

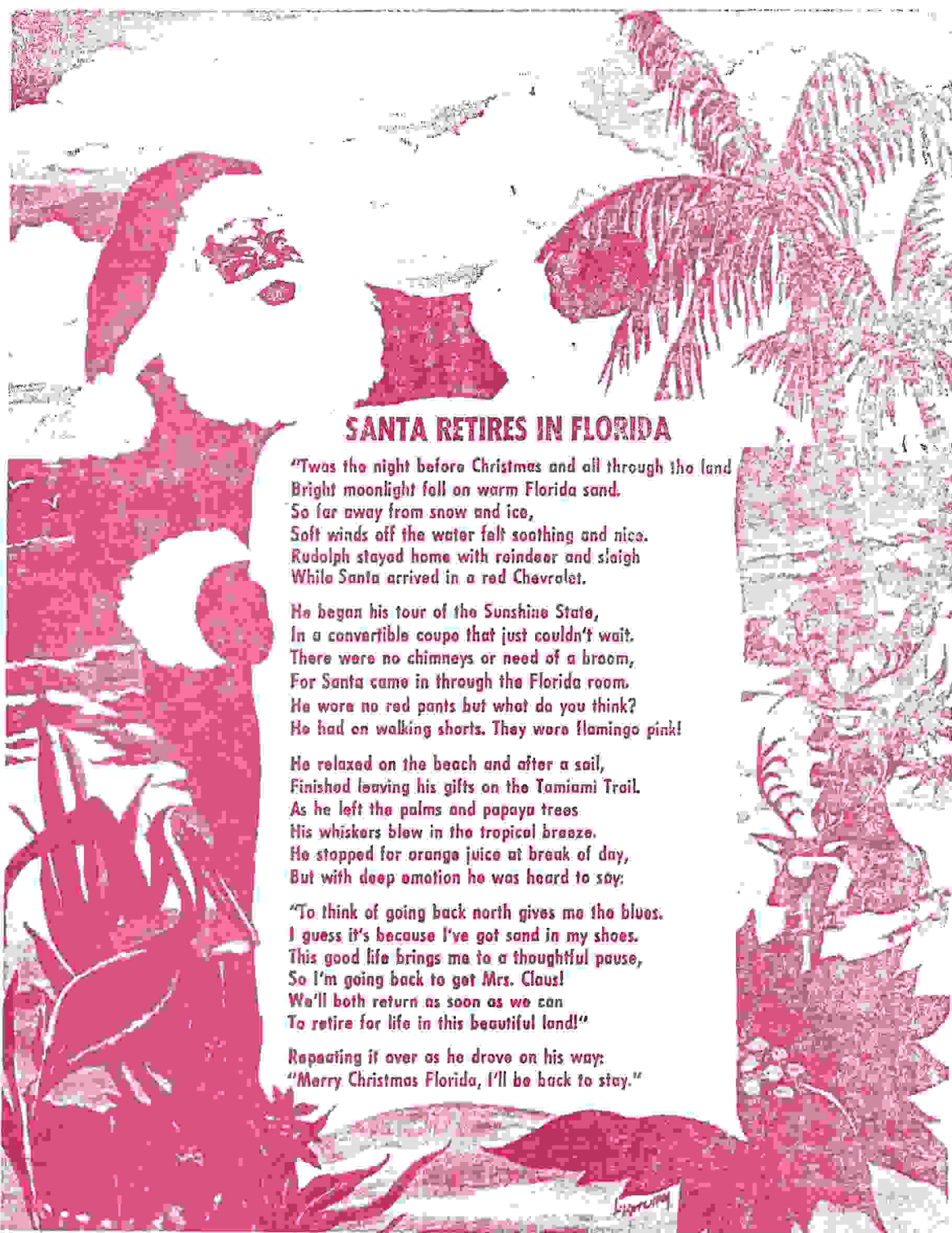


the Listening Post

The Official Publication of the Gulf to Bay Recreation Association

VOLUME III - No. 2

December, 1991



SANTA RETIRES IN FLORIDA

"Twas the night before Christmas and all through the land
Bright moonlight fell on warm Florida sand.
So far away from snow and ice,
Soft winds off the water felt soothing and nice.
Rudolph stayed home with reindeer and sleigh
While Santa arrived in a red Chevrolet.

He began his tour of the Sunshine State,
In a convertible coupe that just couldn't wait.
There were no chimneys or need of a broom,
For Santa came in through the Florida room.
He wore no red pants but what do you think?
He had on walking shorts. They were flamingo pink!

