

crew of bowlegs

presents

1002 nites

or

strangers in  
paradise



June 12, 1971

Ft. Walton Beach High Auditorium



# pirate captain Billy Bowlegs

The Billy Bowlegs Festival has William Augustus Bowles, a notorious old boy, as its patron pirate. He arrived in what was to become Florida's Playground Area in 1778 when the Spanish, English and Americans were maneuvering for control of the Gulf shores and its shipping lanes. Believing himself destined to command instead of obeying, Captain Billy Bowlegs gathered a force of a "couple hundred plundering Indians, relics from the American Army and White Banditti," a rollicking piratical crew which grew to be the concern of all three of the power-hungry countries. Captain Bowlegs (Bowles) created his own throne and the three nations considered everything from murder to a general's commission to get him on the right side. Financed by loot from a Spanish ship and surrounded by a handful of Indians, Captain Billy invaded English society for support. He was rewarded with a flag of English and Indian colors mixed, a silver pipe, tomahawk, a Chain of Friendship and trade supplies, with which he formed the State of Muskogee. The Spanish enticed him to New Orleans and grabbed the head of the State of Muskogee. He was shipped out to Madrid and then to the Philippines, but he jumped ship and returned to his 'state' and greater deeds of piracy. He raided on the Gulf and on shore. His schooners flew his pirate flag, except when they switched to the British Flag to claim their 'salvaged' loot at international ports. But all good pirates must have an end, and Captain Bowlegs' came after he was seized when he was lured to peace talks in the presence of Spanish, American and English agents. The Spanish paid his disenchanting Indians a reward and took poor old Captain Bowlegs to Morro Castle, where he starved himself to death in 1803 rather than 'sink so low as to speak to the Cuban general.'



# the history of bowlegs' festival

Back in 1953, a ski show was sponsored by the Fort Walton Beach City Recreation Department to give the local residents and tourists something to enjoy over the Labor Day weekend. It was a crowd pleaser, but the City decided it was too large for them to handle so they asked the Jaycees, then in its first year as an organization, to take it over.

The event became so popular that the following year the Jaycees decided to follow a pirate theme and name it after the infamous pirate, Billy Bowlegs, whose base of operations was the area waters. Each successive year the growing popularity of the festival reflects a co-operative community spirit and many man hours and dollars contributed to the success of an idea.

The Festival finally grew to a week-long affair and was moved to "open" the beginning of the summer tourist season. The Greater Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce's Attractions Committee was asked to assume the responsibility of planning the events. Steady growth finally dictated an entirely separate Committee under the Chamber to operate the event. This active committee is the Bowleg's Festival Committee: Jorge Ramirez, Chairman; Kate Bagley, Dick Bixby, Dutch Van Buskirk, Dr. Hugh Hudson, Nell Hutchins, Claude Jenkins, Jim Kendrick, Lt. Bill Lee, Sam Lumpkin, Maurice McLaughlin, Ann O'Connor, Wilbur Powell, Pat Terrell, Gloria Vining, C. C. Widaman, Randall Stokes, Chairman, Attractions Committee; and Margaret Bragg, Executive Secretary; Iris Baughan, Executive Secretary, Chamber of Commerce.

## *A Krewe is born...*

Although the Krewe of Bowlegs in actuality is a fledging mystic order, under charter rules and regulations there is nothing occult in the minds of Miracle Strip residents and participants concerning its value as a lofty, social contribution and an invaluable publicity target.

The Krewe, currently active in its fifteenth year, is a direct and brilliantly promising multiple of the Billy Bowleg's Festival. The overwhelming acceptance and ensuing success of the early initial celebrations sparked vigorous local interest and resulted in some extremely gratifying publicity beyond its intended boundaries.

Cognisant of other Gulf Coast events such as Mardi Gras and its Krewe organizations, the Krewe of Bowlegs was conceived and born of a small group of area civic leaders. The Krewe's active membership consists of 160 and is governed by a President (the Captain Billy), Vice President and Board of Directors who meet at regular meetings to discuss policies, procedures and the general welfare of the group.

The Krewe is composed of prominent citizens and civic leaders whose business help form the foundation of the City and County's economical stabilization and are, therefore, invaluable as Festival supporters.

Visitors to and citizens of the area are annually in for many days of unprecedented fun and frolic during the celebration with the spotlight of pompous ceremony focused on the Krewe's participation. Hours of volunteered time and sizable sums of money are expended each year on colorful floats, impressive decorations and gaily colored costumes used by the Krewe during the Grand Torch-Light Parade and at the Coronation and Balls. The beautiful floats carrying out a "theme" which the masked Krewe ride allow the members to throw showers of souvenir trinkets and candies to the thousands lining the parade route.

The last evening of each Festival week a Coronation Ceremony discloses with the unmasking a new succeeding Captain Billy Bowlegs, his Queen, First Mate and the new Honor Guard. The Captain is selected by a secret committee and he in turn chooses his entire court.

The Krewe wishes you, one and all a very wonderful evening and ask that You be on board next year when they once again can be your host for the pageantry of the "Billy Bowlegs' Festival".



## *Pirates of The Blackhawk*

The ghostly ship set sail to stay  
Upon the sea in search of prey.  
With scarfaced men and flashing blades  
It scoured the sea with bloody raids.

The pirate chief who ruled this crew  
Was cunning, bold and brave  
And feared was he by all aboard  
From shipmate down to slave.

