

Airline to Transport Vacationers to Fort

Chalk to Share In Tourist Trade

By ANNE SMITH
Herald Staff Writer

KEY WEST — Chalk Airlines will go after its slice of the 1968 tourist trade in Key West as it reopens its twice daily flights to Fort Jefferson Friday.

The announcement came Wednesday from 56-year-old Dean Franklin who will pilot the inaugural flight at 9 a.m.

The amphibious flights, which completed successfully a two-month trial period last summer to the "Gibraltar of the Caribbean" now have some added benefits to the \$25 round-trip ticket.

Passengers will be chauffeured from the Chalk ticket terminal adjacent to the aquarium at Mallory Square to the take-off point at Key West International Airport.

"We're also working out a group plan arrangement to give children under 16 the trip for half fare," Franklin said.

The 30-minute flight in the 10 passenger Grumman Goose craft to Fort Jefferson, 68 miles west of here, will be piloted by a retired Air Force B-52 pilot, John Lapman.

Probably one of the most dramatic moments during the trip is when passengers look down on the 50-foot high brick fort which was once the largest fortress in the western hemisphere.

A park service boat stands by during the at-sea touchdown and waits to whisk passengers to the drawbridge which leads to the fort's interior.

Chalk Airlines, before coming to Key West, limited its amphibious flights from Miami to Bimini. But the possibility of another tourist attraction generally accessible to tourists made them take a look at Fort Jefferson.

Construction on the fort, once called "the Key to the Gulf of Mexico" was started in 1846 and continued off and on for 30 years. But it was never completed and there was never a shot fired from inside its walls.

After 1961 federal troops moved in and turned it into a civil prison. Dr. Samuel Mudd, implicated in the murder of President Abraham Lincoln, was imprisoned there four years.

Today it is a national monument.

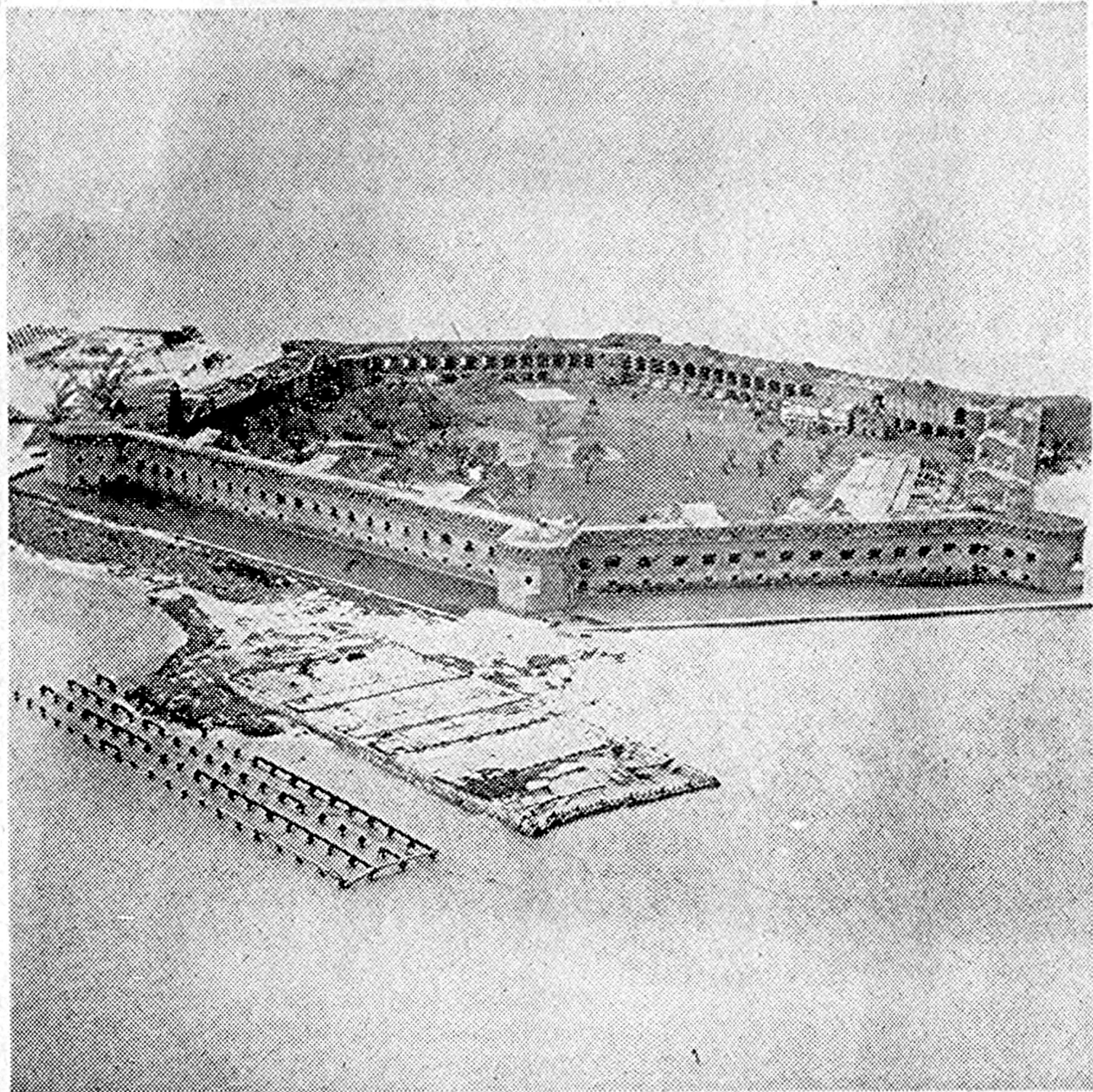
This year the airline terminal will rent snorkel equipment to tourists who wish to use the newly completely underwater trail at Fort Jefferson.

