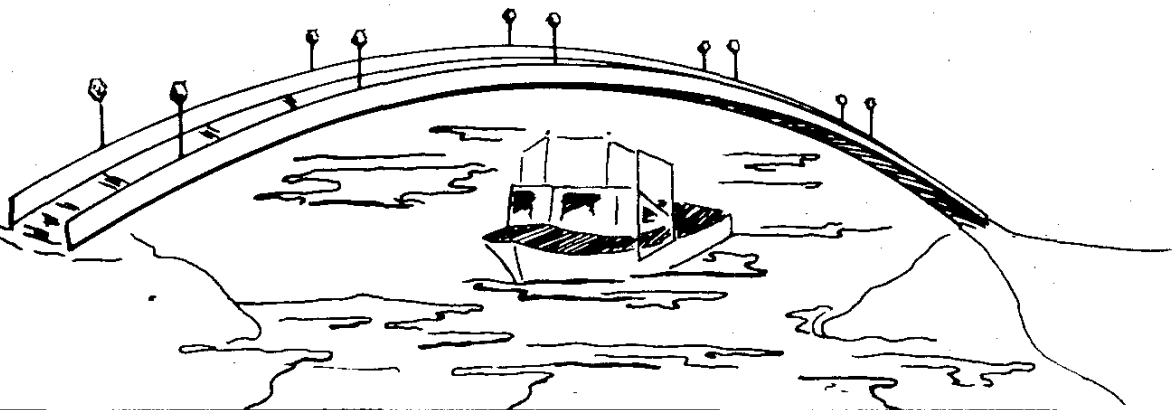


The Eden Isles Community Forum



VOL. 1 NO. 2

P.O. Box 4044 Slidell, Louisiana 70459

NOVEMBER 1989



BACK TO THE COMMUNITY FORUM

Dear Neighbor:

Thank you for your enthusiastic response to our first effort at a community forum. To those who sent comments and letters, a special note of appreciation for your voicing your concerns and providing your input. It is obvious that the issue of security is foremost on the minds of Eden Isles residents. We have printed some of your letters today, but space limitations make it necessary to hold others until the next issue.

Please remember, when you write us, indicate that it's O.K. to publish your letter and SIGN your name in full. Also, a reminder... regardless of their worth or viewpoint, we will not print any comments that are sent in anonymously.

We will continue to offer our readers a cross section of community views for as long as we hear from you, and for as long as we have people who are willing and able to support this effort. Funding to date has come from concerned residents, but it is on a month-to-month basis. We hope others will like what they see, and help maintain this newsletter.

Our Address Is:
P.O. Box 4044
Slidell, La. 70459



Happy Thanksgiving

VIEWPOINT

SECURITY

Based on a somewhat small percentage of returns, here are the results of the VIEWPOINT survey to date:

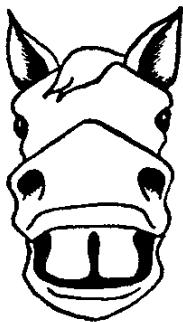
	YES	NO
1. Would you be willing to support the Security Service under the leadership of an independent committee?	77%	
2. Do you want 24 hour guard service?	75%	
3. Do you want a guard at both gates?	86%	
4. Would you pay \$20 a month for two guards?	71%	

Many people, although they preferred having a guard at both gates, did not think 24 guard service was necessary and suggested a "Neighborhood Watch" program. I am told that an attempt was made to implement this several years ago, but due to low interest and participation, Eden Isles was unable to qualify.

It is interesting to note that despite the fact that Vinson Guard Service is advocating roving patrol as the best use of the money currently available, our feedback is almost unanimous that people prefer a presence at the guard house, and are very unhappy with the amount of time the entrance is unmanned. Perhaps if more attention was paid to what the subscribers want, participation in security service would pick up again. Think about it, folks...

