

RESOLUTION NO. 18-173

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF KEY WEST, FLORIDA, NAMING THE NEW STREETS CONSTRUCTED WITHIN THE TRUMAN WATERFRONT AREA AS SET FORTH IN THE ATTACHED MAP, TO HONOR HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT AFRICAN-AMERICAN FAMILIES OF THE CITY OF KEY WEST; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

WHEREAS, in Resolution 15-297, the City Commission authorized the naming of new streets constructed within the Truman Waterfront area in honor of historically significant African-American Residents and Families of the City of Key West; and

WHEREAS, it is important to memorialize the accomplishments, and to preserve the names and legacies of community role models and mentors, for now and for future generations; and

WHEREAS, community stakeholders have recommended that specific streets be named in honor of legacy families including: Allen, Butler, Carey, Evans, Major, Sands, Weech and Welters; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF KEY WEST, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1: That the City Commission hereby names streets within the Truman Waterfront area as set forth in the attached map, in honor of historically significant African-American families of Key West.

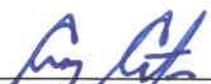
Section 2: That this Resolution shall go into effect immediately upon its passage and adoption and authentication by the signature of the presiding officer and the Clerk of the Commission.

Passed and adopted by the City Commission at a meeting held this 15th day of May, 2018.

Authenticated by the Presiding Officer and Clerk of the Commission on 15th day of May, 2018.

Filed with the Clerk on May 16, 2018.

Mayor Craig Cates	<u>Yes</u>
Vice Mayor Clayton Lopez	<u>Yes</u>
Commissioner Sam Kaufman	<u>Yes</u>
Commissioner Richard Payne	<u>Yes</u>
Commissioner Margaret Romero	<u>Yes</u>
Commissioner Billy Wardlow	<u>Yes</u>
Commissioner Jimmy Weekley	<u>Yes</u>



CRAIG CATES, MAYOR

ATTEST:



CHERYL SMITH, CITY CLERK

It would be difficult at best to do perfect justice to the families and individuals who made up those families that we seek to honor. The first difficulty would be to be able to have enough streets, buildings, areas etc., to do so if we attempted to name individuals. Secondly even with the number of families who deserve this recognition, it would not serve to honor them sufficiently. However, due to all of these historic families' contribution to our combined history in Key West, both individually and collectively, it is right that we make this step.

Through Inverse Condemnation, the United States Government took over much of the property once owned by these families who made up Key West's most Cultural anchor. To that point, and during their time, the Allens, Butlers, Careys and others formed the Original Key West Junkanoo Band, were some of the earliest music instructors, entertainers, educators and even served our country as some of the first of their kind in the US Military forces, in the Montford Point Marines... then came back to serve our community in so many additional capacities to those already mentioned! Many of our most talented athletes and athletic mentors have come from these families.

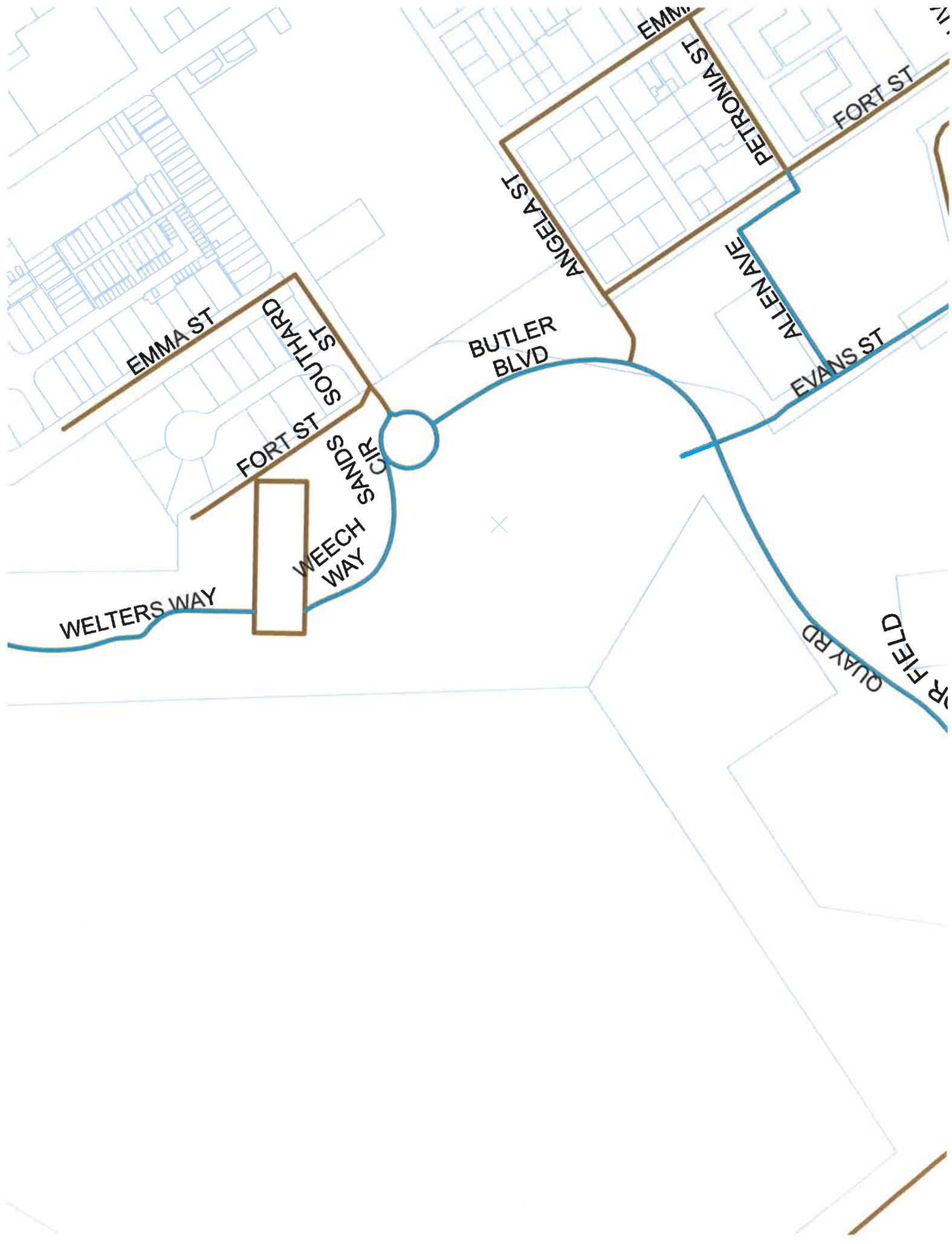
The Welters family, again some of Key West's finest musicians and winners of state band championships for the city of Key West. The Welters Cornet band is well documented and had in its membership several of these family members, including Mr. Roosevelt Sands Sr., who is known for his own philanthropy, but not as much for his having played in that Welters Cornet band. His own accomplishments extend to and beyond his having been a member of the Key West Coconuts Negro League Baseball team, and caught the eye at one point of Mr. Branch Rickey, who developed the farm system drafted Roberto Clemente, the first Hispanic MLB superstar and initiated the end of baseball's color line, with his drafting of Jackie Robinson.

The Welters brothers also had a sister who is equally historic, Mrs. Ellen Sanchez, educator, musician (and known to a lesser extent), playwright.

Mr. Charles Major Sr. was one of this city's most active and long standing members of the NAACP. He was President during some of the city and country's most tumultuous periods. He fought to bring about the single member districts with his son, Charles Jr., Willie Ward, Roy Grant and others. He once ran for the first District VI seat, losing to his son, Emery Major. Who was then the first District VI Commissioner elected until SMD voting. He worked with Mr. Sands on the establishment of the Boy Scouts of America... the longest mentorship program for boys and young men in the black community of the period in Key West.

The Weech family has contributed, some with their lives and never saw the recognition or the honor and gratitude they deserve from their community or country. The current American Legion Hall undergoing restoration, serves as tribute to some of them. Mrs. Mary Weech is but one member of this historic family whose legacy still resonates today due to her midwifery, along with Ms. M. Gibson, Mrs. Sawyer, Mrs. Ida Sands, Mrs. Alice Wallace, Wilhelmina Morrero and Mrs. Louise Robinson. Ms. Mary's husband, Mr. Edwar "Tucker" Weech, was one of the most well-known saxophone players in Key West, playing with Mr. Coffee Butler, Robert Butler, Buddy Chavez, Howard Nickerson, Bobby Lowe, Marvin Boza and others!

We could go on, and never tell as much as would be necessary to give a full understanding or appreciation. We could never include as many of the individuals in each family to make it complete, as was stated in the introduction of the original resolution that lead to this one. But, as stated in the beginning of this narrative, there is no way to do justice, at least not enough to perfectly honor these families, as they have so many people on each family tree, who have made and continue to this day to make contributions to our history, culture and reason we love our city. It is fitting and right to do this in their honor that this part of our combined history not be forgotten, as we continue to seek the rest of the pieces to the puzzle and share with the world that no piece of land anywhere has contributed as much to cultural awareness and history as this 2X4 mile island known as Key West, Florida.





Roosevelt Sands, Sr., played with the Key West Coconuts and was known as one of the exceptional catchers of his day. It is rumored that he was good enough to play major league baseball, but made a decision that would affect all of us. He chose family over baseball. His love for the game stayed with him throughout his long life.

A man of integrity and respect, Rosie worked hard to provide for his wife and his children, as well as his mother, Augusta Sands. Because of the choices he made, many of us reaped the benefits. His gentle encouragement to us to follow our passion has carried us to our destiny.



Postscript

There is much to be learned from a family's story. Learning about the courage, the faith, the gifts, and the strength of our ancestors, who dared to leave their home and venture into a new environment in search of a better life, should be both empowering and comforting in ways that help to direct and guide us as we move forward in this world.

I hope that you have enjoyed reading this work in progress and learning a bit about those loved ones who walked this way before us, leaving a legacy of good works, a shining trail that is visible to those who seek it out, and a path strewn with blessed memories.

