

"A GULF COAST JOURNAL"

FEBRUARY 20, 2008

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>> THIS SPECIAL PRESENTATION WAS PRODUCED IN HIGH DEFINITION BY WEDU, TAMPA, ST. PETERSBURG, SARASOTA.

¶ IT'S NOT EASY BEING GREEN ¶

>> WHAT WOULD YOU EXPECT IF YOU MET A MAN NAMED JOHNNY PAPAYA? YOU WILL.

>> A LIBRARY WITH A SPECIAL STORY HOUR FOR DOGS!

¶

>> AN ARTIST WHO GIVES US A NEW WAY OF SEEING ONE OF OUR FAVORITE PLACES.

¶

>> AND A WORLD CLASS MAGICIAN.

IN THIS VOLUME OF "A GULF COAST JOURNAL."

>>> THIS WEDU PRODUCTION IS EXCLUSIVELY BROUGHT TO YOU THROUGH A

GENEROUS GRANT FROM THE GULF COAST COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF VENICE, BUILDING STRONG COMMUNITIES, LEADERSHIP, PARTNERSHIP, AND ENDOWED PHILANTHROPY.

¶¶

DEAR JOURNAL:

A LOT OF PLACES TO GO AND INTERESTING PEOPLE TO MEET IN THIS VOLUME OF "A GULF COAST JOURNAL." ONE OF OUR FAVORITE PLACES ALONG THE GULF COAST IS THE MYAKKA RIVER.

WE HAVE BEEN HERE MANY TIMES.

WE HAVE SEEN IT IN MANY WAYS.

BUT WE HAVE NEVER SEEN IT IN QUITE THE WAY ONE VERY TALENTED WOMAN SEES IT.

¶¶

>> I'M JUST FASCINATED WITH WHAT HAPPENS WITH CLEAR WATER. IT REFRACTS THOSE OBJECTS AND HANDS ME A BEAUTIFUL COMPOSITION.

¶¶

LIKE A DOTING MOTHER, ARTIST JEAN BLACKBURN SPEAKS LOVINGLY OF THE MYAKKA RIVER.

>> THIS PARTICULAR STRETCH HAD A WHITE SAND BOTTOM THAT PARTS OF THE YEAR JUST CREATED THE PHENOMENAL COLORS.

AND SO IN THE DEEPER AREAS IT WILL BE A DEEP, DEEP RED, AND IN THE SHALLOWER AREAS IT WILL BE A GOLDEN, BRILLIANT YELLOW.

>> FICKLE WATER LEVELS ALLOW THE RIVER TO PLAYFULLY REINVENT ITSELF, CREATING A FRESH SUBJECT EACH TIME.

¶

>> I THINK I AM UP TO ABOUT 116 OIL PAINTINGS OF THAT STRETCH.

¶¶

>> THE PHOTOGRAPHS ARE WAY INTO THE THOUSANDS.

>>Jack Perkins: ALTHOUGH USED AS A REFERENCE, JEAN'S PHOTOGRAPHS ARE AS STUNNING AS HER ART.

>> I COULD NEVER REMEMBER ALL THOSE AMAZING DETAILS, AND THE CAMERA IS ABLE TO CATCH THE ABSTRACTION.

THE RIVER CAPTURES THE SKY AND THE LEAVES AND THE WATER AND THE CLOUDS AND IT MAKES WONDERFUL DISTORTIONS AND ABSTRACT COMPOSITIONS FOR ME, AND IT IS A VERY IMPORTANT TOOL.

>>Jack Perkins: WHEN ASKED ABOUT THE AUTHENTICITY OF HER PHOTOS, JEAN SMILES BECAUSE SHE HAS WITNESSED.

SHE KNOWS.

>> PEOPLE ARGUE WITH ME AND SAY, OF COURSE YOU PHOTOSHOPPED THEM.

THERE IS NOTHING LIKE THIS IN NATURE.

BUT THERE IS.

>>Jack Perkins: IN HER BARN-TOP STUDIO, JEAN CROPS AND MAGNIFIES A SMALL PORTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPH BEFORE PAINTING.

