

# JOE AND HIS BROTHERS

by William Huckel

In the middle 1800's, a slave named Shadrack Hannibal decided to jump ship and head for Nassau. He had heard that England had declared slavery illegal in its colonies, and he wanted to be free. A talented man, he had risen to the position of Captain of his master's trading schooner. When he had his opportunity to get to Nassau, he turned the ship over to the mate to return, and he was able to make his escape successfully. This act was to have a great effect on the history of Key West.

After the Civil War was over, Shadrack, his wife Matilda, and his children came to Key West. He had a homestead in Nassau but he had heard that conditions were even better here. The family stayed here until 1882 and then returned to the homestead in Nassau.

The parents and children (James, "Jimmy" Samuel "Sammy", Jeremiah "Jerry", Joseph "Joe", Purcilla, Eva, and Cecelia) returned to Key West in the 1890's and settled down here.

The sons, "Jimmy," "Sammy," "Jerry," and "Joe," all had learned trades, and Key West became the beneficiary of the excellent work that they did. The particular skill of the brothers that was most in demand was masonry work. All four brothers were noted for their work with stone, but like many of the craftsmen of that day they were proficient carpenters and plasterers.

Alfred Evans, Sr., remembers that the Hannibal brothers worked on many, many buildings here in town. The brothers were very close, and when one was working at a job he would often get his brothers to work alongside him. All four brothers, for example, worked on building the beautiful Zion A.M.E. Church at the corner of Whitehead and Angela. And when "Joe" was the contractor on the Bethel A.M.E. Zion church at the corner of Thomas and Truman, his brothers came and helped him. One cannot talk of churches and the Hannibals without mentioning the glowing achievement of "Joe," which was the designing and the constructing of the lovely, lovely St. Peter's Church on Centre Street.

"Joe," who was born in Key West in 1873, was raised a Methodist like his brothers and sisters. His second wife, Vivian, an Episcopalian, influenced his decision to change churches, and he became a stellar member of what was then St. Alban's Episcopal Church, which was down near the water at the foot of Thomas Street. The hurricane of 1910 ruined the church, and for a number of years the congregation worshipped in the wooden building on Centre Street that is now the Parish Hall for St. Peter's.

The congregation, under the ministry of a Father Lewis, bought the land across the street and in 1923 began to build the church. "Joe" was the contractor in charge of the job. He was also the designer.

During his years in Nassau, "Joe" had much appreciated the beauty of the cathedral there. Accordingly, when it was up to him to design the new church, he decided to make it like the one he admired as a boy.

His drawings met the building code and the project was under way.

Mr. Evans, who was then working on the Trinity Presbyterian Church on Simon Street, remembered being asked by



"Joe" playing at the wedding of "Miss" Jessie's daughter

"Joe" about the doors of the original Trinity Church. "Joe" had liked them and ultimately designed the front doors of St. Peter's after the doors of the other church. Mr. Evans said that some of the carpenters working on the St. Peter's job included Pat Gabriel, Albert Kelley, and Frank Perkins. When money problems arose at the Trinity job, some of the workers switched over to "Joe's" job.

A sub-contractor, Mr. Joe Wake, suggested to "Joe" that they buy a brick making machine to save money. Enver Hannibal Young, "Joe's" daughter, remembers all the kids helping make the brick with this machine. "Joe" had a special "recipe" for mixing the silica sand and cement that gave the brick its lovely gray look. Miss Simone Dean spoke of the members picking up the discarded brick from Duval Street when it was being repaved and bringing those bricks to the job site to be used for the foundation.

A special "Brick Sunday" was called for by Father Lewis, and all the little children brought bricks on this day, and they were blessed by the Father. Out of this experience grew the Brick Workers Guild which was founded by Salome Dean's mother. A beautiful stained glass window was donated by the guild to the church, and it is in the church today.

Miss Dean said that "Joe" was particularly proud of the ceiling of the church. One can see why when he enters the church and looks up. Beautiful soaring wooden trusses criss-cross that ceiling creating a splendid visual treat.

