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Entertainer of the Month: Billy "Bones' Knight - Drummer and Radio Personality

Billy Knight is truly a
Florida Keys treasure. He is
a fresh water conch, not
born here but having lived in
the Keys long enough to grow
barnacles.

Billy is a drummer by trade and has been entertaining all his life. In his own words, "In my early days I played drums for the "Grand Ole Opry" artists in Nashville, both on tour and in recording sessions. Some became quite good friends. Did some producing, became experienced in the publishing industry and was instrumental in the startup of "STOP" records.

"Artists such as the Wilburn Brothers, Loretta Lynn, Dottie West, Skeeter Davis, Hank Williams, Jr.,

Faron Young,
Willie Nelson,
Roger Miller
and many more
recorded with
them, as well
as several
respected rock
groups. I ended
my Nashville
years playing
with Bob Lumen
and toured
Europe in 1970.

"Then I moved back to Dayton, Ohio to raise my 3-year-old son by my first wife. Remarried, then left on vacation in 1972 to scuba dive in Islamorada and played in about every joint in the Upper Keys and a few in Marathon. I'm still here on vacation and I still love to play the drums."

According to good friend Tim Dressing, Knight has played everywhere in the Upper Keys, most notably the Toll Gate Inn which was in Lower Matecumbe and was the hottest place in the Upper Keys at the time. He also played with the Skip Paxton band at Whale Harbor for many years.

During Hurricane Andrew, Knight was a radio announcer and DJ for WXOS and his was the voice on the air that kept us all informed.



Knight is a member of the Masonic Lodge and the Scottish Rite. He is legally blind with macular degeneration, and 20 years ago he survived cancer of the tongue, which was devastating to his radio career. He has since been on a liquid diet. He is quite a character and very interesting to talk with, even though it is difficult for him to speak. He still loves to play the drums and folks at the Key Largo Moose recently enjoyed him playing with Tim Dressing and friends. Billy Knight is an inspiration to us all.



100650 Overseas Hwy, Key Largo, FL 33037