FAMILIAR FACES:

An ongoing series that looks at the people who make up our island community

9 Feb 2016

Butler still tickles the ivories with a twinkle in his eye

BY MANDY MILES
Key West Citizen

Coffee Butler remembers riding out the deadly hurricane of 1935 in his family's home on Olivia Street.

He was about 7 years old, and can still remember the house shaking, he said Monday, nearly 81 years after the hurricane destroyed the railroad in the Upper Keys and killed hundreds of workers.

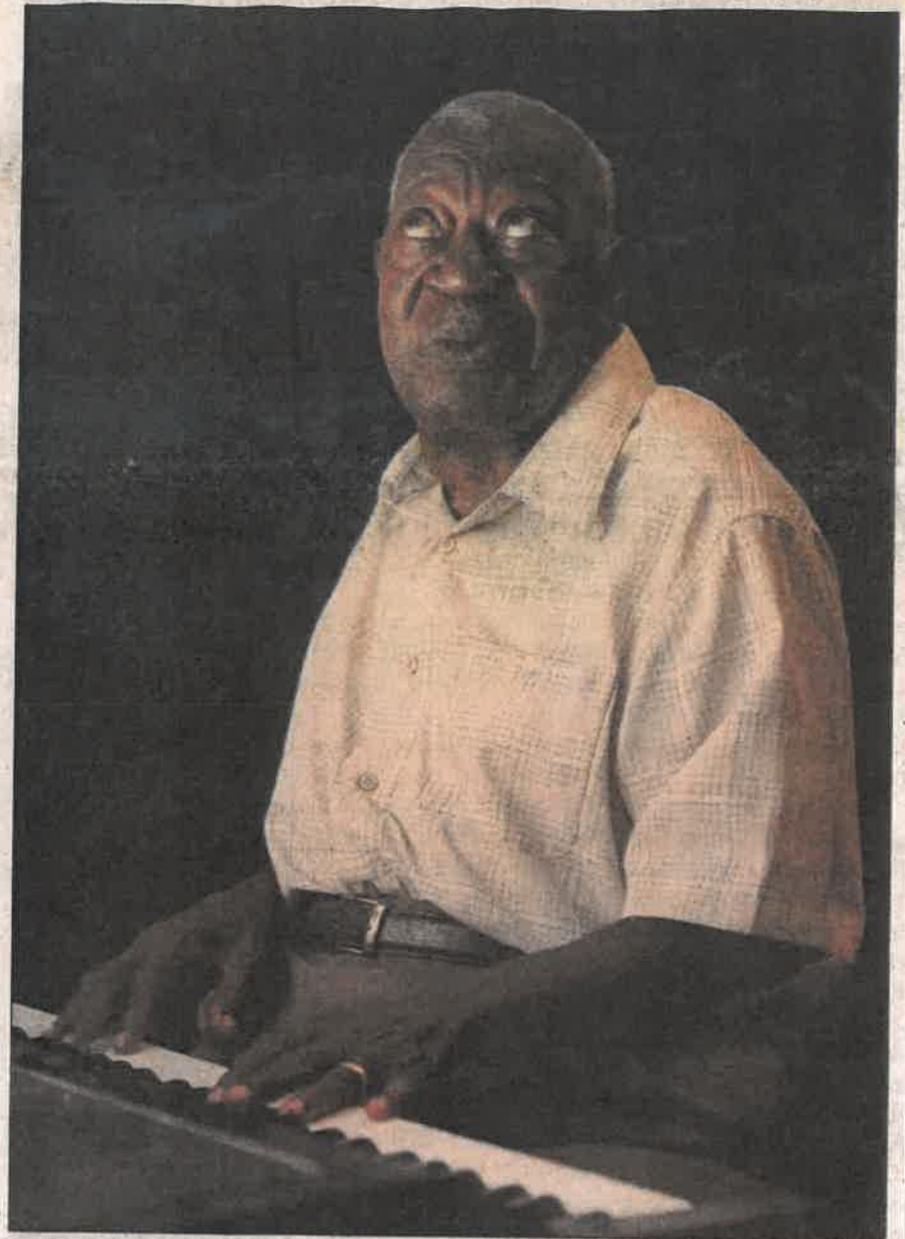
He remembers when World War II took several of his older friends, many of them musicians and baseball players, to war.

And at 87 years old, the piano player's mind and fingers still remember the words and music to the hundreds of songs he's been playing since he started taking piano lessons in high school.

"On the isle sweet contentment / where they never hold resentment / The breeze in the trees / blue sky and palms growing high / a tropical moon / lovers can spoon / on the beautiful isle of Key West," Butler sang Monday afternoon, playing the electric keyboard that's tucked in a guest room at his Stock Island home.

Butler's — and the entire island's — music teacher, Ellen Sanchez, wrote the tribute song to her hometown.

"She had me play it for



ROB O'NEAL/The Citizen

Lofton 'Coffee' Butler fires up his electric piano Monday on Stock Island and delivers a rousing rendition of 'Who Put the Pepper?', one of his favorite tunes. The 87-year-old singer/songwriter has been tickling the ivories in Key West since the 1940s.

President Truman when he came to visit her music class at the old convent at St. Mary's," said Butler, who was born Lofton Butler in 1928.

"I had an aunt named Alice, who was about 10 years older than me," he said. "She used to call me 'Loffie'. Then one day a friend changed it to 'Coffee' and I've been Coffee ever

since, although I used to say they call me Coffee because I'm so stimulating."

His eyes shined with a trademark twinkle as his fingers found the notes to a song of Bahamian origin that, like Butler himself, is filled with double entendres.

"My parents were born here in Key West, but my grandparents came from

Green Turtle Cay, Key West's sister city in the Bahamas," he said, with a trace of an island accent still audible in his baritone voice.

Aside from a two-year stint in the Army when he was drafted after high school, and a year playing semi-pro baseball in West Palm Beach, Butler has

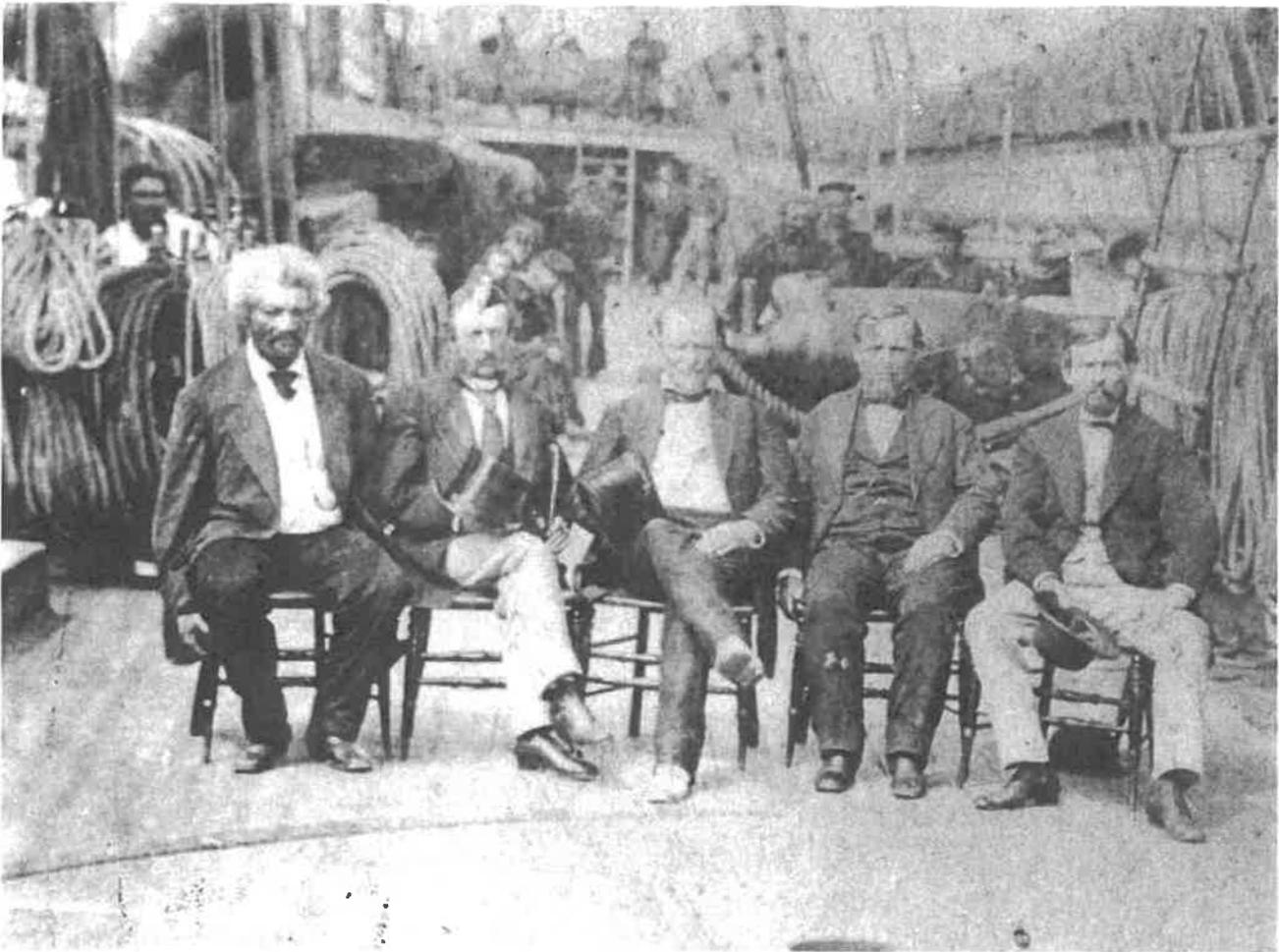
County may honor Bill Butler

Monroe County Commissioner Wilhelmina has sponsored a resolution which, if passed, will commit Monroe County to assisting in "the case and upkeep" of the park in Key West named after Bill Butler, a musician who died recently.

