florida population now 54,500.

1842 Seminole War declared over. A few Seminoles were left to live in the Everglades.

1845 Florida becomes 27th State March 3. In debt Planters failed. No banks operating.

1850 U.S. Congress enacts law granting swamplands to states for drainage or reclamation.

1852 Harriet Beecher Stowe authors Uncle Tom's Cabin, the most despised book never read in the South.

1853 University of Florida founded at Gainesville.

1856 Sigmund Freud born in Czechoslovakia.

1857 Florida State University founded at Tallahassee.

1857 A soldier in the everglades is one Abner Doubleday who later "invented" baseball. The game becomes popular 40 years later and replaces alligator wrestling?

1859 John Brown hanged.

1860 The Inter-Ocean Telegraph Company laid telegraph cable along the gulf. In 1898 this cable carried the first message of the sinking of the USS Maine. It was then relayed to the rest of the world.

1861 Florida secedes, joins Confederacy.

1862 Key West is largest city in Florida.

1868 Florida re-admitted to United States.

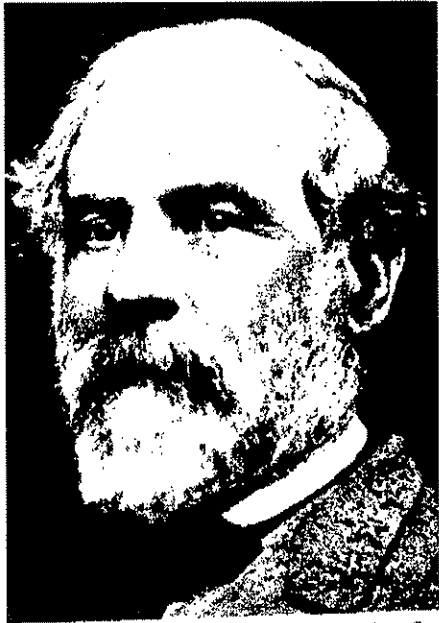
1877 William B. Barnett opens bank in Jacksonville.

1880 First Florida telephone exchange in Jacksonville.

Florida stills are producing turpentine, not hootch.

Alligator wrestling becomes popular entertainment for sultry weekend afternoons.

RELEVANT PEOPLE



ROBERT E. LEE

Him for whom our county was named.

Perhaps more than any other American name, thousands of families (including my own) have chosen "Lee" for their children and passed it down through the generations. My grandfather was Lee Johnson. My father had Lee for a middle name as do an uncle, three cousins and one of my daughters. Would you like to hear my feelings toward wimpy liberal dissidents who want General Lee's portraits removed from our public buildings? I didn't think so.

—CBJ

Below— Lee on Traveler at war's end.



Relevant Happenings

1912



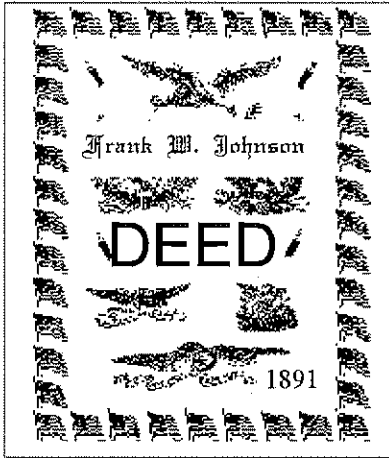
1897



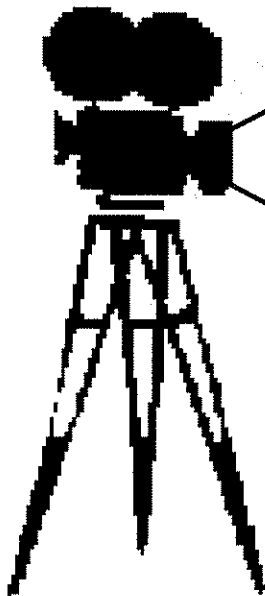
Frank W. Johnson

DEED

1891



1920's



Relevant Happenings

1881 Hamilton Disston purchased four million acres of the Everglades and began draining it for agriculture. His empire fizzled out sometime before 1900.

1884 Rich deposits of phosphates found near the Peace River.

1885 **Augustus Black** dies in his shack on what is now Black Island. He was one of the very last pirates, having once been a partner to Jose Gaspar back in the 1820's. [*Yes, there really was a Jose Gaspar!*]

1890 **Sitting Bull** arrested and murdered; thus ended the Ghost Dance movement.

1891 **Frank Johnson** "proves up" his claim under the Homestead Act and receives a government deed to 125+ acre Mound Key. The island was then renamed "Johnson Key." Two 12-year-old boys (Damkohler & Johnson) dig in the burial mounds. Their find is highly questionable and today mostly lost.

1894-5 Winter freezes decimate Florida citrus crops.

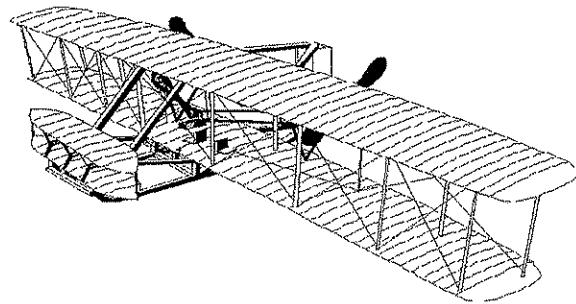
1897 First birth in nearby "Survey", Florida.

1898 Many Florida ports are staging areas for our troops headed for the Spanish-American War in Cuba.

1900 More than 100 factories in Tampa make over one-hundred million cigars per year.

1903 Last credible sighting of any Calusa made by Dr. John Gifford, Professor of forestry at the University of Miami, while exploring down near Cape Sable.

1903 **Flagler Railroad** reaches Homestead.



1903 **Orville Wright** pilots first airplane.

1906 **Major draining** projects -Everglades.

1909 **Peary (U.S.)** reaches North Pole.

1912 **Flagler Railroad** reaches Key West. **Survey, Florida** renamed Bonita Springs by developers — thinking property would sell better. Pity.

1914 First Air Freight — Swift & Co. ham.

1915 **Work begins** on Tamiami Trail.

1916 Congress passes Federal Highway Act.

1920+ **Seventeen families** live on Mound Key. Many have children, gardens, livestock, sheds, and are mostly engaged in the fishing trade. The island has a small schoolhouse.

1921 **WQAM** Miami is first Florida radio station.

1924-26 **hurricane** carries away Mound Key School. Several families move to Coconut and Estero to keep their children in school.

1920's Florida rivals Hollywood making films.

1925 Florida big land boom begins. Florida's very popular Klu Klux Klan marches in Miami parades.

Section 1
No. 1000
For the News That's
Fit to Print.

The New York Times.

Section 1
THE WEATHER
Forecast for the City of New York
and Vicinity
Temperature
Wind
Relative Humidity
Barometer

LINDBERGH DOES IT! TO PARIS IN 33 1/2 HOURS; FLIES 1,000 MILES THROUGH SNOW AND SLEET; CHEERING FRENCH CARRY HIM OFF FIELD

COULD HAVE DONE 500 MILES FARTHER
Gasoline for at least that much more
flow at times from 10 feet to
10,000 feet above water.
AT 10,000 FEET A PAIR OF HIS WING SANDWICHES
For ailerons at times 500 feet thick—strongest
of his kind in the world—seen
at the factory.



