

It sounds like it could be fun. Bobbie is looking into the cost. His cousin Joe, whom we know & like could be a fourth.

As we discussed this adventure, I laid it right on the line - Bobby had said, "The cost will be split three or four ways - whichever happens." We agreed, but I said the work would also be split four ways (or three as the case may be). I emphatically stated that I would not be chief cook and bottle washer, laundress, etc. I got reluctant agreement from Mort & Bobbie. If we actually do this I'm going to have to be strong.

Can you imagine being "Housekeeper-Boatkeeper" for 2 or 3 men. "Yuck!!!" This would not be fun.

This still leaves plenty for the four of us to do. Barges through the English countryside, barges through the countryside of Holland, Belgium and of course the Bahamas, Caribbean, etc. We are patiently waiting for the day - we know will come - when you can join us. We'll have a blast!!!

Maybe you noticed the time I picked up this letter today. The reason it is so early is that at 3:48 A.M. an expected cold front arrived with 25k wind and torrential squalls. It was my turn to close the ports. Now I am wide awake. Fortunately I don't have much planned for today. Therefore, I can nap as required.

I don't know if we mentioned, but the average stay in the marina here is one or two months

This means that we have waves of boats coming and going, which refreshes the climate. This also brings new friends and old. Yesterday, we were each stopped on the pier (2 separate occasions) by folks saying calling "Mort" "Estelle" remember us?

Some of the new people we meet are very unusual to say the least. Next to us now we have a boat (sail) called "Sea Cure". He is an M.D., (general practice) with a degree in law. I'm not sure yet what she is (in the way of career), but they have a ferret aboard called, ^{Mr. Minky} Farrat Fawcett Ferret. He ^{sinks} all of her produce in a heavy solution of Chlorox & water, is as thin as a rail, and never stops moving. She loves the boat. He hates the boat. He says he is going back to Texas to get a degree in Engineering so he can discover why he can't fix anything on the boat. They really are very pleasant, but strange.

The boat next to them just left yesterday, thank the good Lord. I'll try to give you a quick rundown.

- a) He is a failed Medical student with a practice in Holistic Medicine in Sedona, California. ^{PA Dellrich} 36 years old
- e) She is a German Born - not too bright - about 40 yrs old - not bad looking Mother. ^{???} of two.
- c) The little girl is about 3 1/2 to 4 years old. She is rude, willful, obnoxious and more.
- d) The little boy is about 14 months old and about to toddle himself into oblivion. Poor dear baby.

Nobody watches them. They are put on the piers with no life jackets, no clothes (at all) and no one in attendance. The baby does more

for hours.
Baron & all.

eliminating on the pier than the average boat dog. The other day this naked little girl was spraying a hose on everything and anything. One of our boating friends came by with groceries. The little girl threatened to spray her and her packages with the hose. Jerry, our friend, said "If you spray me with that hose I'll have to spray you, so please don't do that." Well, the "Little Darling" promptly turned the hose on Jerry. Whereupon Jerry took the hose from her and gently sprayed her feet; to be true to her word.

The next thing that happened was that Daddy came storming down the pier with "Little Angel" at his hand and confronted Jerry with, "My children are sensitive and how dare you do such a terrible thing." The entire time the Little Monster was yelling "you're a witch, you're a dirty old witch." Whereupon Jerry turned to her and said "Yes I'm a witch, and I'm going to turn you into a toad." We roared with laughter.

Not only that but he was trying to put a new roller of anchor on his bowsprit. (He had lost his anchor and chain due to absolute ignorance of how a boat should be paddled) He has only been in boating 6 weeks, and a captain brought him here. Now he is on his own. Well, in any event he borrowed all of the tools he needed from Mort, Drill, crescent wrench, ratchet wrench with offset drive. He bent the drill bit and lost the ratchet overboard. He asked Mort if \$30.⁰⁰ was enough to make it up.

As he pulled away ~~to sea~~ from the slip

He was heard to say. "Oh, I forgot to give you your money."

Most just joined me here in a semi-zombielike mode. It is 6:30 and he was awaked by the thunder and wind.

SINCE IT IS EXPECTED THAT THIS MISSILE WILL ARRIVE, WHILE JIM'S IN CALIF, ES HAS DECIDED THAT IT MUST BE A MAJOR LETTER. HENCE MY CONTRIBUTION. "ONCE UPON A TIME", WHEN WE WERE HERE IN '91 THE MARINA WAS PURCHASED BY FRIENDS OF OURS IN MAN-O-WAR. THEY HAD A "SWEAT EQUITY" BAHAMIAN PARTNER RUNNING IT, WHO ALSO BECAME A FRIEND (OZZIE HALL). OZZIE HAD ALL HE COULD HANDLE & MORE AS THE PLACE HAD BEEN ALLOWED TO DETERIORATE^{OR} (SP?) OVER THE YEARS. ANYWAY OZZIE STARTED TO GET IT TOGETHER & OF COURSE WE GOT PRIMO TREATMENT AS TO SERVICES, RATES ETC. JUST BEFORE WE LEFT IN '92 THE ENTIRE MARINA OPERATION (MARINA, HOTEL & RESTAURANT & DIVE SHOP FRANCHISES) WAS LEASED TO THE FRENCH CHARTER CO. - JETSEA. WE WERE GONE, FOR THE MOST PART, WHILE JETSEA STRUGGLED & FINALLY WENT CRAP. II. WE HEARD REPORTS OF LOUSY SERVICE, HIGH RATES ETC, ETC. BEFORE OUR RETURN, THIS YEAR, THE MOORINGS, A WORLD WIDE ENGLISH CHARTER OPERATION PICKED UP THE LEASE & HAVE BEEN RUNNING IT & MAKING IMPROVEMENTS, TO OVERCOME THE POOR REP. IN THE BOATING COMMUNITY. THE NEORINGS, I'M TOLD IS THE LARGEST IN THE WORLD

