

FLORIDA WEEKLY[®]

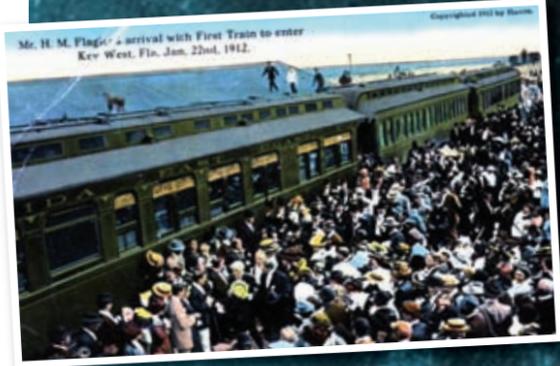
KEY WEST EDITION

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 27-OCTOBER 3, 2018

www.FloridaWeekly.com

Vol. 3, No. 26 • FREE

INSIDE



HENRY FLAGLER AND THE FLORIDA EAST COAST RAILWAY

BY MAXINE LOPEZ-KEOUGH
Florida Weekly Correspondent

ON JAN. 22, 1912, ON WHAT WE can imagine was a reasonably warm day, a man named Henry Morris Flagler arrived in the southernmost city of the United States. A dapper gentleman possessing an enormous snow-white moustache and an eighth-grade education, Mr. Flagler had a penchant for oil monopolies and the kind of jaunty newsboy caps that would, almost 100 years later, become immensely popular with teenage girls in middle schools across America.

SEE FLAGLER, A10 ▶

STATE OF FLORIDA HISTORIC COURTESY PHOTOS



Top left: Crowds greet the arrival of Henry Flagler and the first train in Key West on Jan. 22, 1912.

Above: The dapper Henry Flagler with snow-white moustache.



Music

Gina Maserati : Pretty in Pink. A7 ▶



Top picks

Holiday costume swap party and much more. A8-9 ▶



Real Estate

Renovation opportunity at 816 Ashe St. A18 ▶

Louie Anderson at the Key West Theater

BY LAURA RICHARDSON
Florida Weekly Correspondent

On Sunday Sept. 30, Louie Anderson is bringing his uniquely loveable brand of comedy to The Key West Theater (512 Eaton St.) for two shows that promise to be full of belly laughs and warm-and-fuzzies.

Anderson is so much more than just one of the country's most recognized and respected comics. A three-time Emmy winner, he has been named One of the 100 Greatest Stand-Up Comedians of All Time by Comedy Cen-

tral and his career has spanned nearly four decades.

He has starred in his own standup specials and sitcoms (including in cartoon form), he's a best-selling author and he continues to tour worldwide. On top of all that, in 2016 he was cast to co-star along with Zach Galifianakis and Martha Kelly in the hit FX series "Baskets" as Christine Baskets, the matriarch of the Baskets clan (a performance for which he received one of his three Emmy awards).

SEE LOUIE, A14 ▶



COURTESY PHOTO

On Sunday Sept. 30, Louie Anderson brings his uniquely loveable brand of comedy to The Key West Theater.



Bartender of the Week

They call him Diamond Dave. A14 ▶

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KEY WEST EDITION

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Florida Media Group LLC
100 Grinnell Street • Key West, FL 33040
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www.FloridaWeekly.com

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OFF OFF DUVAL

The most traveled and visible street in Key West is only the beginning, the surface, of what the town has to offer. Ask the locals about their favorite spots, stroll through quiet neighborhoods or down alleyways off Duval and you'll begin to dive deeper into the quieter, more diverse and less readily apparent offerings. Here are eight spots you might not see at first glance.

Better than Sex, 926 Simonton St. 305-296-8102; www.betterthanssexkeywest.com. A great place for couples. Swing by this dessert-only, adults-only restaurant late in the evening. Indulge your senses with chocolate dipped wine glasses and cheeky, homemade desserts and beverages such as an Ephemere Apple Spiced Ale in a tall beer glass with a signature caramel rim-job. Lick it good.

Mellow Café and Gastro Pub, 1605 Roosevelt Blvd. 305-745-3874; www.mellowventureskeywest.com. Near the water in Old Town Key West, the café is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner and offers unique island fare with a mellow atmosphere to match. The menu items are crafted with fresh, locally sourced ingredients and include a fresh catch, Havana roasted pork, romaine leaf plates and caramelized banana chocolate tacos. Drink options include a large selection of craft beers, 11 rotating tap beers, wine, house-made sangria and champagne cocktails. They have a great happy hour daily from 5-7 p.m., and delivery is available.

Cuban Coffee Queen, 284 Marga-



COURTESY PHOTO

The Mellow Café and Gastro Pub is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

ret St. 305-292-4747; www.cuban-coffeequeen.com. The strong Cuban coffee at this hole in the wall is also rich in Key West heritage. A café con leche paired with a classic Cuban sandwich or some Havana rice and beans will keep you going long into a Key West night.

Firefly, 223 Petronia St. 305-849-0104; www.fireflykeywest.com. Being that Key West is home to the southernmost point of the continental United States, it's fitting that the island is home to a Southern-inspired restaurant. Firefly's plantation-style look and its menu give it the most down-home feel of any culinary experience on the island. The shrimp and grits, fried chicken and bacon-wrapped meatloaf are a few fan favorites.

Key West Island Bookstore, 513 Fleming St. www.Keywestisland-

books.com; 305-294-2904. This decades-old boutique bookstore offers a surprisingly varied wealth of current and used titles, from bestsellers to rare titles. Often open late, it's an inviting place to browse the crowded stacks.

La Rubia Fine Hats, 510 Fleming St. 305-296-6059; www.larubiakeywest.com. This is the Florida Keys' only importer of authentic Panama hats. The owners developed the boutique to carry on the centuries-old tradition of hand weaving hats (which come from Ecuador, not Panama, by the way). There are styles for men and women in a wide array of colors and weaves. There's also a nice selection of wearable fair trade crafts such as jewelry, ikat wraps and shigra bags.

Little Pearl, 632 Olivia St. 305-204-4762; www.littlepearlkeywest.com. Nestled in the heart of Old Town Key West and away from the bustling downtown streets sits this excellent spot for fresh local catch and innovative cuisine with a tropical twist. It's new and it's hot. Reservations are required.

Nancy Forrester's Secret Garden, 518 Elizabeth St. 305-294-0015; www.nancyforrester.com. Ms. Forrester has a secret, and it's not her garden, per se: It's what she keeps there. The longtime environmentalist has been caring for orphaned parrots for more than 30 years. She invites the public to meet them, take pictures, hold them and listen as she educates the community about her fine feathered friends. ■

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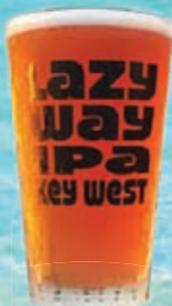


#WATERFRONTBREWS



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HONEY BLONDE ALE**

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**LAZY WAY IPA
AMERICAN IPA**

A medium-bodied, lightly toasted IPA with a malt character and a balanced bitterness. The piney hop notes carry through to the flavor. Finishes crisp and fairly dry.



**ISLAND LIFE
AMERICAN LAGER**

Standard American Lagers are the "regular" strength versions of the light American lagers. The style guidelines for this beer are almost identical as those for the light versions.



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EL SIBONEY
STOCK ISLAND
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THE GATES HOTEL
KEY WEST



MAP IT OUT



Getting around Key West

1. Southernmost Point
The corner of South and Whitehead streets
www.southernmostpointwebcam.com
The city of Key West erected this concrete buoy in 1983 to denote the southernmost point in the continental United States.

2. Conch Tour Train
303 Front St.
305-294-5161 or 888-916-8687
www.conchtourtrain.com
The iconic train has been winding its way through the streets of Key West since 1958.