Keep those ideas and letters coming---
P.O. Box 4044
Slidell, LA 70459

We will continue to accept VIEWPOINT answers for as long as you send them in, and will update these results accordingly.



"FROM THE HORSE'S MOUTH"

EDEN ISLES COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

At its regular monthly meeting on November 6, 1989, Commissioners voted to call an election for purposes of submitting the Plan and Tax to voters. The required ordinance sets the date for this election on Saturday, April 7, 1990.

by Marilyn Meier

CLARIFICATION

There appears to be some confusion in the minds of residents as a result of question #1 which appeared on the "Viewpoint" page of the first edition of "Forum." The question was:

"Would you be willing to support the security service under the leadership of an independent committee?"

The words, "Independent Committee" were meant to refer specifically to persons who voluntarily pay for security, but may not choose to be members of the Eden Isles Homeowners Association. The "Independent Committee" would operate Independent of the E.I.H.A. Board of Directors, and that board would cease having arbitrary decision-making power over security services. Decision-making would rest in the hands of the people who pay for security service (the people who pay for security have historically far outnumbered the people who are members of the E.I.H.A. Additionally, not all members of the E.I.H.A. pay for security.)

Additionally, those who fund security service would meet and select their own committee to administer it. Hopefully, they would be aggressive and innovative in pursuit of others to join the service, and flexible in embracing a wider range of options, if necessary. The "Independent Committee" would be responsive to and welcome feedback from those who pay for the service.

While we realize it is impossible to achieve a consensus on any issue, we think security is important enough to residents to try a new approach (or shall we say an OLD one???).....

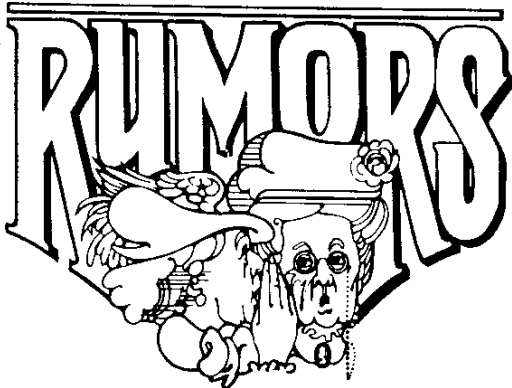


TAXPAYER ALERT

Now that the voters have approved a 15 mill increase for Fire Protection District #1, which will DOUBLE the department's budget, it is up to you who will pay this additional tax for the next ten (10) years to see that YOUR money is spent prudently and with full accountability to the public.

*** The art of taxation consists in so plucking the goose as to obtain the largest amount of feathers with the least possible amount of hissing.


Attributed to J.B. Colbert,
1619-1693, Finance Minister
to Louis XVI.



RUMOR OF THE MONTH

1. Drainage District #2, despite previous announcements that 1988 would be last year Eden Isles residents would be billed, will be sending you a bill for 1989.

2. No, it is NOT true that the police jury is going to put tolls on the new Eden Isles Boulevard "Expressway."



Urgent Reminder

You pay to support these districts...have you ever gone to a meeting?

Drainage District #2: Meets on 3rd Wednesday of each month at Slidell/Chambers, 2055 Second St. 3:30 p.m.

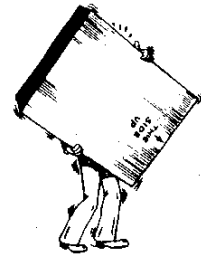
Fire District #1: Meets on second Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. at Champagne Fire Station, Bouscaren & Sgt. Alfred, Slidell.

Mosquito District #2: Meets on third Wednesday of every month at 7:00 p.m., 2800 Terrace Ave., Slidell, covers Wards 8 & 9. All 5 members appointed by Police Jury.

Lighting District #7: No regular meetings/no commissioners. Requests for street lights made thru Milton Gibson. John Blair, Dept. of Public Works oversees work and budget.