He relaxed on the beach and after a sail,
Finished leaving his gifts on the Tamiami Trail.
As he left the palms and papaya trees
His whiskers blew in the tropical breeze.
He stopped for orange juice at break of day,
But with deep emotion he was heard to say:

"To think of going back north gives me the blues.
I guess it's because I've got sand in my shoes.
This good life brings me to a thoughtful pause,
So I'm going back to get Mrs. Claus!
We'll both return as soon as we can
To retire for life in this beautiful land!"

Repeating it over as he drove on his way:
"Merry Christmas Florida, I'll be back to stay."

I guess it's safe to say that we are just about all here. Some of our friends and neighbors will be heading north for the holidays, visiting relatives and grandchildren. Please travel safely and watch the roads and holiday drivers.

A lot has been going on in the park this month, I hope that I will remember to cover everything. November was such a fun-filled exciting month, can't take much more.

Everyone in the park was graciously invited to join Joan and Norma to celebrate the collecting of their "Coming of Age" Social Security Check. They blew the first check on us. The big event was Nov. 9. This might become a trend. All the foods were prepared by Publix Caterers, finger foods of all kinds to satisfy even the fussy eater. A beautiful cake was cut by the 2 hostess' and served to all the guests.

Opening of cards and gag gifts was a real highlight. All the guests were unusually gay and light hearted. Wonder why!! Charlie Letch was our "Cheers" bartender. Did a great job and never spilled a drop.

Thanks again gals for the lovely party. What are you doing next month?

Rex and Bonnie are running a second story operation. Two Blue Herons have taken over their roof. If you can't see them you can hear them. They act like guards on Cielo St. Saw Rex trying to entice them down with fish one evening.

The Brandenmills really were hard at it getting Shirley Ryans place all prettied up for her. The flower beds are so nice.

Have you noticed all the bike traffic lately? At first I thought Les and Freeman were practicing for a bikathon, instead they were peddling against time, and boy, did they do a fantastic job.

Speaking of bikes, Etta is sporting a new one, as well as Bonnie and Rex.

Do you believe in fairies - well, believe it or not, there is a laundry fairy in our park. The only thing is, I think she just stops at one place. Allison set her basket outside for Rita to pick up. Rita didn't find a basket, so went on her way. Later in the day Allison thanked Rita for doing her laundry. Rita responded with a blank look and wasn't sure who was losing it. Rita didn't do it, the laundry fairy is still a secret, but Allison and Rita express their thanks. That sure was right neighborly. Hey laundry fairy my basket will be outside.....

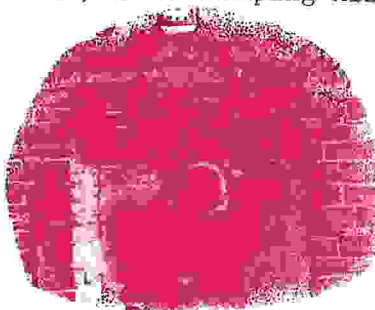
Bob Nopper opted from a 1 1/2 story addition to just redoing the front of his house. It really looks great.

Sophie, Dotty and Vaughn are going to help in a very special project. I am sure they will be getting more involvement and help. That is all the hints.

If you see Jim Thorne sketching, be prepared. He is working on something special to incorporate with our newsletter. I think you will all be delighted.

.....
Each Christmas our church presents a concert featuring a live Nativity scene. My 5 year old nephew was up in the balcony, not paying much attention. As the wise men began marching down the center aisle toward the manger, my brother leaned over and whispered to my nephew, "Charlie look! You're missing it! Here comes the king!" Charlie jumped up, looked over the balcony railing and asked, "That's Elvis?" GONG!!
.....
.....

Our 4 year old granddaughter, Jenny, had been engrossed in drawing a picture of the Nativity scene and finally took it to her dad for his approval. "Why, it's beautiful, Jenny" he said. "But why is one of Joseph's legs so much longer than the other?" "Oh, he's stamping his foot," "He wanted a girl."
.....



Hi Everyone,

I want to personally wish you all a wonderful holiday season and if you will be traveling, please be careful.

Hope that this newsletter brings you some enjoyment. If it is not up to snuff I apologize. The month of November has been very hectic and my mind has been elsewhere.