3. Sloppy Joe's
201 Duval St.
305-294-5717
www.sloppyjoes.com
A Key West tradition since 1933, this bar's famous patrons include Ernest Hemingway and rum runner Habana Joe.

4. Mallory Square Sunset Celebration
1 Whitehead St.
786-565-7448
www.sunsetcelebration.org
This nightly festival begins at water's edge an hour or two before sunset and includes street performers, local artisans, food carts, palmists and psychics.

5. Truman Little White House
111 Front St.
www.trumanlittlewhitehouse.com
The Little White House adds a presidential luster to the Conch Republic. Originally built for Naval officers in 1890 and used as a command headquarters in three wars, the Little White House later served as lodging for President Harry S. Truman's winter retreats from 1946 to 1952.

6. The Ernest Hemingway Home & Museum
907 Whitehead St.
305-294-1136
www.hemingwayhome.com
Take the tour and say hello to one of the 40-50 six-toed cats, all descendants of Hemingway's cat, Snowball.

7. The Key West Butterfly & Nature Conservatory
1316 Duval St.
305-296-2988 or 800-839-4647
www.keywestbutterfly.com
More than 50 butterfly species from around the world and 20 exotic bird species coexist in this climate-controlled, glass-enclosed habitat that includes waterfalls, flowering plants and trees.

8. Mel Fisher Maritime Museum
200 Greene St.
305-294-2633

www.melfisher.org
Exhibits include treasures from the Spanish galleons of 1622 discovered by Mel Fisher and his crew.

9. Mile Marker 0 Sign
490 Whitehead St. (corner of Fleming Street)
U.S. 1 begins here in Key West and continues 2,369 miles north up the East Coast before ending in Fort Kent, Me. Stop here to commemorate your visit to Key West with a photo next to the iconic Mile Marker 0 sign.

10. Key West Express Ferry Terminal
100 Grinnell St.
239-463-5733
www.Keywestexpress.net
Traveling via the Express is truly the best way to get between Key West, Fort Myers Beach or Marco Island. You'll enjoy air-conditioned interiors, exterior sun decks, couches, tables and even reclining airline-style seating. There's a full-service galley, full-service bar and flat-screen TVs with satellite television.

11. Audubon House and Garden
205 Whitehead St.
305-294-2116
www.Audubonhouse.com
Original lithographs by John James

Audubon are on display in this former home of shipwreck salvager Capt. John Geiger.

12. Key West City Cemetery
Bordered by Angela, Frances and Olivia streets and Windsor Lane
305-292-6718
www.Friendsofthekeywestcemetery.com
Stop by the sexton's office near the entrance at Passover and Windsor lanes and pick up a map that includes a free walking tour.

13. Fort Zachary Taylor State Park and Beach
At the ocean end of Southard Street and bordering the Naval Reservation.
305-295-0037
www.Fortzacharytaylor.com
"Fort Zach" is known to locals and tourists alike as one of Key West's best beaches. In addition to the expansive beach, the 54-acre park has nature trails, bike paths, picnic tables and grills and Historic Fort Zachary Taylor. Enjoy the beautiful view of the Atlantic Ocean and the Key West Shipping Channel. ■

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BARTENDER OF THE WEEK

They call him Diamond Dave

BY JENNIFER WHITE
Florida Weekly Correspondent

If you can acquire a skill in the fraction of time that it takes most people to read the instructions, then you can rightfully earn a nickname like Diamond Dave. David Bevens became Diamond Dave while working for the Dry Tortugas fast cat ferry. He phenomenally managed to learn boat practices and terms in an unusually short time and the captain described him as a rare treasure.

"Like with most things I do I just take in the knowledge," Dave shrugs nonchalantly, "so the captain said, 'you are like a diamond in the rough,' and it just stuck."

We are sitting on the front porch of Cork & Stogie, where that Dave works and which is owned by his parents, Leslie and David Bevens. A couple of regulars are relaxing at the table adjacent to us and they, along with the rest of the patrons inside at the intimately quaint bar know that I am here to interview Dave for Florida Weekly as the featured bartender and they are very excited about it.

With a cold beer in his hand, Dave begins to enthusiastically share story after story as I ask my regular set of questions. His answers are involved, as though he is talking to a best friend and I get the sense that he has very much acclimated himself to the laid-back vibe of the island. In one of his stories he is let go from his job in the automotive business after retaliating against his father's involuntary termination by playing the military taps melody. In another he states that his family has

been coming down to Key West since the 1980s and finally decided to make the permanent move 10 years ago to open up a bar and take it easy. There's also the one about the aneurysm in his arm that sent him straight to the ICU last year. And then he is also running as a candidate for king of Fantasy Fest.

"I'm running for king of Fantasy Fest because this community has done so much for me, especially when I was in the hospital and the Sister Season Fund helped with my expenses," he said. "I want to give back. With this I'm fundraising for AIDSHelp, but I'm also trying to raise money for suicide prevention as well."

The selfless competition for the annual title of Fantasy Fest king is both a prestigious and iconic one that holds the utmost respect in the community. For months, a small handful of candidates host a variety of unique events to see who can raise the most money. After a final tally, the king is honored by riding alongside the queen and the runners-up on the anticipated parade float in the Fantasy Fest parade at the end of the week-long festival. The king also gets to keep the title for the rest of the year and appears at various functions and fundraising events.

Dave will be hosting a few more events prior to the coronation, including a rave at Sidebar on Sept. 27 and a beach blanket bingo at the Topsy Rooster on Oct. 13.

"You put a lot of your time towards a good cause," Dave explains when I ask him what it is like to be in the running. He then adds "and I do get to ride on a



JENNIFER WHITE / FLORIDA WEEKLY

soned professional at both Cork & Stogie and also The Salty Angler just a block down the road. "If you are looking for a good craft beer, good wine and a good cigar to complement what you're drinking along with a relaxed feel, then Cork & Stogie is the place for you. Salty Angler is a burger and barbecue restaurant with local fish that is brought in fresh every day. They also do awesome adult milkshakes, but the food is where it's at and they have their fair share of good live music too."

At Cork & Stogie, where he works most Saturday, Sunday, Tuesday and Wednesday nights, he is famous for his Bloody Mary that he indulgently garnishes with bacon, drunken shrimp, blue cheese stuffed olives, havarti cheese and celery. At Salty Angler where he can usually be found on Thursdays and Fridays he makes an "unconventional" rum punch using three different flavored rums and a blend of juices he keeps a secret recipe.

Regardless of where you find Diamond Dave or what drink he makes you I'm sure that he will always have a story or two to tell you.

"I'm definitely a personality behind the bar," he admits. "I'm just me all the time." ■

Cork & Stogie
1218 Duval Street
www.corkandstogie.com

The Salty Angler
1114 Duval Street
www.thesaltyangler.com

parade float and I've never even seen one because I've always been bartending."

Which brings us back to what this article is really about — the fact that Dave is our bartender of the week. His career in the industry started when he landed his first job as a DJ and then found his way behind the bar at a neighborhood "hole in the wall" called Stoooges back in Ohio where he grew up. He has since "done it all," from bar-backing to serving and back to being a DJ for over 20 years.

"I learned through trial and error. This older woman taught me how to make shots and pour beers and I mastered it very quickly," he says. He is now a sea-

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MUSIC SCENE

Gina Maserati : Pretty in Pink

BY BUCKY MONTGOMERY
Florida Weekly Correspondent

When you think of a drag queen, you generally imagine a guy dressed as a girl, all glittered up on an elaborate stage with various props, lip syncing and performing various choreographed numbers. Not so with this fast and furious Maserati. Gina is the real deal. You can find her fronting bands onstage all over town, any time of day, from Shrimp Road Bar and Grill to the Green Market at Bayview Park. There's no lip syncing here, either. She sings and vamps and plays various instruments to the audiences' delight: bass, piano, guitar, flute, and even sometimes the stand-up bass. Perhaps the best description for Gina Maserati would be "Key West's (Drag) Queen of Rock and Roll."