Police Jury: Meets every third Thursday, at 4:00 p.m. (November 16, 1989), 428 E. Boston St., Covington

Your Juror: Milton Gibson - 641-6971



WELCOME TO OUR WORLD...

There has been a great deal of "moving in" activity in the streets which run off of Windward Passage /Constellation, and we want to take this opportunity to welcome the following families to Eden Isles:

Anzalone, Becker, Boos, Butler Broussard, Horst, Leach, Palazco Perret, Thompson, White.
We know they will enjoy their new homes, because Eden Isles is a great place to live! Welcome, all!

Look What's Up!

WATER SERVICE

The breakdown in water service which occurred on Tuesday, Nov. 14th was due to a break in the main line. All areas of Eden Isles were affected.

Lakeside Utilities is hopeful that the water supply will lose its odor and "taste" in the very near future; within a week or so of when you read this. By then, the water tower tank will be back in use & the chlorination process will be instituted.

LAKESIDE UTILITIES

Lakeside utilities has been granted a rate increase by the Public Service Commission. For private residences, the rates will be as follows:

Per	
Month	
Water Usage - 4,000 gallons or less	\$8.00
Over 4,000 gallons - per thousand	1.10
Sewer	8.50

According to Commissioner Schwegmann's office, this represents an increase overall of 28%.

NEW LINES TO FOLLOW

How do you like the new lines on Eden Isles Blvd? Some people were annoyed at first but you tend to get used to it after a while. Don't forget the legalities of solid yellow and white lines. Solid yellow lines do not cross; solid white lines define the right side of the road; do not cross unless you are going to park or pull in to a driveway. Some people are used to forming 2 lanes before approaching the stop signs, however, the solid white lines now define when it is legal to do so. Remember, the person in front of you may want to turn right and is waiting not to cross the solid white line until it is legal to do so. There is not alot of room to form 2 lanes at the stop signs so be careful to signal your turn before changing lanes.

SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT

Bob Meier

It has been erroneously reported that I submitted my name as a candidate for the Board of the Eden Isles Homeowners Association, and then "withdrew" it. This is NOT ACCURATE. Here are the facts:

The President of the Homeowners Association telephoned me, saying they were having difficulty soliciting residents to run for vacancies on the Board. He expressed the opinion that it would be a worthwhile effort on my part. I felt it would be futile because I would not have enough voter support due to my opposition to major issues advocated by the Homeowners Association, i.e. incorporation and the Community Services District-- and the fact that so many people who felt as I did were no longer voting members of the Association. He assured me that only 4 persons would be nominated to fill 4 vacancies, so that the opportunity for input from outside the "establishment" would be assured.

Under these circumstances, I agreed to submit my name but emphatically instructed the nominating committee chairperson that in the event more than 4 candidates were found, my name was to be deleted. This was done when additional nominees agreed to run. Since the tendering of my name was always conditional, there was no actual or real "withdrawal."

When the spokesperson for the (quote) "only legal representative body of the community" (unquote) says in print that "I will help you move out of Eden Isles if you don't agree with his vision of services, we are embarrassed for the organization he represents."

This community will be united only when distortions of facts and erroneous mis-statements designed to blunt criticism (which cannot be countered in any other manner) give way to truth and integrity; when attempts to intimidate and harass individuals seeking to shed light on community concerns cease; and

When a thoughtful and mature leadership of the self-appointed and erroneously designated (quote) "only legal representative body of this community" (unquote) gives more than lip service to the revolutionary idea of embracing and examining, rather than driving away and denigrating, opposing views and new ideas.