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§ ALL THEIR MANAGERS § UPPER ECHELON PEOPLE ARE ENGLISH (MEN § WOMEN). THE MANAGER WHEN WE ARRIVED WAS DAVID § HIS CHIEF UNDERLING WAS A WHITE BAHAMIAN, CHARLIE. TO PROMOTE BUSINESS DAVID ESTABLISHED SPECIAL DOCKAGE RATES EVERY TWO MONTHS I.E. JULY-AUG. -25¢ SEPT-OCT-18¢ NOV-DEC-25¢ /PER FOOT PER DAY WITH NO NOTICE OF FUTURE RATES. I WAS ACCUSTOMED TO A "SPECIAL DEAL" FOR LONG TERM § WAS SUPPOSED TO GET SAME. IT DIDN'T HAPPEN, HOWEVER SINCE THE ^{short term} RATES AVAILABLE, ^{at other marinas} WERE SO LOW I DRAGGED MY FEET ON THE LONG-TERM CONTRACT. I HEARD DAVID WAS GOING TO AUSTRALIA TO MANAGE A BASE THERE. I FIGURED I HAD BETTER GET IT SETTLED. DAVID LEFT, RESOLVING NOTHING. § CHARLIE WAS FOR THE TIME BEING "THE BOSS". HIS TOTAL DEDICATION WAS TO THE FLEET OF RENTAL BIKES, WHICH HE OWNED. ALSO HE GOT WORD THAT A NEW MANAGER WAS ON HIS WAY (WOULD HAVE TO BE AN ENGLISHMAN) § CHARLIE WAS PISSED. WORK PERMITS ARE HIGHLY POLITICAL HERE § AS A LOCAL BAHAMIAN CHARLIE USED HIS INFLUENCE TO SCREW UP THE PERMIT PROCESS. I DECIDED TO "BEARD THE LION" § HAD A MEETING WITH CHARLIE RE: FUTURE RATES, CITING THE COMPETITION'S RATES. IN TRUE BAHAMIAN BUSINESSMAN FASHION CHARLIE SHRUGGED § GAVE ME NO ANSWER. I LATER FOUND OUT THAT HE CALLED THE OTHER MARINA OWNER'S § ACCUSED THEM OF "STARTING TROUBLE" ^{by leaving the other marinas} BY THIS TIME IT WAS NOVEMBER § I HAD NO IDEA OF WHAT THE JAW-ON RATES WOULD BE, NOR DID ANYONE ELSE. 20000 - I WROTE

TO THE HOMEBASE IN CLEARWATER & CITED ALL THE PERTINENT FACTS (IN A VERY GENTLEMANLY LETTER) I HEARD NOTHING UP TO THE DAY BEFORE X-MAS BY WHICH TIME A NEW ENGLISHMAN (ALAN) WAS IN PLACE & CHARLIE IS HISTORY. THE RESPONSE TO MY LETTER WAS SENT TO MARATHON ETC. ETC. THEY SAID THEIR BIG-GUY WOULD MEET WITH ME DEC 8TH. IT WAS, BY THAT TIME, DEC 24TH - GO MEET. I BEFRIENDED ALAN & BY A CHANCE HAPPENSTANCE ALAN FOUND OUT ABOUT MY LETTER TO CLEARWATER (HQ.). I UNLOADED ON ALAN, & HE PROMISED QUICK RESOLUTION. SINCE THEN A PARALLEL LEVEL MANAGER APPEARED HERE (SARA) & AN UPPER-LEVEL MGR. (ROSS) ALSO WAS MOVED HERE. LONG TO SHORT - FUTURE RATES HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED, JUST SLIGHTLY HIGHER THAN THE LOCAL COMPETITION, MOVES ARE UNDERWAY TO ATTACK VARIOUS SERVICE PROBLEMS, WE RECD. ON THE "Q.I." A SPECIAL RATE 25¢/FT/DAY. ~~THE~~ THE MANAGER (SARA) HAS A LITTLE GIRL CLAIRE, WHO IS "3 AND 3/4 YEARS OLD" IS IN LOVE WITH ME & ~~THE~~ SHE INSISTS ON CALLING ME "JACK". ALL'S WELL.

MOTTO - DON'T FUCK WITH MORT!

P.S. you can tell Mort was stuttering at the end of the story. It is time for the HAM weather hat.

Hope we didn't bore you!

Love again, as always
E & Mort