This month we did not concentrate too hard on street news - but I did want to introduce you to Betty Schwarz and Grace Mac Donald who have graciously volunteered their services. They did a wonderful job and their zeal and energy are to be commended. Thanks gals, next month the fullrank will be in.

Reps. from our other streets have been on extra duty with other jobs, and Ruth Spiller, who will be reporting for her first time had personal family problems that had to be given attention.

*Merry Christmas
Reulana Mae Lulane*

.....
Saddam Hussein was being driven to Kuwait soon after his short-lived conquest of the country. Enroute, his arored limo hit a mule. "We must show concern for the peasants," Saddam told his driver. "Go to the house and apologize for killing their mule." The driver obeyed and returned a few moments later with his arms full. "Look at what they gave me," "almonds, dates nuts..." "I don't understand, said Saddam. "Weren't they angry?" "No," replied the driver. "They cheered and gave me these presents." "What exactly did you tell them?" "All I said was, 'Praise Allah! The jackass is dead!'"
.....

TRAVEL NOTES: Please check the bulletinboard in the Hall (by the water cooler) Besides the trips posted there are phamplets that list all excursions available this year. Please remember we must have at least 30 passengers to reserve the bus. Dates can be arranged as posted or to our convenience once we have the minimum number. (bus holds 47 passengers)

EDITORIAL.....

For My Dad.....

'Tis the season, but which one? Went to the store for halloween decorations and right in the next aisle was Christmas with Thanksgiving hanging on the end racks. I don't know about you, but I resent combining them. Seems to diminish the glow of Christmas when everything is shopworn and dusty. One of the exciting times growing up was the Thanksgiving Day Parade and waiting breathlessly for Santa to make his appearance.

Highlights of childhood for my sister and I was our grandmother and aunt taking us on the el and trolley cars to center city of Philadelphia. First off, would be Litt Brothers, sounds of department bells ringing over the piped in holiday music, trees decorated with scarves and gloves, cosmetics promising you glamour and beauty for the holiday, aromas from the speciality candy shoppes.

With this entrance we would ride the elevators to the magic of toyland. It was always a secret to have our photos taken with Santa and present them to our parents on Christmas morning. After giving Santa a thorough check to make sure he was the "REAL ONE" (always was in our eyes) we'd leave our short list, get our free gift and charge ahead. Grandmom always spoiled us, and this special day was no exception - she'd turn us loose in the toy department for an hour. Next stop, Strawbridge and Clothier.

Outside we would press our noses up against the storefront windows, enthralled with the decorations of a never, never land; tinsel, trees, lights, dolls of all types and sizes, animals, trains and trucks for little fellows. She always saved John Wanamaker's for last. The famous "Meet Me At The Eagle" spot. The hugest pipe organ rang out and at a given time chorales presented seasonal music. This spot was real magic.

The end of our annual trek was in a little basement restaurant that served the best stuffed clams in Phila. I made this last trip with grandmom when I was 17. She was dying of cancer. We both realized that this was our last time into our private magical kingdom of Christmas. Neither of us spoke of it, but the air was poignant with what we felt for one another and the times shared. Truly, the spirit of Christmas was touching us.

Today, with the blue light specials and the shopping season so long, something is really lost. Mom is seen with the kids doing their shopping, no secrets. Once a kid hits first grade they are called sissy's if they believe, nylon stockings aren't filled with oranges, nuts and small goodies, but now it is designer stockings filled with miniature computers, jewelry and more serious items. It makes me wonder - IS THE MAGIC OF YESTERYEAR STILL THERE. DO THEY FEEL IT, LIKE WE DID?



Hot off the press - Jack headed for his usual trip to the library. He noticed his newspaper was off the beaten path, so he grabbed one laying on the edge of the road. With that, Bob W. came running in the library after him. Seems Jack checked out the wrong newspaper. He should have stuck to Scotts. (GONG)

Everyone has been in such a pleasant mood and feeling good that it doesn't even matter where you are, it just seems to glow. Helen can attest to that. She was enjoying her brisk evening walk one night, and forgot what street she was on. The confusion could have come from furniture and clothes crossing in front of her.

Hey gals, you know how men always blame us women for being scatterbrains. Well it wasn't a lady who locked herself out of her house on Cielo one night. And after Rick went over and got the door opened, guess who did it all over again. You can imagine the laughing and giggling. Won't mention names but initials are WB, not necessarily in that order.

