

Once under Key Bridge the water got much rougher.
The crew and the boat all started to suffer.
Although it was a short distance to travel up the coast,
That hour of beating challenged us the most.
As soon as we could we entered the channel at Boot Key,
And asked the bridge tender, "Will you open for me?"
His voice said, "Hello, Captain" and "Have you been here before?"
His next words were directions to moorings and more!
The City Marina is a big place full of boats.
By calling on the radio they assigned us one of their floats.
We took "M-1" for our mooring and a shorter dinghy ride.
We paid for a week and hooked up – now securely tied.
Calm on the mooring ball at sixteen forty five
We were now seasoned cruisers and were glad to arrive!

Friday morning in Boot Key Harbor was quiet and serene,
But it wouldn't stay that way – here's what I mean.
A foul smell twice drifted past Eileen's sensitive nose.
We discovered it emanated from a dripping head hose!
It seems that the port side lean caused by Atlantic wave action
Caused pressure buildup and a wee leak, just a fraction.
Now, smells in a boat no one can long abide,
So we went right to work on the problem inside.
We later discovered, and yes, we were shocked,
The breather hose through-hull was completely blocked!
The marina folks were fine and they didn't even pout.
They abliged us quite quickly with a holding tank pump out.
Marathon City beckoned, and we answered her call.
We walked along the highway and didn't mind the heat at all.
Visited West Marine after eating a nice lunch.
There are places to visit here, but you must walk a bunch.

Saturday was supposed to be the calmest day of the week,
So we went a-snorkeling to give the reef a peek.
Well, it seems that the waves had not been told.
They should have been calm, but they rocked and rolled!
We anchored in sand near Sombrero Reef light,
but the way we began to feel we knew wasn't right.
Our breakfast was too heavy, we knew from the start.
Soon after we set the anchor we decided to depart.
We weren't the only sailboat to haul anchor and run.
As we glanced back astern there came another one.