The resolution, which was added to the agenda by Harvey at the County Commission meeting in Plantation Key last Friday, has not been approved yet because Harvey needed to leave the meeting before the item was brought up. It was postponed until the next County Commission meeting, so that Harvey could be present.

The resolution honors Bill Butler, saying that he "devoted his life to the betterment of the Florida Keys and in particular Key West." The proposed commendation also commits the County to "cooperate in any needed requirement to beautify said park and in so doing to cooperate with any agencies which are involved or which will be involved in this endeavor." The park, named after the late Butler, who was a leader in the popular performing group, "The Junkanooes," should be perpetually cared for and continued as a memorial of the outstanding human example he rendered to this area," according to the proposed resolution.

March 21



Frederick Douglass left with the members of the Santo Domingo Commission in Key West.

1871 Frederick Douglass, African American Statesman, arrived in Key West on the USS Tennessee with other members of the Santo Domingo Commission.

1898 Two unidentified bodies, from the Battleship Maine, were buried in the Battleship Maine Plot, in the Key West City Cemetery.

1950 The U.S. Weather Bureau moved, from the Naval Station, to the Federal Building at the corner of Simon-ton and Caroline Street. The Bureau, also, had a station at the airport.

1970 Bill Butler was named captain for the first-team Class A, All-State Basketball Team by the Florida Sports Writers Association.

1989 William A. Freeman Jr., former county commission, state representative and sheriff, died at age 59.

1991 The Winn-Dixie Marketplace opened at the Overseas Market.

April 15



The Page Building at the corner of Duval and Fleming Streets.

1886 The Key West Building and Loan Association was incorporated in 1886 with John J. Philbrick, president; R. Alvarez, secretary and George W. Allen, treasurer. It was located over the Union Bank at 427 Front Street.

1898 Companies A and O of the Twenty-fifth Infantry, U.S. Army arrived on the steamer City of Key West to reenforce the Army Garrison.

1930 Andrew J. Page moved his store to the modern two-store concrete building he built at the corner of Fleming and Duval Streets.

1939 Governor A.B. "Happy" Chandler of Kentucky was a guest at the La Concha Hotel. The Governor and his party brought in a large catch while fishing with Captain Begley Filer.

1970 Key West High School's Bill Butler was named the number two-basketball player in the state by the Miami News.

1975 Governor Rueben Askew and the State Cabinet voted to declare the Florida Keys an area of critical state concern. This gave the state the authority to control land use and development in the Keys.

1980 Bad weather foiled an unorganized band of Miami Cuban exiles from sailing a fleet of small boats from Key West carrying food and medicine to their countrymen seeking asylum in the Peruvian Embassy in Havana.

1 Sandy
Saw 1 For story

Sandy & Lillah Cornish, by Lewis G. Schmidt
1464 N. 39th St., Allentown, PA 18104-2126; 610 395 1661

FROM SLAVERY TO FREEDOM AND SUCCESS

Sandy Cornish and Lillah Cornish
(circa 1793-1869) - (circa 1813-1870's)

Trapped in the institution of slavery in the first half of the 19th Century, Sandy and Lillah Cornish migrated from the area of Cambridge, Maryland to Florida, through their labor freeing themselves from the bonds of slavery, and eventually locating in Key West where they achieved success and respect and lived out the remainder of their lives.



UNCLE SANDIE
"W.G. Jackman, Engraved expressly for this work"
After The War, Whitelaw Reid; Moore, Wilsbach & Baldwin, 1866

Sandy & Lillah Cornish, by Lewis G. Schmidt
1464 N. 39th St., Allentown, PA 18104-2126; 610 395 1661

The Cornish name¹ is well known to Black history and relatively common in the area of eastern Maryland and Delaware. A Samuel Cornish, who was born free in Delaware in 1795, "was the first black man to undergo the normal exacting training and testing procedures required of Presbyterian ordination...After being licensed to preach, Cornish spent six months as a missionary to slaves on the eastern shore of Maryland". He later founded the first Black Presbyterian Church in New York City, and was the first African-American journalist.¹

Joshua Cornish, born about 1790, immigrated to Liberia with his family in June 1835, and won awards for best farming. In 1842 he returned and recruited other members of his race for an immigration to Liberia.²

Other than general areas of birth, ethnic origin, and the fact that in time they were contemporaries, there is no known connection between Samuel, Joshua and Sandy Cornish. All were born in the last decade of the 18th Century and each appears to have had a positive experience in their background that seemed to impell them to achievements above the norm, and in that respect there may also be some connection.

Claiming Maryland as his place of birth, Sandy Cornish related that "My ole massa was William Eccleston of Cambridge, Maryland. I waited on him. I never worked in de field, not I, till I was thirty year old. Wen he die, my young massa gave me my time for \$83 a yeah. Dat was about \$40 more dan common people paid."³

Sandy's master William Eccleston appears in the Dorchester County census records of 1790, and again in 1810, 1820 and 1830. In William's household in 1790 were three slaves, and also listed in the same census were the free blacks Sam and Anny Cornish. Sandy was born about three years later. William's name does not appear in the census records of 1840, and other sources report his death in March of 1838.

In May of 1839, a "Sandie...faithful Negro Interpreter" appeared in negotiations with the Seminole Indians at Key Biscayne in Florida's northern keys.⁴

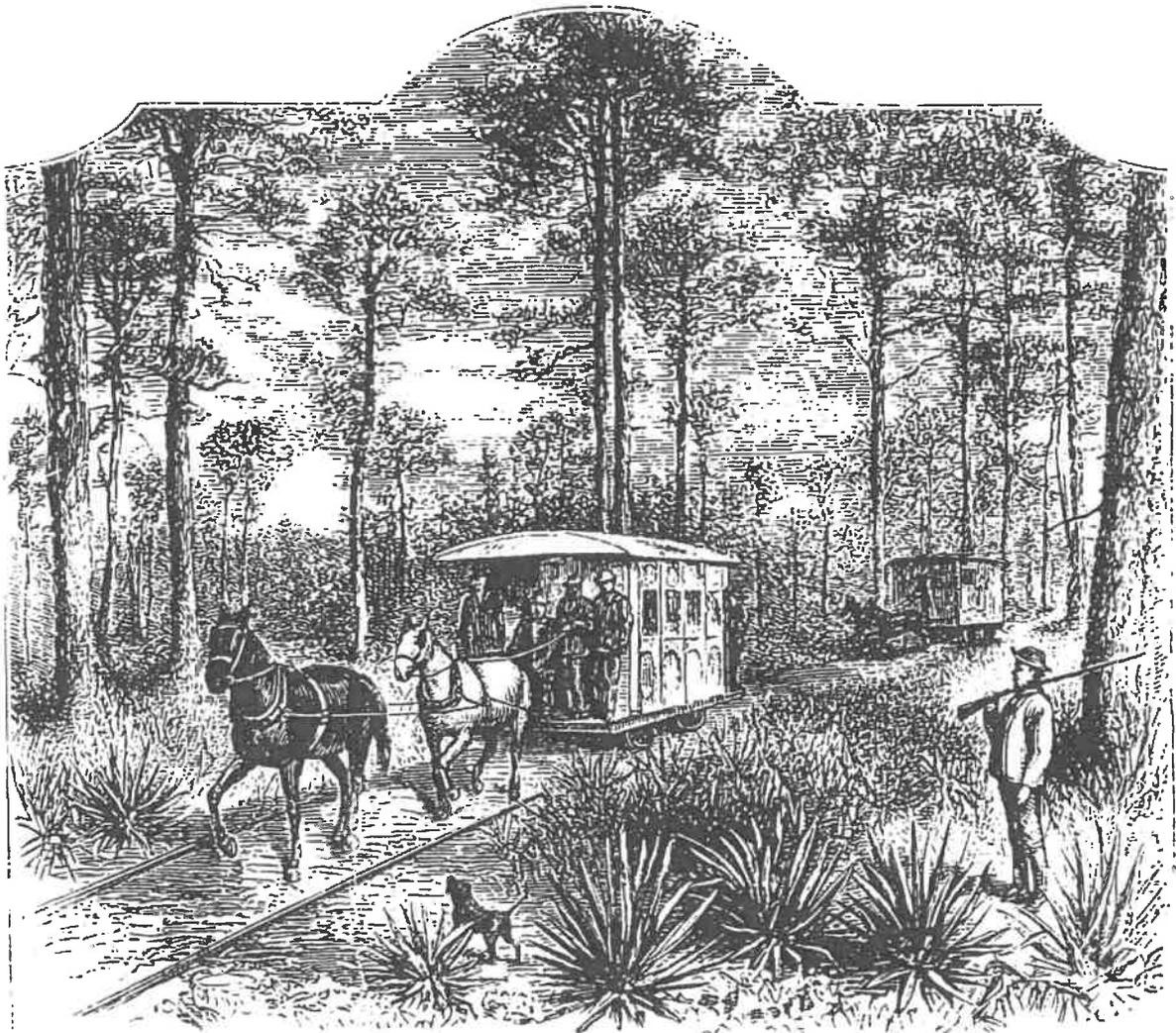
Although within the next ten years "Sandy" Cornish and his wife Lillah would settle in Key West in the southern keys, where they would spend the remainder of their lives, all other apparently reliable information would seem to preclude the possibility that "Sandie" and "Sandy" are the same person. An investigation of other sources fails to place Sandy in Florida in time to become sufficiently proficient in the Seminole language and act as an interpreter. In addition, any involvement in May of 1839 would have had to have been prior to his work on the railroad in the Panhandle of northern Florida. Water was almost certainly their route to employment on the railroad, and to reach the Panhandle from Maryland would require passage around the southern keys, and is probably the time when they were first exposed to Key West, their future home.

It was probably sometime late in 1839 (Sandy claimed October 2, 1839 as the date) that Sandy and Lillah left Maryland and migrated to Florida where

¹ The Cornish name was mentioned in Maryland records as early as 1652.