The towers at St. Paul's Church were worked on by "Joe" as well. He was also a fine carpenter. He built cabinets in Hemingway's kitchen, and often Hemingway would walk over to "Joe's" house looking for him to do work at his house. Building, however, wasn't the only service that Hemingway was after. "Joe" was also a fine musician and was much in demand

to play at parties. Enver recalled one time that the writer came over looking for her daddy to play his guitar at a social, and her daddy told Hemingway that he was sorry but his guitar wasn't fixed right and he couldn't play. Hemingway told him not to worry, and if "Joe" would play for him he would bring him a nice guitar from Havana. "Joe" agreed, and Hemingway brought the guitar back with him and gave it to "Joe." (Enver still has it).

Music, music, music. On this marvelous island just a short time ago there was so much live music. "Joe" was an exceptionally talented man musically. He had studied with a Professor Hagg as a young man and had learned to play the baritone horn, guitar, bass fiddle, and violin. He later put this talent at the disposal of others and taught music to many members of the Key West community, including "Patchy" Bain, Casper Williams, Shadrack Hannibal, Henry McKinney, Eddie Ward, Campbell Jones, Remmy Jones, William McKenzie, Carol Tynes, Jr., etc.

Enver said she remembers the yard being full of pupils, and soon her daddy had to rent rooms for teaching. At one point he said to her that he had so many pupils that he would have to form a band. He did, and the band was called "The Hannibal Coronet Band," and they played at public events, parades, funerals, etc. A group of his musicians spun off and formed "The Victory Band," which played jazz, but when they were needed for the marching band they would return.

"Joe" had no liking for jazz, and if Enver, who is a pianist, was heard playing this music, her daddy would be sure to call in and ask that the noise be stopped. But the music he liked he played. One of his best friends was a musical prodigy named "Baby" Gutierrez. "Baby" as a young man in Cuba had played



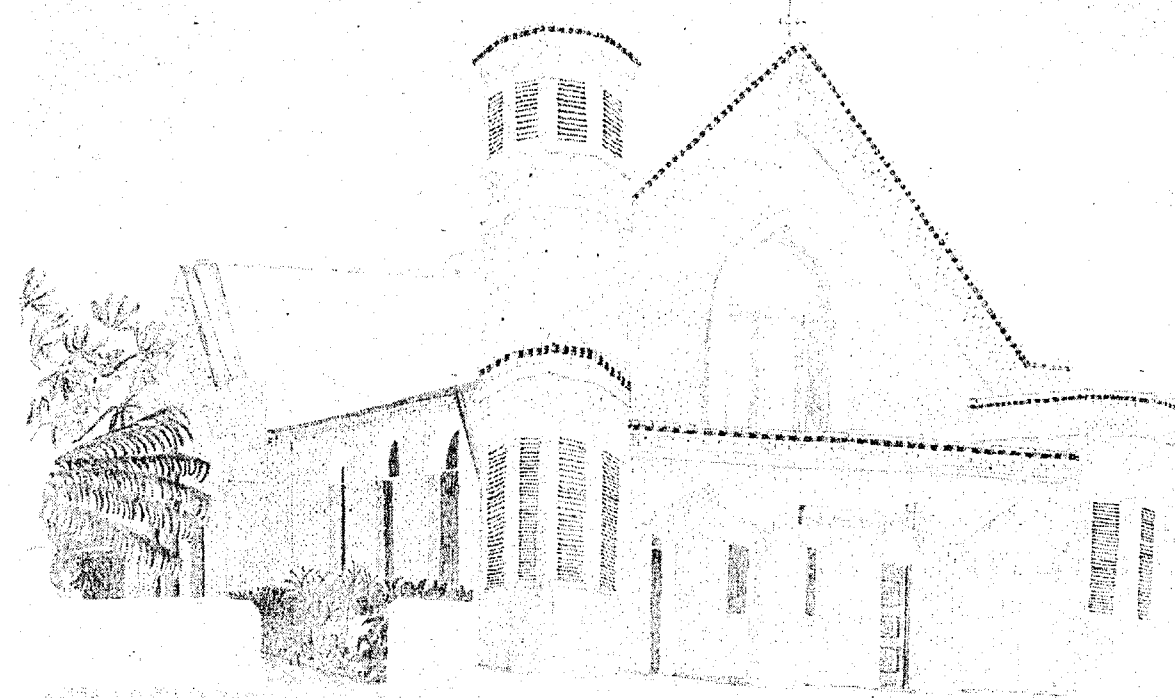
"Brick" Sunday - note the little children holding up bricks in their hands.

before royalty and was a versatile musician. In the band he would play the flute and the clarinet, but nights on the Hannibal porch he would play his violin while his friend "Joe" would play the guitar. The neighbors would come out to listen and to dance. The men enjoyed playing waltzes, semi-classical selections, music from Nassau, etc. Often other musicians would join them. Harry Chipchase, whose step-grandmother was a Hannibal, would play trombone, and Enver the piano.

