

The Last Ferry Boat at Cip's Place

Many year's ago the islands of Sanibel and Captiva stood on their own surrounded by the beautiful waters of the Gulf of Mexico. Travelers who knew of the islands could only access them by boat and the travelers who found a place to call home enjoyed the placid and rural home town feeling without bridges connecting them to the outside world.

In the early 1900's the islands began attracting visitors and families. The population began to grow and having access to the mainland intensified as goods and products needed to make their way onto the islands. Ferry boats named *Best* (1928-63), *Islander I* (1939), *Islander II* (1947), *Yankee Clipper* (1953)



Enjoy food, drinks and good times at the Ferry Boat bar at Cip's Place on Sanibel

and *Rebel* (1957), began crossing the waters from Punta Rassa to Sanibel daily. The ferries were also a popular

way to visit the secluded beaches for shelling, fishing and to see nature's wildlife on Sanibel and Captiva.

As the population of Sanibel and Captiva increased the practicality to cross the water on a ferry boat decreased. In 1963 the last ferry boat traveled across the water as cars began to cross the bridges of the Sanibel Causeway.

The history of the ferry boats are alive and well at Cip's Place Island Restaurant on Sanibel. A replica of the last ferry boat was built inside the restaurant and serves as a bar and gathering place for visitors and locals of Sanibel and Captiva. Enjoy spirited drinks named after ferries such as the "Islander" Iced Tea and The "Best" Bloody Mary.

Cip's Place is located at 2055 Periwinkle Way, Sanibel, in the Forever Green Shopping Center. A video of the last ferry boat ride is also available to watch on their web site www.cipsplace.com. 🌐

A promotional graphic for Cip's Place Island Restaurant. It features the restaurant's logo, which includes a silhouette of a person and the text "FOOD" and "Jean Le Boeuf". Below the logo, it says "Island Restaurant" and "Enjoy Indoor & Outdoor Dining in a casual and friendly atmosphere." The background is a photograph of a dining area with a view of a tropical landscape. The text "Lunch & Dinner" is followed by the hours: "Lunch: 11 a.m.-4 p.m.", "Dinner: 4 p.m.-9:30 p.m.", and "Happy Hour Daily: 4-6 p.m.". It also states "Reservations Accepted" and provides the phone number "239-472-0223", the address "2055 Periwinkle Way Sanibel, FL 33957", and the website "www.CipsPlace.com". A small note at the bottom says "Located in the Forever Green Shopping Center next to Eileen Fisher".