Sandy & Lillah Cornish, by Lewis G. Schmidt
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Sandy was employed for nine years, at \$600 per year, in the construction of a railroad at "Port Leon". Lilly was a freewoman and received \$15 per month. Sandy was probably "hired out" by the son¹ of William Eccleston after the death of his father in 1838, and was employed at Port Leon in the Florida Panhandle on the railroad being constructed from Tallahassee to St. Marks. It was with the savings from these wages that they were later able to buy Sandy's freedom for \$3200², and Sandy stated that his wife Lilly "had to see paid" the sum which purchased his freedom. "She made herself a slave to go wid me".⁵



Scribner's Monthly, November 1874

1 Possibly Joseph Richardson Eccleston, born January 12, 1811.

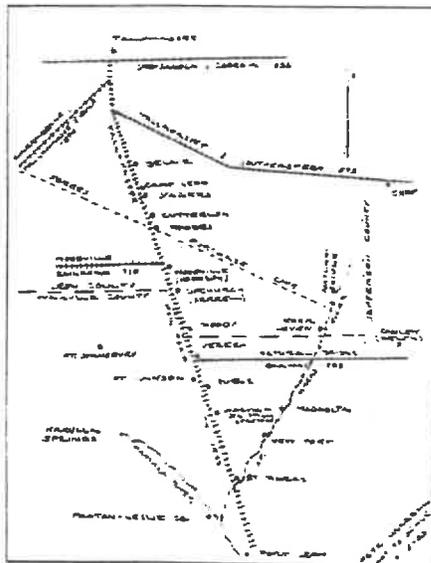
2 Variousy reported as \$2300, \$3200 and \$3350 by primary sources.

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In 1826, a wagon road had been surveyed from Tallahassee to St. Marks, and was used to ship cotton to the coast for transport by water to other markets.¹ In 1835, a seven hour stage coach connection was established between the two areas, at a cost of \$2.50 per passenger. With the development of steam powered railroads ten years before, it was not long before a need was recognized to establish a railroad to serve the area, and its construction was considered as early as 1831, and the Leon Rail Way Company was incorporated in 1832. A lack of funds resulted in the company's demise and a new attempt to effect the construction of the railroad was initiated in 1834, resulting in the establishment of the Tallahassee Rail Road Company.

The new company received its first grant of land in March of 1835 although construction of the line had already begun the previous January with 40 to 50 hired slaves. By November 8, 1837, the railroad was in operation from Tallahassee to St. Marks.

A need had been recognized in 1835 for the railroad to continue across the St. Marks River and the town of Port Leon was established, selling the first lots in April of 1838. With this connection, the railroad was 24 miles long. A visitor to the town in 1841 described it as a town of about twenty houses, and "The people. Oh my! The 'ruff scuff' of civilization and as to law...they don't know what it means." Drinking, swearing, smoking and billiards were the prevailing pastimes, although the town boasted a hotel, tavern and newspaper, but no jail and church. Port Leon and the three miles of railroad on the south side of the St. Marks River were destroyed in a hurricane on September 13, 1843 and were never rebuilt, and the line then terminated where it intersected the river.



Courtesy of Allen R. Gerrell, Sr.

¹ The following account of the railroad construction between Tallahassee and St. Marks, and Port Leon, has been edited from a paper at the Florida State Archives by Allen R. "Pete" Gerrell Sr. of Tallahassee, FL. See the bibliography for a list of Mr. Gerrell's sources.

Claiming he worked on the railroad for nine years, it may have been sometime during the mid to late 1840's that Sandy's "free papers" were lost. "The town cotch fire and burnt my papers, and pretty smart money. All de money was burnt, 'cept a little silver and gold."¹ With nothing to prove that he was a free Black, he was seized "one night after I'd been out fishin. I was settin' stripped off, washin' my feet", when some unprincipled opportunists with the intent of profiting from his sale in the New Orleans slave market approached him. He broke free from his "six"² captors, suffering head injuries in the process, and before he could be recaptured, inflicted severe personal injuries on himself to frustrate any attempt to resell him in the slave market.⁶

The next morning, a Thursday, "He deliberately proceeded to the public square, accompanied by his wife, cut the muscles of his ankle joint, plunged a knife into the hip joint on the other side, and then sinking down on a wheelbarrow, finished the work by chopping off with a hatchet the fingers of his left hand!"⁷

Another description of the event from the same source, in the words of Sandy, describes the scene as follows: "I axed for de stickin' plaster...Den I put de needles and de stickin' plaster into a box...We went togedder, and to de public squar, and I gave free yells, so dey cud be heard all ober town. Everybody gathered around de squar. We de people was all standin roun', but some distance off, I tole 'em I didn't want dis (putting his hand on his right leg), nor dis (left arm), nor dis (left leg), but did want dis (right arm)."⁸

"Meanwhile, an awe-struck crowd of white men gathered around, but made no attempt at interference. Finally, brandishing the bloody knife, Sandie shouted to the crowd that if they persisted in their effort to sell a free man into slavery after he had once, at an extortionate price, bought himself out of it, his right arm was yet strong, and he had one blow reserved, after which they were welcome to sell him for whatever he would bring."⁹

"Den I libitly run my knife froo de heelstrings and cut em out; Den I stoop down on de wheel barrow, wid my needles, and seew it up, and stuck de stickin' plaster on it. Den I tuck a knife and drove it into my right hip heah (showing over the hip joint a very ugly scar, nearly eight inches long), and dey sed I work de knife back and forward four times, but I don't know zactly how many times. But I cut hole ten inches long, and four inches deep, till my leg hung useless. My wife Lily she freaded de needles; and den held de lookin' glass, so I could see to make long stitches, and sew it up, and stick on de stickin' plaster."¹⁰

"Den I set it down, and chopped my hand as hard as I cud wid de hatchet, and cut one finger clean off (holding up the left hand, with the shockingly mutilated fingers). Dat little finger I tuck up and put in my mouf, and smoked it for a cigar, till de blood from it run down my lips. Dat I sewed too, and den tole 'em if that wouldn't do, I would cut open my belly, and put de entrals before 'em. But dat I wouldn't go to New Orleans for a slave agin, for I was free."¹¹

¹ Sandy also claimed to have "thirty-nine head Buckshire hogs" at this time.

² Also described as 15 men.

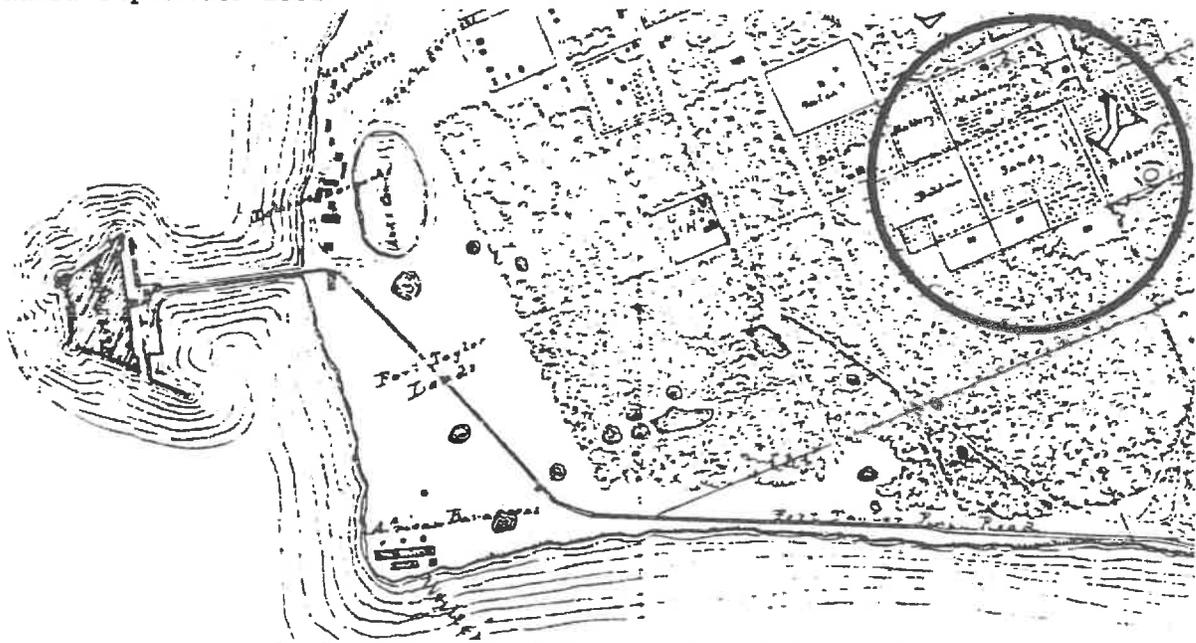
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"Den dey tuck me—not de whites, dey not come near me, afeared, but de brack people—and wheel me home on de wheel barrow, wid de utensils. I was down sick two months. After dat could go about on crutches."¹²

"That the essentials of this story are true, there is unquestionable evidence. The fingers on his left hand are mutilated, and the scars on the hip and ankle are fearfully distinct, while besides there are still white eye-witnesses to testify to the main facts. Sandie's powerful constitution brought him through; he was confined to bed for six months; then he began to hobble about a little, and at the end of the year was again able to support himself."¹³

Any children that Sandy and Lillah may have had prior to their arrival at Key West in the late 1840's were probably already of an age that enabled them to leave the household and establish themselves and their own families. None were included with Lillah in the Key West Monroe County census when she first appeared in the records in 1850, and when members of households were first included in the listings. The census records would have to be searched in Maryland or in other areas of Florida in an attempt to identify their migrations and family structure.

Sandy's wife Lillah, also called "Auntie" in one account from the period of 1865-66, had established herself in Key West by 1850 when she was included in the census of Monroe County as a 38 year old Black female. And on April 21, 1851, Lillah purchased from the Simonton Estate two lots on Division St., between Duval and Simonton Sts. The area of Sandy's orchard was identified slightly east of this location¹ on a map in the National Archives dated September 1861.



