

Matecumbe Historical Trust

presents

"29 Points of Interest"

A Trolley Tour through Time on the islands of Islamorada

Saturday, August 20th

Islamorada Moose Lodge, MM 81.5



Ferry Landing

Tours leave from the Islamorada Moose Lodge, 81573 Old Highway starting at 10 am. The tours will take approximately one hour. Reservations are recommended due to demand. Tickets may be purchased on site. Adults are \$15 per person, children six and under are free.

A staffed tent by MHT volunteers will be at the Islamorada Moose Lodge to provide information, ticket purchase for the tours, books, t-shirts, historic photographs and memorabilia for sale.

Join us for a colorful and much acclaimed historical tour featuring 29 Points of Interest on the Islands of Islamorada. Enjoy an enlightening trolley ride through time.

For more information contact Barbara Edgar at 305-393-0940.

Act of God: 20??

A short story by Van Cadenhead

Monroe County readers: I hope you enjoy my 2016 entry in the Hemingway Short Story Fiction Contest. Can I get an "amen?"
—Van Cadenhead

The first of July dawned hot and sultry in the mid-Atlantic. No hurricane had formed this season; that was about to change.

A thousand-mile string of thunderheads streaming off the deserts of Africa brought with it immense clouds of red dust. A couple hundred miles off Florida's coast, it began to draw power from a freak eddy of superheated Gulfstream water. To the alarm of the Weather Bureau, up jumped Hurricane Al, a full-blown Category 2, bore-sighted on the town of Jupiter.

By July 3, Al had intensified to a screaming Cat 4, pushing a huge surge, lashing the east coast of Florida. By the afternoon of the 4th, the first bands of the eye were churning the waters of Lake Okeechobee. When the gigantic whirling vortex of Al was centered in the lake, a strange thing happened. All forward motion ceased and the behemoth strengthened to a Category 5. Alligators, catfish, bass boats and millions of gallons of warm Okeechobee water were twirled skyward 60,000 feet and began dropping to Earth within a hundred miles of the center of the lake. By the evening of the 5th, Al, like a giant vacuum-cleaner, had lowered the lake level by 18 inches. The effect of the release of the weight of that hydrologic pressure was beginning to be felt in the

immense underground river caverns; sinkholes began opening up all over South Florida.

Meanwhile, down in the fabulous Florida Keys, nearly half a million tourists were glued to the Weather Channel, watching awestruck as their holiday weekend turned them into hostages. Caught in this captive audience was the Rev. Earnest Alberry, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Rock Harbor. Pastor Ernie was out in his yard at Rock Harbor finishing his latest creation, the 37-foot sportfisherman, "Sea Trek." He looked forward to the shakedown of his single-screw diesel and prayed for good weather for the launch. If he only knew ...

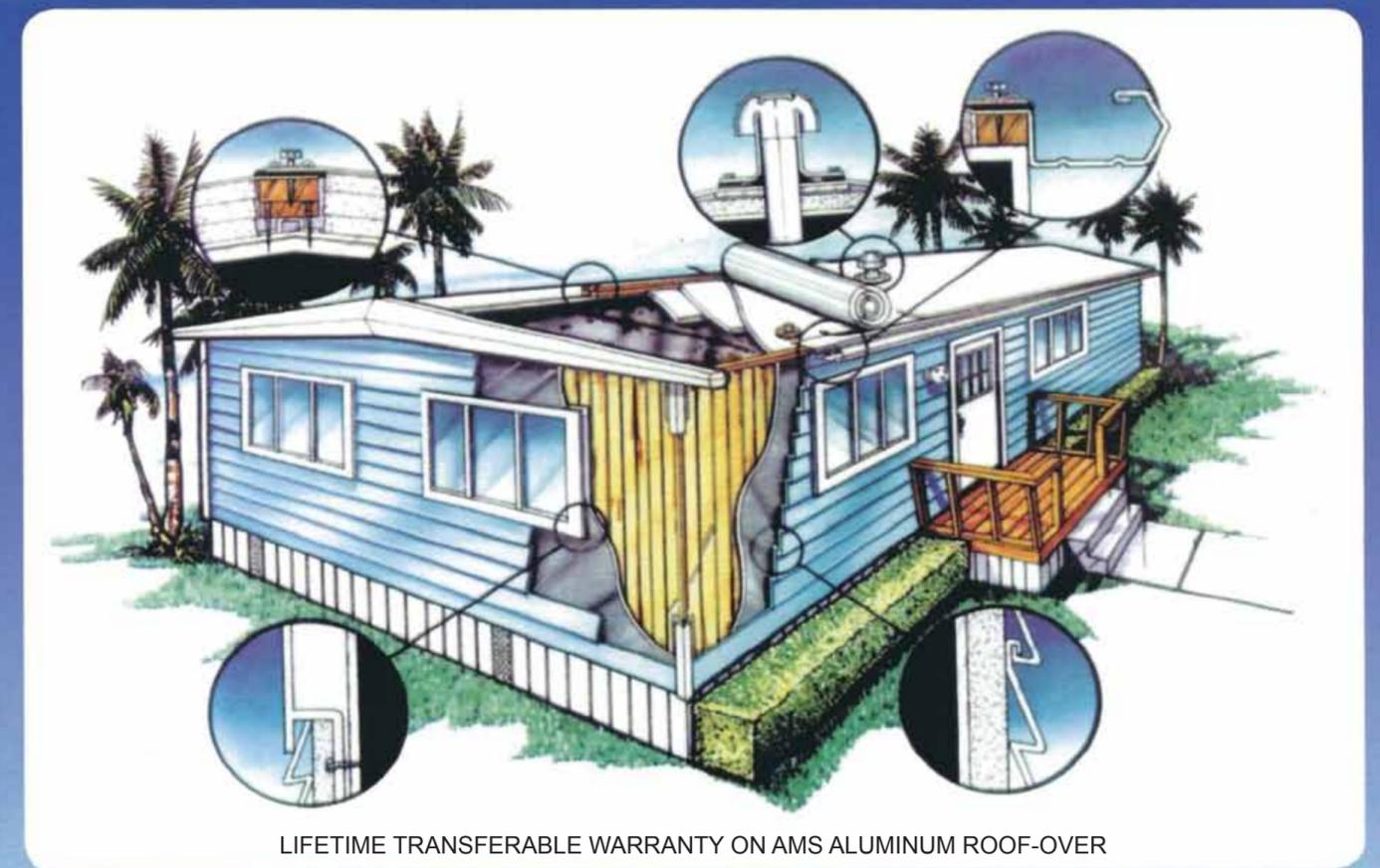
A hundred miles south, on the rooftop café of the historic La Concha Hotel, local businessman Eddie Quick was in a worried meeting with chairman of the Tourist Development Commission, Darrel Dealer, ruminating over the ramifications of Al on their summer season, when their teacups began to rattle ominously in their saucers.

Suddenly, the entire island of Key West was dropped a thousand feet into a massive sinkhole. Land, buildings and people crashed down into a heretofore unknown lava dome. The ensuing volcanic explosion rocketed lava and debris five miles into the stratosphere. The subsequent tsunami caught Pastor Alberry in his boat and miraculously surfed him to Kendall on a 60-foot wave, where he landed after his harrowing voyage, disembarked and knelt in the parking lot at Dadeland Mall, saying a hearty "Hallelujah!"

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