Born Kerry Tor Cressman in Washington, N.J., Gina started playing piano when she was 4. She started playing guitar at 10, and then moved on to bass at age 13. Her mother, Marilyn, was a dance and music teacher, and her father, Kaye, was a teacher and drummer. Gina counts among her childhood musical influences The Beatles, Jimi Hendrix, Rolling Stones, Creedence Clearwater Revival and Led Zeppelin.

"I played for local rock bands, and went on the road with the pop/disco group L.A. Exchange when I was 19."

From there, she began playing original rock with "PanVampa" in the early '80s in such New York clubs as CBGB's, Copperfield's, Other End, Village Gate and the Lone Star Cafe. As the late '80s



COURTESY PHOTO

passed, she was playing country music with "Just Passin' Thru" in New York and New Jersey at the Playboy Club, Mt. Vernon, Sand's Casino, and in Atlantic City, even doing warm-up stints for Johnny Paycheck and country music legend Roy Clark. Then, just before the '90s, Gina started heading south.

"I moved to Key Largo in 1989, playing solo and in groups in upper Keys clubs," she said. "Snooks, Cactus Jack's, Paradise Pub, Caribbean Pub, Plantation Yacht Harbor, Rum Runners, and Holiday Isle." At the time she was doing all-original "art rock" with the band Life on Mars, and was president of the Florida Keys Musician's Co-Op.

She started performing occasionally in Key West as "Rinee" in 1996. "I won the very first Drag Race down Duval Street and needed a racing name. That's where Maserati came from ... and it stuck."

During the day as her alter-ego, KT, Gina continues to do carpentry and cabinet-making (the company's nickname is Hammer and Nail Polish).

"Key West is wonderful. Where else can a building contractor pound nails

during the day, then paint his nails at night? Both the straight and gay communities have welcomed me and I feel great about being part of such a loving, caring town."

She is comfortable playing a multitude of musical styles: jazz, rock, blues, swing, funk, country and reggae. She carries within her repertoire a variety of lighthearted parodies such as, "All My Exes Have Changed Sexes," "A State of Transition" and "The Devil Went Down to Key West." You might hear both Frank and Nancy Sinatra when performing "My Way." Or both Sonny and Cher on her version of "I Got You Babe." One of her original songs, "Look like Your Mama, sing like Your Papa," may best describe her entertaining shtick.

Gina has recorded two albums, "Gina Does Frank," a collection of standards made famous by Sinatra (as well as Nat King Cole and Tony Bennett), and "Smoothly," a collection of originals.

She met Sandy, her wife, in a cab. They found out that they wear the same dress size and they've been together ever since. They were together for 10 years before being married in August 2010.

You can see her solo act every Thursday from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Bayview Park Green Market or in various gigs around town. "I invite anyone interested to go to YouTube and check out 'The Devil Went Down to Key West,' one of my parodies, and 'Gina Sings My Way,' where I switch from Sinatra to Gina Maserati during the song."

All hail the queen! ■



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KEY WEST CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SPECIAL EVENTS

Live Music with Dave Bootle

Sept. 27, 9 p.m.
Mangoes
700 Duval St.
www.mangoeskeywest.com

Jerrod Issaman and Friends Live

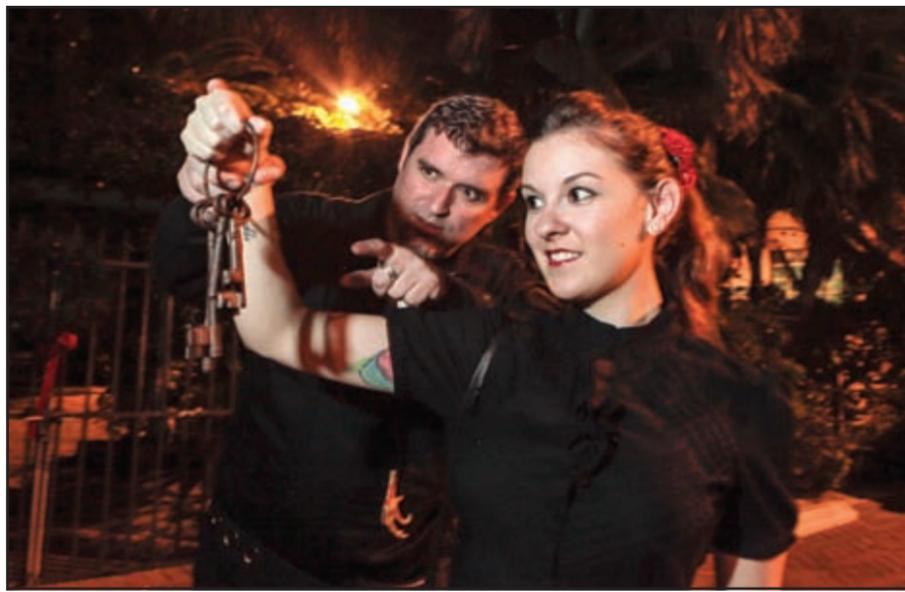
Sept. 27, 10 p.m.
Mary Ellen's Bar
420 Appelrouth Lane
www.maryellensbar.com

Fantasy Fest Costume Swap

Sept. 29, noon.
Mary Ellen's Bar
420 Appelrouth Lane
www.maryellensbar.com

Lip Sync Battle

Oct. 3, 5:30 p.m.
Aqua Nightclub
711 Duval St.
www.aquakeywest.com



COURTESY PHOTO

Key West is consistently ranked as one of the most haunted cities in the United States. Come enjoy an interactive tour featuring unusual and entertaining guides on the Ghost Tours and Ghost Hunts, nightly, at 301 Whitehead St. and 1102 Duval St. 305-395-1435 or www.haunted-keywest.com.

Irish Kevin's

211 Duval St.
Live Music Nightly
Check the schedule at
www.irishkevins.com

Mary Ellen's

420 Appelrouth Lane
• Open Mic with Comedy Key West, Mondays, 9 p.m.
• Drunken Spelling Bee, First Monday of each month, 9 p.m.

- Trivia, Tuesday Nights, 6:30 p.m.
- SIN Night (Service Industry Night), Wednesdays 8 p.m. to 4 a.m.

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Live Music Nightly

Check the schedule at
www.smokingtunasaloon.com

Sloppy Joes

201 Duval St.
Live Music Nightly
Check the schedule at
www.sloppyjoes.com

PHOTOGRAPHY

Photographs by Jorge de la Torriente

Ongoing
De La Gallery
419 Duval St.
www.delagallery.com
305-395-2210

Homegrown

Photographs by Michael Marrero
Ongoing
Gallery on Greene
606 Greene St.
www.galleryongreene.com

CINEMA

Tropic Cinema

416 Eaton St.
www.tropiccinema.com
Check the website for ongoing films

LGBT

Aqua Nightclub

711 Duval St.
• Aqua Idol for Fantasy Fest King and Queen



MUSIC

Green Parrot Bar

601 Whitehead St.
Live Music Nightly
Check the schedule at
www.greenparrot.com



RAMS HEAD



PRESENTS AT THE KEY WEST THEATER

 09.30 LOUIE ANDERSON	 10.14 WHO'S BAD <small>THE ULTIMATE MICHAEL JACKSON EXPERIENCE</small>	 11.07 OTTMAR LIEBERT	 11.15 THUNDER FROM DOWN UNDER
 11.16 LIVINGSTON TAYLOR	 11.28 KINGSTON TRIO LEGACY TOUR	 12.07 PAULA POUNDSTONE	 12.16 JOHN WATERS