The old shuffle board court has been getting a workout, guess it won't be long before the serious shuffling begins. Maybe Brownie will get time to play a game or two. He has been kept busy keeping up with Allison, and that aint easy.

Have you noticed the whirlwind of activity between Cielo and Dije St. The Hicks have moved one jump over from Cielo. Mac Farlanes have move a skip across the street to 309. Half of the furniture was changed over to 320, 320's stuff was on the move to 309. At least we know where our lost slippers or eyeglasses will be. Rex and Bonnie were going to have to monitor traffic thru their place. At least the grass won't need mowing for awhile.

There are so many great people in our park and some have really gone beyond the limit. A very special thank you for caring from the ones you cared about.....

.....
"Did you hear they've got a new product that cuts down on a man's sexual urges?" a fellow asked his neighbor. "What's so new about that?" he replied. "I married one 30 years ago." GONG
.....

Thanksgiving Day was a time for joining our large family together and to give prayers and love to those of us who are not here. We are all so lucky. The dinner at the Hall was traditional and wonderful. I wasn't able to attend but hearing the people walking home was a testimonial. I foolishly offered to cook Rick a full holiday meal and the silly man took me up on it. Shouldn't complain though, it was the first holiday I really cooked for. Won't make that slip again.



"Florida the Beautiful"

I know a place of rare delight,
A land where sunshine reigns,
Where days are warm and skies are bright
With sunset's glowing flames.

Its fruited groves on every hand
And gardens filled with flowers,
Are almost like a fairy-land
In this fair realm of ours.

We linger here among the palms
The azaleas and hibiscus,
Where Nature wears her sweetest charms
And poinsettias bloom at Christmas.

John Warrington

Shared by Norma & Dick

Aura Street brought to you by Betty Schwarz

New neighbors Betty and Dennis Flynn have brought some class to Aura St. when they bought a golf cart to get around the park in because of a broken ankle! Watch for grand opening of Denny's Irish Pub!! Ha

Sure is nice to have so many neighbors that will help you when you need it, that's why I love this park, but, no one came to my rescue when I was in the shower with a frog. Maybe if I had kissed him he would have turned into a prince! Didn't anyone hear me yelling?

All of us on Aura St. are going to miss Edna. Hope to see her around the park. She has helped so many of us. Ken DeLaney and Bonnie Hill moved in.

Pat and Harriet Carmody took a trip to the pan handle and almost froze their buns off. They should have gone south, maybe.

Don and Chris Pease bought into the park, and are very excited about it. Great neighbors.

Dick Brady moved from Bayo to Aura. He wants to remi everyone to be at the Tiki at noon on Christmas Day 12 - 1PM for punch and hor d'oeures, and the 14th at 7PM for the lighting of the tree at the dock.

Boyd and Pat Gunnison had their place remodeled by Kenny Hess. What a beauty.

Betty Baker is dancing again and again and again. Keep it up, we love it!

Marge Stocum still looks good in a bathing suit when she goes to the beach. She said its forever in the park. She also talked to Alice Hess and Alice wants to say hello to everyone.

Four rods and reels were reported missing on our street. A few of them were found under the Tiki but some of the reels were gone. Do we need a night patrol? (editors note: yes) I wonder if they got drunk while fishing with all the gin that was taken also.

Breezes from Bayo - Grace Mac Donald Gilbert

Bob Arnholt just back from the hospital. Thanks to all good friends for cards, calls, visits and prayers. Notice the new landscape job three of the girls did. Ruth says the marigolds match their trailer!

Bernice Theiss is still busy at beadcraft. She'd love to share the fun and teach a few willing souls - just stop in and ask.

Phyllis Crosby is still jamming the airwaves. Did you know that the old CB wireless has entered the computer age?

Charlie Letsch is the Park's unofficial "Tetris"/Nintendo champ. If your nerves permit, maybe he can give you a good run for your money.

Jack and Ann will be heading out after Christmas to await grandson's birth - then return end of Feb. That's when it really gets cold up north.

Sophie will be having cataract surgery Dec. 9, we wish her well. She remembers when rent here was \$18.00 a month.

Gladys and Jim are to be congratulated on a new bathtub! One day I visited, and bath fixtures were in the bedroom, fully functional. Florida living can be strange.

Rose enjoyed Thanksgiving at the Hall misses the park and all of us.

The Henthorns will be gone from Dec. til March. Some folks just can't retire. He hopes to get more time to paint.

The Bovee's are back from Ft. Lauderdale to visit her sister who has been ill.

