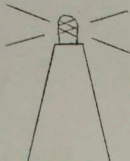


January 27th 1968



THE BEACON

An Independent Anguillian News-Sheet
No 18. Published Weekly. Editor. Atlin Harrigan. Price 10 cents.

EDITORIAL

The BEACON calls upon the Provisional Government of Anguilla, Messrs Ronald Webster, Hugo Rey, Wallace Rey, Campbell Fleming, John Hodge, John Rogers and Collins Hodge to hold an election without delay, and also to increase the elected members of the Council from five to seven.

The Reason for this is that a New Era is beginning in the history of Anguilla, and the Council should have a new mandate to deal with a new situation. The existing Council has done a good job of work to bring us to our present position, and we are grateful to them. The problems that are now arising concerning the development and the whole future of Anguilla are such, that we need to enlarge the basis of our Council, and to include the very best of the talent available. By the end of the interim period we have got to convince H.M.G. that we have made a first class job of running our island, because the final decision for our future rests with them. We have also to convince the outside world as a whole, that our Government really represents the will of the people, and has been freely and democratically elected. Every effort will be made by those who are hostile to us to find any flaws in the election of our council, and they will also make what capital they can from any malcontents and half-hearted supporters of the Government within the island. We therefore think that elections should be held immediately.

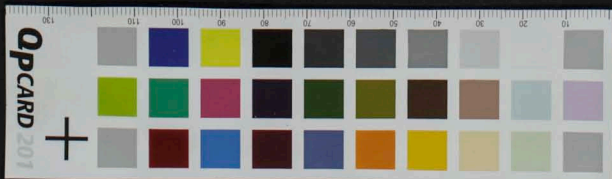
The conduct of the election. The BEACON suggests that a new method of electing be adopted, similar, we believe to that used at St Martin. On Election Day each voter on going to the polling booth will be given his voting paper, which will consist of a list of names of all the Candidates who have duly been put forward for the whole island. He will then put a cross against the names of three candidates only, who he wishes to serve. When the Polls close the Returning Officer will count how many votes each candidate has received, and the seven with the highest marks will be declared elected. It is up to the public before nomination day to see that suitable candidates are duly proposed and seconded. There would of course be a refundable deposit to deter frivolous candidates. After election the New Council would nominate a further two members. Thus we would get a larger council, elected on the broadest possible basis. There would be no need to divide the island on a party basis; no need of acrimonious political meetings, but just let the best men win.

The Date of the Election. This should be as soon as reasonably possible. We urge that the date should be on Tuesday February 27th. The reasons for this are that this day is an historic one in Anguillian history, NO STATEHOOD DAY. On this day Statehood was imposed upon us; it is very fitting that the alternative to Statehood which is Independent Self Government should be constitutionally inaugurated on that day also. There is just time to prepare for these elections in the weeks that lie ahead, indeed longer than we were given before the last elections.

The BEACON considers that the holding of elections on the day suggested is a very urgent matter indeed, and would ask that the Council discuss the matter at their next meeting next Tuesday. We are sure we have the support of the large majority of Anguillians in this matter, and we are also sure that when the Council consult with their constituents and they vote in Council as representing those constituents, they will agree to the advisability of this proposal. We hope to announce in the next issue of the BEACON that the Council has agreed to this and will officially give the necessary notice.

In this way the matter can be easily settled constitutionally and in harmony. The Editor would welcome signed letters or petitions from the Anguillian Public as soon as possible, showing their support for this move. Should the Council not give the necessary mandate to hold these elections, according to our Provisional Constitution a referendum can be held on the matter, if they are in doubt of the will of the people, or a petition can be drawn up signed by at least 20% of the electorate demanding such elections. Anguillians. The eyes of H.M.G. and the world are upon us. Let us be united in our demand for speedy elections and be ready to take pride in the New Council that will be elected.

SUSPECTED ARSON. During the early hours of Sunday morning Jan 21st, Mr Paul Randall's plane, grounded at Anguilla Air-port was set on fire. Evidence found on the scene by a Federal Aviation Agency Investigator from U.S.A. shows that arson indeed occurred. A torch was found made of wood, with bits of charred cloth bound round it by wire. The evidence points to the conclusion that someone made an opening on the right wing of the aircraft, or opened the gasoline duct in such a way that gasoline was allowed to flow on to the ground. The torch was then thrown on to the gasoline and the plane caught fire. Further investigation of the cloth and the wooden torch itself may provide a further clue. The culprit, has made Anguilla suffer for this deed, and has brought the burden and the shame of this crime to our shores.