01.11 GARY PUCKETT	01.26 SHAWN COLVIN	02.14 LOS LOBOS
01.20 RUMOURS A FLEETWOOD MAC TRIBUTE	01.31 DAVID BROMBERG	02.18 JUSTIN HAYWARD
01.22 HOT TUNA	02.02 BEGINNINGS A TRIBUTE TO THE MUSIC OF CHICAGO	03.21 GET THE LED OUT THE AMERICAN LED ZEPPELIN
01.24 CRAIG ROBINSON & THE NASTY DELICIOUS	02.06 TRAVIS TRITT	03.23 JOAN OSBORNE
	02.11 ARRIVAL FROM SWEDEN THE MUSIC OF ABBA	03.27 JEFFERSON STARSHIP

FOR THE FULL LINE-UP VISIT: WWW.THEKEYWESTTHEATER.COM

KEY WEST CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m.
 • Drag Shows
 nightly, 7 and 9 p.m.
 • Karaoke
 Monday through Thursday, 11 p.m.
www.Aquakeywest.com

Bobby's Monkey Bar
 900 Simonton St.
 Karaoke, Nightly, 9:30 p.m.
 Bobby's Monkey Bar on Facebook

Bourbon St. Pub
 724 Duval St.
 • Just Jeff (Moss), Thursdays through
 Sundays, 8 to 10 p.m.
 • Ronnie, Mondays through Wednes-
 days, 3 to 8 p.m.
 • The Men of Bourbon, Nightly
www.BourbonSt.pub.com

801 Bourbon Bar
 801 Duval St.
 • Drag Shows, nightly, 9 and 11 p.m.
 • Happy Hour Drag, 5 p.m. Saturdays
 • Drag Karaoke, 4 p.m. Sundays
 • Messy Mondays with Mulya, 1 a.m.
 Mondays
 • Fierce and Fabulous/Dragalicious,
 1 a.m. Wednesdays
www.801bourbon.com

Sidebar at Aqua
 504 Angela St.
 Kristen McNamara, Wednesdays and
 Saturdays, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.
www.sidebarkeywest.com

La Te Da
 1125 Duval St.
 • Christopher Peterson, Sept. 29, 9 p.m.
 • Randy Roberts, Sept. 27, 9 p.m.
 • 3Sum, Sept. 27, 28 and 29
 • Tea Dance, Sundays 4 to 6:30 p.m.
www.Lateda.com

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www.hauntedkeywest.com

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 Monroe County Library - Key West
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 6:30 and 9 p.m. Sunday Sept.
 30, at The Key West Theater, 512
 Eaton St. (Read the full story on
 the cover.)
 — www.thekeywesttheater.com



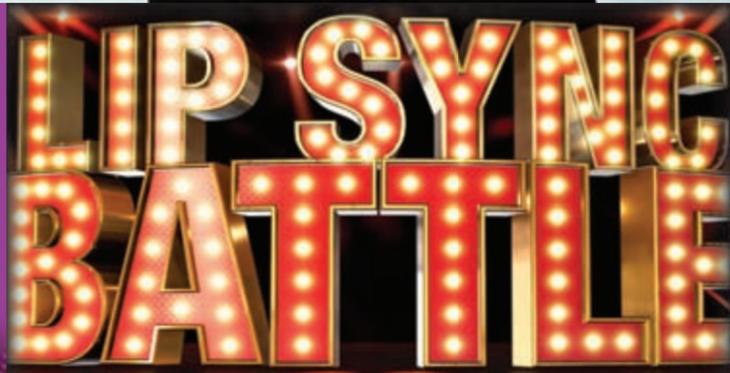
6.30
9.30

■ Live music with
Dave Bootle, Sept. 27,
 9 p.m., Mangoes, 700
 Duval St.

— www.mangoeskeywest.com



9.27



10.3

■ Lip Sync Battle, Oct. 3, 5:30 p.m., Aqua Nightclub, 711 Duval St.
 — www.aquakeywest.com



9.29

■ Fantasy Fest Costume Swap, Sept. 29, noon, Mary Ellen's Bar,
 420 Appelrouth Lane — www.maryellensbar.com

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FLAGLER

From page 1

Mr. Flagler was in Key West to celebrate the method by which he had just arrived there: the Florida Overseas Railroad, which had just carried him, his moustache, his newsboy cap, and his wife, Mary, over 128 miles of railroad via a specially designed Pullman sleeping car train boasting three bedrooms, one bathroom, a salon and a kitchen. The ride was most likely bumpy, and — one can only assume — nerve-wracking, as workers had placed the final pieces of the track a mere 24 hours before the Flaglers' tricked-out train car rumbled across them. On either side of the railroad, a gradient of turquoise and milky blues would have stretched out toward the horizon while, underneath, a chain of limestone islands sped past.

The tracks themselves stretched across 42 stretches of open water, 17 miles of viaducts and bridges, and over 20 miles of filled causeways.

It was 10:30 in the morning when Mr. Flagler disembarked from the luxurious train car alongside his wife, herself the owner of a collection of truly ridiculous hats. The two emerged to a crowd of cheering dignitaries, residents and local schoolchildren, all of whom had come to greet the first-ever train to travel from mainland Florida all the way down the Keys.

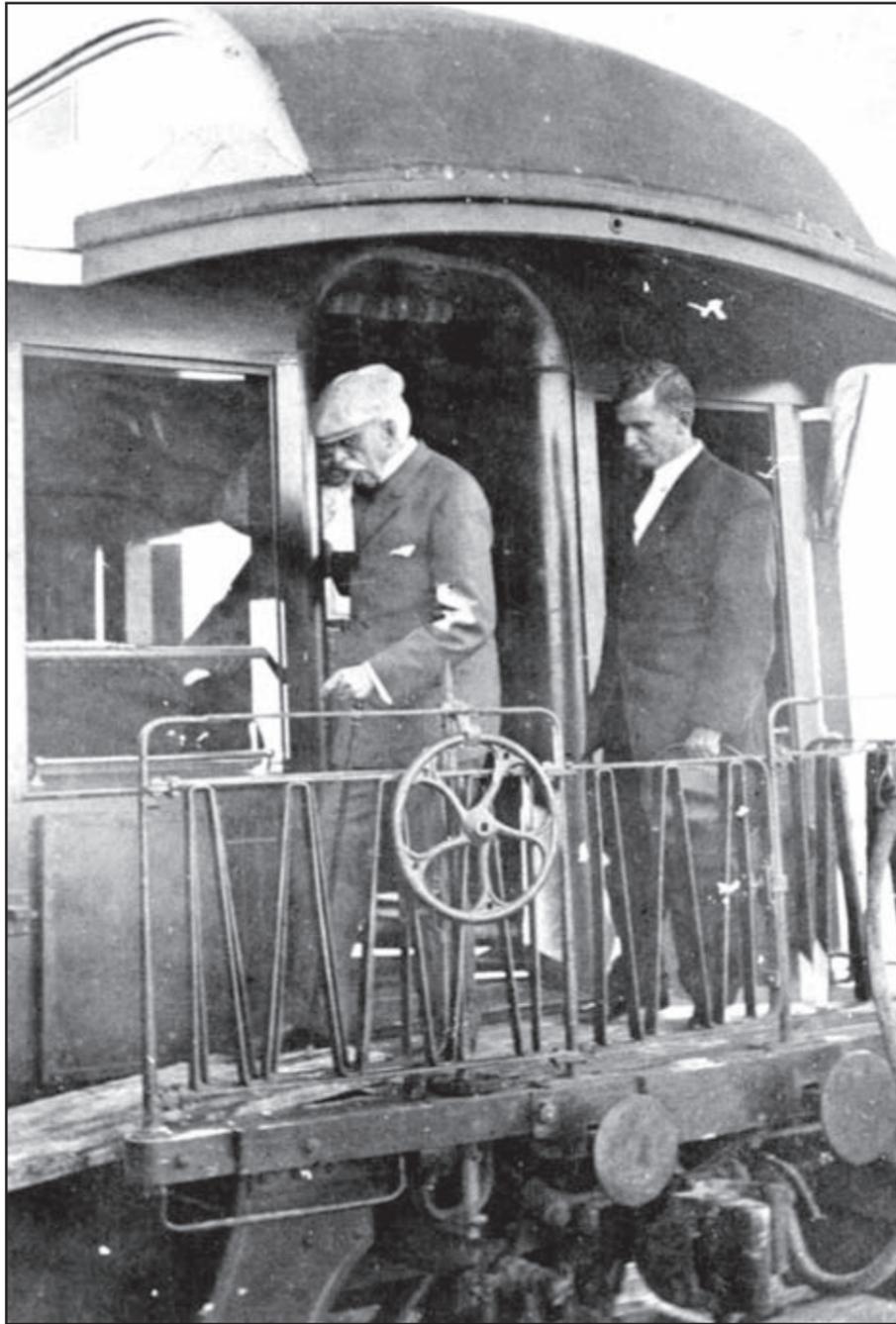
By his arrival in Key West that morning, Mr. Flagler had spent 27 years of his life and \$50 million of his fortune to get there. He was almost entirely blind, and as he emerged from the train car to the cacophonous crowd gathered before him, he wept quietly. He had just turned 82.