When a former Key West man, Frank Perdomo, would come to town to visit, he'd get together with Eli Albury, Victor Tynes, "Baby," and "Joe" at the Hannibal house, and everyone would make music and sing and have a wonderful time.

When Jessie Porter Newton's daughter Caroline got married, it was "Joe" and "Baby" who provided the music. "Miss" Jessie knew "Joe" well and spoke glowingly of him. "He was an aristocrat," she said. The Hannibals and the Porters were very close, and "Joe's" sister, Purcilla, stayed with the Porters for years and years. Of her, "Miss" Jessie said, "She was a benediction to have around." Among the houses that "Joe" built was the pretty little cottage around the corner from "Miss" Jessie's on Whitehead Street. Originally built for Wallace Kirk, it was the home for many years of Burt Garnett.

Another marvelous musical happening of just a handful of years ago was the performance of musical dramas called cantatas. These dramas were sung and were based on biblical themes. Such cantatas



St. Peter's Church as drawn by Ben Yates





**SCARBOROUGH FAIR**  
Natural Cosmetics  
423 Front St. Key West

**HOPE'S**  
**New York Times**  
Delicatessen Chinese Restaurant

Chinese Dinners 6-12  
Open from 11 A.M. till 4 A.M.

222 DUVAL ST.

294-9081



Built by "Jimmy" Hannibal



Built by "Jerry" Hannibal

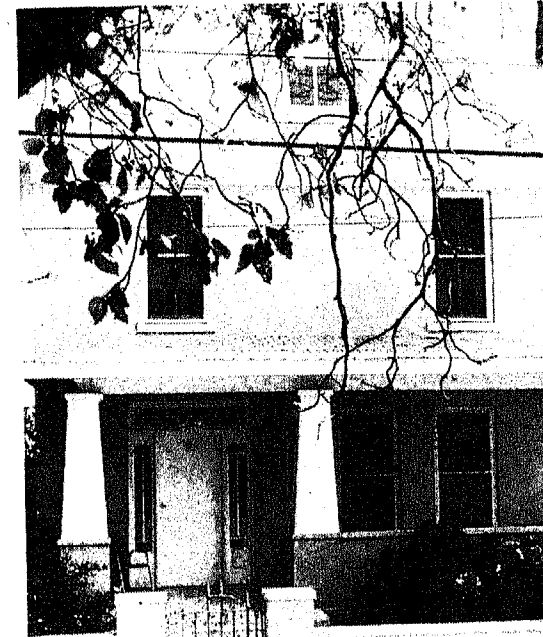
as Jephtha, Queen Esther, and Belchazzar were put on with as many as 15 leads and a big chorus with everyone dressed in biblical costumes. The performances were put on at the old Garden Theatre or the Samaritan Hall or the Modern Theatre. "Joe" directed some of them, as did Sister Myrtle Dean and Mildred Shavers. Just imagine what a treat it would be today if we had groups putting on full scale musical dramas like this! It would cost more probably -- the first Esther cost all of \$17.50 to put on, and that included the drayage (hauling) fee of \$1.00 for hauling the piano from the church to the music hall. Two well-known local musicians, "Bill" Butler and Lofton "Coffee" Butler, had parts in these musical performances in the past.

Many of our well-known local people are related to this family. Mercedes Wildgoose is the daughter of Shadrack, (a fine musician and band director, also), who was the son of Samuel. The famous Skinner of Sloppy Joe's fame was the son of Cecelia Hannibal Skinner. Earhabeil Robinson is the grand-daughter of Cecelia. Harry Chipchase, as we mentioned before, is the step-grandson of Purcilla Hannibal Chipchase. And this list is just scratching the surface.