REFLECTIONS OF DISTORTED OBJECTS AGAINST THE RIVER CANVAS BECOME EVEN MORE BREATHTAKING.

>> WHAT IT IS IS A SABAL PALM FROND THAT HAD FALLEN OFF ONTO THE SANDY BOTTOM.

AND THIS SPOT WAS PROBABLY ONLY EIGHT INCHES DEEP.

¶

>>Jack Perkins: JEAN'S COMMITMENT TO NATURE RUNS DEEPER THAN HER BELOVED RIVER STRETCH.

A THIRD GENERATION FLORIDIAN FROM ANNA MARIA ISLAND, JEAN HAS ALWAYS BEEN INVOLVED WITH WATER, THANKS IN PART TO HER MOM.

>> I WAS SWIMMING BEFORE I WAS WALKING.

AND SHE WAS A SAILING INSTRUCTOR FOR THE PRAM FLEET, SO I HAVE ALWAYS SAILED.

>>Jack Perkins: LONG AFTER HER CHILDHOOD, WATER REMAINED A PRICELESS RESOURCE.

>> AFTER I GRADUATED FROM COLLEGE, I BOUGHT A SAILBOAT AND LIVED DOWN IN THE KEYS AND CENTRAL AMERICA AND LIVED IN THE BAHAMAS FOR ABOUT FIVE YEARS.

>>Jack Perkins: SHE RETURNED TO THE GULF COAST IN THE LATE 80s TRADING BLUE-GREEN WATERS FOR GREENER PASTURES.

>> ALBERT!

FLORA!

>>Jack Perkins: JEAN AND HER HUSBAND SETTLED ON THIS 14-ACRE FARM IN OLD MYAKKA MORE THAN 15 YEARS AGO, THE RURAL LIFE-STYLE A PERFECT COMPLEMENT TO HER ENVIRONMENTAL PASSION.

>> WE DON'T USE AIR CONDITIONING IN OUR HOUSE.

WHAT WE DO WITH THE RIDING OF OUR HORSES IS PRETTY MUCH IS ENTIRELY ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS.

WHEN GO TO THE WILDERNESS AREAS AND KILL THE INVASIVE PLANTS.

WE GROW ORGANICALLY.

WE DO WHAT WE CAN.

>> HARD WORK FOR URBANITES PERHAPS, BUT FOR THIS MASTER GARDENER, IT'S A LABOR OF LOVE.

>> I GROW BANANAS, LADY FINGERS, AGAIN SOMETHING THAT CAN'T BE PURCHASED IN A STORE.

GUAVAS, ALL KINDS OF CITRUS, PEARS, PERSIMMONS.

>> SO IT'S ONLY NATURAL THAT THE NATURALIST WOULD BE ASKED TO CREATE A MURAL FOR A NATURAL FOOD CHAIN.

>> I WAS THRILLED.

I KNEW ABOUT THE WHOLE FOODS MARKET, THEIR PHILOSOPHY WAS ONE

THAT I COULD EMBRACE AND FELL GOOD ABOUT SO WAS FLATTERED AND  
HONORED TO BE ABLE TO DO THAT.

>> HONORED THAT HER LARGE SCALE ART WORK "COUNTRYIFIES" THE CITY  
OF SARASOTA JUST A BIT.

>> THAT SERIES WAS AN IMAGINED, IDEALIC COMBINATION OF ANIMALS  
AND HUMANS AND NATURAL BEINGS ALL INTERACTING.

¶¶

>>Jack Perkins: REFLECTIONS OF COMMENTARY AND COLOR FLOW FREELY  
THROUGH JEAN BLACKBURN'S WORK, AS HER BELOVED STRETCH OF THE  
RIVER.

¶¶

>> A LOT OF PEOPLE ALONG THE GULF COAST GROW GARDENS, MAYBE  
RAISE SOME ROSES OR HERBS.

MAYBE YOU DO.

BUT IN YOUR GARDEN, DO YOU GROW SOURSOP?

COFFEE BEANS?

COCOA?