Having co-founded Standard Oil alongside partners Samuel Andrews and John D. Rockefeller in 1867, Mr. Flagler had witnessed firsthand the company's extraordinary ascension to the top of the American business world, from its meager beginnings as an oil refinery to its triumph as the largest oil company in the world. In just a few decades, Standard Oil grew its empire to include over 20,000 domestic wells and 100,000 employees. It cut out middlemen, absorbed its greatest competitors, and by the end of the 1870s, Standard Oil was in the business of refining over 90 percent of American oil.

There was, of course, a fair amount of controversy involved with acquiring a monopoly over all the oil refineries in the United States, and — thanks to an increasingly vitriolic series of lawsuits, muckraker-authored accusations, public outcry and a growing suspicion of the company's seeming immunity to the normal pitfalls of the business cycle — by the time the 1880s rolled around, Standard Oil was no longer the biggest, baddest kid on the block. Mr. Rockefeller and Mr. Flagler, in an effort to regain their dominance, essentially invented the oil futures market by issuing certificates against the oil stored in their own company's pipelines. It worked; in 1882, the National Petroleum Exchange opened in Manhattan.

The problem was, leading one's business to inconceivable heights was not the best thing for one's health. In 1878, Mr. Flagler's doctor encouraged him to spend the winter in Florida. His wife was sick, and Mr. Flagler, by then himself a man of 48, which back then was basically 75, needed the rest. The couple visited Jacksonville, where Mr. Flagler was both convinced of the state's potential for growth and disappointed by its transportation system and hotel options. By the time he returned with his second wife in 1883, Mr. Flagler had his eye on hotel development, specifically surrounding the historically charming but underwhelmingly developed city of St. Augustine. He stepped back from the more demanding day-to-day duties at Standard Oil, and chose instead to focus on the possible opportunities and assured difficulties that developing in Florida posed.

Two years after his first visit to the city, while honeymooning with his second wife,

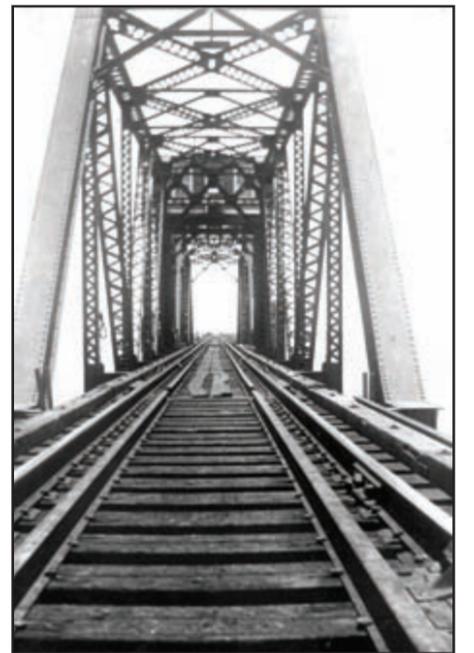


Mr. Flagler returned to St. Augustine. Seeing that an eccentric and wealthy Bostonian, Franklin W. Smith, had recently constructed a flamboyant Moorish mansion in the city, Flagler offered to purchase the building for his new bride but was repeatedly rebuffed by Mr. Smith. Instead, Mr. Flagler began construction on a 540-room, Spanish Renaissance-styled hotel.

He spent triple what he'd budgeted, invented a new way of building concrete structures and installed electricity throughout the property thanks to a few generators supplied by his friend, Thomas Edison. He

then hired staff to turn on and off the electricity for guests, who refused to flip the switches themselves, terrified of electrocuting themselves. He named the hotel after the Spanish explorer Ponce de Leon, who'd mistakenly discovered Florida in 1513 while out searching for the fountain of youth.

Aware that a reliable method of transportation was vital to ensuring his venture's success, Mr. Flagler purchased a short-line railroad between Jacksonville and St. Augustine, and began the painstaking process of converting the existing railroads to one standard gauge, already envi-



COURTESY FRIENDS OF OLD SEVEN PHOTO

sioning an extended track south. Soon his rail system had spread to reach Daytona, with Mr. Flagler building hotels, schools, bridges and a hospital in St. Augustine along the way to ensure the continued revival of the city to which he'd vowed to bring modernity.

By 1892, Floridian landowners were begging Mr. Flagler to bring his railroad even farther south, and he complied; a charter from the state authorized him to build a rail connecting his existing system all the way to modern-day Miami. Florida was, seemingly, exploding with growth overnight; new cities sprung up in the wake of Flagler's recently laid tracks within weeks of him arriving, affirming his belief that all of South Florida's untapped worth had simply been buried underneath the state's then-abysmal transportation system. All it had taken was one man already trained in mining for profit to have the good sense to uncover it all.

By 1894, Flagler's railroad — then referred to as the Florida East Coast Railway, or FEC — reached what is today the ritzy community of West Palm Beach. He built a series of supremely luxurious, outrageously expensive hotels (one of them, The Breakers, remains one of the most famously grand properties to this day), as well as a quaint 100,000-square-foot home for himself. Drawn like moths to the suddenly brilliant flame, the Gilded Age's most affluent members descended on the seaside town, transforming West Palm Beach from a sleepy Southern community to the preferred location for rich folks looking to spend the winter getting tipsy on the beach.

A year later, after connecting them to the railroad, building them streets, instituting water and power systems, and financing their first newspaper, he had to convince the residents of the area surrounding Biscayne Bay not to name their town after him. They settled for the Native American name given to the river that bisected their city: Miami.

Though the town had already proved its use in the Civil War as a strategic military port thanks to its deep-water-anchorage-friendly location in the Florida Straits, it was not until the proposed construction of the Panama Canal that Key West became a true candidate for connection to Mr. Flagler's railroad. At the time, Key West was no primitive islet; between 10,000 and 20,000 thousand residents called the tiny island home, having enjoyed exceptional wealth thanks to a steady business of turtle farming, sponging, cigars, fishing and shipwrecking for decades. The island was primed for a railroad depot — the difficulty was figuring out how to build a 7-mile-long bridge stable enough to support a multicar train, among other hellish obstacles along the way.

As a businessman, Mr. Flagler saw Key West's position as an opportunity to increase trade in the West, Latin America and Cuba. But the idea proved, for years, almost impossible to execute. First, months

of surveying and mapping of the land and channels over the Keys were required to discern the least-difficult route, though some of the very methods of construction it would take to build the railroad had not yet been invented. From there, it would be another eight years before that fateful January morning when Mr. Flagler's train car arrived in Key West to rapturous applause. In the meantime, "Flagler's Folly," as some referred to the project, was besieged by three devastating hurricanes, each of which delayed construction considerably, each time endangering the lives of the 4,000 men employed on the project. Coupled with the annual summer arrival of yellow fever, the railroad seemed at times to be almost biblically doomed, and Mr. Flagler was raked over by the press without mercy.