GROUND RINGS THUNDEROUS WELCOME
Breaks Through Lines of Soldiers
Police and Surging to Plunge
Weary Flier from His Cockpit
PARIS RUSHES HIM FROM FRENCH AIR
Paris Boulevards Ring With Celebration
and Night Work—American Flag Is
Flung and Made to Fly



ON MOUND KEY

1926 **400 dead**, 6,000 injured, 47,000 homeless after September 17th 126 MPH hurricane wastes Miami. Cuban government sends thousands of dollars aid and 50,000 typhoid shots. Two years and one day later, the Miami hurricane repeats. It pushes Lake Okeechobee over dikes to kill 2,000. [*And we thought Hurricane Andrew was bad.*]

1927 **J. W. Furen** digs 50 ft. wide by 6 ft. below low tide depth canal on north side of Mound Key — from the bay to a pit dug previously by A.D. May.

1927 U.S. Geological Survey map showed 11 buildings on Mound Key.

1927 **Lindbergh** flies solo across Atlantic.

1934 First vegetables shipped in refrigerated railroad cars.

1935 **Social Security Act** begins Big Government. FDR introduces soon-to-be-completed socialism to America.

1938 Highway to Key West completed.

1940 **Collier** family left Mound Key.

1941 **December 7** Jap sneak attack on Pearl Harbor welded Americans together for a time.

1945 U.S. uses first atomic bomb on Japan. Motto of the day, "Remember Pearl Harbor."

1947 Hurricane points out need for flood control. Everglades National Park created.

1949 **Florida** starts sales tax.

1950 Florida ends open range law. Senator McCarthy witch-hunts them commies.

1958 Mound Key aerial photo shows island grazed and not so overgrown with brush.

1959 **Castro 1** — Batista Zip. Cubans head for U.S.

Busch Gardens opens in Tampa.

1961 **Koreshan Unity** donates 100 acres of Mound Key to Florida as an Archaeological Site.

1962 **Astronauts** from Cape Canaveral orbit the earth.

1965 **Walt Disney** sees Orlando. The rest is history.

1971 **Mound Key** added to National Register of Historic Places. (National Park Service) Cross Florida barge canal project stopped.

1973 **Sea World** opens.

1980 **Marinel Boat Lift** made criminals out of otherwise good American boat captains.

1982 **EPCOT** opens.

1983 Florida hosts 40 million visitors.

1985 First Bonita Springs Christmas Boat Parade.

1992 Local Christmas bird count —108 species, 12,000 birds *per Calusa Birders of Fort Myers.*

1993 **Adopt An Island** began to watch over Estero Bay.

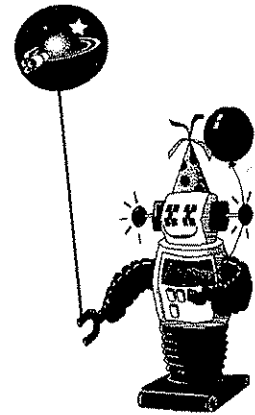
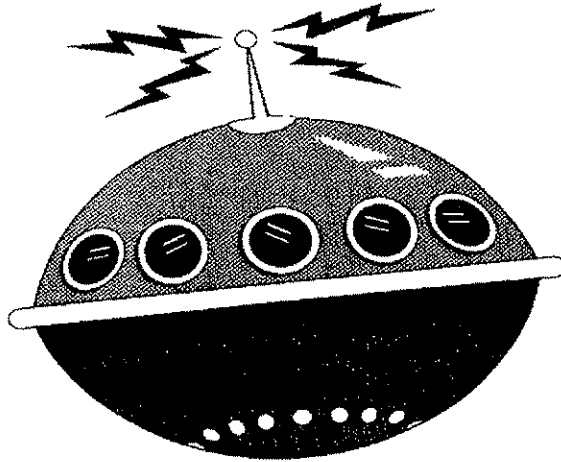
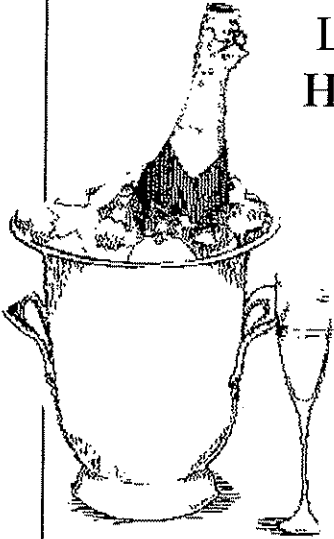
1993-94 First serious archaeological study on Mound Key. [More on this later.]

2000 Florida approaches critical mass?

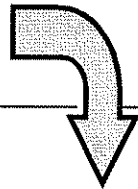
2000+ Florida's future may end up being determined by a type of people who did very little for America or Florida in the past; or not.

Relevant Happenings

Let us be the first to wish you a
HAPPY NEW 21ST CENTURY



Your Notes:



GLOSSARY

SUBJECT	DESCRIPTION
Alvarez, Capt. K.C.	Interpretive Naturalist who interviewed Calvin Collier.
Antonio (Dona Antonio)	Spanish name for Carlos' oldest sister & 2nd wife. Lat ered (sort of) married Gov. Menendez. Spanish fort on Mound Key named after her?
Arawak	A type of Indian common in the Caribbean.
Atlatl	Stick used to throw spears with great force.
Augustus Black	More politically correct name for Black Augustus, the last pirate to live in the area. See Black Island.
Bahia de Carlos	Estero Bay.
Big Carlos Pass	Closest Inlet to Mound Key. An opening between Estero Island and Lover's Key/Black Island.
Butterfield, John	First white settler on Mound Key. Befriended Augustus Black and inherited his "fortune" (a ball of gold) then lost it to a shrewd merchant.
Buttonwood Tree	The 4th estuarine tree. Once used for manufacture of buttons and also for making charcoal. Locally used for smoke flavoring fish and other meats.
Caloosa	See Calusa
Caloosahatchee River	Once called Carlosahatchee (River of Carlos) then "R" dropped sometime after 1900.
Caalos	See Calos
Callos	See Calos
Calos	Principle town of Calusas (Mound Key)
Calusa	Tribe, Culture, Nation
Carl Johnson Park	County owned park on south half of Lover's Key.

GLOSSARY
DESCRIPTION

SUBJECT

Carlos	Name given Calusa Cacique (Chief) by the Spanish who contaminated "Calos" with an "R". Name of Kingdom Headquartered here.
Catamaran	Twin hulled boat invented by Calusa by joining a pair (UN PAR) of canoes.
Chapman, Sam	Second in command 1994 Mound Key Work. Expert in Mission Locations in Florida.
Cistern	Man-made holding tank for rainwater. Two on Mound Key today made from a poor grade of home-made concrete called "Tabby."
Collier, Calvin	Son of last family to reside on Mound Key.
Cushing, Frank Hamilton	19th century historian. His most famous discovery may have been a 6" tall wooden panther found at Key Marco. He never worked Mound Key but once interviewed Mrs. Johnson there.
Damkohler, Elwin E.	Colorful local enthusiast (& pot hunter)
Domiciliary Mounds	Dwelling mounds where Calusa built Chickee hut type homes.
Escampaba	King Carlos' name before Spanish occupation and name of Estero Bay & Mound Key.
Estero Bay	Today's name for Escampaba, Bahia de Carlos, Cayo de Carlos, Ostego Bay. Florida's first designated Aquatic Preserve. (1966 & 1983)
Estero Bay Boat Tours, Inc.	Company owned by Captain Charles N. Weeks which operates out of Weeks' Fish Camp at the west end of Coconut Road 4.7 miles north of Bonita Springs, Florida. It was on the lectures given on these tours that this book is based.