CARAMBOLA?

LET ME INTRODUCE YOU TO A FASCINATING MAN WHO GROWS ALL THOSE

AND, OH, YES, PAPAYA.

>>> JUST OFF SARASOTA'S BENEVA ROAD IN A TIDY NEIGHBORHOOD WITH  
MANICURED YARDS, IS A PLACE WITH NO YARD.

>> IT'S NOT EASY BEING GREEN ¶¶

>> MORE LIKE A JUNGLE.

>> ¶¶

¶ IT MIGHT BE BETTER TO BE RED OR YELLOW OR GOLD ¶¶

>> TO ONE SARASOTA COUPLE THEIR YARD IS THEIR GARDEN, AND THEIR GARDEN THEIR GROCER.

>> THE NEIGHBORS, HE WANTED MY LAWN TO LOOK JUST LIKE HIS. HE DIDN'T WANT ME TO DO MARCH TO A DIFFERENT DRUMMER.

I DARE TO BE DIFFERENT.

>> AND DIFFERENT HE IS.

>> SOMETIMES THERE MORE BLANKETS COVERING THE FRUIT, AND I CAN'T KEEP WARM BECAUSE SHE'S GOT ALL THE BLANKETS COVERING BANANAS.

>>Jack Perkins: MEET JOHNNY PAPAYA, JOHNNY BURNS, RETIRED SCHOOL TEACHER, WORLD WAR II VET, MASTER GARDENER.

>> THERE'S A FEMALE PAPAYA.

THEY HAVE GOT THREE SEXES.

FEMALE, MALE AND BISEXUAL.

BUT THIS CAN FRUIT AS LONG AS THERE'S A MALE IN THE AREA.

>> FRONT YARD, BACKYARD, ROOFTOP, EVEN THE PROPERTY HE AND HIS WIFE NATI OWN NEXT DOOR ALL RESERVED SPACE FOR THE COUPLE'S ORGANIC PLANTS.

>> WE GROW EVERY VEGETABLE THAT YOU CAN GROW IN THE UNITED STATES, PRACTICALLY, LETTUCE, SPINACH, SWEET POTATOES, AVOCADO, MANGO, BANANA, COCONUT, CANISTIL.

AND WE USE NO POISON OR PESTICIDE.

>> WHATEVER THEY USE OR DON'T USE WORKS.

80% OF WHAT THE COUPLE EATS IS HARVESTED RIGHT HERE.

>> MAKE YOUR GARDEN YOUR DRUGSTORE.

YOUR GARDEN IS YOUR BEST EXERCISE.

YOUR FOOD IS YOUR BEST MEDICINE.

SO EVERYBODY SHOULD HAVE A GARDEN, BIG OR SMALL OR MIDDLE SIZE.

>> JOHNNY PAPAYA'S FOOD PHILOSOPHY IS DEEP ROOTED.

HE GREW UP IN THE BACK WOODS OF ALABAMA DURING THE DEPRESSION  
AND JOINED THE NAVY AT AGE 17.

>> AND NAVY FOOD, EATING FRESH OUT OF A CAN, EVERYTHING WAS  
CANNED.

AND I WAS NEVER USED TO EATING CANNED FOOD WHEN I WAS A KID.  
WE ATE FRESH FOOD.

>> DURING HIS TOUR JOHNNY WAS DIAGNOSED WITH TUBERCULOSIS  
LEAVING HIM WITH JUST ONE LUNG.

>> THEY COLLAPSED IT.

THEY DIDN'T TAKE THE WHOLE THING OUT.

I STILL GOT ONE HALF MY LUNG AND ONE EYE.

SO I HAVE ONE EYE AND HALF A LUNG.

>>Jack Perkins: HE RETURNED HOME, AND BEGAN STUDYING NUTRITION.  
SEARCHING FOR ALTERNATIVE WAYS TO STAY HEALTHY.

>> I CURED MYSELF ON A DOLLAR AND SEVEN CENTS A DAY.  
CABBAGE AND CARROT JUICE.

IT CURED EVERYTHING.

CURED MY OBESITY.