Some modern historians maintain that Mr. Flagler never set out to reap a profit from the Overseas Railroad — that the reason the otherwise extraordinarily successful and prudent businessman would have risked so much of his own personal fortune was not because he assumed he would make his money back in eventual profits, but for far nobler reasons: Mr. Flagler wanted to create something magnificent, a gift to Florida and to the American economy. They posit that, nearing death, aware of his own mortality, Mr. Flagler wished in no small part to be immortalized.

To be fair, others believe this theory to be absolute garbage.

Whatever the impetus, Mr. Flagler's project stalled in Marathon, long enough for the city to become a boom town, with cargo ships of Cuban limes and pineapples docking island-side where they could then be loaded onto the FEC to travel north. By 1910, the first rail spike was driven into the dry, rocky earth of Key West. Construction ramped up, so that by the morning of Jan. 20, 1912, Mr. Flagler's special Pullman car left New York City bound for the country's

southernmost town.

Technically, the first FEC train to cross into Key West was a test car, which rolled into town at the ungodly hour of 2:45 a.m., crossing the final steel plate placed only hours earlier unharmed. When Mr. Flagler's car door opened and the legend himself stepped out, it began a weeklong celebration in town — parades, banquets, lines of Navy officers in crisp white uniforms cracking off their salutes to the frail, white-haired man. A letter from President Taft was read; the mayor was ecstatic; children sang. Even Mr. Flagler, by then incredibly frail, was moved to make a brief speech at a dinner held at the local Marine barracks.

The same day he and his wife had disembarked in Key West, regular passenger service trains began departing the island to head north. Soon, the cars would begin transporting goods from Cuba, ferried over first by barge, then loaded into cars; sugar, molasses, pineapples so bountiful that they required an extra-heavy mountain locomotive to jump-start the journey. The ride became known as the Havana Special, and was soon renowned for its elegance.

Oil-powered engines meant the riders sitting down for a white linen-accessorized meal in the dining car kept their formal-wear clean from coal dust. In total, it took four hours to get from the depot in Key West to Miami, the same amount of time it does to drive today. Since he'd financed the job himself, the profits, whatever they were, remained largely unrecorded, closely guarded by Mr. Flagler and his inside circle.

The Overseas Railroad soon became known as the Eighth Wonder of the World, and though Mr. Flagler himself was not alive long enough to see the railroad's continued success — he died a year after his famous journey down the line — his absence may have been a kinder fate; much of the railroad was damaged beyond repair when, in 1935, a Category 5 hurricane, later called "the storm of the century," produced

a 17-foot storm surge that ripped through one of the route's bridges in Islamorada, killing hundreds of workers. Because of financial constraints, the railroad was never rebuilt to completion again (indeed, even later attempts to dismantle some of the left-behind parts resulted in the bankruptcy of multiple companies, proving the railroad to be both impressively constructed and eternally expensive).

Bankrupt, the FEC sold the remaining road and bridges to the state of Florida. Eventually, when hauling cargo by truck became cheaper than trains, there began a long conversion of the Overseas Railroad to its current form: the Overseas Highway. New bridges, built in the 1980s, were erected alongside some of the original concrete ones; a few original bridges were left standing to serve as historical markers, jogging routes and excellent fishing piers. A local charity, Friends of the Old Seven, continuously raises money to fund the preservation and rehabilitation of the original 7-mile bridge, now listed on the National Register of Historic places and home to a museum documenting the railroad's construction.

To limit Mr. Flagler's legacy to his being responsible for the Overseas Highway is to grossly underestimate the man's effect on modern-day Florida. It was Mr. Flagler who possessed the foresight to imagine our state's current identity, world-famous for our agricultural exports, tourism, biodiversity, countless businesses, colleges, hospitals, restaurants, sports teams, Enrique Iglesias and the giant golf ball that is EPCOT. Mr. Flagler is immortalized in the rail spikes preserved in the remaining fragments of the railroad he dreamed up over a century ago, but just as much in every road, every town, every resident and every visitor who is fortunate enough to make their way south to the Sunshine State.

Not too shabby for a kid in a newsboy cap who never graduated from high school. ■

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Blackfin

918 Duval St.
4:30-6:30 p.m.
\$7 menu
www.blackfinbistro.com

Blue Macaw Island Eats and Bar

804 Whitehead St.
Every day with live music
4-7 p.m.
\$3 well drinks, domestic beers and house wines
www.Bluemacawkeywest.com

Boathouse Bar and Grill

400 Greene St., #408
4-6 p.m.
Half-price well drinks and beers
www.Boathousebarandgrill.com

Bobby's Monkey Bar

Noon-8 p.m.
\$3 well drinks
\$2.50 domestic beers
\$3 imports
\$2 Pringles and \$2 Slim Jims

Conch Republic Seafood

631 Greene St. 
4-7 p.m.
2-for-1 drink specials
www.Conchrepublicseafood.com

Dante's

951 Caroline St.
Monday-Friday, 4-8 p.m.
Half off domestic beers and well drinks
\$3.50 Jagermeister and Fireball
\$4 Jameson
www.Danteskeywest.com

Geiger Key Marina

5 Geiger Road 
4-6 p.m.
Drink specials and special happy hour menu
www.Geigerkeymarina.com

Green Parrot Bar

601 Whitehead St. 
4-7 p.m. Monday-Thursday
4-5:30 p.m. Friday
Discounts on selected drinks and beers
www.Greenparrot.com

The Grand

314 Duval St.
5-7:30 p.m.

Half-price wine, cocktails and beer
Half-price appetizers
www.grandcafekeywest.com

Half Shell Raw Bar

231 Margaret St.
4:30-6:30 p.m.
2-for-1 drink specials
Special happy hour food menu
www.Halfshellrawbar.com

Hard Rock Café

313 Duval St. 
5-7 p.m. and 10 p.m. to closing
Half-price appetizers and drinks
www.hardrockcafe/keywest

Hogfish Bar and Grill

6810 Front Street 
4-6 p.m.
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www.Hogfishbar.com

Island Dogs Bar

505 Front St. 
4-6:30 p.m. Monday-Friday
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www.Islanddogsbar.com

Lucy's Retired Surfer Bar and Restaurant

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www.Keywest.lucysretiredsurfers.com

Martin's

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www.mellowventureskeywest.com

Old Town Mexican Café

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4-7 p.m.
Half-price appetizers
Half-price beer, wine and well drinks

Pepe's

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Sand Bar Sports Grill

511 Greene St. 
Check the website for daily specials
Sandbarkeywest.com
www.Sand Bar Sports Grill Key West on Facebook

Santiago's Bodega

207 Petronia St.
3-6 p.m.
Half-price drinks
\$5 tapas
www.Santiagosbodega.com

Sidebar at Aqua

504 Angela St. 
4-8 p.m.
\$5 well drinks, \$3.75 domestic beers
9 p.m.-close, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, drink specials
www.sidebarkeywest.com

Southernmost Beach Café

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\$5 small bites bar men, \$5 draft beer, house wine, well drinks and house margaritas. www.Southernmostbeachcafe.com

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www.tikihousekw.com

Turtle Kraals

231 Margaret St.
4:30-6:30 p.m.
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www.Turtlekraals.com

Two Friends Patio Restaurant

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www.Twofriendskw.com

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www.Vinosonduval.com

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Its namesake never saw it, but Audubon House still worth a look

BY MAXINE LOPEZ-KEOUGH
Florida Weekly Correspondent

It's midway through the tour of Key West's stunningly pretty Audubon House and Tropical Gardens that the truth comes out: John James Audubon—famed naturalist painter, whose lifelike paintings of bird portraits line the walls of the museum—never actually lived in the Audubon House. But don't let this spoiler keep you from visiting; indeed, a visit to the Audubon House offers so much beauty, charm and historical interest, you'll be left feeling only that it was Audubon's loss that he was never able to inhabit such a magical place.