GOOD PEOPLE DOING GOOD THINGS

POLICE JURY DISTRICT 13

by JULIE TOLIS

We're happy to tell you about MORE "good people doing good things" --- folks who are helping to take care of the neutral ground near their homes:

Carina Circle: Larry Godwin, Bobby Fredericks, Dr. William Thornton, A.J. Forstalls
 Constellation: Nestor Abusco
 Constellation & Windward Passage: Maurice Haydel
 Darcy Lane: Alvin La Rose, Jack Swindell
 Eden Isles Blvd.: Owen Jones, Dianne Johnson
 Moonraker Drive: Stan Kenny and ??? (unable to identify)
 Ondine: Buddy Black
 Windward Passage & Jubilee: Cyndy & t Pittman

We have been unable to discover the name of the person (s) who have been helping with the ground on Moonraker near Eden Isles Blvd., so if you know, please provide us with the name (s).

Oops! Sorry! Apologies to Pat Murphy whose name was omitted last month in the "Thank You" to those who worked to get vacant lots cut. We understand that Mr. Murphy contributed greatly to this effort. Mr. Gene Bellisario, District 13 zoning commissioner, informed us on October 16 that the parish has sent out bills to the lot owners for these cuttings and is awaiting results. The bad news is that this program may fall to the wayside, as the parish is looking to cut expenses, and this program does not have "high priority."

And lets not forget the ladies of the Eden Isles Garden Club who maintain the grounds in and around the guard house at the Highway 11 entrance.

Initiated by a group of representatives from various Homeowners' Associations and encouraged and supported by then Police Juror, Gary Rinck, four issues of a Police Jury District 13 Newsletter were published and circulated by the volunteers in early 1989.

This effort is now being revived, and here are our goals: to be an information base-a place to display activities, meetings, and area gatherings; a place for your complaints, comments, and feedback on area problems; to bring you up dates and informative stories on road projects, drainage problems, zoning decisions, lot clearing progress,, etc.; reports and assessments on Police Jury meetings and on the direction and decisions of our Police Juror. Because we are the largest of the Districts, it has become difficult to know the special needs and problems of all areas, as well as the over-all effects of trends and decisions that are made.

We will offer the Newsletter to all residents including Eden Isles, Quail Ridge, French Branch, Cross Gates, and more.

Now is NOT the time to take a nap-- Things are happening that need our attention! We are gearing up toward a January printing.

We need 4 or 5 Eden Islanders to offer input and help with distribution. Residency is the only requirements-not skill, charm, money or good looks! (However, anyone possessing any or all of these attributes, call immediately---). We look forward to having Eden Isles as an active participant in the District 13 Newsletter. Please call Julie Tolis, acting editor: 641-9215 or 643-8931

SWAP OR SELL

22 Foot Sailboat - Call 641-4507

Oak Firewood: Delivered and stacked racks and kindling, too! 649-5572 or 649-7402

Lot #462 60 x 120 on Beautiful Rampage Loop for sale. Ask for Ruby - Call 643-1563

Boys bedroom set - double bed, frame, chest of drawers and night stand \$150 649-4584.

1/2 interest in a 1981 Chaparel, 170 HP, \$2500 Call 649-4584

Thank You

Send your ads for the Swap or Sell by the 15th of the month to The Eden Isles Community Forum, P.O. Box 4044, Slidell, LA. 70459
 Donation: \$2.00 per ad.

Letters

We have read the Eden Isles Community Forum. We think it is great. Keep up the good work.

Mrs. Lee C. Johnson

"A DISSERTATION ON TRUTH"

Hooray for the founders of the Eden Isles Community Forum!!! If I may borrow an advertising slogan from a well-known automobile dealer, you just might be "bridging the gap."

Nothing weakens or demoralizes a community more than contentious bickering over seemingly unresolvable issues. If public opinion is based upon misconceptions, mistruths or unfounded rumors, harmonious co-existence gives way to dissension. A strong community is an educated community, one which fosters a healthy interplay of ideas rather than forced-upon ideas of others. It is a community in which there is easy accessibility to facts and one in which a person's right to a registered opinion can be respected.