With the sighting of the Black Hawk  
The wenches were enraptured  
But just one glance at Billy's crew  
And Fort Walton Beach was captured.

When the battles were over  
And the merry-making done  
They surveyed all the treasure  
To see what was won.

Then off they would sail  
Their loot stashed in kegs  
And this is the legend  
Of the pirate, Bowlegs!

*Susan Johnson*

# 1970 Krewe of Bowlegs Court

CAPTAIN BILLY BOWLEG'S

Jim Kendrick

QUEEN

Lynne Mathews

FIRST MATE & WIFE

Jim Buchanan & Dot

HONOR GUARD & WIVES

C. Ledon Anchors & Annette  
Pete Ballas & Sandy  
Kenneth Boles & Sandy  
Sonny Gill & 'Neen'  
Dr. Cyrus Guinn & Carol  
Jim Hasson & Helen Jo  
Fred McLaughlin & Priscilla  
Bob O'Connor & Ann  
Walter Putnam & Geneva  
Randy Stokes & Kay

CHILDREN OF THE COURT

Sword Bearer

Paul Kendrick

Crown Bearer

Polly Tras

Attendants

Sissy Mathews, Judy Ricks,  
Rhona Thompson, Eve Boggess

Cabin Boys

David Buchanan & Brian Ricks

## *1970 Krewe Executive Board*

PRESIDENT

Jim Kendrick

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

Bob Morrison

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

G. V. Pardue

TREASURER

Chris Johnson

SECRETARY

Bob O'Connor

GENERAL BOARD

Bob Blizzard

Erwin Fleet

Charles Mathews

EX OFFICIO

Maurice McLaughlin

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Ann O'Connor

# program

Cap'n Billy and His Krewe sail the Seven Seas to engage his old enemies, "Gloom 'n' Glum". On one of his many adventures he visited the ancient lands of Arabia. Tonight, for his favorite Home Port, he recreates the "Extra" night in Old Bagdad during his Eastern Voyage.

Overture. . . . . Music From The Orient

## Scene I

-SULTANS THRONE ROOM-

Cap'n Billy and his retinue are entertained by-

-HAREM DANCING GIRLS-

Courtesy of Fort Walton Beach Ballet Association;  
Bernadette Clements, Director

Carol Harrison  
Sande Hall  
Theda Treadway  
Debbie Williams

Jenny Cox  
Gail Nall  
Linda Aradondo  
Meredith Anderson

-ROYAL MUSICIANS - CHOCTAWHATCHEE MADRIGALS-  
Mary Jones, Director

### PRESENTATION OF PRINCESSES

Patricia Lee Buchanan presented by Lester Buchanan

Alisa Catherine Cadenhead presented by Rhett Cadenhead

Joellen Carnathan presented by Hut Carnathan

Helen Maria D'Amore presented by Dr. Adanto D'Amore

Julie Ann Hatch presented by Judge William Frye

Ava Susan Powell presented by Judge Gillis Powell

Edith Ann Walker presented by Winston Walker

# Scene II

A ROYAL TREASURE

Aladdin's Ancient Lamp Grants All Commands and Wishes

HONOR GUARD OF 1971

FIRST MATE

ATTENDANTS-OF-THE COURT

QUEEN'S HOUDAH

Slaves - Courtesy of Ft. Walton Beach Athletic Club -  
Herb Bentz, Frank Barefield, Jeff Clark and  
Terry Sapp

CAPTAIN BILLY BOWLEGS XVII

MASTERS OF CEREMONIES - Zo Rowley and Dick Peterman

## credits

Script Director	Bernadette Clements
Music	Choctawhatchee High School Stage Band - Jimmy Jones, Director
Lights and Sound	V. C. Clements, Jr.
Costumes	Lois Marshall, Mary Stover, Lynne Mathews, Dot Buchanan, Jean Long and Florida Fabrics.
Stage Set	Bob Morrison, Jim Kendrick, and Bob Blizzard
Ushers	Fort Walton Beach High School A.F.J.R.O.T.C. Cadets and "Skydettes"
Royal Afghan Hounds	George's Poodle Parlor
Program Artwork	Mike Bates



# the society of bowlegs and society of queens

- |                                     |                          |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| I. Nathan Fleet                     | • Dian Lloat             |
| II. John Cox                        | • unknown "Captive"      |
| III. Roger Clary                    | • Miss Northwest Florida |
| IV. Thomas Brooks                   | • Bettye Williams        |
| V. Finley Duncan                    | • Alex Patton            |
| VI. Docie Bass                      | • Katherine Tringas      |
| VII. William Roberk                 | • Jean Long              |
| VIII. Hilary Stewart                | • Agnes Bass             |
| IX. Wilson Minger                   | • Carol Duncan           |
| X. Dr. H. C. White                  | • Ella Clary             |
| XI. Winston Walker                  | • 'Sug' Brown            |
| XII. Dr. Malcolm Crotzer            | • 'Boota' Walker         |
| XIII. H. French Brown, Jr.          | • Carolyn Crotzer        |
| XIV. Erwin Fleet                    | • 'Neen' Gill            |
| XV. Maurice M <sup>c</sup> Laughlin | • Mary Ellen Ricks       |



Coronation Guests are cordially invited to approach the new Captain Billy Bowlegs XVII and his Queen to extend congratulations following the ceremony and prior to the Coronation dance.







