



# The St. Croix Avis

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125TH YEAR

SAINT CROIX U. S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

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No. 90

TEN CENTS

## Webster Sees Anguilla within Commonwealth

(AP) — Ronald Webster, the deposed self-styled president of Anguilla, said Tuesday that Anguilla will welcome assistance from its Caribbean neighbors for a solution of its problems.

Webster also predicted in an airport interview that British troops who landed in Anguilla on March 19 will be leaving soon, possibly a few days.

Asked if he thought British troops would be out by the end of the year, Webster said, "oh yes, maybe in a matter of

a few days."

He said this was an "indication . . . from the British." At another point in the interview, Webster said the troops "will be leaving there soon."

Webster was accompanied at the San Juan airport by Jeremiah Gumbs of Perth Am boy, New Jersey, who has been active in the Anguillan cause. Webster said he was en route to Washington to deliver a lecture at Howard University.

Asked about London's hold-

ing a conference of Caribbean governments to consider a solution to Anguilla's problems, Webster said "we are appealing to them to assist us."

"What happens in Anguilla should be a Caribbean problem . . . has nothing to do with London," he said.

Webster said he does not think Anguilla will be an independent republic, but said it should be "independent within the British Commonwealth."

## V.I. Divers To Host Scuba Champ Contest

(AP) — The Virgin Islands Diving Council has been given the bid to host the Underwater Society of America's International Scuba (self contained underwater breathing apparatus) championship during the month of August.

The local council took third place in last year's championships in California. In 1966 and 1967, the local divers took first places.

This year, with the championships being held in the Islands competitors will be housed at the Morning Star Beach Hotel. The competition itself will take place in waters surrounding the island.

In order to help raise money for the event, the Underwater Sports Club of St. Thomas will stage its second annual "Monte Carlo Night" Saturday May 10.

The Monte Carlo Night features games of chance including Blackjack, Roulette, Craps Darts and Wheels of Fortune. Instead of chips, scrips will be

used and this can be purchased at the Mountain Top Hotel on the night of the event.

The script money is not redeemable for cash, but can be used to bid on merchandise that will be auctioned off at the end of the evening.

John Burrows, chairman of the event, said that with many of the items that are to be given as door prizes and to be auctioned off "we appreciate the great support of the merchants" who are donating the items.

Last year, the club had its first event of this type and over four hundred people were there to pay and play.

## ST. CROIX ORCHID SOCIETY WINS PRIZES

Twenty-three members of the St. Croix Orchid Society flew to St. Thomas on Sunday last to participate and view "Orchid Fantasy," the third annual event to be held at the Bank of Nova Scotia.

The St. Croix exhibit, "Mexican Fantasy" won second prize; a total of 18 plants were exhibited of which nine won ribbons. In individual exhibits, blue ribbons were awarded to Ray and Nadine Wilson, Dr. Richard Bond, Bruce and Mary Miller, and Jennie Lawaetz. Second prizes went to Ray and Nadine Wilson and Florence Arnold. A third prize was awarded to Mary Millar.

Card table arrangements were created by Mr. and Mrs. Alan Neal, James Sleznick, Jr., and Mrs. Mary Millar. Dr. Richard Bond assisted with classification.

Saturday evening, the staging committee dined at the Contant Mill, now operated by Laslow. On Sunday, the St. Croix members were entertained at "Caanan," home of Mr. and Mrs. McConnell, for cocktails and later enjoyed luncheon at the home of Mr. R. Norris.

This coming Sunday, April 27, the regular meeting will be held at Cruzan Gardens at 4 P.M. Dr. Robert Millar of San Juan will be

## Acting Governor To Address Lions

Acting Governor Cyril E. King will address the regular monthly meeting of the Lions Club of St. Thomas Today, it has been announced by Government House. The meeting will be held at Yacht Haven at 12.15 P.M.

the principal speaker on the topic "Orchids for Beginners." All interested hobbyists are cordially invited.

## King Vetoes Bill To Create Court Comm

(AP) — The Acting Governor of the Virgin Islands, Cyril E. King has vetoed a bill passed last month that would have created the post of Commissioner of the District Court.

As passed, the bill would have allowed the Judge of the District Court to appoint an Attorney who could take and approve bonds, administer oaths, grant writs and restraining orders of a temporary nature and grant bail. All of these would be subject to review by the judge of the District Court.

King said in his letter to the Senate, that he feels that it would be unfair to offer such an appointment to an Attorney which as he interprets it, "has no tenure and causing an appointee to serve at the pleasure of the judge."

King also said that he feels that such a commissioner should not engage in private practice and should receive "an attractive salary."

He also referred to a section of the bill which would give a commissioner the authority to issue writs of arrest in civil actions. He determines them to be objectionable under the terms of the organic act which provides that "no person shall be imprisoned or shall suffer

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## Wife Too Ill To Answer Charges

ST. VINCENT (AP) — Ivy Joshua wife of opposition leader E. T. Joshua, failed to appear in Magistrate's court yesterday to answer charges of conspiring to set fire to a Public Works building last Feb. 9.

Joshua said his wife was too ill to attend the preliminary hearing. "She is in bed in a nervous and shocked state," he said.

A second woman who is charged in the case, Everil Fernandez also reported she was ill. Four men are also charged in the case.

The preliminary hearing, which already had been postponed three times, was rescheduled for April 28.

## Acting Governor, Aides Visit St. Croix

(AP) — Acting Governor Cyril E. King flew to St. Croix yesterday for an inspection tour of the island. With him were his special assistant, Edward Moran and his Secretary, Leona Bryant.

The Acting Governor has made regular inspection trips on all three islands since he became Acting Governor last February.

## JURY SENTENCES SIRHAN TO DEATH

(AP) — The jury that convicted Sirhan Sirhan of killing Robert Kennedy has sentenced him to death in the gas chamber

Sirhan showed no emotion as the jury of seven men and women in Los Angeles was polled. The jury had deliberated for about 12 hours before coming up with the death penalty. The only other alternative was life imprisonment, which had been requested by the Defense Attorneys.

Sirhan chewed gum as the verdict was read and shifted his eyes to the jury box. But he made no outward sign of any feelings. His mother was not on hand yesterday. She waited by a radio at her home in Pasadena to hear Sirhan's fate. The formal verdict will be given in three weeks. At that time, Justice Herbert Walker has the option to commute the death sentence to life imprisonment. He has done so only once before in 19 murder cases.

## Eye Transplant Patient Improving

The patient who underwent the first complete eye transplant, 54-year-old John Madden of Conroe, Texas, is reported in excellent condition.

Dr. Conrad Moore, who performed the operation, says it is still too early to tell how successful the transplant will be. Madden received the eye from a Houston man who died of a brain tumor 24-hours before the operation.

Dr. Moore said the operation is simple, but the problem is to keep the optic nerve cells alive. However, even if the eye does not "take," Madden will have normal-looking eyes. The eye that was removed had been severely damaged. Rejection problems, an important factor in heart transplant operations, are not expected to be as crucial in Madden's case.

## "The Great White Hope" Wins Award

"The Great White Hope" was named best play and its star, James Earl Brown, best actor at Sunday night's presentation of the 1969 Tony Awards in New York. Julie Harris won the award as best dramatic actress for her role in "Forty Carats." Angela Lansbury was named best actress in a musical for "Dear World," and Jerry Orbach was tapped for best actor in a musical for "Promises, Promises."

The writer of The Great White Hope, Howard Sackler, and its producer, Herman Levin, also won Tonys in their respective fields.

The "Best Musical" award went to "1776," a musical based on the early history of this nation.