Key West Map, 1861; National Archives, RG77, 76-134-2

¹ This may have been an error by the mapmaker, or the tax records describing the transaction may have mislocated the property.

During the Civil War, many of the Union soldiers stationed at Key West visited and described "Old Sandy's" fruit orchard¹. They considered him to be one of the richest men in Key West and a leader of the Black community. He cultivated about 20 acres, raising² 4,000 pounds of grapes and other fruits, and charged those who visited his establishment 50 cents for a plate of fruit.¹⁴

A post Civil War visitor to "Old Sandie's farm" described it as follows: "A rude fence separated this from the surrounding waste land, but the soil was equally stony, and apparently sterile."¹⁵ One patron recorded the experience as he wrote: "We were ushered into the house, and took seats around a square table in the parlor, and then gave our order for some fruit which he brought to us on individual plates. There were delicious grapes, guavas, oranges, etc., and after we had eaten what fruit we wanted, we each paid him fifty cents, his price per plate of fruit, and then we took a look about the garden and retired."¹⁶ He also provided the soldiers with entertainment at his orchard in the form of fortune tellers.¹⁷ Another visitor described the house as "a little hut with two rooms" and nearby a "lean to" or "piazza".¹⁸

"Ripe sapadillos hung from the trees; and a particularly large 'sour-sop' was pointed out as especially intended for our dinner. He had a little patch of tobacco; green cocoanuts [sic] rested at the tops of the palm-like stems, and tamarinds were abundant; the African cayenne pepper berry was hanging on little bushes."¹⁹

The Federal soldiers spoke well of Sandy and seemed to like and respect him, describing him as "the aristocratic farmer of the race" who led parades, occasionally made speeches at local festivities³, and delivered the sermons at some of the burials.²⁰ On New Years Eve, December 31, 1862, a group of soldiers from the 47th Pennsylvania Regiment "went out towards the beach and visited Old Sandy, a great Union Nigger, and roused him up, and gave him a salute".²¹

Sandy was described by contemporaries "as an institution. He is a genuine darky, large headed, large souled, big of stature, full of vigor and brawn, and the most perfect gentleman in Key West. He was formerly a slave—paid \$2300 for his own freedom with the help of his wife who sold herself into slavery for his sake—has some thousands of dollars in bank" in February of 1864.²²

Another description recorded him as "a stalwart negro, with the physique of a prize fighter; body round as a barrel, arms knotted with muscles that might have belonged to a race-horse's leg, chest broad and deep, with room inside for the play of an ox's lungs...The head was large, but the

¹ See "The Civil War History of the 47th Regiment of Pennsylvania Veteran Volunteers", and "Volume III, Florida's Keys and Fevers" of the series "The Civil War in Florida", all by Lewis G. Schmidt.

² Henry Hornbeck of the 47th Pennsylvania Regiment mentioned buying sweet potatoes and melons from an "old gentleman", possibly Sandy who he frequently visited.

³ On new years day 1864, Sandy spoke on "the speedy down fall of Charleston", and acting as "chief marshal" led the parade (from Volume III of the Civil War in Florida, by Lewis G. Schmidt).

broad forehead was very low. Above it rose the crisp, grizzled wool, almost perpendicularly, for a height quite as great as that of the exposed part of the forehead; and the bumps above the ears and at the back of the head were of a corresponding magnitude. The face was unmistakably African, glossy black, with widely-distended nostrils, thick lips and a liquid but gleaming eye...an old man—'now in my sebenty-tree yeah'¹—yet the strongest man on the island, the richest of the negroes, the best farmer here."²³

"Since the war, his remarkable history has attracted many visitors...and brought him many attentions that might readily have turned the head of a less judicious person...[He] appeared in the village in a faultless suit of broadcloth, with a well-brushed silk hat...and standing, hat in hand, under the cocoas" he told the story of his life.²⁴

For some unknown reason, Sandy himself has never been identified in the Monroe County census records², although his 38 year old wife Lillah (also Lilla or Lily) has been identified in 1850; and again in 1860 as a 45 year old washerwoman; and finally, in 1870, the 66 year old Lilly was keeping house.

In 1864, Sandy was involved in the establishment of the Cornish Chapel of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, now located at 702 Whitehead St. in Key West. Sandy had "contributed largely to the erection of a handsome church for the negro congregation, of which he is the leading spirit"²⁵, and frequently conducted services for the congregation.

Sandy's 1866-67 Monroe County tax records listed his assets as follows: 19 acres of land, \$240; one horse, \$100; one carriage, \$50; and 50 sheep, \$260.

No further record pertaining to Sandy has been discovered, and it was probably about 1869 that he died and was more than likely buried in the City Cemetery in Key West, in a grave that over the years has lost its identification. An inventory of his estate was recorded on January 7, 1870, and a value of \$138.75 was placed on the estate, which included: crockery ware, pots and stoves, tables, bedding, iron, tumblers, tables, sofa, smoothing irons, crow bars, brass boiler, tin ware, tubs, knives and forks, castor and fruit dish bench, rocking chair, pitcher, press, trunk, bake oven, and pick axe.

Lillah survived her husband, living until sometime in the 1870's, having appeared in the 1870 but not the 1880 census. She is also probably buried in what is now an unmarked grave in the City Cemetery at Key West.

¹ In 1865-1866.

² Having lost his papers proving his status as freeman, he may have been attempting to conceal his whereabouts from Federal authorities in the pre Civil War era census of 1850 and 1860. He was deceased by the time of the 1870 census.

January 11



John Whitehead.

1829 The four owners of the Island of Key West, John Simonton, Pardon Greene, John Whitehead and John Fleming, sign an agreement for the division of the land of the Island

1911 The Commercial Club and the Chamber of Commerce held a joint meeting and consolidated into the Chamber of Commerce and elected Dr. J.B. Maloney president.

1938 The contractor building the road on Bahia Honda found traces of oil in the rocks after blasting to level the roadway.

1956 Stanley Switlik announced plans for an exclusive residential subdivision on Long Key Point.

1967 A Key West-based crawfishing boat and two boats out of Marathon were involved in a gun battle near the Cay Sal Banks, Bahamas in which one man was killed and one wounded.

1974 ABC records finished shooting a film special at the Pier House titled "Introducing Jimmy Buffet."

1977 A contract for the Harry S. Truman animal import center on Fleming Key was awarded. The facility took two years to complete and was capable of quarantining 500 head of livestock for a five-month period.

1994 Rex Weech, longtime grounds keeper of the Key West High School stadium, died at age 87.

June 27



The First Congregational Church

1903 The corner stone was laid for the First Congregational Church on William Street. The ceremony was conducted by Reverend S.F. Gale, Home Missionary Superintend for the Congregational Church of Florida.

1914 The R.L. Polk & Company Key West City Directory contained 8,606 names. By using the multiple 3 to allow for women and children, whose names did not appear, a population of 25,818 was indicated for the city.

1934 Frank Welters died at age 70. In 1889 he was one of the founders of the 17-piece Welters Cornet Band, which had appeared all over the state and was named Champion Band of the State.

1946 The polio epidemic was at 19 cases with four deaths. Of the four deaths three were adults.

1967 TV and movie actor Nick Adams was in Key West to visit the Hemingway House.

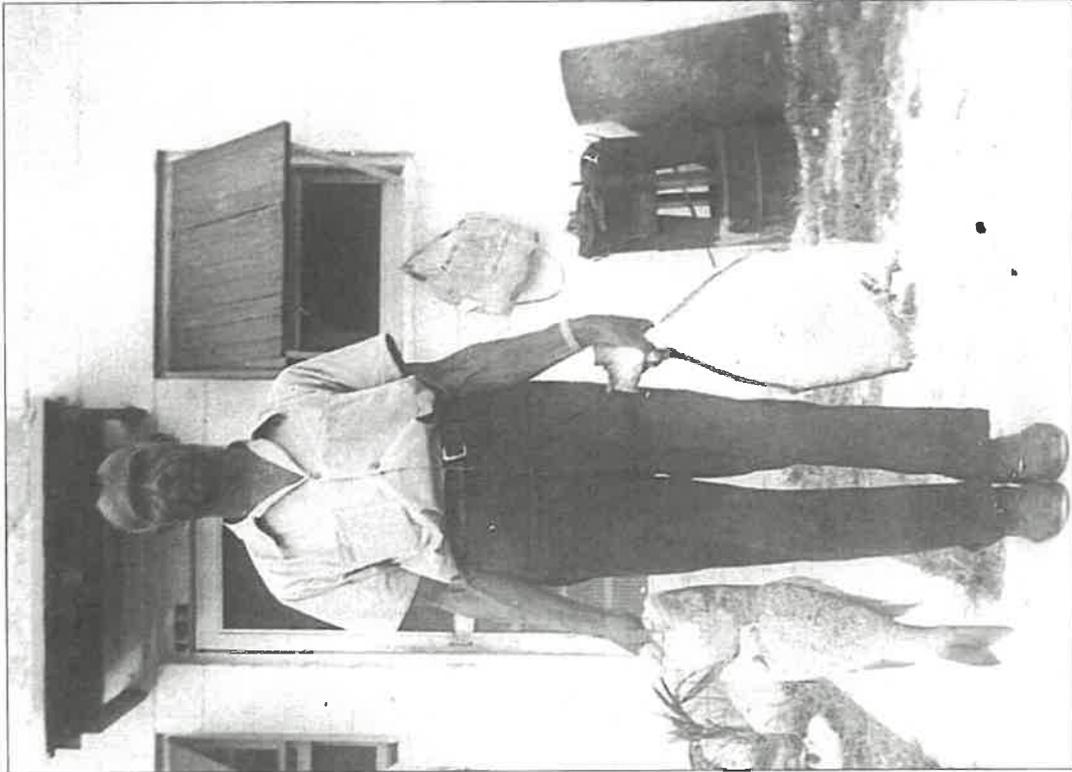
1978 Captain W.I. Lewis relieved Captain James McCardell as Commanding Officer Naval Air Station Key West.

