

AfroPanamanian Newsletter



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Canal Zone Buildings

Anecdotes

Controversy

Poetry

LOS AMIGOS :

Por la superación de la Etnia Negra (Incorporated to SEAPAT EVENTOS, S.A.)

A group of friends, in Panama, decided to join forces to work on the rescue of values, customs and cultural traditions bequeathed to us through our ancestors. These have been displaced by others, thus losing a large part of our Black Heritage. We are evaluating all these forgotten traditions and values and highlighting figures as examples for future generations.

“For Black history to be done right, we must do it ourselves.” Edward Gaskin

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The editor is not responsible for the opinions expressed by our collaborators

Cover Page: The stamp which appears on the cover was proposed to the Canal Zone Government by Mr. George W. Westerman (r.i.p.) accepted and issued in 1951 as a 10 cent postage stamp, used for years. Permission for its continuous use was given by his grandnephew, Cecil Reynolds.

Editorial *ADVICE FOR LIFE*

PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISSI
Lord, make me an instrument of Your
peace.

Where there is hatred, let me sow love;

where there is injury, pardon;

where there is doubt, faith;

where there is despair, hope;

where there is darkness, light;

and where there is sadness, joy.

O, Divine Master,

grant that I may not so much seek

to be consoled as to console;

to be understood as to understand;

to be loved as to love;

for it is in giving that we receive;

it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;

and it is in dying that we are born to

eternal life.

Kindness is the language the blind can see and the deaf can hear.

If you would like to be removed from our mailing list, please type REMOVE and reply to afropanamaniannewsletter@gmail.com

September feedback.

Thanks, Inés. Very valuable historical information about our people's role in the scouting movement in Panama and also about Mueller's building.

Keep up the good work.

M

The historic Müller building photo brought back memories: I bought my music books and Royal Reader from Stone's Bookstore at a very young age, and in later years, caught the bus there to attend classes at the University of Panama. Müller's was a popular meeting place (who didn't know it?) and also a continuous beehive of activity. Even though no longer there, we older ones still use it as a point of reference. It was nice taking this short stroll down memory lane.

Marion C. Martin, MD

A FRIEND

Unknown

Around the corner I have a friend,
In this great city that has no end,

Yet the days go by and weeks rush on,
And before I know it, a year is gone.

And I never see my old friend's face,
For life is a swift and terrible race,

He knows I like him just as well,
As in the days when I rang his bell.

And he rang mine but we were younger then,
And now we are busy, tired men.

Tired of playing a foolish game,
Tired of trying to make a name.

"Tomorrow" I say! "I will call on Jim,
Just to show that I'm thinking of him.

But tomorrow comes and tomorrow goes,
And distance between us grows and grows.

Around the corner, yet miles away,
"Here's a telegram sir," "Jim died today."

And that's what we get and deserve in the
end.

Around the corner, a vanished friend.

Beginning October 7, visitors to the **Consular Section of the United States Embassy** will be permitted to drive to the Consular entrance to drop off customers requiring visa, federal benefits or U.S. citizen services. Following the drop off, drivers may park their vehicles in the parking area outside the U.S. Embassy main gate. A limited number of parking places will be available in the lot across the street from the Consular entrance. Please follow traffic signs and instructions from local guards.

An up-hill fight for Recognition

Earl Newland's efforts to unite the Black Community in socio-economic projects led him to try for many years by forming a body: the Asociación Socio-Económica Afro-Panameña (ASEAP).

ASEAP was established to provide the Black ethnic group in the Republic of Panama the mechanism to work collectively toward attaining full recognition as enjoyed by other ethnic groups in the country.

George Westerman (R.I.P.), Prof. Charles Barton (R.I.P.), Armando Fortune (R.I.P.), Alberto Barrow, Gerardo Maloney, Melvin Brown, George Priestly (R.I.P.), Leroy Gittens (R.I.P.), Alberto Smith Fernandez (R.I.P.), Woodrow Bryan (R.I.P.), Bruce Codrington, Arturo Branch and Ethelbert Mapp also worked toward getting the Black Community recognized as it should be in this country, but, Claral Richards & Elias Colley with the assistance of a Deputy from Chiriqui: Osman Gomez obtained through the Panameñista government, a law which decrees an official day for Blacks, and which is celebrated, almost year round.