The Gilberts have added to their home and, no, its not a nursery!

Bob and Ladeema Carruthers made a trip to Columbus, Ohio the week before Thanksgiving for a ballroom dance competition, with their feet barely touching the dance floor they had 2 first places and 2 seconds. Congratulations to you both.

Clara was here for the holiday and then headed back to the east coast for more medical treatments. Hope she'll be back with us full time real soon.

Petunias planted in all the blank spaces sure add a bright, cheerful touch. Seeing a lonely, empty, flower bed is so sad. Reminds me of the lonely, little, petunia in the onion patch.

The directory is in the making, office getting ready for the change-over, so many things happening that everyday you can see the changes - really the first day of the rest of our lives at Gulf-to-Bay.

Do you believe it? Flowers in the shower room! Marge and Ruth sure added the personal touch when they did the tidy bowl act in the bathroom and laundry room. The windows, floors, tiles just sparkle. Jack and Peg worked on the mens side and we know the girls did the white glove test on them.

Bayo Street Shower Room has a list of neighbors that will be taking care of it, so, please folks, when you use any of the facilities, take a little extra time straightening up when you are finished. It will be appreciated by the next person in line and the tenders of the week. Could be your turn!!

Bonnie and Rex stenciled all the boat dock numbers for easier vision. Now you don't have a search and seizure to find your slip. Also noticed that the pot holes are all filled in along the seawall.

Rex had the little trailer on Cielo professionally scrubbed down, Bud Hicks has been scrapping the loose paint and getting ready to paint; he Rex and Rick got all the painting done.

Gene has been checking for missing water meters, looking the docks over. Work on them will start soon.

If anyone asked you the magic word, what would you say - well the first thing that comes to my mind, (No, not gestures) is CLIP_BOARD - every committee needs one, and they sure are prevalent in the park, getting a real workout.

The shuffle board court was trimmed, scrubbed by the men; Ruth Nelson, Ruth Hicks, Rita Teehan and Ruthann painted all the benches and trim. Looks great, had to keep the shufflers from putting their tushes on the benches, didn't want them to have stripes on their butts.

Bonnie would like to express her gratitude to all the folks that jumped in with lots of elbow grease to get the beach house in ship-shape order. It now passes the white glove test.

With all the action going on in the park it sure is free entertainment!

The shuttle take off Sunday evening Nov. 24 was the icing on the cake for the weekend. A good many folks convened on the fishing dock to get a good view. Burr, was it cold, even with a winter jacket on. But, it sure was worth the sight. For some it was there first shot and really enjoyed it. One more thing we have at Gulf to Bay. Just like thanking our lucky stars.

Our deepest sympathy to Shirley Dierlien on the loss of her husband, Charlie. Before he had taken ill, he was very active at Gulf to Bay. At one time he was editor of this paper, and really enjoyed doing the job.



Wasn't the Beach Party great? Lucky for everyone the cold winds of the previous week finally gave up the ghost so it wasn't too cold. The hot dogs were cooked to perfection, and YUM YUM, those beans were the BEST. The end results were noisy, but who would own up to it?

One of the bright spots of the evening was the sing-a-long. Joan kept passing the microphone around. What a surprise to find so much hidden talent. Wes really hit the tunes and then a real treat from Doreen Davidson. We were walking up the road and the silver, clear notes really raised our curiosity. Never heard that one before. After getting comfortable at the picnic table we had a birdseye view of her singing. It was beautiful to see. She just sat in her chair and sang with so little effort and what a smile on her face. Doreen was really in her realm and everyone appreciated her sharing that time with us.

A few more stragglers drifted in the past month, can't think of who we might be missing but our Gulf-to-Bay family has returned.

The sun worshippers got a real treat Sunday, Nov. 17th. Jack and Ruths son-in-law was visiting. He borrow Dick Jetts jetski and really put on an exciting water show. There were twists, spins so fast that the water was churning, backwards tricks and some very dangerous maneuvers. Dick captured it all with his camera. Oh yeah, I forgot to mention this dashing young man is a professional and a national champion.

The Big News...

November 22, 1991 was a turning point in the history of Gulf-to-Bay. The declaration of our independence was signed. The "changing of the guard" threat was over.

On any given street, folks were milling around waiting for news. The Liars Dock was bursting with eager, happy folks, itching to celebrate. Cakes, brownies, snacks, wines and champagne were in readiness. Fran Wadlegger had painted a RESIDENT OWNED PARK sign and displayed it proudly at the Hall.