17# 8

F/535



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Black fishermen of Key West caught jewfish, groupers, yellowtail snappers, and grunts that helped feed many poor families during the Depression. Such men are truly legends of their time, as is Albert Ernest Sawyer Sr. and other commercial fishermen who lost their lives fishing at Cedar Key, Florida, during bad weather in the early 1940s.

KEY WESTERS KILLED IN ACTION IN WORLD WAR I

WORLD WAR I

William Weech US Army

WORLD WAR II

- Harry Knowles US Army
- Walter Mickens US Navy
- Joseph McGee US Army
- Gerald Roberts US Army
- Leon Roberts US Army
- Francisco Romaguera US Army
- Howard Sands US Army
- Franklin Saunders US Army
- Ralph E. Sawyer US Army
- Charles Thompson US Army

KOREAN WAR

Henry Carey US Army

18-2255
 BV Black
 American
 Series - 1

In most countries, Memorial services are held in Vietnam, and May they a
 ry. Memorial Wars I and II, n lost to war. and abroad.



Most black ministers were merely visitors to Key West, only serving a congregation for a specified time. However, Rev. Franklin Hooper was a hardworking, dependable, committed leader in the Key West community. He was pastor of historic Cornish Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church during the mid-1950s to mid-1960s. He taught the bible, counseled the youth, and still made time to participate in civic endeavors.



Another landmark event celebrated by the early black churches in America is the ceremonial "burning of the church mortgage papers," declaring clear ownership of the property. The special ceremony photographed took place at historic Cornish Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church on November 22, 1958. The Trustee's Board, from left to right, are Augustus Morgan, Lucille Pope, Atlanta Jamison, George Sands, Rev. Franklin Hooper, George Dean Sr., Gilbert Albury, Leon Sumner, and Eddie Lampkins.

Winifred Sands Johnson shared Bahamian and Cuban ancestry and was raised as a devout Catholic. Her mother made sure she knew Cuba, and her father helped her to become an educated woman. Mrs. Johnson was an excellent educator and the first black columnist for *The Key West Citizen's* weekly colored news section from the 1950s to the late 1960s.



In 1946, Mrs. Marie Welters was elected the first president of the VFW Post 168 Women's Auxiliary, and in 1958 she became the first director for Key West's black USO. She provided leadership in the community through membership in many civic organizations and was a devoted member of St. Mary's Star of the Sea Catholic Church. She was revered for her compassion, beautiful personality, and radiant smile.





A village in peril

Bahama Village's roots run deep, but will growth cut them off?

By **STEVE SCHROER**
Citizen Staff Writer

With the Navy on one side, downtown on the other, and the racial divide deep, Bahama Village has been locked away from the rest of Key West — an island all its own.

Separate and unequal, the city's historic black neighborhood lags in income and is losing population while the surrounding city booms.

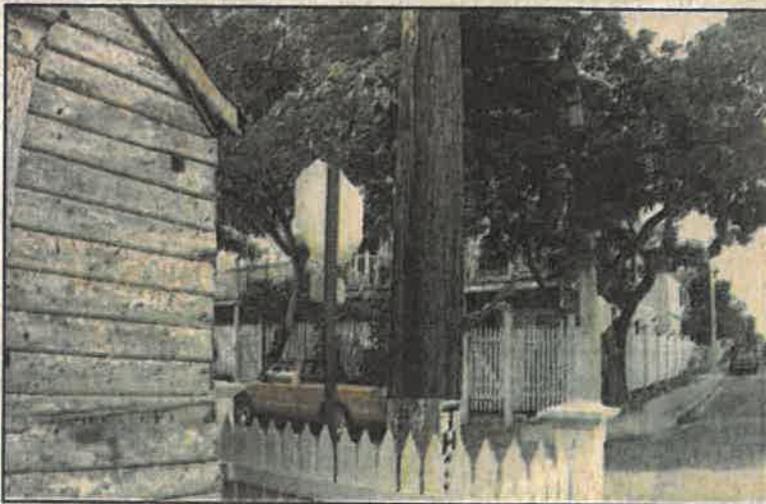
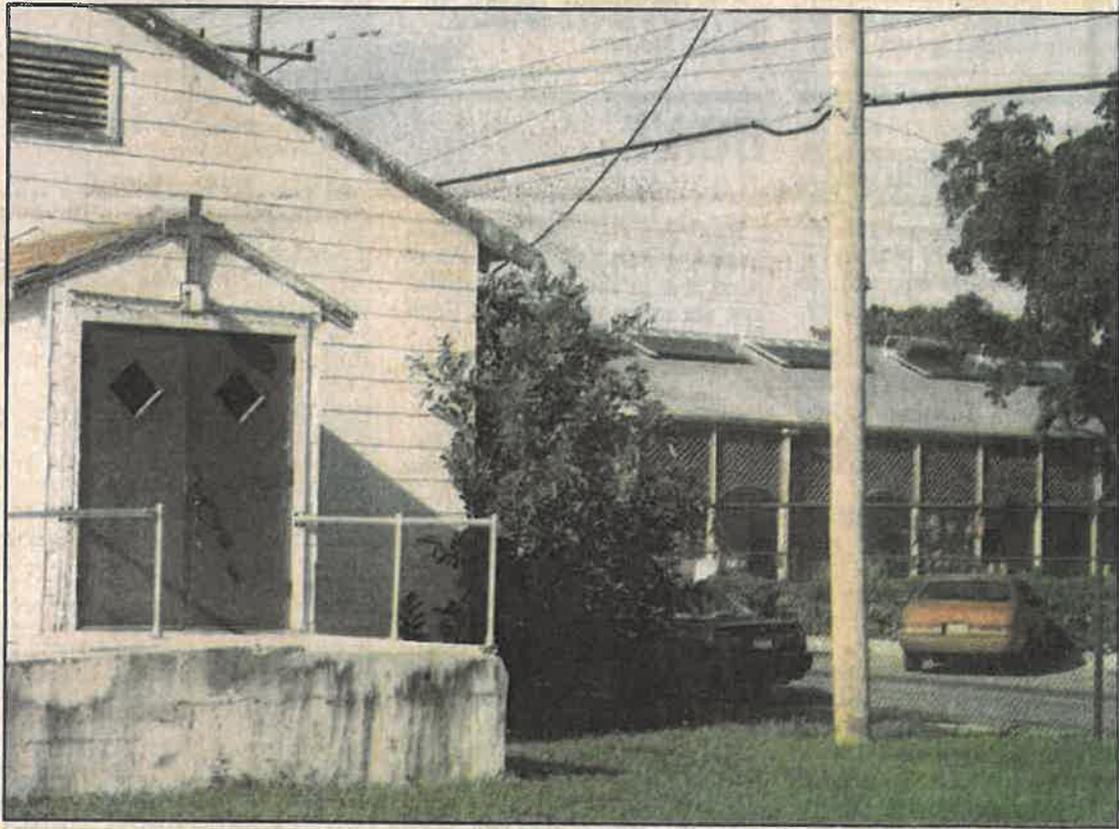
In 1990, the population of the 22-block enclave was 1,945 — 8 percent of the town and a steep drop of nearly 400 from a decade before. Outside Bahama Village, just 6 percent of the town is black. Inside, the number is 65 percent and falling.

Most moving into the area today are white, fueling fears that the most rooted community in Key West with roots reaching back 150 years would be pushed aside and lost for good.

To safeguard the area, the city commissioned a plan to reinvigorate the neighborhood's economy and preserve Bahama Village against a rising tide of gentrification.

But now that plan, completed in 1995, is out of date, thanks to Navy surplus property which is being returned to civilian use and abuts Bahama Village to

See **BAHAMA**, Page 10A



Thomas and Petronia streets, top, have brightened recently with the addition of successful businesses, while the intersection of Angela and Thomas streets, left, shows the contrast between historical landscape and upscale housing. Above is one of several Navy buildings set to be returned to the neighborhood.

Photos by **ROB O'NEAL**
The Citizen

and she had been beaten. She called an officer to meet her at Fleming and White streets, the report said.

Key West Police Officer Frank Duponty said when he got there, he saw the woman with fresh bruises and scratches on her face and arms. She told police a man had been at her up, but would not give his name or address. She refused medical help and said she was going to stay with a friend at Big Coppitt Key, the report said.

About an hour and a half later, she called police again and asked an officer to meet her on Von Phister Street. She told police her roommate at her home in the 1700 block of Washington Street had gotten angry

called police from Fleming and White streets.

After the woman talked with police the second time, Duponty and Lt. Al Flowers went to her Washington Street home, where they found the woman's roommate. He had fresh marks, scratches and blotches on his right fist and back, the report said.

Douglas Kutney, 53, was arrested and charged with domestic battery and depriving someone of the use of a car, police said. He was taken to jail.

Information in the Crime Report is obtained from reports provided by area law enforcement agencies.

If you have information that could solve a crime in the Keys, call Crime Reporters, (800) 346-TIPS.

DeLoach said tents would be used to house a maximum of 50 people — 25 men and 25 women and children in separate tents. He also presented the group's plan for the shelter which includes showers, toilets, storage lockers (if available), laundry, and a light breakfast.

Roy Grant, coalition co-chair and president of the Florida Keys Outreach Coalition for the homeless, urged commissioners get involved and make a difference.

"In order to solve the problem, we have to get involved," said Grant. "This can work." Grant also commended Mullins for initiating the effort saying it was the first time a city official has taken responsibility for a problem that is not going to go away.

Commissioner Jimmy Weekley said the business community needs to get behind the project, and Mullins asked city staff to update commissioners on the shelter's status at the next commission meeting.

DeLoach said the shelter could be built without the city's help.

BOAT

From Page 1

Key Sanctuary Preserves Area — a well-defined portion of coral reef in the Marine Sanctuary, six miles northeast of Key.

"It's been set aside as a special portion of the reef," ley said.

Officials with the Florida Marine Patrol, Florida Key National Marine Sanctuary and Coast Guard responded to a grounded boat immediately.