Walking around town one can see many monuments to this family. If you are at the corner of Margaret and Truman look across at that handsome big red stone house - "Jimmy" Hannibal built it. Look at the comfortable big house at 323 Virginia - "Jerry" built that. Look at "Teddy" Sands' house off Whitehead at Truman - "Joe" built that. Look at the graceful family homestead at 304 Julia - grandfather Shadrack built it, and son "Jimmy" added on to it. Look at the church at Whitehead and Angela - all the brothers worked on that one. Look at the



Built by Shadrack Hannibal



Built by "Joe" Hannibal

Bethel A.M.E. Zion Church at Thomas and Truman - "Joe" and his brothers worked on that one. And for a special treat, look at the St. Peter's Church on Centre Street - "Joe" designed and built it with the help of others. Go inside if you have the chance and look at the ceiling - it is fine viewing.

Perhaps one of the nicest legacies of Shadrack Hannibal, Sr., is the fine family he brought to Key West. The four brothers and their sisters are all gone now, but many of their descendants live here today, and Key West is much the richer for their presence.

## Persons Represented

King Ahasuerus	Alfred Evans
Haman, the King's Counsellor	Louis Thomas
Mordecai, the Jew	Robert Butler
Scribe	Willie C. Higgins
High Priest	Edwin Lampkins
Harold	Alfred Saunders
Beggar	William Butler
Harbonah	Philip Allen
Queen Esther	Joyce Edwards
Zeresh, Haman's wife	Lorraine Saunders
Prophetess	Sarah Evans
Mordecai's Sister	Justina Gonzales
Median Princess	Vanderline Edwards
Persian Princess	Nathalie Thurston
Persians, Jews, Pagans, Guards, Mads of Honor	

The program for Queen Esther that was given on Sunday August 26, 1951

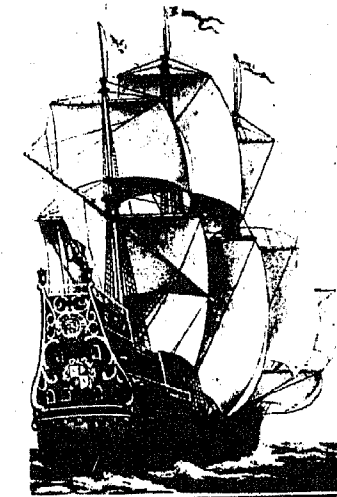


**foxy lady**  
APPAREL  
BIKINIS

CORNER OF  
GREENE & DUVAL

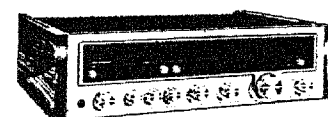
## Treasure Ship

"Atocha" Coin Sales



Take a guided tour of a 168-foot Spanish treasure galleon built by Treasure Salvors, Inc. of Key West, the world's largest treasure hunting organization. See what life aboard ship was like in the 1600's. See some of the treasure that has been found in Florida waters. See the cannons from the "Nuestra Señora de Atocha" which sank in 1622 off Key West. She carried a cargo valued at over 100 million dollars. See the techniques Treasure Salvors is using to recover her gold, silver and gems.

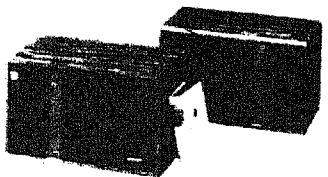
WRECKERS WHARF  
635 Front Street



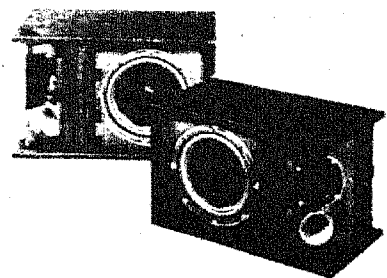
**KENWOOD**  
KR-3600 Stereo Receiver  
22 watts per channel,  
min. RMS at 8 ohms,  
20-20K Hz no more than 0.5%  
total harmonic distortion



Garrard



BOSE



Swift's Camera & Stereo, Inc.  
423 Duval Street/Key West Florida 33040/305 296-6576

SS III



This is my favorite system, it includes excellent products like Kenwood's "Best Buy" receiver with 22 watts RMS power and a full line-up of features: 2 speaker system controls, separate bass and treble, loudness contour, high filter and FM muting. FM reception is made easier for fringe-area people (like us) with advanced FM sensitivity and selectivity built in.