Amassing a fortune from treasure gathered from the ruins of shipwrecks might seem like a job description for a storybook pirate, but in 19th century Key West, it was a lucrative and respectable way to make a living. The busy passage between the Eastern Seaboard and the Gulf Coast was a dangerous place for ships to sail, and each year saw tens of boats wrecked on offshore reefs during the frequent storms that pummeled the area. "Finders Keepers" might not mean much today, but for those in the wrecking industry of Key West, it was law. When a ship ran aground, the first man to reach the boat became the "wreck master," who—after saving the crew and passengers, if possible—directed the salvaging of the ship and its cargo. Back on land, the recovered haul was auctioned off, with the wreck master taking the largest cut of the profits. It was a dangerous, highly competitive and regulated industry, the spoils of which helped solidify Key West as the richest city in the country by the mid-1800's.

For Captain John Huling Geiger, a maritime pilot whose ship wrecking success had made him one of the richest men in the Florida Keys, such wealth demanded a home of appropriate grandeur. In 1846, after the rest of the island was mostly flattened in a hurricane, Geiger chose a prominent lot on which to build his family's new home—a lavish American Classic Revival mansion of tropical wood at the intersection of Green and Whitehead streets, with an unobstructed view of the ocean (and any new potential ship wrecks.) It was a grand, busy estate encompassing 6 acres, home to Geiger, his wife, his children, and a number of slaves who, in addition to domestic chores, were made to assist in the wrecking business that fueled Geiger's wealth.

For over a century, Geiger's home remained in the family's possession, until Geiger's great-grandson, Capt. William Bradford Smith, took up residence. Smith, a Key West Harbor pilot, lived in hermit-like seclusion without indoor plumbing, electricity, or cooking facilities, and by the time of his death in 1956, the house had fallen into ruin. Slated for demolition, it was saved in 1958 by Mitchell and Frances Wolfson, who were compelled to purchase the property after hearing it was destined to become a gas station. The Wolfsons had heard the same folklore that speculated James Audubon might have conceived many of his bird portraits during a visit to the gardens of Dr. Benjamin Strobel, whose home was located on the property where the Geiger family



COURTESY PHOTO

nal Audubon work. The three-story home is filled with precious antiques and, of course, with Audubon's work, as well as information about the artist's life and career. An acre of lush tropical gardens surrounds the home, featuring hundreds of orchids, a koi pond, and a replica of the property's original 1850's outdoor kitchen building. Visitors are encouraged to wind their way through the quiet brick pathways, taking note of the rare tropical plants (carefully labeled for those without extensive botanical knowledge) and view the medicinal and herb garden, a staple of 19th century upscale homes. Though the museum and its grounds are located in the bustling downtown district, once inside the protective foliage of the grounds, the sights and sounds of the outside world are muffled. Visitors are transported back in time, to an island without tour buses or tee-shirt shops, where fame and fortune awaited any man brave enough to watch the sea for a wrecked ship, and beat his fellow wreckers to the prize. ■

mansion would later be constructed.

The Wolfsons began a two-year process of painstaking renovation, the first historical renovation of its kind in Key West, at the end of which marked the rechristening of the Geiger home as The Audubon House Museum. They filled the house with antiques, including many items from the Geiger family, as well as numerous original hand-colored lithographs by Audubon. Today, Key West is known for having one of the most colorful and well-protected historical districts in the United States, with the highest density of historic frame buildings in the nation. Yet few who visit know that it was the Wolfsons' renovation of the Audubon House that began this now priceless movement to protect and preserve the island's oldest architecture.

To this day, the property is cared for through the Mitchell Wolfson Trust, and remains a reputable dealer of origi-

in the know

The Audubon House

- >> **Location:** 205 Whitehead St.
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LOUIE

From page 1

Sharing the ups and downs of his childhood experiences as one of 11 children in Minnesota, he crafted comedy routines that rang true for his early club audiences and ultimately led him from his career as a counselor to troubled children to his national television debut on “The Tonight Show” with Johnny Carson in 1984. Leno, Letterman, The Late Late Show with Craig Ferguson, “Comic Relief” and Showtime, HBO and CMT specials followed, including hosting the legendary game show, Family Feud, which made Anderson a household name and opened doors for him as an actor.

In 1995 Louie put his creative energies to work on the Saturday morning animated series “Life with Louie.” The long-running series based on Louie’s own childhood and his life with his father won three Humanitas Prizes for writing on a children’s animated series, making him the only three-time recipient of this award. It also earned a Genesis Award for its depiction of the proper treatment of animals and, most significantly, two Emmy Awards.

His best-selling books include “Dear Dad - Letters from an Adult Child,” a collection of alternately touching and outrageous letters from Louie to his late father, and “Good*bye Jumbo ... Hello Cruel World,” self-help for those who struggle with self-esteem issues, and his latest installment on family, “The F Word, How to Survive Your Family.” His most recent book, “Hey Mom,” pays tribute to his mother, who he has channeled in his stand-up routine for decades. “Hey Mom” is Louie’s way of catching her up on his triumphs, disappointments and continuing challenges. There is heartache, but also



COURTESY PHOTO

Louie Anderson said he has never been to Key West. “I love the idea of performing in places that I’ve never been.”

great hope. There are also — given his inimitable voice — laugh-out-loud stories and observations on life’s absurdities, the kind only he could make.

In advance of the show, we here at the Florida Weekly Key West Edition were lucky enough to be the recipients of some of those one-of-a-kind observations — and a lot of good feels, too.

Florida Weekly Key West Edition: We’re so excited to have a comedian of your caliber all the way down at the end of

the road! Have you ever been to Key West before?

Louie Anderson: You know, all these years I have never made it down there — that I can remember! I love the idea of performing in places that I’ve never been. I started doing comedy on Oct. 7, 1978, so this is my 40th year coming up and I’m really excited about still doing comedy and that I can still bring it.

FWKW: What’s the secret to your longevity in the industry?

LA: I think that I have been just lucky and fortunate and not that smart. I think I’ve worked hard to be a really good stand-up and I’ve tried to be a really good person and I think that the fact that people are coming to see me from all different situations — “Life with Louie” fans, “Tonight Show” fans, fans of the “Young Comedians Special”, readers of my books, Family Feud watchers — means that there is some part in all of that that seems to resonate with them. I try not to be a big shot about it, but I am proud of myself and my accomplishments. I worked really hard to do all the stuff I did and didn’t take anything for granted. I wanted to be successful and popular and a great comic and I feel like I’ve accomplished those things and I did it on my terms.

FWKW: And you did it across genres, too.

LA: You know, I got a lot of flak for doing Family Feud, but we used to watch it as a family. I’m not going to pass up an opportunity to host a game show that we loved, so I did it and I did great. It was so much fun doing it — it was the most fun job. Now I’m playing this part on TV that is resonating with people — they love it. It’s just another gift from the universe to me. I try to celebrate that that many people are so happy to see me. Wow, how lucky am I that they get excited? It’s such a treat! I remember when comics would show up at The Comedy Store, like Richard Pryor, Robin Williams, Eddie Murphy, Rodney Dangerfield ... I’m not trying to put myself in their category, but it’s a really nice feeling to just be appreciated.

FWKW: Speaking of family, you grew up in a family with ten siblings — what was that like? Did it inform your comedic style?