GLOSSARY
DESCRIPTION

SUBJECT

Estero River	Flows into Estero Bay east of Mound Key.
Estuary	Water created when seawater flows up into a river. A unique mixture of salt and fresh water. The cradle of life for the marine food chain.
Felipe, Don	Name given to King Carlos' successor. Was a cousin of Carlos. Undermined Carlos' activities with the Spaniards. Was the rightful heir to the Calusa throne when Carlos was given it instead.
Fontaneda, Hernando d'Escalante	Taken prisoner by Calusa in 1545 at the age of 13. Wrote about 17 yr. captivity in 1571-75.
Fort of San Antonio	Spanish fort on Mound Key 1566 to 1571.
Gifford, Dr. John	Professor of Forestry, University of Miami. May have been last person to have seen Calusa Indians.
Goggin, John M.	Mid 20th Century historian.
Griesshaber, Kurt	Serious local researcher into Florida's Indian history. Has amassed an impressive collection, written books, and drawn pictures of artifacts actual and imagined.
Imperial River	Flows through Bonita Springs into Estero Bay.
Jesuit Order	Founded 1540 by Ignatius Loyola. Their first mission for the Spanish was on Mound Key. (1567-69)
Johnson, Carl B.	Yours truly. Charter Captain, Tour Guide, Retired Engineer from 30 years Midwest industry.
Johnson, Frank M.	Received first government deed for Mound Key in 1891 under the then-new Homestead Act.

GLOSSARY
DESCRIPTION

SUBJECT

Johnson's Key/Johnson's Island	Former name of Mound Key.
Jones, Indiana	Archaeology's worst nightmare. (fictional)
Koreshan Unity, Inc.	Religious order in Estero. Founded late 1800's on the shores of the Estero River upstream from Mound Key. This group once gardened a part of the island — acquired approximately 100 acres of it, then donated it to the State of Florida in 1961.
Lewis, Father Clifford	modern day Jesuit researcher of Calusa history.
Manatee	The West Indian Manatee, called the Silent Sirenian, Gentle Giant, Sea Cow, all of which they are, found in great abundance in Estero Bay during the warmer months.
Mangrove	Estuarine trees. Red, Black & White. Vital to the ecology of all estuaries.
Marquardt, Dr. William H., PH.D.	Curator in Archaeology, Department of Anthropology, University of Florida, Gainesville. Heads up today's archaeological activities locally.
Marques, Pedro Menendez	Nephew of the Adelantado, (Governor Menendez) Captain-General who executed Don Felipe on orders from his uncle.
May & Furen	Excavators who removed thousands of cubic yards of shell and artifact from Mound Key to be used for fill inland.
Menendez, (Governor)	Pedro Menendez de Aviles — Adelantado with a commission to convert natives, rout the French and amass gold from Mexico to Newfoundland.
Michel, Hedwig	Director of Koreshan Unity at time of donation of site and Mound Key to Florida.
Mission Carlos	First Jesuit mission for the Spanish — ever. Located on Mound Key 1457-59.

GLOSSARY
DESCRIPTION

SUBJECT

Moore, Clarence B.	Early 20th Century historian.
Mound Key	An island located in Estero Bay between Fort Myers and Bonita Springs Florida. It was the former capital of the Calusa Nation (? B.C. to 1571 A.D.) Now a Florida Archaeological Site located 26 degrees 25' 11" North Latitude / 81 degrees 51' 53" West Longitude.
Ostego Bay	Estero Bay
Pass	Called "inlets" in many parts of the country. Openings in the barrier islands which allow tidal flow and traffic from the bay to the gulf. Estero bay has 5: Big Hickory Pass, New Pass, Big Carlos Pass, Mantanzas Pass, Hurricane Pass. (Little Carlos Pass closed)
Ponce de Leon, Juan	Spanish explorer in early 1500's. Reputed to be searching for the Fountain of Youth. He was fatally wounded in battle with Calusa on Estero Bay.
Reinoso, Francisco de	Captain of Fort of San Antonio. Executed King Carlos in 1569.
Rogel, Father Juan	(pronounced "Ro-hell" according to the 1994 archaeologists working here.) Jesuit head of Mission Carlos from 1567 to 1569. Most prolific writer about the Calusa for over 40 years. Most cited author of them all.
Schell, Rolfe	Wrote "1000 Years On Mound Key" in 1962.
Seminole (Indians)	Formerly Creek from Alabama. They enslaved Calusa during their waning years.
Senquene	Calusa 'King' before his nephews, King Carlos (Escampaba) and Don Felipe.

GLOSSARY
DESCRIPTION

SUBJECT

Senquene's brother	Name unknown. Chief Priest of Idols. Once a temporary King. Carlos' father. His wife later married Don Felipe, her nephew/cousin.
Senquene's sister	Name unknown. Could have once been Senquene's wife? because her son, Don Felipe was next in line for succession to the throne when Senquene died. She was Carlos' Aunt.
Shaman	Witch Doctor, Medicine Man, Calusa religious head.
Sibling marriage	Incest. Marrying one's own brother/sister. Popular practice among Calusa leaders to insure smooth succession of leadership. Carlos' second wife was his older sister, later given to the Spanish Governor as a gesture of good will and as a means to the end of getting a newer and younger wife.
Sturtevant, William C.	Mid 20th Century corroborator of John Goggin.
Temple Mound	"Pyramid" used for Calusa rites. Is thought to have been 60 feet high when completed. Today (1994) it was measured at 32 feet above sea level. It resembles Mayan pyramids, some say, in that it is terraced and truncated, it had a flat top for their House of Idols.
Tequesta	Village (and tribe) at Miami River. Chief was relative of Carlos — as were many of the area Chiefs (thanks to sibling marriages?)
Tocobaga	Village (and tribe) at Old Tampa Bay. Also was their chief's name.
Torrence, Corbett	Archaeologist supervising Mound Key 1994 work.
Velasco, Juan Lopez de	Cited cosmographer (cartographer/mapmaker) who wrote a geography book and atlas 1571-75.

GLOSSARY
DESCRIPTION

NAME

Weeks, Captain Charles N.

Owner of Marina and Tour Boat Business located at Weeks' Fish Camp, Coconut Point, Bonita Springs Florida. Active in researching the history and ecology of the area. Co-authored this book.

Weeks Family

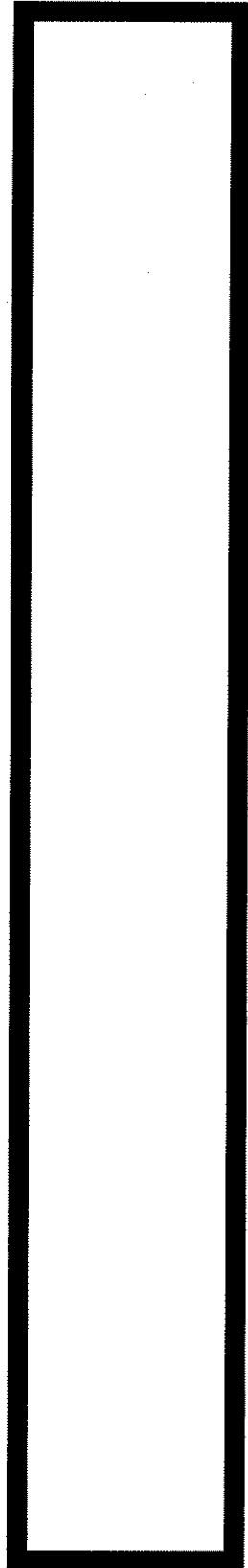
Patriarch Draine Weeks founded Weeks Fish Camp early 1900's at the end of Coconut Road at Estero Bay. Many descendants engaged in fishing, netting, shrimping, and touring business.

Zubillaga, Felix

Often given as a reference by historians. He translated (and edited?) letters written 1566 1572 from Menendez's expedition to Spain.