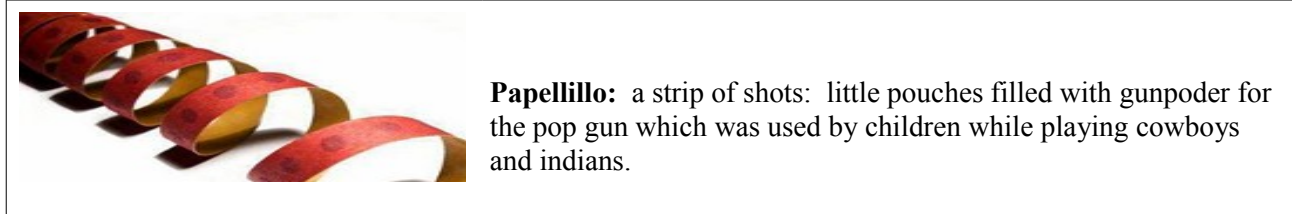
OLDEN DAYS SAYINGS:

To start a story: **“once upon a time, monkey chew tobacco & spit white lyme”**
“as the saying goes”, “eat, drink and be merry”
“Cut & swallow”, “2 pon 1 is murder”

In church we sing **Stand up, stand up for Jesus**. At the ball game we say **Sit down, sit down for Christ's sake**.

As children, when it rained, we looked through the window and sang: **“Rain Rain come, Ah give you quaty bread”**. Then we learned from the gringos: **“rain, rain go away, come again another day”**.

DISAPPEARING THINGS:



Papellillo: a strip of shots: little pouches filled with gunpoder for the pop gun which was used by children while playing cowboys and indians.

When was the last time you had to put water in your car's radiator? Well here is some **radiator humor**.

This one Ines took from Reader's Digest a long time ago. It is dear to my heart because of my father's 1929 Model A Ford.

Here goes:

The radiator of my old car had to be filled with water every morning to prevent it from overheating as I drove to work.

I found that my 12-cup electric percolator was just the right size for the job, and early each morning I raised the hood of my car and filled the radiator.

One morning, I spotted a sleepy-looking man peering out of the window of the apartment house adjoining mine. He opened his window and started to speak, but I interrupted him.

“It's all right”, I explained. “I don't need any help. I do this every morning”.

“I know,” he replied. “I've been watching you. But, one thing bothers me. Does the radiator like its coffee black, or, with cream and sugar?”

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In the '40s and '50s, driving to the interior of Panama was not as modern as it is today. Our churches and social clubs organized large outings to interior towns: San Carlos, Sta. Clara, Nata, Anton, Penonome.

Having our car (1929 Model “A” Ford), the family and invited guests set out to reach the destined site.

Along the way there were stops to purchase fruit and trinkets. Not food, we had our coconut & rice and chicken, pork or duck, and potato salad. The few eating places along the way were not to our “standards”. Besides, at the site, we played games, but, the best part of any outing was food time.

There were no rest room facilities. Water for the radiator was kept in tanks, caught from the rain.

There were always mishaps along the way, but we got there.



At one time we had a front tire explode. The car spun around twice and went to rest against the edge of a precipice.

At another time the radiator cap blew off and went to **“thy kingdom come”**, thank God for the windshield: the boiling water hit it, saving Mamma & Daddy from getting scorched. But the interesting part is that there was no gas station close by to pour water into the radiator.

Solution: Everyone had to pee in a peanut can to get water for the radiator.

Anti-oxidant foods:

Eating habits are very important to prevent all cancers. It is said by scientists, that our bodies contain cancer cells which are activated by preservatives. Does anyone know exactly what causes cancer?

Not really, but what we do know is that some foods can help to prevent it.

Most cancers are not hereditary, lifestyle factors, such as dietary habits, have a profound influence on their development. The best diet for preventing or fighting cancer is a predominantly plant-based diet that includes a variety of vegetables, fruits, and whole grains.

A plant-based diet means avoiding canned foods and eating mostly fresh foods that come from plants: vegetables, fruits, nuts, grains, and beans. Abundant consumption of foods of plant origin are linked to a decreased risk of developing various types of cancer. Plants have less fat, more fiber, and more cancer-fighting nutrients. These three elements work together to support your immune system and help your body fight off cancer.

Antioxidants are chemicals that block the activity of other chemicals known as free radicals. Free radicals have the potential to cause damage to cells, causing conditions that could lead to cancer. Antioxidants are chemicals that interact with and neutralize free radicals thus preventing them from causing damage. The body makes some of the antioxidants it uses to neutralize free radicals. Others can only be obtained from outside, they include beta-carotene, lycopene, vitamins A, B6, B9, C and E. which are contained in yellow and green vegetables, carrots, apples, organ meats, bananas, sweet potatoes, beets, cabbage, eggs, citrus fruits, fish, wheat germ, liver and unrefined vegetable oils.