As a young person, I remember, vividly, an inscription over the school's auditorium stage. "Know ye the truth and the truth shall set ye free." Wise people, those charter school board members who were responsible for attempting to carve that saying in the minds of young students. Certainly, I pondered over the meaning of truth during those formative years. Webster defines truth as being the "quality of property of keeping close to the fact and avoiding distortion or misrepresentation; the body of real things, events and facts; actuality; being that which is the case rather than what is manifest or assumed". How much of our thought is given to the importance of learning the truth of matters/ How many times have we accepted the opinion of others as truth/ Truth seeking can be an arduous task. First, we gain an impression by what we hear, see or read. Good impressions come from a true, factual accounting of something; false impressions come from a lack of truth. Opinions are seeded from these impressions, good or bad.

If Eden Isles Community Forum continues with its committed principles of accuracy and fairness and acts as a vehicle of truth and opinion for the people of Eden Isles, then it will be a purpose well-served.

Peggy Menard

I moved to Eden Isles in March of 1988 and what impressed me upon arriving here after residing in Mandeville for seventeen years is how strong the Homeowners Association here is and what a good job they are doing. I personally do not have the time to devote to meetings and or work around the subdivision and would gladly pay to have those things taken care of for me. Since most of today's women work outside the home, I think that it is of a great importance that a homeowner is not required to even be bothered with the hum drum things like grass cutting and greenspace maintenance.

As a realtor who has sold over \$1,000,000 this past summer, I can tell you that a rigid set fee, well kept entry, and a "good" twenty-four hour guard service will do more to enhance property values than anything else! If you do not believe me, just look at the appreciation in Beau Chene over the last eighteen years. Consistency and control are the keys to maintaining property values and solid growth-even in a "down" market. Eden Isles is falling apart in property values-as evidenced by the absolute mess of some of the homes on Eden Isles Blvd and the parking on vacant lots and medians. If by control I must give up some of the freedoms, then that is the price.

Dianne Romano

IT'S A MATTER OF VALUE

by Ed Keller

We have always supported the guard service. Equally, I've been concerned about it's effectiveness and the potential liability. I'd rather the function be performed by some governmental unit.

Unfortunately, the new District has presented cost factors that will help insure that the proposal will fail. I voted for most of them because I thought they'd come up with a minimum proposal that could be expanded on in time, if needed. I'd like to ask for a new approach.

At work I'm involved with a group of facilities in downtown New Orleans. Three years ago, the guard cost and effectiveness had become a serious concern. In a meeting, someone suggested off duty policemen. The group had a dozen reasons why it wouldn't work. For two and a half years we've averaged one off duty policeman for three private security guards. Costs are down and we haven't lost a thing; the police are responsive and they bring things to our attention. It appears that thieves also network.

We would be better off with an off duty policeman or staggered shifts averaging twelve hours per day than two twenty four hour per day private guards.

RESPONSES TO VIEWPOINT

I am not at all happy with the service provided by Vinson. Security is not at the gate enough and is not checking cars. A tax supported Sheriff should be on roving patrol and private security at the gate.
Catherine Navarre

I am willing to pay to have guards at the gates, not on patrol the majority of time that is presently going on. It appears that since moving here four months ago, my family is learning that many people that live in Eden Isles must believe they are "special" people. They and their friends are "above" being stopped at the gate for only a few seconds to courteously speak to the guard. The crime deterrent is when the guard is monitoring the gate entrances - not while on patrol. I am not interested in paying if the "new leadership" decides patrol is what they want.

Howard Hofferma, Jr.

I think that we should have guard service from 6:00 A.M. through 10:00 P.M. inclusive. During the hours of 10:00 P.M. and 6:00 A.M. most of the residents are home and guard service is not needed during stated time. Also when a guard is at the gate, he or she should be on duty checking vehicles and not walking around inside the guard house. Many times I get waved through from inside the guard house. There is no way they can check vehicle from inside the guard house.

Albert W. Raimer

I moved into my house in June, I sat down and wrote to the guard service and told them to send a bill because I wanted to help pay for the guard. I have never heard a word from the people. If I knew where to send the \$10, I would!