ON MOUND KEY and all about Estero Bay

ADDENDA



MODERN TIMES

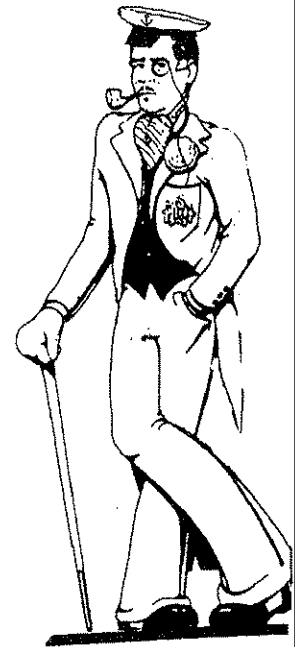
&

MISCELLANIA

ON MOUND KEY and all about Estero Bay



COME TO FLORIDA
BUY A BOAT
GO CRAZY



Bring money. Concentrate on finding peach-and-fuchsia-colored property profuse with lush green shrubs abutting a thirsty golf course. Go visit a boat dealer — believe everything he says about that shiny new thing and make sure its horsepower greatly exceeds the skipper's I.Q. Don proper yachting attire, untie the lines, turn the key and throttle up to the most impressive wake you can generate. Glance around once in awhile if you like, but other cruisers, manatee, and boats at anchor should keep out of your way so why bother. Steer hell-bent for the gulf, but don't go out there. That takes guts plus you might spill your drink so just rile up the waters in the back bay's narrow channels and be assured canoeists and fishermen here are going to love you.

Facetious? Of course. What better way is there to introduce the subject of *WETLANDS* and the impact our actions as residents and as boaters may have upon them?

ESTERO BAY & WETLANDS

Almost 200,000 acres inland drain into Estero Bay's nearly 10,000 acres. Is this considered wetlands? Hmmm. By definition, some of our estuary surely is. It is complex to explain, but most simply stated: A wetland is *land which is covered by water part of the time*. Many of the perimeter areas of our bay fall into this category.

Purdue University's computerized **Wetland Education Program** believes the Coastal Estuarine wetlands should be considered particularly problematic and rates them Number One in concern. (Interesting that South Florida Palustrine Wetlands - *marshes*, Everglades - are Number Four on their list — falling in behind the Louisiana coastal marshes and the Chesapeake Bay submerged aquatic beds.)

Some of the important things wetlands do are to provide habitat for many creatures. Considered to be the cradle of life in the Marine Food Chain, many fish and fowl only breed and raise their young there while others may spend their entire life in the food-abundant environment. Wetlands also check flooding and silting. Many remove contaminants which might be headed toward our drinking water.

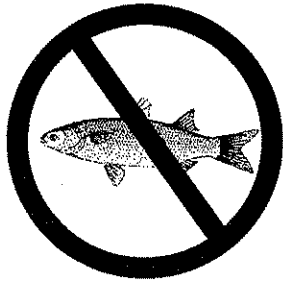
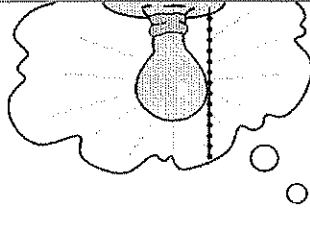
What are wetlands worth? Certainly the early settlers thought such land to be of little value since it had to be

drained in order to farm it or filled to be built upon. This did happen. In Iowa alone nearly 2 million acres of "swampland" were drained and today less than 70 thousand acres remain as wetlands. Almost 25% (5.6 million acres) of Indiana was once wetlands. It can now boast no more than 4% of its area as wetlands. What happens when these areas are drained? One example would be an area of the Dakotas, Minnesota and Central Canada which once produced 15 million ducks per year now sees 1/3 as many babies after a few years of draining only 2% of its wetlands. (Prairie Pothole Region)

What is this land really worth? Back in the mid-70's The National Wildlife Federation estimated \$50,000 to \$70,000 per acre. Put an inflation factor on that and you get the idea. These figures are found when you look beyond "owning" the land and take into account hidden values such as flood prevention, erosion and sedimentation control, groundwater purification and the production of fish and water fowl for both commercial and recreational uses.

The wetlands biggest enemies are sediments, sewage and fertilizers. Sediments can clog the gills of fish and sometimes kill the water. Even small amounts of phosphorous or nitrogen

... and all about Estero Bay



may be sufficient to bring on an “algal bloom” to kill fish. The Algal bloom is unsightly and smells bad and this greenish-blue slime can choke water to death by depriving it of oxygen. Finally, “eutrophication” takes place and we can bow our heads in silence ...



So what’s the big deal if yet another little varmint becomes extinct? Aside from spiritual or philosophical considerations we can have a selfish interest in it. Like it or not, life on our Earth is dependant on the interaction of all species (including us) and the loss of any one will affect all others in varying degrees. Purdue’s Program summed it up with, “...we will undoubtedly begin to feel these losses as declines in agricultural productivity, water-quality, and personal health.”



NEXT

Just something to keep in mind as we over fertilize our lawns, contemplate dredging, litter our bay, and turn our backs as wetlands are transformed into building sites.



TIDBITS ON THE BAY

ONE SUNNY SATURDAY AFTERNOON

Our bay has many stories Here is one that is more typical than rare. THIS COLUMN (one of a weekly series) appeared in the: BONITA BANNER Oct. 22, 1988.

VIEW FROM THE HELM

by Captain Carl Johnson



Saturday, October 8, was the kind of day our Chamber of Commerce promises tourists. The sun was shining brightly in a blue sky, a sky punctuated by little puffs of cumulus clouds marching slowly westward from the Everglades. The gulf was as smooth as a pool table with only a slight ground swell near shore — enough to develop small breakers in which toddlers and oldsters alike waded and giggled as waves lapped at their bare ankles.

On that day, this awe-inspiring blue-domed cathedral was chosen to canopy a sacred rite. Our pulpit was an engine cover box and our altar was a bulkhead separating the net well from the deck on our boat. In this setting we heard proclaimed, "...by the power vested in me by the laws of the State of Florida, I now pronounce you husband and wife." It was a grand wedding ... but wait, I'm getting ahead of myself.

We were privileged to have

had the opportunity to watch this budding romance grow to blossom. From the onset, what ensued was anticipated, expected — one could even say predictable.

Diane is my wife's best friend. At times I had wondered about this. Let's face it, not so long ago 'Di' was a real b- - -, make that, she had witching tendencies. A bitter person, she hated the boating world and she was not particularly fond of herself or anyone else. Then she met Wayne and it happened! Not a miracle perhaps, but a complete transformation took place. It was certainly one for the better.

Wayne has a 36-foot Columbia sailboat, "Excalibur." Wayne smiles a lot. Diane began smiling also. She went sailing with him. She fell in love with the sailboat and Wayne. She starting cooking meals for him for for months now their faces have positively been glowing — brilliant as their pearly whites.

TIDBITS — THE WEDDING CONTINUED

Sue and I felt honored when asked to be their wedding attendants.

Now back to the ceremonious occasion. the bride had been properly kissed and hugged by all in attendance and there were smiles, tears and laughter as we pulled anchor to head for the 'reception'.

I beached the boat gently on a sandy point south of New Pass, then nudged the throttle to drive us several feet up onto the sand. (With 400+ horsepower and a stainless steel skeg to protect the propeller, you can do that.) Friends joined us there in their boats — it was partytime! Our tape player dispensed "The Hawaiian Wedding Song." The bride and groom, their attendants, etal danced barefooted on the sand. Ouch! Sandspurs!

The celebration was not too different from the kind enjoyed by landlubbers. There were champagne toasts, wedding presents, flowers and happy sounds. Capt. Frank, invited for his culinary wizardry, prepared a 'sit down dinner' tasty enough to be totally consumed. After this, someone thoughtfully tied a white bow on my favorite fish knife for the bride and groom to fillet the cake.

