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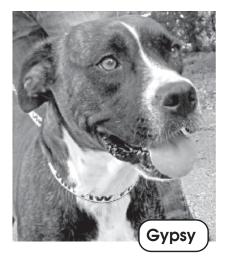
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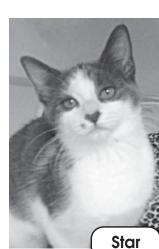
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The Origin of Harvey's Famous Fish Sandwich

Everyone who has ever eaten the legendary Harvey's Fish Sandwich loves it. It is not just a legend, it is in fact true Keys history. In the late 70s and early 80s, at MM 100 on the oceanside in the small Port Largo neighborhood marina there lived a salty old character that we all called Harpoon Harvey.

Harvey was a man of slight build with long wavy dark hair and beard and he generally wore dark clothes specked with years of paint and varnish splatter and salted with saw and fiberglass dust. His complexion, what little you could see hiding behind the beard, can only have been described as weathered. His most distinquishing feature was his strange dark eyes that had

the kind of gaze that one only gets after many years of scanning the horizon. When you talked to him you got the feeling was that he was looking right through you at something at in the

Surprisingly, on occasion,

Harvey would show up at Bogies Lounge at the Key Largo Holiday Inn, all cleaned up with his hair tied back, wearing slacks and a tropical shirt looking very dapper and ready to drink and dance with the other locals. Back then, the oceanfront was an airport, the tower was a tow-behind travel trailer on top of the bait and tackle shop where the famed square groupers would wash right up on our shores. Harvey's home was an upside-down catamaran

by Eric Beattie

that he was refitting, covered with tarps of various sizes. He had a makeshift bunk set up in the bow of one of the pontoons.

Every evening Harvey would walk down to the charter fishing boats in Key Largo Harbor with his fivegallon bucket. While the captains and mates were filleting their catch of dolphin, Harvey would collect the left over carcasses and drag the heavy full bucket back to his home, about a quarter mile away. He then would clean all the sweet meat from the bones and heads. The next day under the pontoon tarps he would fry up the fish, then put it on toasted bread with some cheese, a slice of tomato, a leaf of lettuce and some tartar sauce. These garnishings were all probably collected from the Key Largo Shopper grocery store dumpster. The store was located where CVS is now.

When lunch time came around all the crews that were working on their boats in the dry docks would flock

to Harvey's catamaran. For about a buck apiece we would

all devour the absolutely delicious creation we dubbed the Harvey's Fish Sandwich that is now the Key Largo legend.

I don't recall what happened to Harvey but I would assume he sailed off into history on his catamaran somewhere in the Caribbean.

That might have been the end of the story had not couple of the airplane pilots got together and decided to open a restaurant in the same area. By chance they had also found they could get a tasty lunch under the tarps by the marina. The first item on their menu was the HARVEY'S FISH SAND-WICH. They called their establishment The Pilot House. You can still get Harvey's delicious, mouthwatering fish sandwich there today at 13 Seagate Boule-



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