The U.S. Coast Guard arrived early Tuesday afternoon after the damaged vessel broke up, putting the 11-member crew in danger and the crew should be airlifted safely.

But when the Coast Guard helicopter reached the vessel one crew member decided to be airlifted. The other two crew members remained on board.

Sanctuary officials are investigating the cause of the grounding and extent of the injury to coral reef.

BAHAMA

From Page 1

the north and west.

As the former "front door" to Key West until the Navy needed the waterfront acreage around the harbor, Bahama Village will once again be opened up to the sea when the Navy land is conveyed.

New development is planned for the future "Truman Waterfront," and how the expected stampede of tourists to the harbor will effect Bahama Village is the task before those chosen to rewrite the 1995 plan.

Specifically, will opening up the waterfront rejuvenate the neighborhood or speed its decline by pushing blacks out?

"That's what the new plan is about," said Local Redevelopment Agency Director Bill Harrison, who oversees the return of Navy surplus property. "We're going to look at both plans, and make sure they're compatible. The base reuse plan for Truman Waterfront will be incorporated into the new Bahama Village preservation plan. The goal is the same: preserve the neighborhood."

Harrison said increased traffic will be a special worry, but he also predicted the waterfront project will be great news for Bahama Village and the whole island.

The entryway to Fort Zachary Taylor will be moved, too, changing traffic patterns for sightseers and beachgoers through the

neighborhood. **ROB O'NEAL / The Citizen**
Commissioner Carmen Turner, whose district includes the village, said neighbors need to be consulted every step of the way, and the new plan must reflect the commission's commitment to Bahama Village.

"In the past, the commission hasn't always followed through on its promises to Bahama Village, but I think this commission is committed to helping," she said. "I'm very concerned about the increased traffic, and I want to make sure the public involvement is extensive. One of the ideas that came out of the charette is to turn the battery into a museum on blacks in the military. It's a good idea and ties in very well with Bahama Village."

One of the largest neighborhoods to be placed on the national register of historic districts, the name Bahama Village was adopted in 1988 to honor the regions root and attract tourism.

According to census data, the neighborhood is the most rooted on the island. In Bahama Village, 59 percent of residents have lived in the same house for more than five years. On the rest of the island, the figure is 36 percent.

"People keep telling me it's too late to try to save Bahama Village," Turner said. "My response is that as long as we have the public involved and someone on the commission to fight for the area — it's not gone yet."

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RESOLUTION NO. 15-297

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF KEY WEST, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING THE NAMING OF NEW STREETS CONSTRUCTED WITHIN THE TRUMAN WATERFRONT AREA IN HONOR OF HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT AFRICAN-AMERICAN RESIDENTS AND FAMILIES OF THE CITY OF KEY WEST; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

WHEREAS, the Truman Waterfront Project will enhance and increase access to the area of Key West commonly known as "Bahama Village," a neighborhood that has for more than a century been home to a thriving community of African-American residents; and

WHEREAS, the public service and many achievements of members of Key West's African-American community have benefitted the City, and the world beyond our sub-tropic shores, in the fields of medicine, sports, entertainment, politics and commerce; and

WHEREAS, it is important to memorialize the accomplishments of Key West's African-American families and residents, and to preserve the names and legacies of community role models and mentors, for now and for future generations;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF KEY WEST, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1: The City Commission hereby authorizes and directs that each new street within the Truman Waterfront area

shall be named in honor of historically significant African-American residents/families of the City of Key West.

Section 2: That the names of specific streets shall be designated by subsequent City Commission resolution(s) pursuant to established criteria.

Section 3: That this Resolution shall go into effect immediately upon its passage and adoption and authentication by the signature of the Presiding Officer and the Clerk of the Commission.

Passed and adopted by the City Commission at a meeting held this 7th day of October, 2015.

Authenticated by the Presiding Officer and Clerk of the Commission on 21st day of October, 2015.

Filed with the Clerk on October 21, 2015.

Mayor Craig Cates	<u>Yes</u>
Vice Mayor Mark Rossi	<u>Yes</u>
Commissioner Teri Johnston	<u>Yes</u>
Commissioner Clayton Lopez	<u>Yes</u>
Commissioner Billy Wardlow	<u>Yes</u>
Commissioner Jimmy Weekley	<u>Yes</u>
Commissioner Tony Yaniz	<u>Yes</u>


CRAIG CATES, MAYOR

ATTEST:


CHERYL SMITH, CITY CLERK

Home court advantage

New Key West basketball coach Bill Butler has been there, done that

By **TED LUND**
Citizen Sports Writer

In the gym at Key West High School, also known as the Conch Dome, the record board hangs on the far side of the gym, right above the kitchen where Georgette's conch fritters have become a staple for the hundreds of fans that file in and out during a typical fall evening of Conch basketball.

Like the gym itself, the basketball program might have lost a little bit of its luster over the years. But when you look up at the crimson and gray board listing the elite of the program's history, you'll see one name that stands out.

Most points in one season, 647, 1969. Most points in a career, 1,712, 1968-1970. Most field goals in one season, 279, 1969. Most career field goals, 731.

All belonging to Bill Butler, Class of '71. That name appears on the Conch basketball roster once again, this time, though, not as a player, but as head coach.

With the announcement on Monday by Key West High School athletic director Pat Freeman that Butler would be coming on board in the fall as the Conchs' coach, the program brought probably the





Coffee Butler

Coffee keeps perkin' along

By MARSHA GORDON

Take a shot of jazz, a splash of calypso, stir it with sugar blues, pour it into a tropical flowered shirt and you've got The longest lasting coffee break in town... Coffee Butler.

Butler's been pouring it out in his native Key West as a professional musician since 1944. Still in high school when a group of the boys formed a musical combo, coffee discarded his saxophone when the group realized they didn't have a pianist.

He's been on the bench ever since. Memories bubble out of Coffee's smile as he recalls the last 37 years of show biz in his home town.

"The war years were the boomiest. Everybody worked double shift.

"The big bands came down the road. Even Satchmo played the old Imperial Cafe over on Whitehead Street. There was gambling in the Cabana Club and I played

out front...kinda cranking card."
"I was at the Bamboo Room on Smith Lane and Tallulah Bankhead sat on my piano. I told her I loved her movies. I can't tell you what she told me," he grinned.

In the late '40's a teen-aged Coffee Butler washed dishes in the huge kitchens of the Casa Marina to supplement his income as a musician. He dreamed of maybe, someday playing there professionally.

In December, 1978, the Casa Marina opened its doors, Coffee Butler opened his mouth and customers opened their hearts. He's been there ever since, playing numbers by everyone from Bessie Smith to George Benson.

The sure sign of a beloved entertainer is the way bartenders react to him. Ask an bartender at the Casa. Coffee's the best. Just keep the "Seabreezes" blowing and Coffee keeps perking along

29 Nov 1981

rwch

A village reborn



Johnson's Grocery is a steadfast institution in a neighborhood that is quickly rebounding in Key West. **MIKE HENTZ / The Citizen**

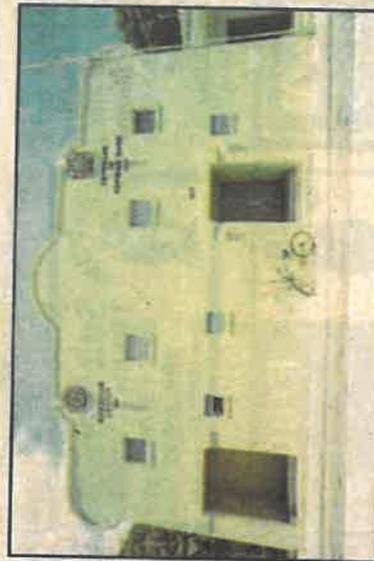
Bahama Village deals with growing pains

By **MARC CAPUTO**
Citizen Staff Writer

KEY WEST — Children's laughter still rings down Bahama Village's shady lanes, and the locals still clatter dominoes at dusk outside their ancestral homes. But now there's a new and growing sound: the swinging of hammers, the buzz of saws.

And there's also an old and growing problem that the construction helping to perpetuate.

Climbing property values and taxes are causing the descendants of the village's early Bahamian settlers to leave in droves from this borough — the first free black community in



The American Legion/VFW Hall on Emma Street in Bahama Village. **MIKE HENTZ / The Citizen**

See VILLAGE, Page 14A

the cemetery at

— Monroe's deputies arrested fourteen-agers on connection with a theft from a food restaurant. Ed Jessie Scott, 18, Henry, 18, of Ward Sweat, 19, Josh McGrew, Grand Key and and charged glary. The ar-

caine on the road.

Officer Ken Fricke said bag sat unnoticed on "Devil's Curve" on So. Roosevelt for two days before jogger spotted it and called him. Fricke and officer Don Wagnon opened the bag. Inside were 26 individually wrapped five-by-eight inch packages. The 2.2 pounds of powder found tested positive for cocaine.

Drug arrest

KEY WEST — A bicycle accident resulted in a drug arrest

Boats recovered in helicopter search

KEY WEST (AP) — A helicopter reported over the USS Kennedy is the Navy has victims killed Jacksonville-based helicopter during a search off the coast of Florida March 13.

The bodies of a six-month-old sailor were recovered from the

searchers tried unsuccessfully to find a man Nadia T. of Los Angeles, by the wreckage. She was after a 28-hour

The search happened April 13 while the Navy was conducting a search about 130 miles off the coast of Jacksonville, but the exact location was not known. The investigation, by the Navy and the Atlantic

Coastal Fleet in Norfolk said Tuesday.

The search included three helicopters and three ships and covered 3,600 miles of ocean.

Meanwhile, the Navy reported that the bodies of three sailors killed March 13 have been recovered and that a search and salvage effort is continuing 15 miles off Cape Hatteras, N.C.

The bodies, which have been returned to their families, were recovered April 27 using a helicopter-operated vehicle equipped with a video camera and mechanical arms.

Killed in the crash were Cmdr. Joseph F. King, 35, of Orange Park; Lt. Christopher

VILLAGE

From Page 1

the country.