Bellies full, more toasts, speeches, kidding around — the girls burst into song. A canoe idled by. The girls switched to a noisy rendition of "Row, Row, Row Your Boat." The

canoeist picked up the rhythm to stroke away at 5 knots.

Later the newlyweds sat quietly together on the white sand at the gulf's edge to watch a magnificent sunset. Respecting their privacy, from a distance away we gazed at the brilliant colors through the pines and seaoats while our charcoal grill cooled. We then cleaned up the area and prepared to return home — "leaving only footprints and taking only photographs."

Congratulations and Good Luck, Mr. and Mrs. Duvall!

Epilogue

"Wasn't that fun?" My wife hugged me. (This girl is the major factor in a marriage that could be held as a standard by which all others are measured.)

I smiled, planted a love peck squarely on her lips, and admitted, "All in all, it wasn't a bad way to spend a Saturday afternoon."

P.S. That was over 5 years ago. Wayne and Diane now have a bigger boat on which they live and with which they yearly tour the Keys. Sue and I remain happily together and that day we still count as one of our most fondly remembered.

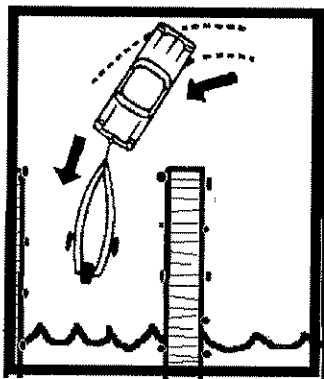
TIDBITS ABOUT ESTERO BAY

VIEW FROM THE HELM

by Captain Carl Johnson

This column was NOT published. Gotta wonder why. Editor said he submitted it to colleagues and got "mixed signals" back. Ah, such is byline politics...

LAUNCH WATCHING



Life about Estero Bay is not all watching birds, dolphin, trees, fish, and islands. Enjoyable as that may be for some, for others there are assorted other types of recreation around. Not directing aspersions toward bar-hopping or bumming it on the beach, but you may be looking for something more. Say something which is wholesome as Sunday School and more addictive than listening to a High School band play Bach. If you are a seasoned crowd-watcher who can sit at an airport for hours gazing at every type of person there is, you will find launch-watching is even better. Read on.

Pop up a bowl of Orville's best, grab the wife and kids and drive down to a local boat launch ramp. It does not matter which one for "The Boat Ramp Follies" is now playing at all of them. In anticipation of this adventure you already expect to see people locking themselves out of their vehicles, right? Right, but you can see that at any shopping center parking lot. Also, you expect to find parents yelling at kids yelling at dogs barking at gulls and chasing fiddler crabs? You won't be disappointed there either. Most of all, you will not believe the many types of boats, boat users, and boat user attires there can be.

You will always see a variety of skits well acted out. I particularly like the ever-popular quickie where the missing boat-drain plug, or rather the empty hole where it should be, isn't discovered until after the boat is taking on water. By now, the trailer is being parked some distance away. Talk about your "stop-action rewind fast-forward?" Fun-nee!

Or picture everyone gets aboard the boat; they push off and clear the dock. A strong breeze helps them move swiftly away and then the motor dies. The looks on their faces — honestly! A knee-slapper for sure.

TIDBITS — LAUNCH WATCHING CONTINUED

Often there are those splits everyone enjoys — you know, where a person has his arms loaded with gear and has one foot on the pier and the other one on the boat. By now you are surely rolling on the deck with tears in your eyes, huh?

Finally, if you watch long enough, you may get to see the grand finale. That's where boat, trailer, AND the car all continue right on down the ramp to disappear beneath the surface of the water — leaving only bubbles to mark the fact they were ever there. Stop! Please. My sides are splitting! Hoo-boy.

Interspersed in with the slapstick is often some real melodrama. You may get to witness a loving husband/wife relationship deteriorate with a rapidity you never thought possible; right before your eyes. It could happen something like this:

He (normally a kind, devoted and considerate husband — well known to be openly affectionate with his wife) and she (the picture of sweetness and light) approach the launch ramp with every intention of sharing an enjoyable interlude upon the waters in the Garden of Eden. They proceed serenely until the exact instant when the boat trailer tires contact the water. This connects some unknown electrical circuit somewhere that has an im-

mediate impact on both of their behavioral patterns.

He (now barking orders with all the convincing, authoritarian manner of Captain Horatio Hornblower) commands his wife to do something with the rope. Do what? Which rope?

She (calm as a cat being picked up with a pair of pliers) is not buying any of this stuff.

Unaided by either of them, the boat slides part way off the trailer into the water — then slips sideways under the pier. In a heightened state of agitation, they now converse at a faster rate in an elevated pitch.

He (emulating a high-wire act on the trailer tongue) takes one step on the wet surface. The water cushions his fall.

The boat (now hung up crosswise between the trailer and a dock post) scrapes barnacles off the pilings with its gelcoat and belligerently demands solutions for its dilemma.

He (searching for his car keys now in the knee-deep getting-deeper-down-the-slope water) tells his wife to get down into the boat and hold it to the dock (where it is already firmly secured).

TIDBITS — LAUNCH WATCHING CONTINUED

She (perched on the cooler with a sinister smile on her lips) refuses.



His next command was silent. Just as well — she couldn't possibly do that!

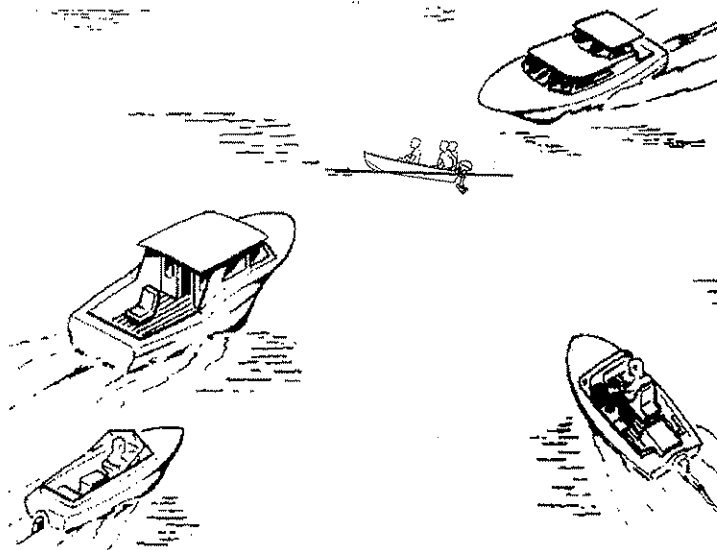
He (studying the situation, notices several vehicles are lined up waiting for him to clear the ramp) tells his wife to stay where she is.

Her twisted smile turns downright evil. "Why don't you try it again, Dear?", she coyly asks.

He sloshes up to the car, inserts a briny key in the ignition and inches forward. The boat (still attached to the trailer winch) is pulled forward. Sliding along a piling, it crunches barnacles and skids back over on the trailer. Clear of the ramp, he winches a no-longer-new boat forward on the trailer. He pretends not to notice the deep white scratches in the cherry-red gunwale.

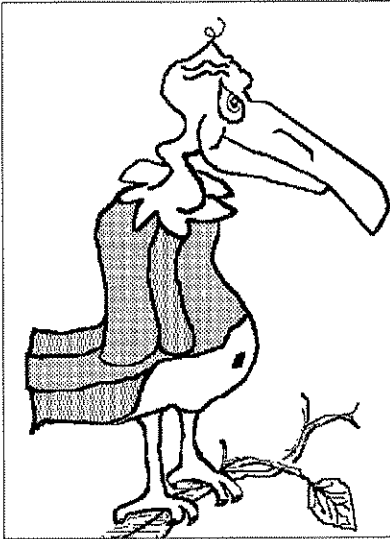
She (back on the cooler now enjoying her second Miller Lite and third Virginia Slim) obeys her master when summoned to the rig.