Free radicals are formed naturally in the body. In addition, some environmental toxins could contain high levels of free radicals or could stimulate the body's cells to produce more free radicals.

With this knowledge, we can adjust our diet to this regimen helping our bodies to prevent cancer.



SCOUTING series (continued) (*snippets from here and there*) by Cecil V. Reynolds

1957 Clarence McAllister founded the Veteran Scout Association in Colon with a membership of former International Scout Leaders, British Boy Scout leaders and other scout leaders, they registered in the World Scout Bureau and were not recognized until 1968 with the name of the Sidney Young Chapter of Veteran Scouts (AIDSEGA).

1960 Calton Francis founded troop No. 12 Wesley at the Methodist Church and also worked on Law No. 80 that started the Scout Association of Panama.

1973 CECIL V. REYNOLDS working as advisor to the Explorer unit, president of the Explorer committee and assistant commissioner of the International Boy Scouts Explorer Unit, organized the first Explorer unit that included girls in the Republic of Panama.

1995 Vicente Martin founded the Knights Of Saint George Chapter for the Veteran Scouts (AIDSEGA). Some of the leaders involved were: Victor Tom De Leon, E. Richards and others. He also founded the B.P. Fraternity in Panama and Nicaragua of Veteran Scouts Aug. 22, 2003.

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Vicente Martin

Biographers:

Vicente Martin

Calton Francis

John Cameron

Clyde H. Smith

David Herbert De Leon

Cecil V. Reynolds S. Curriculum

Interviews By Earl Newland

Clarence Mcallister,

Ines D. Mckenzie,

Calton Francis

Wikipedia

Lord Robert Cecil Stephenson Smyth Baden

Powell Of Gilwell

International Boy Scouts.

From 1958 - 1963 – **Cecil V. Reynolds** has been working up the ranks of scouting, beginning at Troop No. 2 Pan American Institute High School, at the age of 14 becoming the youngest Assistant Scout Master in charge of a troop, with the supervision of the Parents Committee.

1963 - First Aid Merit Badge Instructor.

1963 - 1969 - Troop leader, Boy Scouts Association of Panama.

1968 - 1969 - Organized the first group of Rover Scouts at Troop No. 2, Pan-American Institute High School.

Summer 1969 - Summer camp staff member, Boy Scouts of America, Sacramento, Ca. Pioneering and First Aid Merit Badge instructor.

1973 - 1975 Advisor for the Explorer Units of the "International Boy Scouts", Assist. Commissioner of the Explorers and President of the Explorers Committee.

Organized the first coed Explorer Units in the country. 1986 - 1989 - *Group Master, Boy Scout Association, Panama.

1986 - 1989: Vice President of the Parents Committee of the "Las Margaritas" Girls Scouts Group at the Pan American Institute.

March '89 - Feb. '91 - *District Scout Commissioner. Supervised over 300 persons.

1991- 2003 AIDSEGA -IFOFSGAG - International Fellowship of Former Scouts and guides. Working with youngsters and their families using basic scout principles.

May 1991 - "**Orden del Aguila Dorada**", awarded by the Panama Boy Scouts in recognition, and for contribution, in an exceptional and notorious form, by the National Scout Chief.

October 2002 - **Jose Mercedes Villamil Condecoration**, Awarded by the Boy Scouts Association of Panama for support given at the XIX Central American Camporee.

2003 to Present: Member of International Fraternity of Former Scouts and Guides.

Raymond George G., the eldest of seven children, born on August 24, 1913 to West Indian parents: Lola Jane George and Robert E. George grew up in the town of La Boca, Canal Zone.

He assumed the responsibility of helping to support the family, beginning his working career with the Navy and continuing with Schools, Police, Dredging and Fire Divisions of the Panama Canal Company. He retired in 1979 after 47 years of service with the U.S. Government on the Canal Zone.

Beginning in the 1940's Raymond George G. became involved with the local scouting movement, which led to his appointment as Scout Executive for the International Boy Scouts of the Canal Zone, serving as Scout Executive for Three decades, until 1979.

In 1980, he became one of the founding members of the Paraiso-Pedro Miguel Lions Club – remaining very active in that body until the end. During his tenure with the Lions Club, he served as President, and received a number of honors including the Melvin Jones Fellow Award, one of Lions International's highest awards, for outstanding humanitarian service.

