

This & That

(Continued from 3-A)

boat for ocean fishing from Capt. Phil Sawyer, one of the Keys' "real old timers."

He will take you into the warm Gulf Stream for the search and maybe landing of a sailfish, swordfish, tuna, a large grouper and once in a while a shark—not to overlook plenty of previously mentioned smaller inhabitants of salt or brackish water.

Yes, at Greyhound and along the entire stretch of the Keys, from Largo to Key West, there is just about every salt water variety of piscatorial pursuit for the ambitious angler.

OF COURSE, FLORIDA offers hundreds of other areas where both land and water recreation lures human beings. As another example, let's discuss Stuart, located approximately 30 miles north of Palm Beach. Situated on Florida's Intracoastal Waterway with the Atlantic Ocean almost within a good angler's cast, with the North and South forks of the St. Lucie River starting within its corporate limits, Stuart long has been known as an important attraction for fishermen and tourists.

Just six miles northeast of Stuart is a splendid tourist area called Jensen Beach. While its land surface bears many year-round residents, it is mostly known for its large "mobile home" communities, its best known being Ocean Breeze Park. Here you will find 800 "mobile homes," many of them costing up to \$15,000 and \$20,000. Next to many of them you observe high-priced automobiles, too.

I spent 10 days at Jensen Beach, in its largest motel, the Rod & Reel. With several pairs from this

park, I did some fishing on the North Fork of the St. Lucie River; plus one sunny day at the Stuart Inlet, where we sought, for the most part, the famed and sporty Snook, a few of which we caught.

AT JENSEN BEACH, on the eastern-most Hutchinson Island, there annually occurs a spectacle that attracts thousands of people. There is a seven-mile stretch of the sandy seacoast known as Sea Turtle Rookery, where from May 15 to Aug. 15 hundreds of giant sea turtles lay most of their eggs. These turtles range in size from 250-500 pounds for loggerheads and green turtles and from 500 to 2000 pounds for the giant trunk-back or humpback.

It's the mama turtle that leaves her spouse several hundred feet from the shore edge, and now, heavy with from 100 to 300 eggs (depending on her kind and size), she will cautiously reach the sand, and in a sort of walloping pattern, get above high tide and dig a two-foot deep hole, into which her eggs are deposited. She covers the nest with water, trying to camouflage it's whereabouts. Egg-laying is done at night, and only if these mama think that no one is around.

IN SEVEN WEEKS the eggs hatch, unless raccoons have found them. When hatched, the youngsters are about the size of half a hand. Those not eaten by predators seek the sea where of course, lots of fish await them. About one little one in an entire hatch ever survives.

Another tourist lure at Jensen Beach is The Outrigger, a Polynesian restaurant owned by Frances Langford, former movie star.

She and her husband, Ralph Even, live nearby. They have a 110-foot yacht which they berth



'Knight of the Year'

Harold R. Leary (right), financial secretary of Birmingham Knights of Columbus Council 3869, was selected "Knight of the Year" recently. Leary, 16991 Dunblaine, Beverly Hills, has been financial secretary of the council for 10 years. Grand Knight E. R. Olewin presented Leary with a diamond-studded emblem.

at the large marina, adjacent to The Outrigger.

One evening I had dinner there. Polynesian style, consisting of fried shrimp, Hawaiian barbecued spare ribs, egg roll, duck mandarin, Cantonese chicken, oyster beef and fried rice . . . and I'll admit that it tasted very good.

THIS WINTER HAS been the longest cold spell that the Sunshine State has known for a good many years. Hence, inland and ocean waters north of Palm Beach that become fairly warm during February and March, didn't do so well, with the result that, for example, Snook and Tarpon, in goodly schools, had not yet arrived in the Stuart area.

Later, on a trip to Crystal River, north of Clearwater and Tarpon Springs, I found the same cold water conditions . . . but that's fishing for you!

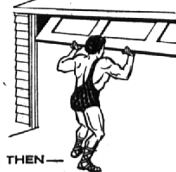
Another Florida spot that is famous for "good fishin'" is in the widespread waterways of Naples, almost directly west of Miami on the Gulf coast. This city probably is one of the most booming ones in southwest Florida. I first visited it 15 years ago, when it was but a small, quiet fishing village.

During the past half dozen or so years Naples "has been found," especially by land developers. It now boasts a permanent population over 6,000, with more than that many winter tourists. Large and plush motels and apartments have been and still are "going up," with prices in keeping with the times.

WHEN I REACHED Naples, March 10, although the weather gave warm and sunny days, it was cool nights—and fishing was not anything to brag about . . . same reason that water was not warm enough to stir up the fish to their normal activity. Yet, I have been in that area, all the way from Naples down to the Shark River, when one could not ask for better weather and its accompanying fishing.

As a matter of "piscatorial fact," Florida's best all-around, state-wide fishing begins in late April, or early May. That's when the whirling earth has whirled sufficiently on its annual trek to bring enough sunshine to the state's waters to energize and make hungry the fish . . . and then, too, tourists will find prices much lower than from December through April.

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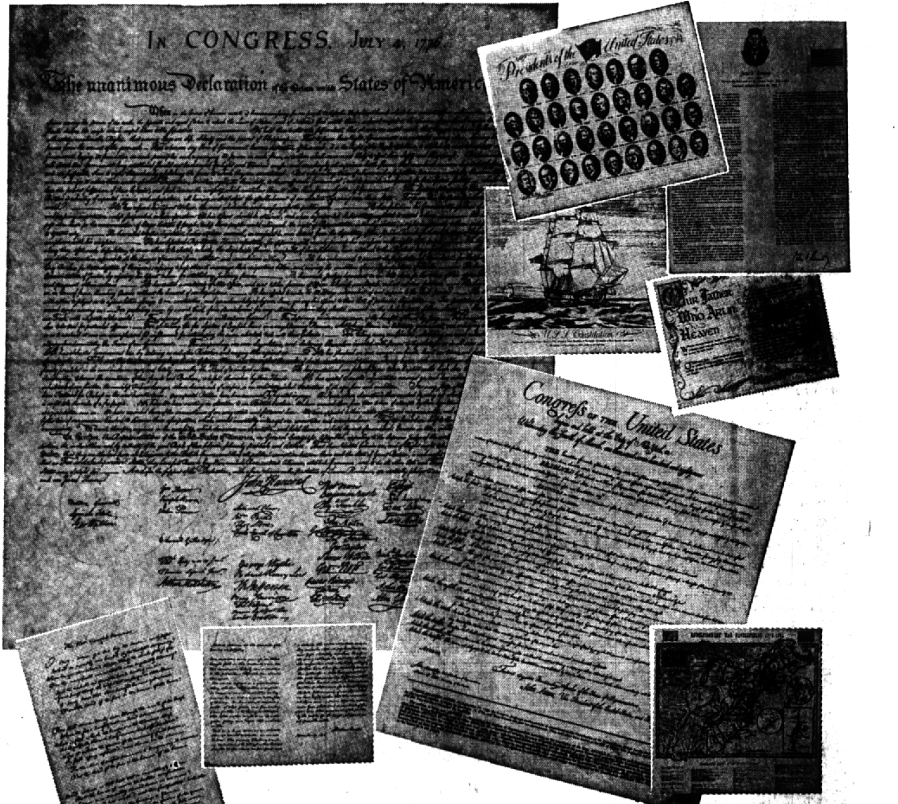
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