They drive off together to live happily ever after because, in the future she will play golf whenever he decides to go play at the boat launch.



TIDBITS ABOUT THE BAY

ADOPT AN ISLAND



THE VULTURE is an essential element in the ecology of an estuary. It polices and cleans the rookery islands lest they become diseased and drive away the birds engaged in courtship.

*Conservators of **Adopt An Island** emulate this handsome bird so fittingly that they proudly claim it as a mascot, their logobird, and quite likely their role model.*

On the way to work one morning, I saw the Bonita Jaycees bagging litter along Rt. 41 under a sign proclaiming they tended this section of highway for "Adopt-A-Road." A bell rang.

After discussing this with Charlie, we thought on it for a couple of days then approached Don Goodwin, Executive Editor of our local **BONITA BANNER**. We pitched our idea for **ADOPT AN ISLAND** and this sparked Don's imagination. With his help, we were off and running with a good cause which "farmed out" some 60 islands its first year. We should mention that, not only did the **BANNER** give its support to the campaign, but they were the first to say, "We will adopt an island." Someday we hope to have that island officially named "**Banner Key**" and this should be possible for the island does not have a name now listed on the charts.

When we claim 60 members, this is misleading because some members are multi-peopled groups like the Post Office, Three

Newspapers, The Area Chamber of Commerce, The Imperial River Conservancy, The Lions Clubs, Sons of Norway, Lee County Visitors and Convention Bureau and some employees of the Lee County Mosquito Control group. There are other groups and many, many individuals who give of their own time and money to patrol or inspect their island. This they do on their own schedule as they see fit.

Just another club was not good enough for us. We wanted to be truly unique. Based on our experiences with other clubs we decided to rule out features we never liked or felt necessary. Our members pay no dues — why should they? Another thing, we've found in business that meetings are generally a waste of time and money, so we have none. It is all tied together with a newsletter. Finally, no club should insult their members with bylaws, rules, restrictions or regulations. We have none. Our members like it that way and voted down other groups offers to help(?) us *by letting us join them!* Thanks, but No Thanks.

EDITORIAL

We don't care if you are black, white, yellow or red, if you are male, female, or undecided — We Need You! We do not want your money, just your time and then only when you decide to give it. Our members are professional enough to govern themselves so we have no rules, by-laws, or regulations to insult you. Knowing you already have enough good uses for your time, we will not waste any of it in meetings. Your tasks are not scheduled; they are just there to do when and as you see fit.

Our members look for obvious litter which is an eyesore. We urge them also to search out any monofilament fishing line hanging in their tree branches which could entangle birds and mammals. Look closely also for small bits of plastic in the mangrove roots that could float free and be fatally mistaken for jellyfish by some sea creature. Don't bother recording your findings as this would not benefit the wild creatures you elected to protect.

As you tend your island, shut down your motor once in awhile. Turn your radio off and sit quietly. Listen to your island. Get to know it and enjoy! Other than that, we have no specific orders or instructions for you. We have no secret handshake or password. We offer only advice and assistance, but you will have to ask for that.

Succeeding years will find many beings in the bay alive and well solely because of your long-term commitment in their behalf. Future generations of residents and tourists alike will learn of what you have done as every beating heart in the bay sings out loudly,

“Thank You!”

— *C Johnson*

ADOPT AN ISLAND HEADQUARTERS

Thanks



Captains Johnson & Weeks

BIG CARLOS PASS

WEEKS' FISH CAMP

COCONUT POINT

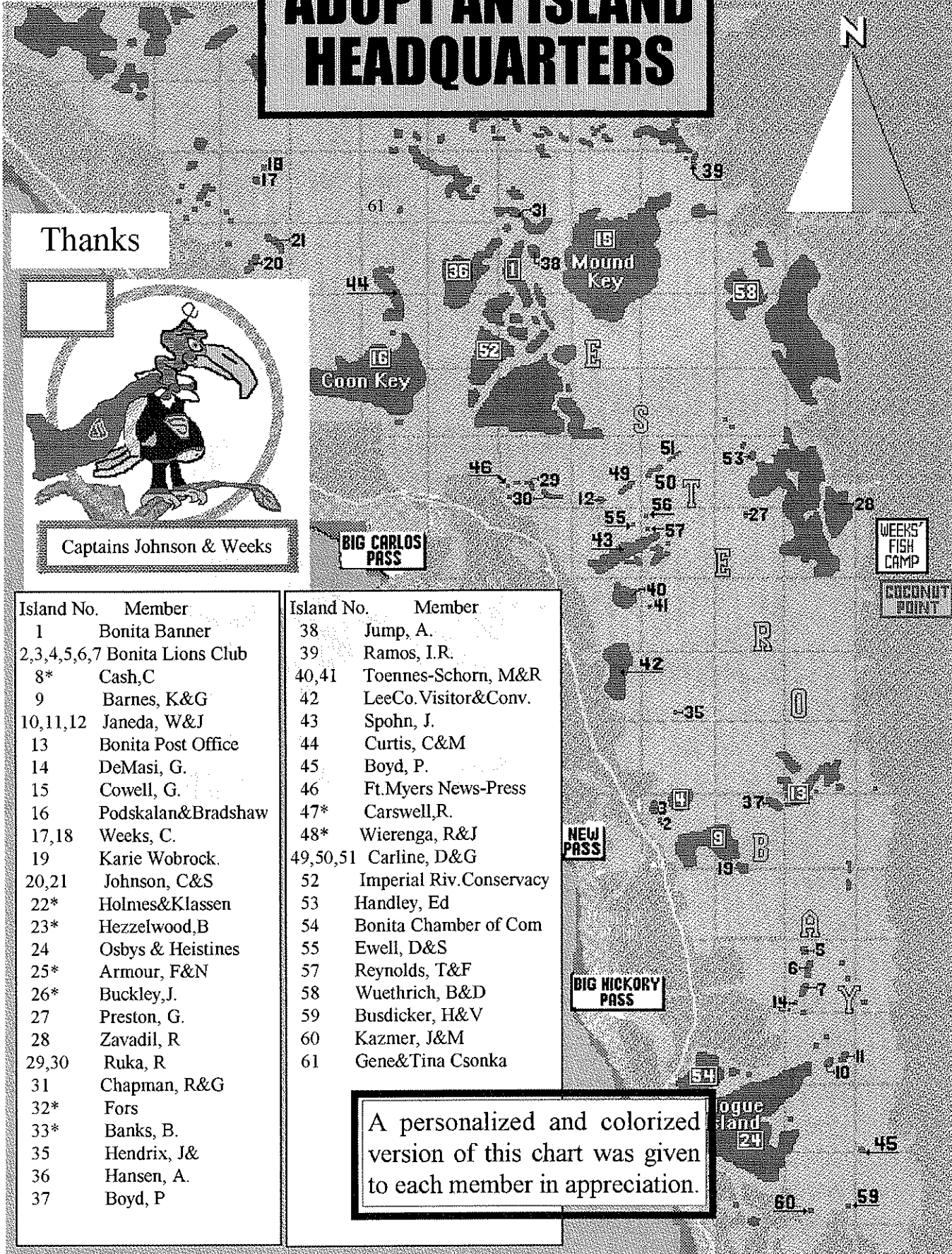
NEW PASS

BIG HICKORY PASS

Island No.	Member
1	Bonita Banner
2,3,4,5,6,7	Bonita Lions Club
8*	Cash, C
9	Barnes, K&G
10,11,12	Janeda, W&J
13	Bonita Post Office
14	DeMasi, G.
15	Cowell, G.
16	Podskalan&Bradshaw
17,18	Weeks, C.
19	Karie Wobrock.
20,21	Johnson, C&S
22*	Holmes&Klassen
23*	Hezzelwood, B
24	Osby & Heistines
25*	Armour, F&N
26*	Buckley, J.
27	Preston, G.
28	Zavadil, R
29,30	Ruka, R
31	Chapman, R&G
32*	Fors
33*	Banks, B.
35	Hendrix, J&
36	Hansen, A.
37	Boyd, P