CURED MY ULCERS.

EVEN MY EYESIGHT IS IMPROVED.

>> HE BECAME A SCHOOL TEACHER USING HIS GREEN THUMB TO ENTICE  
STUDENTS TO LEARN.

ONE DAY, A STUDENT BROUGHT HIM SOME PAPAYA SEEDS AND A SCHOOL  
PROJECT SPROUTED.

>> SO NEXT YEAR I HAD A GALLON OF PAPAYA.

EVERY KID IN THE WHOLE SCHOOL ABOUT 700 KIDS AND 40 TEACHERS OR

SO GOT A SPOONFUL OF SEEDS.

>> OUT OF IT, A NICKNAME GREW.

>> THAT'S WHY THEY CALL ME JOHNNY PAPAYA.

THEY USED TO CALL ME THE SNAKE MAN.

I THINK I LIKE JOHNNY PAPAYA BETTER.

YOUR BEETS ARE ABOUT READY TO EAT OVER HERE.

>> NATI WAS ATTENDING COLLEGE IN MADRID WHEN THE COUPLE MET  
THROUGH A PEN PAL DATING SERVICE.

>> SO HE SENT ME PICTURES OF HIS GARDENS, AND I SAID HE MUST BE  
AN INTERESTING GUY.

SO I ANSWERED HIS LETTER.

>> I FOUND OUT LATER, IN THE PHILLIPPINES, IN THOSE DAYS,, YOU

TOOK GUARDENING IN FIRST, SECOND, THIRD, FOURTH, FIFTH, SIXTH  
GRADE JUST LIKE READING AND WRITING.

>> LOVE BLOSSOMED.

>> HE SENT ME A ONE-WAY TICKET, PLANE TICKET.

>> THEN WE GOT MARRIED.

WE HAVEN'T KILLED EACH OTHER YET.

IT'S COME CLOSE.

AS LONG AS I LET HER BE THE BOSS.

>>Jack Perkins: MORE THAN A THOUSAND DIFFERENT PLANTS AND TREES  
GROW ON THEIR COMBINED ONE-ACRE PROPERTIES.

SOME OF THE HARVEST IS SOLD TO VISITORS WHO CALL OR DROP BY.

>> YOU HAVE TO EAT FAST IN THIS YARD.

I MEAN, IT'S JUST SO MUCH.

I PICKED 28 AVOCADOS OFF THE GROUND UNDER ONE TREE YESTERDAY.

>> EVEN THE COUPLES' TILAPIA PITCH IN DINING ON FRESH SWEET

POTATO GREENS.

THE FISH NOT FOR SALE OR FOR SUPPER.

>> MY WIFE HAS THEM ALL NAMED.

>> FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE.

WELL, YOU KNOW, THE TILAPIA HAS LIFE LIKE WE HAVE.

AND THEY ARE VERY NICE TO ME WHEN I COME OUT, THEY GET TO STAY  
ALONG THE RIM WAITING FOR ME.

YOU CAN'T KILL NICE FISH, NICE LIVING THINGS LIKE THAT.

SO I LEAVE IT ALONE.

AND IT BECOME A PET.

>> 130 PETS TO BE EXACT.

AT AGE 83, JOHNNY PAPAYA IS STILL FUELED BY PASSION,  
PERSPIRATION, AND HIS OWN WELL-BEING.

>> HOW CAN YOU LIVE 60 YEARS WITH ONE HALF LUNG, AND ONE EYE,  
AND I'M STILL ACTIVE.

I CLIMB THOSE STEPS ABOUT TEN TIMES A DAY.

USUALLY CARRYING SOMETHING UP AND BRINGING SOMETHING DOWN.

AND THAT'S 15 STEPS.

¶¶

>> THE RADISHES WILL BE READY TO EAT PRETTY SOON.

¶ MAKE YOU WONDER WHY ¶

>> JOHNNY PAPAYA BURNS GIVES LIFE TO PLANTS,  
AND PLANTS GIVE LIFE TO HIM.

>> IT'S BEAUTIFUL.