R. Albrecht

(Editor's note: Mr. Albrecht got his first bill on October 13, 1989 for \$60.)

The present committee does an excellent job. They need more funds. A lot of time and talent went into the preparation of the Forum. I would like to see all efforts united for a solution to our problems.

Remie Kliebert

We support reasonable efforts to maintain and improve Eden Isles but have strong reservations with respect to the plan proposed by the taxing district. Granted, something needs to be done. However, another layer of government with attendant overheads and inevitable "empire building" does not appeal to us and this makes the entire EDEN ISLES COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT suspect. Please note that our problem is with the concept and not the capable and well-meaning people who have brought about the present situation. Hopefully, the seriousness of the current situation will move the passive minority (which generally includes ourselves) to work toward a better solution.

One possibility is to amend the legislation to provide for only the basic services - security and maintenance, and to require that a very high percentage of the tax revenues are dedicated to said services. We would vote for such a measure and even take a turn at volunteer service if it became necessary in order to keep the overhead under control. We most certainly will oppose the current plan for the reasons detailed below.

1. Too much of the revenues are required for overhead.

2. The DISTRICT has potential for exercising too much power.

- Enforcement of CC&R's - who decides which, when, and at what cost.

Letting of contracts for services, insurance, etc. (the current commissioners may be scrupulously honest and responsive to the wishes of the community, but what about the future?)

- Potential for "empire building".

3. Once vested with taxing and spending powers,

the District will be very difficult to

undo, even if it proves to be flawed and unpopular.

An alternative to the DISTRICT plan is improvement of the current volunteer funded plan such that more of our residents will support it. Some people are born to be freeloaders but it seems that many just do not feel that the current security is worth the cost. Others may feel that current administration is not responsible to their wishes. A return to personal contacts rather than computerized billings (very often in error) might help. Block meetings to discuss priorities in use of the limited funds could mitigate concerns about not being heard.

One hard fact we must face - the only funding available for a long time will be voluntary! It is also quite clear that there will not be adequate funds for effective manning of two gates. Thus, once the new interchange is opened, even the deterrent security we now enjoy will be greatly diminished.

It is suggested that some form of electronic surveillance to supplement personnel manning may be the only way to keep costs low enough that volunteer funding will work. Some sort of Neighborhood Watch program might also be considered to supplement paid security forces.