Island No.	Member
38	Jump, A.
39	Ramos, I.R.
40,41	Toennes-Schorn, M&R
42	LeeCo. Visitor&Conv.
43	Spohn, J.
44	Curtis, C&M
45	Boyd, P.
46	Ft. Myers News-Press
47*	Carswell, R.
48*	Wierenga, R&J
49,50,51	Carline, D&G
52	Imperial Riv. Conservacy
53	Handley, Ed
54	Bonita Chamber of Com
55	Ewell, D&S
57	Reynolds, T&F
58	Wuethrich, B&D
59	Busdicker, H&V
60	Kazmer, J&M
61	Gene&Tina Csonka

A personalized and colorized version of this chart was given to each member in appreciation.

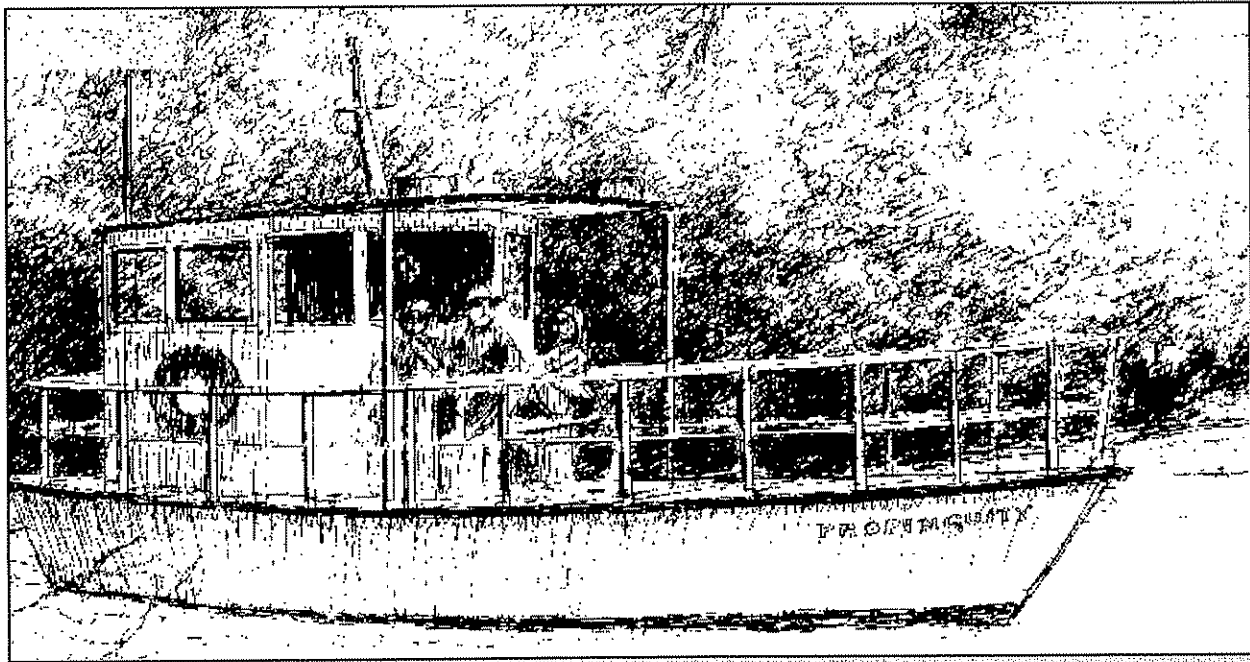


SWEET SUE



This is a modified scan of a drawing Geoffry Scofield gave us to commemorate a fishing trip. A workboat, a ProLine 24 footer powered by a 454 V8 Crusader gasoline inboard engine. She turned a 20 X 20 bronze prop in a large tunnel — enabling us to run in quite shallow water. She was a fuel hog but we charterfished her offshore and in Estero Bay for over 5 years.

PROPINQUITY



This is another sketch Geoffry Scofield made for us back in the early 80's.

Propinquity was a money-maker. She gave thousands of tourists memorable charter fishing trips *all about Estero Bay* for several years working out of Big Hickory Fishing Nook Marina. She also went offshore in nice weather, but the money and the action was in the bay. March and April one year she had 84 half-day backbay charters. During this same time period, the offshore boats were 'weathered in' all but 12 of those days.

I designed and built Propinquity from the keel (3 laminated 2 X 12's) up. She was about 30 feet long with a 12 foot beam, all wood covered with a thin sheet of fiberglass. It took two years part-timing to complete and another six months rebuilding a year later. She was powered by two 35 H.P. *Saildrive* inboards. Slow and slower were her two speeds. When both engines worked she would race away at nearly 5 knots. Wow!

1st Mate Sue decorated Propinquity to go caroling; thus began the 1st Annual Bonita Springs Christmas Boat Parade. We have led it every year since.

— C. Johnson

TIDBITS ON MOUND KEY — The Black Drink

PFSLUPT !

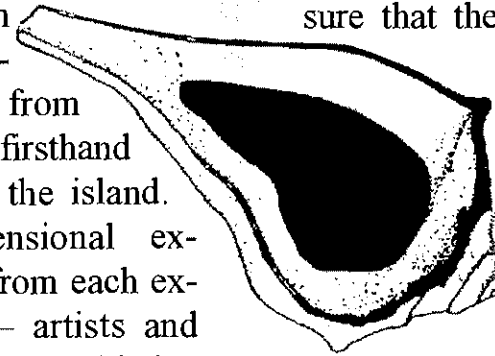
Seems to describe it fairly well — what? The Black Drink, of course. Also called *Cassina Tea*, it is made from a holly called *Ilex Vomitoria*. (Suggestive enough?) This plant can still be found locally.

About a month after the 1994 Mound Key work was finished, Dr. Marquardt, Corbett Torrence and Sam Chapman brought museum specialists down from Gainesville to get a firsthand look at and feel for the island. Planning three-dimensional exhibits requires input from each expert in each field — artists and craftsmen brainstorming and being guided by the archaeologists.

At one site, Dr. Marquardt picked up a shell dipper, pretended to drink from it, then explained how this very shell was probably used ceremoniously for the black drink rite during an ancient funeral. Once used, the shell dipper was made useless by a hole punctured in middle of its 'well'. (One visitor suggested this was not too different from throwing a champagne glass into the fireplace after a toast.)

The shell dipper was not the only

vessel made useless during the funeral ceremonies. Other ware was punctured (or broken) during a part of the ritual known as "killing the pottery." Presumably, this released any spirits still residing in the porosity of the ceramics which could somehow impede the deceased's journey into the next world. Some authors have held that this act may have been to assure that the ware would not be used later for some non-holy activity; thereby voiding the anticipated results to be gained from this rite.



The black drink can be made by gathering leaves from the named tree, roasting them, boiling them and straining the resultant olive-drab to dark green broth. This high octane caffeine of dubious taste and questionable side-effects can be consumed safely — they say. "Much like strong tea," Some who tried it claimed with a lack of enthusiasm.