With 22 watts per channel, this Kenwood can more than push the Bose 301s - the direct reflecting loudspeaker of the future. Listen to these one time and you'll never have a need for bigger sound. Out of this well-styled speaker cabinet come sounds directly toward you and from around you by using the well-known Bose reflective sound system. The 301 uses a direct energy control knob to direct the high notes in a way best heard through your ears.

With this advanced design and the 3600's power, you need only one other good piece and I've included that, too, in SS III: the Garrard 775M pre-packed with Shure Bros. M93E stereo cartridge.

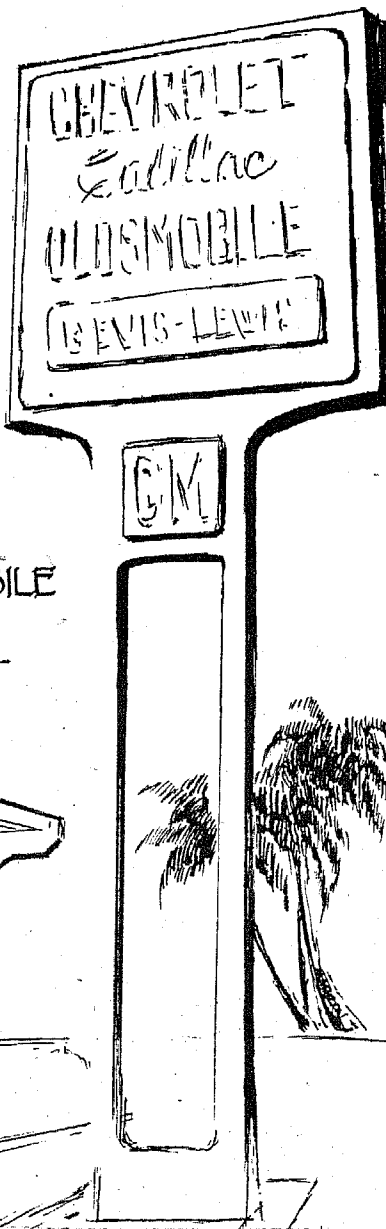
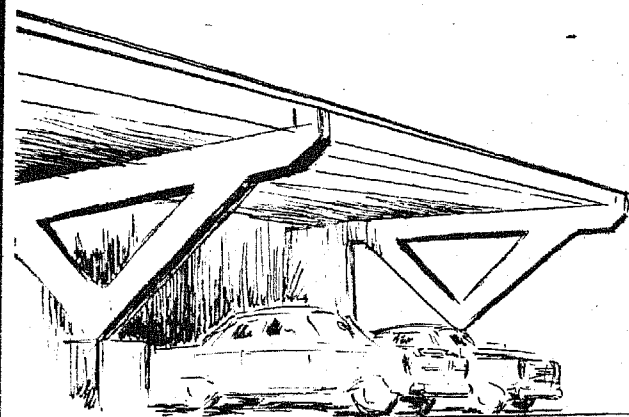
The Best Buy System using the Best Buy Components: brought to you at a more-than-reasonable price by the Hi-Fi Magician of Swift's.

Kenwood KR3600 FM-AM Receiver	\$249.95
Garrard 775M Record Changer	159.95
Bose Model 301 Loudspeakers	198.00
<b>Suggested List Price</b>	<b>\$607.90</b>
Hi-Fi Magician of Swift's Saves You	107.95
<b>You Pay Only</b>	<b>\$499.95</b>

**BEVIS-LEWIS**  
3500 ROOSEVELT BLVD.  
KEY WEST  
294-1003

YOUR SOURCE FOR

CHEVROLET-Cadillac-OLDSMOBILE



## the Fogarty House

the Cafe

lunch and dinner  
noon - 4:30 pm  
6:30 pm - midnight

the Fountain Court

drinks and appetizers

the Annex

frozen yogurt  
11:00 am - 3:00 am

227 Duval  
296-5667  
Key West

"... where Presidents  
have dined and danced..."  
— Key West Lifestyle