LA: It was crazy, but it was fun. My dad



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Louie Anderson says, "I worked really hard to do all the stuff I did and didn't take anything for granted." COURTESY PHOTO

was an alcoholic, so it was a little rough. I have all these different feelings about it, but it was mostly I think fantastic in the sense of learning what's important. I cherish those memories and realistically I think that that's how I developed my act. I must have been watching all these crazy people interact and I remembered enough to create all these memories. It was a crazy, beautiful big stew on the stove in a pot and I think I was there stirring it at the right time.

FWKW: Are you still close to your siblings?

LA: I've lost a lot of them but I love them and I miss them all. I think what's really great is how close we all are and how much we cherish each other now. My brother and sister were born on the same day a year apart and they just celebrated their birthday and it was so nice to have them still around in all their beauty and glory. It's fun for us every time I get to go back to Minnesota to see them all.

FWKW: How did you develop the character of Christine Baskets?

LA: I'm definitely channeling my mom there. It feels so great to have this situation where I can go, "Wow! This is my mom!" And to add stuff to the character myself and be kind of like, "Hey Mom, what do you think of this? Do you like it?" I just feel like she's there channeling back to me and telling me, "Hey, don't do this! Do that!"

FWKW: Where do you draw your inspiration from?

LA: My problems are mashed potatoes and gravy — I can't get into the pants I bought. Or get out of them! That's where my comedy comes from — I'm able to make people feel good, like they can kind of let go kind. I talk about the things I've been through to try to make people feel great, like they aren't alone. I want people to feel loved. My my thing is to reach out to

people and say, "Hey, I love you and here's some jokes and I hope that they make you happy and I hope that you forget your troubles for an hour and a half."

FWKW: Your comedy also appeals to a wide age range.

LA: It suited me better to talk about family and to include grandma and to include your parents and the kids. I think there's a multigenerational element to my comedy and I think you see it when you see my crowd. There are young people, middle-aged and older people who are all Louie fans for different reasons and that's really special to me.

FWKW: Thanks to some entrepreneurial comedians here in Key West, we have a rapidly expanding comedy scene on the island. Any advice for Comedy Key West?

LA: I think that it's really great that they started that. I always say to comics, "Start your own night — why not? Don't let people dictate you doing stand-up and being happy."

FWKW: You project such sunniness — how do you reconcile that with the darkness that lurks in some of your books and other interviews? Do you think there's a connection between comedy and darkness?

LA: My thing is that yes, my father was an alcoholic and there were a lot of sad situations and honestly, I got a lot of help. I did a lot of therapy — don't hesitate to do a lot of therapy and don't be afraid to reach out; that's the hard thing. When you're down in depression, you don't feel like you have anyone or you can do anything and people can get really despondent. Suicide is a permanent solution to a temporary problem it happens so much it makes me sad. Comedy Key West is a huge thing — they opened themselves up to learning and growing and living their joyous life, because stand-up is a wonderful thing.



If you're a standup, you have to do it. It eats at you if you don't. I'm glad there's an outlet for the comics there and I think there should be a mental health element brought in. A lot of comedy comes from a need to purge.

FWKW: So where does all of that positivity in your stand-up come from?

LA: I just think it's really important to live your dream and live with serendipity and live with fun in your life. Commit to it and go for it. My concentration every day is to live a joyous life — move on if something doesn't work out.

FWKW: Aside from shooting "Baskets," what's next for you?

LA: Season 4 of "Baskets" premieres in February, so I may shoot another special after the new year. I'm doing some writing and looking at producing some shows, but I'm figuring all that stuff out now. One of my criteria on taking on new projects is, "Will this make me happy?" And if it won't, I won't do it. I always ask myself, "Is this something I want to put my emotion and effort into?" I only do things for real reasons.

You can get tickets to see Louie Anderson (and his opener, the irreverent Myke Herlihy) at www.thekeywesttheater.com or at The Key West Theater box office, located at 512 Eaton St. Showtimes are 6:30 and 9 p.m. ■

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KEY WEST GALLERY GUIDE

SALT Gallery shakes things up with works by Kreg Kelley

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

SALT Gallery shakes things up through September with a new collection of whimsical mixed media paintings by Kreg Kelley.

A Key West-based artist since the summer of 2013, Kreg won his first art award at the age of 12 with the Connecticut Scholastic Art Awards Program for a drawing he called "Holo-caust." Throughout his teen years he experimented in different artistic mediums, but it wasn't until 2003 that his art became more of a full-on hobby.

Aside from abstraction and 3D works on canvas, he incorporates damaged antique engravings and artifacts from the 18th and 19th century into his pieces. Several of his works are in world-renowned Chef Gerry Garvin's restaurant in Hollywood, and he participated in a group show in NYC featuring works by Yoko Ono. In the summer of 2010 his painting of "Washington, DC: Night in the City Series" was chosen for the national calendar for the American Civil Liberties Union.

Kreg's works hang on walls across the world: Amsterdam, Canada, Brazil, Greece, Denmark, Norway, Russia, Australia, France, Japan, Italy, Spain and the UK. Most notably, his works hang in the homes of the former King of Spain,

Doc Rivers and actress/comedian Jane Lynch.

Upon moving to Key West, Kreg immediately became an active member of the Anne McKee Art Fund and The Studios of Key West.

Over the years, he has donated more than \$25,000 in artwork to organizations including The Florida Keys SPCA, the Sister Season Fund, the Key West Wildlife Center, the Special Olympics of the Florida Keys, WOMANKIND, Grimal Grove-Big Pine Tree Conservation, the Trevor Project and AIDS HELP Key West.

Although he spent many years living in urban areas, Kreg adjusted quickly to island life.

"One of the main reasons I moved to Key West was so I could focus on my work," he says. "The tropical beauty of Key West is not only relaxing but also conducive to my creative process."

"While D.C. was a fantastic part of my life, with some of the best inspirational art in the world available to me at the Smithsonian Institute and the Philips Collection, island life is much more my cup of tea," he says. "I prefer the stop-and-smell-the-roses way of life, and this environment is perfect for that."

Gallery co-owner Laura Richardson says what she loves most about Kreg's

pieces is the juxtaposition of the old and the new.

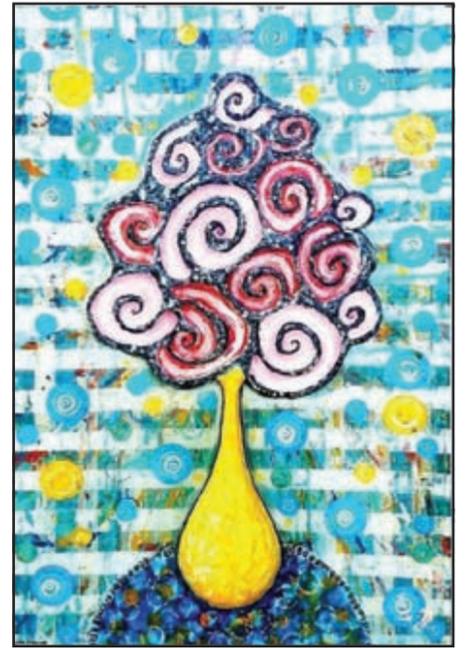
"The way he utilizes salvaged antiques overlaid with modern artistic techniques is absolutely fascinating," Ms. Richardson says. "We've never featured anyone like Kreg at SALT. We are so excited to expose more of the island to his masterpieces."

Kreg says the exhibit is comprised mostly of new works "that still involve my classic elements of antiques mixed with acrylics."

"This series is much more influenced by Key West and island life, with an array of subjects like antique postcards of Key West, flowers, sea and marine life." Also touching on the theme of "Time Flies," many of the pieces feature antique clocks from the 1800s."

SALT Gallery has an eclectic collection of local art, local sea salts, jewelry, pottery, wine and Florida Keys honey. Ms. Richardson and co-owner Maria Sharpe showcase a new artist each month. ■

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