¶¶

>>Jack Perkins: THIS IS MY FRIEND FLY.

HE AND I HAVE BEEN THINKING.

IN THIS DAY WHEN SO MANY KIDS SPEND SO MUCH TIME WITH THEIR

IPODS AND THEIR VIDEO GAMES, HOW CAN I ENTICE THEM TO READ?

WELL, THERE'S A LIBRARY ON THE GULF COAST THAT HAS AN IDEA.

YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN, FLY?

>> EVERY MONTH THE LIBRARY IN ENGLEWOOD ATTRACTS SOME SPECIAL  
BOOK LOVERS.

THIS LITTLE BRITTANY SPANIEL NAMED "SKY" MAY HAVE LOST A LEG TO  
AN ALLIGATOR A FEW YEARS BACK, BUT THAT DOESN'T SLOW HIM DOWN.  
GETTING TO THE ELSIE QUIRK LIBRARY.

ONCE A MONTH SKY AND SOME OF HIS CANINE PALS TAKE OVER A BACK  
ROOM AT THE LIBRARY TO HELP KIDS IMPROVE THEIR READING SKILLS.

>> WHAT ABOUT YOU?

ANY IDEA?

>> LOOK OUT SAID --

>> THE INCREASINGLY POPULAR PROGRAM KNOWN AS DOGGIE TALES IS  
SPONSORED BY THE SUNCOAST HUMANE SOCIETY.

>> THE CAT HAS A HAT.

>> FOUR-YEAR-OLD SALVATORE ROSATO FOUND OUT LUKE, AN  
EIGHT-YEAR-OLD BORDER COLLIE, IS ALL EARS WHEN IT COMES TO BOOKS  
FOR BEGINNING READERS.

>> A DOG.

>> THERE'S NO QUESTION LUKE IS MORE THAN HAPPY TO EXTEND A  
HELPING PAW TO SALVATORE.

>> THE CHILDREN READ TO THE DOGS.

AND IT HELPS THEM DEVELOP CONFIDENCE IN READING BECAUSE THERE'S  
NO CRITICISM FROM THE DOG, OBVIOUSLY.

>> I DON'T KNOW.

HE GOES AROUND THE CLASSROOM.

>> THOUGH A SIBERIAN HERDING DOG IS NOT A COMMON SITE IN  
FLORIDA, THIS SAMOYED'S FRIENDLY DISPOSITION MAKES HIM A PERFECT  
CHOICE FOR DOGGIE TALES.

TONIGHT 11-YEAR-OLD JORDAN BERNARD THOUGHT A BIG WHITE FLUFFY DOG  
NAMED "DEE OH GEE" MIGHT ENJOY A JUNIOR NOVEL ABOUT LIZZIE  
MAGUIRE.

IT TAKES A SPECIAL "DEE OH GEE" TO BECOME A VOLUNTEER IN THIS  
PROGRAM.

>> IT TAKES PATIENCE WITH PEOPLE AND THE ABILITY TO GO DIFFERENT  
PLACES AND BEHAVE.

IT'S KIND OF A SPECIAL TALENT.

HE'S A GREAT VOLUNTEER.

AND A GREAT FRIEND.

>> I AM ALL SET TO PUT AND BAKE MY CAKE.

>> WITH SKY, THE LITTLE BRITTANY NEARBY, SEVEN-YEAR-OLD ROWYN  
SHORTUSE READ "JANE AND JAKE BAKE A CAKE."

>> READING IS DEFINITELY IMPROVED, YOU KNOW.

IT'S REALLY SOMETHING SHE'S ENJOYED.

IT MADE READING FUN FOR HER.

>> HE LIKES THE BOOK.

AND HE LIKES THE PICTURES OF IT.

>> CHAPTER ONE.

SHIPWRECK.

MANY YEARS AGO MY FAMILY LEFT FOR SWITZERLAND.

>> TEN-YEAR-OLD RICCI DODSON HAD THE PLEASURE OF READING TO NOT ONE BUT TWO DOGS, OSCAR AND MINI.

>> I THINK IT'S FUN THAT THEY LISTEN.