ARRIVALS IN ANGUILLA. At 10 in the morning of Wednesday Jan; 24th, instead of making their routine daily report to the police station at Basseterre, St Kitts, Four Anguillans decided that for a change they would report at the police station at the Valley, in Anguilla. So Messrs Todville and Michael Harrigan, Churchill Smith and Lemuel Philip; presented themselves before an amazed Sargt Ryan. They had taken a boat from St Kitts the night before, and came across the channel in very rough weather, and were all the more happy to set foot on solid land again in Anguilla, and enjoy the calm after the terror in St Kitts. Acquitted of this charge, they had been arrested again on a charge of stealing police ammunition in Anguilla on May 30th. They were each granted bail for \$3000, and had to report to the police daily. Lemuel Philip who had been held by the St Kitt's Government since early June, and was not (as far as we know) charged with any offence nor allowed to have legal advice, says he was tortured by the police who tried to make him sign a written statement about the incidents of June 10th. It was rumoured also that he was to have been the crown's star witness in the great Conspiracy Trials, and it was because of his continued refusal to testify, that the case against the remaining seven men was dropped. Subsequently Philip was charged with being in possession of illegal firearms, and he was also granted bail. He now has marks on his body to show that he was beaten up by Mr Bradshaw's thugs. All the boys are anxious to start work, and to work hard to repay those who bailed them out.

We are sure that even the St Kitt's Government, when they have got over the first grief of parting, will realize that they have been relieved of guests who would have caused them increasing embarrassment. As we stated in our issue of Jan 13th, it is now possible to discuss matters with St Kitts.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES Owners and Drivers of Vehicles are reminded that the period for licensing vehicles expires on Feb:15th. Also any Vehicle which has been licensed without a 3rd party insurance must have a valid policy shown to the police by Jan 30th.

There is a book in the Court-House entitled "The Next Twenty Years" It is about the development in Bermuda, an island not unlike ours. It should be of great interest to us. This book may not be removed from the Courthouse.

EXTRACTS FROM COUNCIL MINUTES. We refer our readers to an article in the last issue, when we voiced our hope to publish minutes of the Council, and were greatly looking forward to the opportunity that all might have of discovering what the Council does. We give the information as supplied by Mr Campbell Fleming of the meeting on Jan 23rd.

- AGENDA. 1 A request to build an hotel at the Road, Sandy Ground.
2. A request for a guest house at Sandy Point.
3 A request for Technicians to come to Anguilla.

THANKS. I would like to thank the Doctor and Staff of the Cottage Hospital for the kindness shown to me during my time of illness. James Richardson Island Harbour.

ADVERTISEMENTS. I will pay \$2 each for any undamaged stamp overprinted "Independent Anguilla". Your overseas friends can return the envelope bearing the stamps you posted to them. -B Orchard 8. Morris Place Glasgow Scotland (Editor 'No comment')

For Sale. One boat 20ft long, with 10hp Motor. See O'Farrel Hughes. Island Harbour.

VISITOR. Mr Pearson Phillips, reporter from London Daily Mail, having had many adventures first in getting permission from Antigua to visit Barbuda, and then sailing there by sloop, finally arrived minus his luggage at Anguilla. He says that the Barbudans are seething under an occupation force of twenty-five Antiguan policemen. The Warden hardly dares to step outside his house. "If the Anguillans got what they wanted by force, perhaps we should try the same method" some of the Barbudans are saying.

Mr Phillips noted that, compared to the Anguillans, they are few in number, ill organized, and up against a much cleverer opposition.

MORE FOR THE ALPHABET

R is for Ray, there is Wallace and Hugo. What! Two from one family! One should go. Who go?
S is the Salisbury that came to our shores, to quell a rebellion, but left with applause.
T's Tony Lee, the Queen's Representative: His actual position is still very tentative.
U's U.S.A. with their dollars and brain; sending Gossage and Fisher and Khor for our gain
V's Vanterpool. Ed and Morris are such: They teach at East End; but do they know dutch?

The Autobiography of a PIGEON PEA