Approximately 10:15 Brownie shouted "We're owners, its ours" - all hell broke loose with cheers, hugs and kisses, tears of joy. Paul Revere couldn't have done it better. Folks were going up and down the streets calling neighbors to join the celebration. It was a true "COME AS YOU ARE PARTY".

Beach Road was the reception line, adorned with waving flashlights, awaiting for the carivan of stars. Anticipation was at an all time high by the time they came into view. Horns and flashing lights echoed thru the silent night. Our conquering heros (after not having a thing to eat all day) graciously greeting and thanked everyone for their support.

Corks were like flying saucers, a real testament to Napa Valley. What a Party.

Dick Leeper filmed the negotiations and signing of the contracts and that was viewed by everyone. How proud our representatives looked, fresh and chipper, professional as they crossed their T's and dotted their I's. Celebrations continued into the wee hours of the morning, headaches were well worth it!!!

"OUR COMMITTEE"

THE LUCKY SEVEN

Allison Brown, Les Downing, Freeman Crosby, Dick Leeper,
Audrey Grant, Frances Franz and Vaughn Nighswander.



Fish Tales

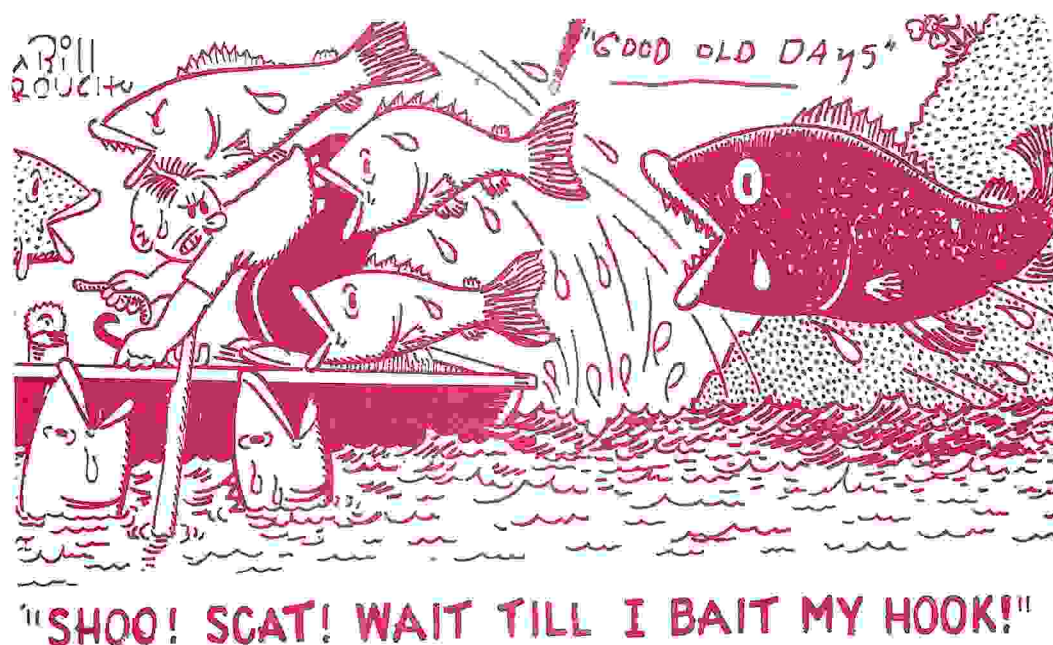
Liars Dock



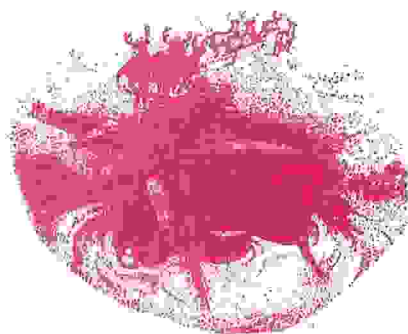
Life of the fisherman has not been overwhelming lately, but there is an improvement. Bud Hicks has caught several nice reds, Frankie F. has kept right up with him in catching, but the variety has been different; baby snook, keeper trout, a flounder and reds. Ruth S. caught a flounder and a small red, Rick stayed up till the wee hours two weeks ago and brought in a large trout and 1 red. A good meal was had by all.