This exodus hasn't gone unnoticed by some community activists who think they can solve this problem by forming a community land trust to help check higher taxes, fixed incomes and decaying buildings.

"We can't lose any more families here," said Norma Jean Sawyer of the Bahama Conch Community Land Trust. "They're our history, the fabric that developed Key West."

The nonprofit land trust wants to fix up scores of decaying homes that have architecture typical of the village — and, also typical of the village, that have several heirs and no occupants.

The trust will track down the heirs and bring them together at the negotiating table as well as help fund renovations, buy the land under the house (bearing the burden of the property taxes) or buy the house outright.

The land trust also wants to get a piece of Navy property on Truman Annex called the Seminole Battery. Most of the Navy property on the annex was taken during different war years and is now in the process of being sold back to the city.

The battery could be used for a park while other buildings on the annex and elsewhere could be converted into centers where carpentry, restaurant and business skills would be taught.

Other projects include fixing up community centers. On Saturday, volunteers plan to fix up the old Veterans of Foreign Wars building, which Sawyer, 46, remembers going to as a little girl. Sawyer, who works out of the Evergreen mortuary on Julia Street, says volunteers and supplies are welcome.

Since its shotgun shacks sprang up in the early 1830s, Bahama Village became a hidden amalgam of Bahamians, freedmen, Keys Indians, whites and Caribbean refugees.

People from the village built Key West after its founding in 1822, supplying the city with spongers, wreckers, fishermen and dock hands for the tall ships that could sail into Key West's natural deep port. Key West was one of the few cities in the nation that had a village of free black

people, although slavery existed on the island.

Bahama Village remained ignored during Key West's tourist boom in the 1980s and it declined gracefully, trees and vines enveloping the rusted roofs of abandoned clapboard shacks.

Now that the shoreline of Key West and most of the island east of Duval Street has been developed thoroughly, business is booming in the village. Black-owned places like the Johnson's Cafe and Johnson's Grocery Store on the corner of Thomas and Petronia Streets cater to all walks and introduce many to the hidden legacy of Bahama Village's people.

And buildings like the VFW and the Frederick Douglass Gym across the street reflect the growing spirit of renewed community pride in Bahama Village.

If the land trust succeeds, it will join other community-minded programs, that are making Bahama Village the envy of most communities in the United States.

At Douglass Gym, people like lifelong resident Charles Major oversee a daily batch of 35 children ranging in ages from four to 18 years old. The gym offers tutoring, recreation and a helping hand from adults.

Majors says that the cost of living, taxes and welfare reform are being felt all over the island, not just in the village. And so "it's getting to a point where we're all going to have to realize we're neighbors; and neighbors are going to have to start helping neighbors."

Bahama Village is a Key West treasure because it is trying to preserve its sense of community, both Major and Sawyer say. It's where Key West's past dovetails with the nation's future.

"If we lose the community here, we're not only losing Bahama Village, we're losing Key West," says Major.

"This isn't New York. It isn't fast-paced," he says. "I like seeing kids playing in the street, people riding bicycles, the sense that we say hello to each other no matter what color you are."

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EWS

SECTION B

Sunday, April 8, 1979

Blacktown Fears Boom Town Future

By BRAD SWANSON
Herald Staff Writer

A stream of white money is flowing into the shady lanes of Key West's century-old Blacktown community. Many long-term residents fear a flood before long, sweeping away their homes and lifestyle.

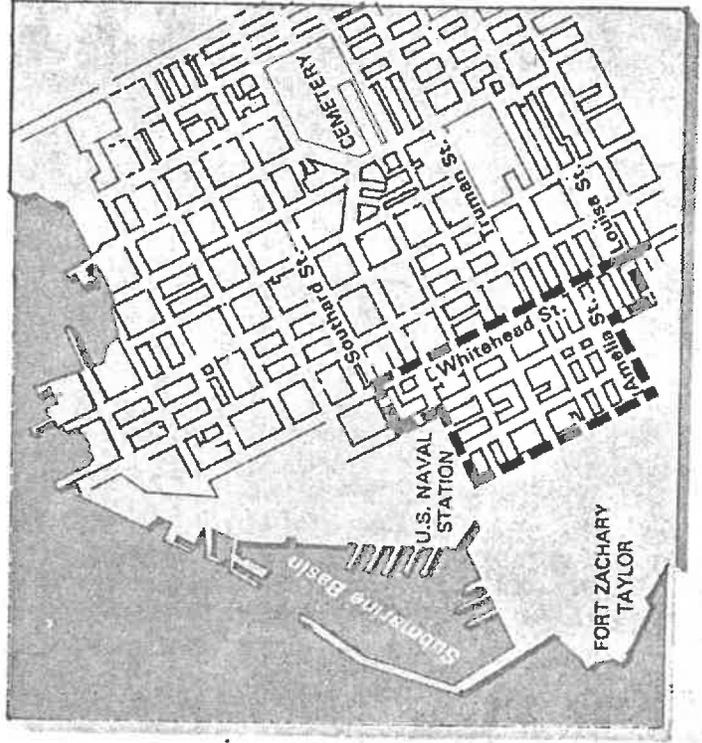
Signposts of a future many residents dread are starting to emerge.

White faces peer from windows in houses built by blacks. Three residences are combined into a compound populated only by whites and removed from the community behind a high fence.

The new owners of apartments that house 72 black families consider — then reject for now — turning many of them into condominiums that current occupants, who pay \$90 a month rent, say they could not afford.

"You can't call this a predominantly black neighborhood any more," says former City Commissioner Lang Millian from behind the counter of his Dorothy's Grocery at the corner of Whitehead and Virginia Streets.

OLD MEN sit and discuss the day's events outside the grocery and frequently on Sundays families



Map of Key West's Blacktown

...approximate boundaries outlined.

PROPERTY soon will be sleeping in the streets," her friend Kim Forbes, 22, adds bitterly.

"What is bothering me more than anything else is the intent of persons buying property" in Blacktown, says Key West NAACP President Calvin Barnes.

"I like the idea of an integrated community. I go for that, if that is the intent of (new owners). But I don't go for people who want to push me out."

White ownership of black land is not the issue, say Barnes and other residents. White "Conchs" or Key West natives have always owned a large amount of property in Blacktown and rented to blacks.

But in the wake of Key West's current surge in nationwide renown, vastly increased economic pressures are tearing at the fabric of life in Blacktown.

Key West's mostly intact 19th Century core of handcrafted wood-

Setting It Straight

Barry Lopez, assistant chief of the Florida Keys Aqueduct Authority's desalination plant, told the aqueduct board Thursday he knew that a scrap dealer bought a quantity of copper-nickel tubes from the plant. The Herald reported he didn't know how the money from the sale was reported. However, Lopez has nothing to do with the money from such sales. What he said was that he didn't know where and how the tubing was weighed and what suspended plant chief Jack Delozier did with the weight ticket. Lopez was at the board meeting, and confirmed some information relayed by plant operator John Ream. However, any charges of wrong-doing at the plant were made by Ream.

and Brad Swanson

sioner Jerry Hernandez, who wanted the argument is "ridiculous."

tion is on Tuesday's meeting agen-

cently purchased for more than \$485,000 in Blacktown.

Perhaps the greatest threat to the character of Blacktown is the 100-acre contiguous tract of presently disused Navy land slated for development soon probably including hotels, shops, a marina and perhaps condominiums.

"You definitely have many people becoming interested in properties in that area because they feel with the (former Navy) base opening up, values will rise," says realtor Theresa V. Tanis.

"MOST PEOPLE we're selling (Blacktown property) to right now are people who are speculating with the feeling the base is going to be a huge recreation area with big yachts," says Tanis, who has sold property in Key West 11 years.

Recent property sales speak for themselves.

A house is now for sale for \$200,000 on a street that is racially mixed but was all black until five years ago, says Tanis. The white owner bought it for \$45,000 a year ago and extensively renovated it, including installing a swimming pool.

But a house on Whitehead Street that sold for \$15,000 six years ago in bad condition, says Tanis, was



Sunfish Sailors To Circle Island

Sunfish sailors are invited to race around Key West in the fourth annual around-the-island competition April 14, sponsored by the Key West Sailing Club. The 12-mile race starts at 10 a.m. at Mallory Square and registration is open at 8:30 a.m. at the boat ramp. Trophies will be awarded for win, place and show. Additional information is available from Fred Bogar at 294-9690.

Fish Traps Subject Of Public Hearing

The Islamorada Charter Boat Association is up in arms over the use of controversial fish traps — and members want Sen. Dick Anderson (D-Fla.) to

creases commonly found in the district, declared historical several years ago by the state and protected from anachronistic building.

Property in Blacktown rose an average of about 40 to 45 per cent in value, he says.

The traditional 20 to 25 per cent difference between the assessment of a similar house on similar lot in Blacktown and white areas probably widened to about 30 to 35 per cent, he said.

THAT MEANS property in Blacktown is more a bargain than ever.

"I can't blame a person for selling," says Barnes. "The money being offered for property cannot be offered by another black."

City officials recognize the need for low and moderate income housing in the city's draft Land Use Plan and proposals for use of the presently fallow Navy land now being studied include public housing.

But although more "projects" could mean the difference between blacks staying in Key West or moving out to the rest of the Keys or to relatives on the mainland, they are no substitute in many residents' eyes for the tradition, social cohesion and more comfortable lifestyle of a genuine neighborhood.

but students are advised to buy a text and other materials, available through the auxiliary for \$6.50 a set. The classes will be held 7 to 9 p.m. at Key West High School. Call A. Murzaoff at 294-2078 for details.

Airline's Business Soars in March

Air Florida reports it broke its own record for passenger miles flown and passengers boarded during March. The number of passengers flown during the month was 107,878 — more than the airline carried during all of 1976. Air Sunshine, once Key West's own independently-owned carrier between the island and Miami, became a wholly-owned subsidiary of Air Florida several months ago. The parent airline also has added a number of new routes.

Woman Is Killed