AND I THINK THAT THEY LIKE IT A LOT.

IT MAKES ME HAPPY TO DO THAT.

>> FOR RICCI, THIS WAS JUST HER SECOND TIME AT THE LIBRARY, FOR WHAT IS TURNING OUT TO BE ONE OF THE DOG-GONEDEST READING PROGRAMS YOU HAVE EVER SEEN.

>> SO WE HAVE READ TO DOGS, SEEN ART THROUGH THE EYES OF A VERY TALENTED ARTIST, MET JOHNNY PAPAYA IN HIS AMAZING GARDEN, AND NOW -- NOW, MY FRIENDS, IT IS TIME FOR MAGIC!

¶¶

ONE OF THE CLASSIC ILLUSIONS OF ALL TIME -- LEVITATION, IN THIS CASE PERFORMED BY WORLD-CLASS MAGICIAN VINCE CARMEN.

15-YEAR-OLD ERIKA CARMEN IS ONE OF HER DAD'S LOVELY ASSISTANTS.

ALL RIGHT.

HERE WE GO.

NUMBER ONE.

>> HIS OTHER GLAMOROUS AND HUMOROUS SIDEKICK HIS WIFE YVONNE WITH SOME AMAZING TRICKS OF HER OWN.

(CHEERS AND APPLAUSE)

>> THE CARMENS PERFORM AN ACTION-PACKED DINNER SHOW CALLED "HOUDINI'S HOUSE OF MAGIC" EVERY WEEKEND AT THE SARASOTA CAY CLUB.

>> THAT'S THE MAGIC!

>> ALL RIGHT.

WATCH.

>> ERIKA, THE YOUNGEST OF VINCE AND YVONNE'S THREE DAUGHTERS, IS THE ONLY ONE STILL IN THE SHOW.

BUT THE WHOLE FAMILY HAS TRAVELED THE GLOBE.

>> WE TOURED OUR SHOWS IN NEW ZEALAND, CANADA, MEXICO, ARGENTINA, VENEZUELA, BRAZIL.

>> IN LAS VEGAS THEY PERFORMED FOR SOME OF THE BIGGEST NAMES IN SHOW BIZ, SAMMY DAVIS, JR., B.B. KING, MASTER ILLUSIONIST SIEGFRIED.

FOR YVONNE, BEING ON STAGE IS AS EASY AS RIDING A BIKE.

MAKE THAT A UNICYCLE.

>> I WAS BORN IN SHOW BUSINESS.

I AM SIXTH GENERATION.

MY MOTHER AND FATHER CAME FROM EUROPE TO JOIN RINGLING BROTHERS.

>> YVONNE MADE HER SARASOTA DEBUT AT AGE 4.

SHE AND HER BROTHERS AND SISTERS GREW UP IN THE CIRCUS.

>> MY FATHER SPENT A LOT OF TIME REHEARSING WITH US.

HE KNEW THAT I HAD IT IN MY BLOOD.

>> VINCE'S FATHER WASN'T IN THE CIRCUS BUT HE WAS THE CATALYST THAT LAUNCHED VINCE INTO THE WORLD OF MAGIC.

>> MY FATHER TAUGHT ME A COUPLE OF TRICKS WHEN I WAS, OH, FIVE OR SIX YEARS OLD.

MY FATHER WAS A MINISTER.

BUT HE LOVED MAGIC.

>>Jack Perkins: AFTER YEARS ON THE ROAD AND PLAYING VEGAS, VINCE AND YVONNE WANTED TO LAND SOMEWHERE THEY COULD PURSUE THEIR

PASSION FOR SAILING.

>> TO ME IT'S SOMETHING THAT JUST TAKES ME AWAY FROM THE WORLD.

>>Jack Perkins: YVONNE ALSO YEARNED TO BE CLOSER TO HER FAMILY  
IN SARASOTA.

BUT THE TRANSITION TO FLORIDA HAS NOT BEEN ALL SMOOTH SAILING.

>> IT HAS BEEN TOUGH.

IT HAS BEEN TOUGH.