New action on the docks, gang. Bonnie has decided to join the rank and file. She is now sporting her new shrimping net, bait bucket and fishing pole. Her second night out, she was using a bait fish and had the surprise of her life. Felt some action and reeled that baby in; baby fish, I mean her bait fish caught my bait fish. Believe me, we all had a good chuckle over her statement, "Oh, look, my fish caught a fish".

Haven't had any good reports surfside of boat fishing, so I guess that's all folks!!



.....
A woman and her husband were out shopping when she remembered she needed to purchase some hair coloring for her gray hair. "When are you going to stop buying that expensive stuff," complained the husband, "and let your hair grow like Barbara Bush?" "The day that you're inaugurated," the wife replied.
.....



MERRY CHRISTMAS WITH LOVE



MARGE STOCUM
RITA FUNK
DICK BRADY
BETTY AND DENNIS FLYNN
BETTY BAKER
BETTY SCHWARZ AND KEN ABBE
PAT AND HARRIET CVARMODY
KEN DE LANEY AND BONNIE HILL
DON AND CHRIS PEASE
JACK AND ANNE KINTZ
SOPHIE SZOPSKI
BOB AND RUTH ARNHOLT
JIM AND GLADYS THORNE
CHARLES LETSCH
WES AND ALVINA GOLKOWSKI
MABEL GAUDETTE
HENNY AND DOT HENTHORN
BERNICE THEISS
PHYLLIS CROSBY
LARRY AND GRACE GILBERT
DICK AND CARISTA BOVEE
VIN AND TERRY PHANEUF
JACK AND RUTH SPILLER
CORR TYSON
JANE WILEY
RUTHANN AND RICK
BONNIE AND REX
BOB AND MICKEY WAGNER
BUD WRIGHT
WILLIE KELL ISABELLE MOORHOUSE
FRAN AND MARIE WADLEGGER
HANK AND KATEY MASTIE
JAY AND JENNIE HUBBARD
CLARENCE

BROWNIE AND ALLISON
RAY AND VIRGINIA DE MOSS
SHIRLEY RYAN
BOB AND RITA BOULANGER
RUTH AND BUD HICKS
RITA AND MAURICE TEEHAN
RUTH SALMON
GENE AND BEA HULL
THERESA MILLER
MARGE AND PEG DES ROCHERS
BOB, LADEEMA AND CLARA
ANNE HALE
VAUGHN AND DOROTHY NIGHSWANDER
FRAN FRANZ
HELEN BLECK
MARGUERITE AND ART
FAY AND LES
RUTH NELSON
DOT AND JIM MANLEY
DOT HALL
MILLIE AND NORM DURST
JOAN AND PAUL
BILL EXELBY
LEDA AND PAUL DUBE
HELEN AND CHARLIE VERRILL
DOTTIE AND FLOYD CRANKSHAW
DORTHA AND BILL SWICKARD
FLO AND DICK LEEPER
ETTA AND FREEMAN CROSBY
FRAN AND JACK SMITH
NORMA AND JEAN CROTEAU
FRANK AND DORIS FINELLI
MARIE A. GENEST

CUT AND SAVE

Social Security has a new telephone number

1-800-772-1213

DATES TO REMEMBER - SAVE THIS

- Dec. 7th Pancake Brfst - 50-50. Drawing
December 14 - Tree Trimming, Rec. Hall. Afternoon * 2PM
Tree Lighting - The Dock 7 PM
December 14 - Christmas Dance, BYOB, Bruce Heacock Band* 8PM
December 25 - Christmas Dinner, Ruth and Bob Arnholt, Dick Brady*
12-1-Social at the Fiki - Dinner 1:30 PM
January 19 - Pot Luck Dinner, Bea and Gene Hull*
January 25 - Annual Carnival, Recreation Council*
February 16 - Annual Sweethearts Dinner Party and Dance,
Celebration of 50th or more Anniversary.
Joey and George Gallaher.*
February 29 - Willie Kell Concert*
March 17 - St. Patricks Dinner and Dance, Jean and Norma
Croteau*
March 21 - Recreation Board Election*
April 19 - Easter Dinner, Paul and Leda Dube with Muriel
and Bill Lyon*

Date to be Announce - spring beach party - Recreation Council

*ALL TIMES TO BE ANNOUNCED

Any sponsoring hosts will not turn down an extra dish washer
or KP person after a dinner or party.

Dec. 31st 9-? New Years Eve Party - BYOB
and Dish for Buffet Table.

cut out & hang
on frig