PAINT



PRESSURE CLEANING

W. A. STAPLETON

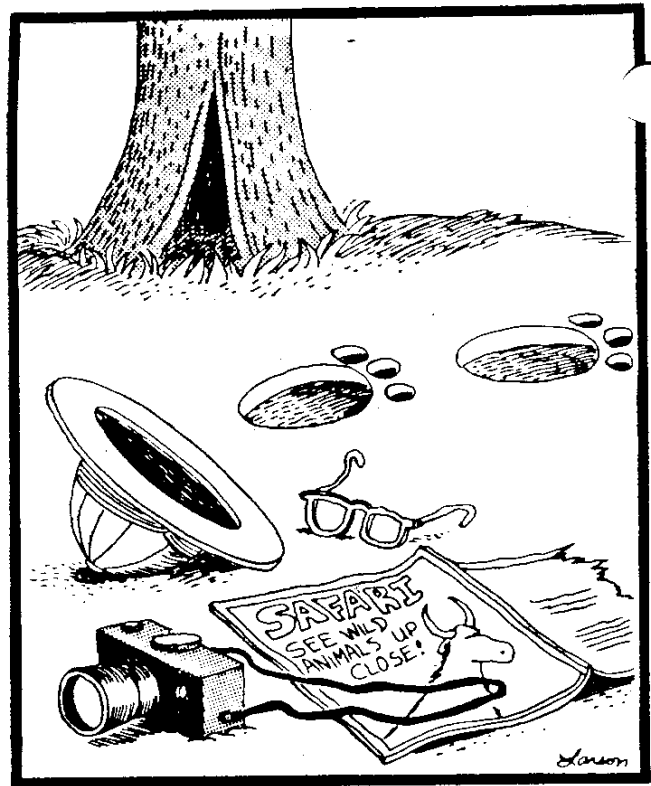
646-0536

PAINTING - INTERIOR AND EXTERIOR

CLECO

CLECO's 3 year project to replace underground power cables and conduit in Eden Isles is well on it's way. Mr. C. Lopez, who is monitoring the project for CLECO, reports that trenching is three-quarters completed on Moonraker, and totally completed on Eden Isles Boulevard. CLECO's commitment to repair and replace the landscaping on the boulevard may be completed by the time you read this, and everyone is positively ecstatic about the great way it looks! Work in the Windward Passage/Constellation area is ongoing, and CLECO has notified the contractor to take pains to go around shrubbery, etc. so as to do as little damage as possible. The goal is to finish 150-200 feet per day and where possible, they will put the ground cover back on the same day it is removed. Once trenching is completed, the new pipe will be installed. It is anticipated that the "messy" stage should be finished by next summer. At that time, CLECO will also remove their transformer boxes from the lot on the corner of Windward Passage and Charles Court. (The five other boxes on that corner belong to the telephone company.)

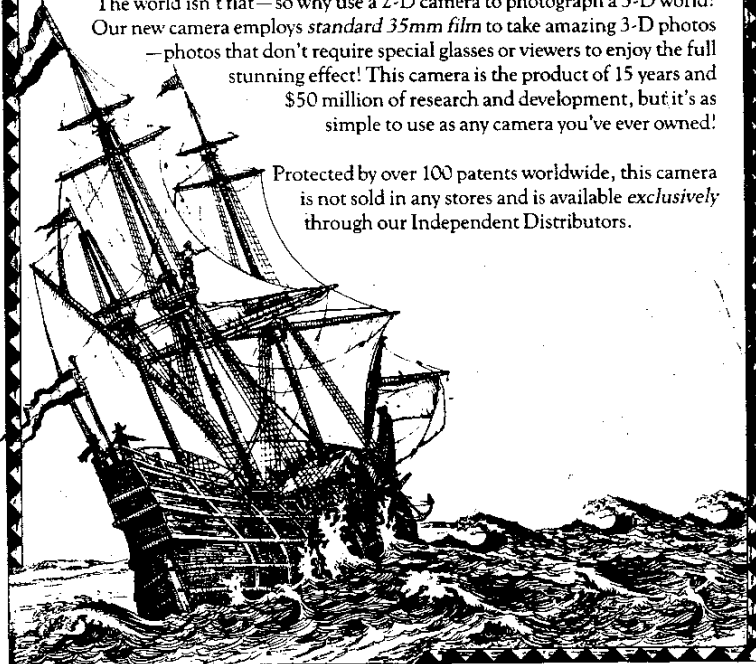
To those of you who have CLECO equipment on your property, please note that Mr. Lopez informed us that CLECO does not object to your planting around their boxes, so long as they have access to the front of the box.



COLUMBUS WAS RIGHT!

The world isn't flat — so why use a 2-D camera to photograph a 3-D world? Our new camera employs *standard 35mm film* to take amazing 3-D photos — photos that don't require special glasses or viewers to enjoy the full stunning effect! This camera is the product of 15 years and \$50 million of research and development, but it's as simple to use as any camera you've ever owned!

Protected by over 100 patents worldwide, this camera is not sold in any stores and is available *exclusively* through our Independent Distributors.



If you have never seen these new 3-D Photos call me, and I will be happy to show you some of the shots we took. The photos out by the dock are so real that you have to try to touch the posts with your finger. The prints cost 89 cents each and you get 18 3-D pictures from a standard 36 exposure roll of film.

*For More
Information
Contact:*

LINDA TRIAY

649-4584