Anyone who knew this father of Three (Raymond, Cheryl and Wanda) well enough, if asked to describe him would say that the late Raymond George was a family man, a caring human being whose charity was extensive and he never hesitated in extending a helping hand to anyone in need. A true Scout.

Clyde Harcourt Smith (Reds), born in the Province of Colon, Republic of Panama, January 19, 1912 of Barbadian parents: Samuel William Smith and Miriam L. Smith.

His formal education was obtained as education for Blacks was acquired before the 1940's. At private schools and by correspondence. But he was always studying something: Bookkeeping, Architecture, Admeasurer, Construction, and, last but not least, he graduated in 1997-99 as an Interior Decoratir (at age 86).

He outstood in Scouting, but what will always remain is the Evening Hymn made for Troop No, 2 to celebrate their 66th anniversary in 1988 at which he received a plaque recording his public contributions, dedication to scouting and its spirit.

He began in Scouting via Troop No. 5 of the Methodist Church in 1923 under Master Scout Latty and as Rover Leader, Herman Morris. In 1951 he was called to take over the Scout and Rover troops at IPA (Malecon) for Mr. Ricardo Lay, who had to leave, After the school was transferred to Las Sabanas he continued and became the first Commissioner of District 8-D which was comprised of Carrasquilla, Pueblo Nuevo, Vista Hermosa, Dos Palmeras, Sabanas, Rio Abajo, Parque Lefevre, Monte Oscuro, Chanis y Villa Lorena until 1964.

Reds liked to sing and tell stories. He pulled several Construction Days' songs and games from his memory trunk for a presentation for the Society of Friends of the West Indian Museum, which we had the opportunity to share with him and which we reproduce in this volume, besides the games and rounds mentioned in Volume I.

Clyde lived an exemplary life, projecting the Scout spirit wherever he went, being an example to many young persons who are now professionals.

The Boy's Brigade began in Scotland before the Boys Scouts. (Excerpted from Wikipedia)

The Boys' Brigade is a Christian organisation for boys aged between 6 and 18 years and is the oldest uniformed youth organisation in the world, being founded in Glasgow, UK in **1883** by Sir William Alexander Smith. **It was the world's first uniformed youth group**, formed two decades before the Boy Scouts. Groups were soon formed throughout the English speaking world. The Christain focus of the Brigade, however, limits its spread even among religiously oriented Christain families. The Brigade has never appealed to Cathloic and many fundamentalist Christian denominations.

Scouting after its founding became a much larger youth movement. The Boys' Brigade has, however, continued to function as a small, but not unimportant youth group. One early innovation was to hold a camp--at the time, public opinion was aghast at the idea of Boys camping out in the "wilds"!

The annual display at the Royal Albert Hall in 1903 was of special significance - from it can be traced the very start of the Boy Scout movement! General Baden-Powell, back from his exploits in Mafeking, agreed to preside over the forthcoming display and began a sincere friendship with the founder.

“Brother Bertie” Albert McCarthy headed a Brigade group in Pueblo Nuevo, Panamá

The DEBONAIRS

By Antonio (Tony) Reina



The DEBONAIRS was a group of friends that used to live in the Rio Abajo-Parque Lefevre-Calidonia area. Some may remember when we had night of fun in Rio and Parque days. Those wonderful days.

Parents were our friends. The group met on the garbage house in 4th Street Rio Abajo (outside Diablo Town).

14 members of different churches began at Cynthia Archer's home in 11 ½ St., at Stanley Lindo's home in 15 St. Rio and at the Bowie's on the hill.

There was a counterpart girl's singing group directed by Mrs. Small, THE DEBUTANTS: Carla & Luisa Raveneau, Lois Nicholson, Hazel Hall, Leila Small & Elena Piggot.

The two groups produced activities together: "night of fun", plays, at the Rio Theater. Did carolling for Christmas. Grouped together to paint each other's homes. Collected friends to party. Prepared wedding receptions.

Several have passed on:

Standing: Ricardo (Lelé) Morales and Monchi.

Seated: Felipe Brosard, Carlos Simmonds(RIP), Carlos (Chenquele) Gregory (RIP), Jorge (George) Bowie (RIP), Luis (Lucho) White(RIP), Stanley (Stanly) Lindo, Clemente (Pempe) Ara and Antonio (Tony) Reina.

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