BUT WORD IS GETTING AROUND, AND THIS IS OUR THIRD LOCATION, AND  
EVERYONE SAYS SO FAR THIS IS THE BEST LOCATION THAT WE HAVE, AND  
HOPEFULLY IT WILL CONTINUE ON FOR AS LONG AS POSSIBLE.

¶ ROUND AND ROUND AND ROUND AND ROUND WE GO AGAIN ¶

>>Jack Perkins: MOVING TO SARASOTA PRESENTED A NEW ROLE FOR  
VINCE.

>> PEOPLE WOULD ALWAYS INTRODUCE, AND THIS IS YVONNE, VINCE  
CARMEN'S WIFE.

EVERYBODY KNEW THAT I WAS SOMEONE WORKING ON THE LAS VEGAS  
STRIP.

THEN WHEN WE MOVED TO SARASOTA, THINGS TURNED AROUND, "AND THIS  
IS YVONNE'S HUSBAND.

WHAT'S YOUR NAME? VINCE.

HE'S MARRIED TO YVONNE.

AND THAT KIND OF BECAME THE OTHER WAY AROUND BECAUSE SHE'S KNOWN  
IN THE CIRCUS WORLD, AND I WAS KNOWN IN THE MAGIC.

SO WE CHANGED COASTS.

WE CHANGED CROWD.

I GOT SECOND BANANA.

>>Jack Perkins: WHEN HE SAYS HE'S A MAGICIAN --

>> PEOPLE ARE SHOCKED.

IF YOU'RE IN LAS VEGAS, IT'S NORMAL.

BUT IN FLORIDA WHEN YOU SAY YOU'RE A MAGICIAN, IT'S ALWAYS LIKE,  
BUT WHAT DO YOU DO FOR A LIVING?

>>Jack Perkins: ERIKA, WHO ALSO PERFORMS ON THE RIVERVIEW HIGH  
SCHOOL DANCE TEAM, HAS HAD TO DO SOME EXPLAINING TO HER FRIENDS.

>> OH, YOUR DAD'S A MAGICIAN?

HOW MANY RABBITS DO YOU OWN?

I HAVE TO EXPLAIN TO THEM, NO, HE DOESN'T PULL RABBITS OUT OF  
HIS HAT.

HE DOESN'T DO BACKYARD BIRTHDAY PARTIES.

AND THEN THEY HAVE THE OTHER REACTION THAT EVERYONE THINKS IT'S  
REALLY COOL AND THEY COME TO MY HOUSE AND MY DAD SHOWS THEM  
MAGIC TRICKS AND THEY ARE ACTUALLY REALLY IMPRESSED.

>> SAY IT OVER AND OVER IN YOUR MIND.

>> AS WELL THEY SHOULD BE.

AND HOW MANY FATHERS OF A TEENAGER ARE WILLING TO SET THEIR  
WALLET ON FIRE?

>> WHOA!

ONE.

TWO.

THREE.

FOUR.

>> ON THE OTHER HAND, HOW MANY DADS CAN TURN A ONE DOLLAR BILL  
INTO A TWENTY?

NOW THAT IS MAGIC!

AS LONG AS THERE'S A CROWD WILLING TO BE ENTERTAINED, THE  
CARMENS WILL GLADLY SERVE UP THE BEST TRICKS IN TOWN.

>> THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

THANK YOU!

THANK YOU!

>> COMMUNITIES THAT THRIVE EMPLOY MANY MEANS TO BRING PEOPLE  
TOGETHER.

AS WE CLOSE THIS MONTH'S VOLUME OF "A GULF COAST JOURNAL," LET  
ME GIVE YOU ONE EXAMPLE OF HOW SARASOTA GATHERS FOLKS WITH  
NOTHING MORE THAN CHALK AND PAVEMENT.

REALTIME CAPTIONING BY AMERICAPTION, INC.

>> YOU CAN ORDER THIS OR ANY OTHER VOLUME OF "A GULF COAST  
JOURNAL" WITH JACK PERKINS ON HIGH QUALITY DVD FORMAT.

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