Although passengers are usually limited to a two-hour period at the fort before take-off time, Franklin said this year tourists can work out arrangements to return on a later flight.

Also in the works is a plan to radio weather information to a Miami radio station as a courtesy to mainland fishermen who might want to come to the Keys.

Another arrangement with charter boat captains will enable fishermen to dock their boats at the fort and have passengers flown back and forth to the fishing area.

A permanent take-off ramp is being constructed by the city at the end of Simonton St., Franklin said. But lease arrangements have not been worked out.



Historic Fort Jefferson Lies 68 Miles From Key West
... Chalk Airlines will make the trip in 30 minutes

New Twist Added to CES Case

Herald Bureau

KEY WEST — Mayor Kermit Lewin said Wednesday that a city electric system engineering study had reported that CES placed a diesel generating unit on Rep. Bernie C. Papy Jr.'s property at Cudjoe Key even before the property was deeded to the Key West utility board.

CES Manager Merville Rosam said Wednesday that the diesel unit was placed on a six acre plot of Cudjoe acreage on the basis of a verbal agreement between the CES and Papy.

The system's 1967 report from R. W. Beck and Associates, of Orlando, states that the diesel substation was "installed" by August 1966, eight months before the first of two deeds for the entire parcel of land were filed.

Lewin, preparing a report of the controversial \$66,000 land sale for four inquiring Republican senators from Fort Lauderdale, said Rosam

A Real Winner

Her Christmas Was Extra Fine

By FLORENCE RABON
Herald Correspondent

KEY WEST — Ten-year-old Sabrina Caine is a youngster who's convinced happiness is a Christmas stocking stuffed with toys.

Her three younger sisters agree. So does Charles Moody, owner of Moody's By-Rite Store on Stock Island, and Sonny Hinde, disc jockey of radio station WKWF's featured "Country Time," broadcast.

Sabrina, who recently lost her left eye in an accidental shooting, won the eight-foot-long glamorous red and white trimmed stocking on a give-away gimmick on the popular Saturday night show.

The gimmick was to give-away a turkey to persons whose telephone numbers were chosen at random, if they answered the ring with "Country Time," instead of the customary "hello."

While visiting a neighbor with her mother, Sabrina, hearing the phone ring, answered it quick as a flash with the magic words,

person answering the phone was a youngster, he offered to trade the turkey for the toy-loaded stocking. That's how Sabrina found out that happiness is a Christmas stocking.

Hinde said he learned something about that subject, too when he delivered the stocking to Sabrina's trailer home. "I'm going to hide it until Christmas morning," she said. "I'll share my dolls, tea set, games and toys with my younger sisters," she said, after hugging and kissing him.

Moody also saw Christmas in a new light. "Sabrina came by my store to thank me," he said, "and when I saw her face glowing with happiness I felt like I had done something really worthwhile, this Christmas."

Yes, happiness was a Christmas stocking for a little girl, who in spite of her personal misfortune, shared her joy and thankfulness with others.