We await seeing a local bartender make his fortune by finding this laced with gin, creme de cocoa, scotch and/or rum served in a plastic shell will sell like crazy. cj

Epilogue

HISTORY — an exact science?
Not even close.

Starting off, victors record biased accounts of their success and the vanquished are seldom heard. Later on, revisionists rewrite it all over and over and it takes on each author's slant. Recipients fall far short of total comprehension so the 'facts' blur even more when passed on once again, then again. The fog of history thickens.

Only recently has a great, disinterested middle-class cowered to allow our texts be rewritten by the politically correct, various rights activists, and the assorted minorities. Tomorrow's scholars will surely perceive this as a farce as, perhaps, we should much of what we learn of yesteryear. We may never know the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but ...

... or maybe it still awaits being unearthed. So, to our friends, Dr. Bill Marquardt, Corbett Torrence, Sam Chapman and all who have helped or will help them in the future, we say, "Keep digging!"

Carl B. Johnson

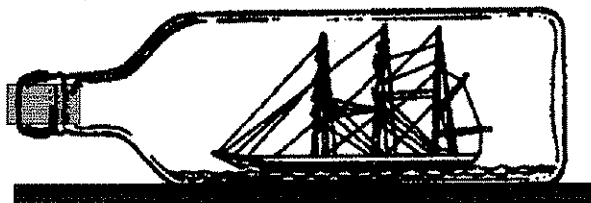
Charles N. Weeks

INDEX

Item	Page		
Activity Mound	19	Estuarine	11
Adopt An Island	163	Fish	40
Alvarez, Capt K.C.	102	Fishing	41
Anhinga	31	Fishing Life	43
Aquadic Preserve (Designated)	10	Flagler Railroad	143
Arawak	147	Fontaneda, Hernando de Esc	136
Atlatl	147	Franklin, Benjamin	138
Audubon, John James	140	Freud, Sigmund	140
Australian Pines	14	Frigate (Magnificent)	32
Bahia de Carlos	17	Gama, Vasco da	135
Balboa, Vasco de	134	Gifford, Prof. John	22
Bibliography	170	Goggin, John M.	149
Bird Books, Suggested	28	Gold Coin Mystery	77
Bird Count	28	Great Blue Heron	29
Black Drink	168	Gulls	33
Black Mangrove Trees	13	Gutenberg, John	132
Borabella (Arrowhead)	50	Horseshoe Crab	44c
Bulletin (Archaeology-start)	51	Hudson, Henry	137
Buttonwood Trees	13	Ibis (White)	33
Cabot, John	135	Illegal Archaeology	55
Calusa treasure	21	Indian Key	22
Catamaran boats	16	Isabella, Queen	134
Cartier, Jacques	136	Jackson, Andrew	140
Champlain, Samuel de	137	Johnson, Frank W.	99
Chronology(So It Went)	131	Justice? Local	78
Cervantes - Don Quixote	137	Kingfisher, Belted	28
Columbus, Christopher	132	Koreshan Unity	150
Come to Fla/Buy Boat	155	La Salle, Rene de	137
Cordoba, Capt.Hernandez	135	Launch Ramp Follies	160
Cormorant	30	Lee, General Robert E.	141
Cortez, Hernan	135	Lee, Mr. Art	48
Crab		Little Blue Heron	29
Blue	44c	London Company, The	137
Fiddler	44j	Loyola, Ignatius	136
Horseshoe	44b	Magellan, Ferdinand	135
Crusades	132	Manatee	27-44d
Cushing, Frank Hamilton	148	Maps	
De Soto, Hernando	136	Bonita—Coconut	38
De Luna, Tristan	136	Estero Bay area	1
Diaz, Bartholomew	132	Estero Bay islands	165
Dolphin	26	Florida 1550	17
Domiciliary Mounds	19	Florida counties	36
Doubleday, Abner	140	Lee County area	37
Drake, Sir Francis	137	Mission location?	68
Dutch West India Company	137	Mound Key 3D	18
Eagle (Bald Eagle)	31	Mound Key contour	2
Escampaba (area)	17	Mound Key path	64
Escampaba (King Carlos)	86	Mayflower	137
Estuary	149	Melaleuca Trees	14

INDEX

Menendez, Don Juan	136	San Antonio, Fort of	21
Mission Carlos	63	Sandpiper, Spotted	32
Mockingbird	33	School Science trips	128
Monroe, James	140	School Tours	56
Moore, Clarence	57	Seagrape	14
Mound One	19	Seahorse	45
Mullet	44	Seminole	151
Narvaez, Panfilo de	135	Senquene	23
Needles & Thread	79	Shaman	152
NEWTHINK 2000 A.D.	130	Shamanism (Calusa Religion)	71
Night Herons	30	Shells	46
Osprey	31	Shell tools	49
Outstanding Florida Waters	10	Shrimp	44c
Oystercatcher (American)	34	Sibling marriage	152
Pineda, Alvarez de	135	Skimmer (Black)	34
Pizarro, Francisco	136	Snook	42
Postmolds	69	Spanish Greed	62
Pottery	57	Stowe, Harriet Beecher	140
Prince Henry the Navigator	132	Sturtevant, William C.	152
Profiles	81	Sweet Sue	166
Butterfield, John	95	Temple Mound	19
Carlos, King	86	Terns	33
Collier Family	102	Tequesta	152
Csonka, Tina	128	Timeline, Calusa	23
Damkohler, Elwin E.	97	Tocobaga	152
Felipe, Don	92	Tordesillas (Treaty)	132
Furen, J.W.	101	Pedro Menendez Marqus	21
Griesshaber, Kurt	110	Pelican, Brown	28
Hann, John H.	112	Pine Island	22
Johnson, Carl	126	Pyramid	19
Johnson, Frank W.	99	Vespucci, Amerigo	135
Lewis, Clifford M.SJ	105	Villanfane, Angel de	136
Marquardt, Dr. William	115	Washington, George	138
May, A.D.	101	Water Court	76
Menendez, Governor	83	Wedding in the bay	158
Michel, Hedwig	109	Wetlands education	156
Perry, I. Mac	113	White Mangrove Trees	13
Ponce de Leon, Juan	82	Whitney, Eli	138
Rogel, Father Juan	90	Wild Cotton	19
Schell, Rolfe	107	Wurdemann's Heron	29
Torrence, Corbett	119		
Velasco, JuanLopez de	94		
Weeks, Capt. Charles	123		
Propinquity	167		
Plymouth Company, The	137		
Reddish Egret	29		
Red Mangrove Trees	12		
Reinoso, Francisco de	151		
Roseate Spoonbill	30		



BIBLIOGRAPHY, CREDITS and AFTERTHOUGHTS

Throughout the book references are given to those people whose output we tapped for our use. We even went so far as to do book reports or reviews on many we thought most useful; in hopes of stirring your interest in purchasing their wares. We strongly urge you to buy colorful bird and fish reference books if you are to enjoy these hobbies.

Scholars of history and/or archaeology will notice that we only scratched the surface of what is available for those disciplines. This was because we were only concerned in matters relative to Mound Key and Estero Bay. We realize no book can be all things to all people and it would be foolish to attempt such works, so we limited most of our endeavor to history's effect on our very small area.

In *Mound Key Profiles* we tried to discuss how several people had an impact on the area. Any reference to other parts of their life was given only to enhance their introduction.

Now to welcome in the era of computerized desktop publishing, we must credit new types of information sources in this bibliography:

Compton's Interactive Encyclopedia - CD ROM
Microsoft Bookshelf - CD ROM
Coreldraw -CD ROM

...and various Spelling Checking and/or Editing Programs which could only advise but never insist. Sometimes we listened. — *Carl & Charlie*

...and this really is {TADA! }:

—THE END—