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THE BEACON

An Independent Anguillian News-sheet.

Published Weekly. Editor Atlin Harrigan

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EDITORIAL. In years to come, a student of the history of Anguilla will be able to identify various mile stones on Anguilla's path from St Kitts to a recognised independence. The first of these was the issue of special Anguillian Stamps, and their recognition by the world; the second, the Nationalisation of Oil and Gasoline; the third, the coming of the Bank of America. Each of these achievements was a break out from a stranglehold that the Government in St Kitts had obtained over us; over our mail; our oil; and our money. Each of these achievements has left Anguilla in a far more healthy economic condition than ever before.

The next three milestones should be, 1. The obtaining of a Judiciary, independent of the Government and of undisputed legality. 2. The implementation of the scheme whereby Anguilla receives a grant in her own right from the Overseas Development Corporation, 3. The receiving directly from Her Majesty's Government Anguilla's share in the block grant made to St Kitts Nevis & Anguilla.

The matter of the Judiciary should be the immediate major concern of the Government. We hope that they have already a bulky file of correspondence with the High Court in St Lucia on this matter, requesting them to appoint a magistrate for Anguilla. The present court, presided over by a Justice of the Peace, was appointed by the Anguillian Government, and has done much useful work in punishing and restraining petty crime, but it has no more and no less legality than the body which appointed it, and which itself (pending recognition) is only there because it is the will of the people. Until we have a proper judiciary, the Government can do no legal business, nor transfer land, nor can a proper inquest be held. The matter has been brought to a head by the presence of a man in the police cells, committed for trial on a charge of murder. He has been in the cells for two months, and his case is no nearer being heard than it was on January 1st.

We can well imagine what is happening behind the scenes. Anguilla has no doubt applied for the appointment of a magistrate, but such an appointment must have been circumvented or held up by Mr. Bradshaw, who is the Premier of St Kitts. He understandably is loath to let the gap between St Kitts and Anguilla grow wider, by giving Anguilla any recognition or approval of its "rebellious condition".

Meanwhile Winston Browne is beginning his third month in the prison cell. Let justice be done.

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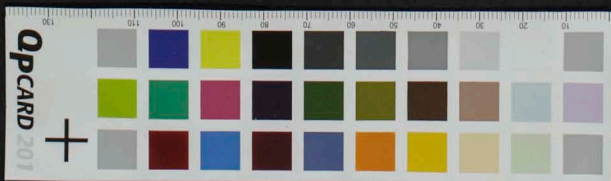
What is happening to our Council Members? How many more pieces of bad legislation will be passed, Can not any of them think before they make a move? It should be impossible for all the members to make the same mistake: surely some of them can see the danger of certain bits of legislation? If this is so, someone is trying to put the Chief Executive into a position where he can be exposed to open criticism. Every one is looking to this man for leadership; and he is looking to his fellow council members for ideas and help.

It is hoped that the Chief Executive will not delay to set up an Advisory Board, as he promised to do at the famous meeting in Burrows Park on February 4th. This might eliminate the danger of being pushed over the brink by persons, who think that they know the ropes, and playing round with the future of the island and its inhabitants. There is still the need of Council Meetings held in public. There is still the need to separate the Civil Service from politics; there is still the need for officials and politicians to show good examples

We have pointed out already, that no legislation should be finalised at any one meeting of the Council. The people should know what is afoot, and when it will be passed. This would save time, and labour on legislation, instead of finding out too late that it will not work. Thus the Council would have the opportunity to test the reactions of the people, before its final passage. We also wish to make it clear that we are not ruling out the privilege of the Council of Anguilla to make laws when they see it best for the people.

CORRESPONDENCE Sir, After playing an active part in our achievement, for some time I have just been an onlooker. As you know, we gave way to the Council, which I personally put my trust in, led by our energetic leader Ronald Webster..... I join all Anguillians in showing our appreciation to Mr Haskins for his letter dated Feb 24th. I do hope that the council will digest and work towards Mr Haskins' advice, where we hope to enter into a prosperous future. If we continue to ignore sound advice, we may all be left out in the cold. Alfred Webster, Mount Fortune

WANTED. The gift of one second-hand photograph frame size 10" x 8" for framing a document entitled "Summons to Defendant, issued by Magistrates Court, Anguilla on February 21st 1968. Any offers to St Mary's Rectory, Anguilla



THE NATIONAL MID-ATLANTIC BANK PURCHASED BY THE BANK OF AMERICA

The National Mid-Atlantic bank of Basseterre, St Kitts has been purchased by the Bank of America, the world's largest commercial banking institution. Negotiations were completed this week for the acquisition of this Bank, which will become part of the California-based Bank's world-wide banking organization. The announcement of the change of ownership was made jointly by Mr A H Brawner, Bank of America Vice President, and Mr Marcel Coyeneche, Managing Director of the Mid-Atlantic Bank. Speaking on behalf of the new Owner, Mr Brawner commented that the bank will emphasise expansion and development of local economy in its financial transactions. "Although we will extend financing to the export-import activities so necessary to the economy of the islands, we expect to make a major contribution toward developing their agricultural, industrial, and commercial potential," said Mr Brawner.

The purchased bank with branches at Basseterre, and Sandy Point in St Kitts, and in Anguilla has assets of EC\$2,350,000. Full responsibility for the bank's deposits and liabilities will be assumed immediately by the Bank of America.

The Purchase of the National Mid-Atlantic Bank represents the banking organization's first direct presence in the Eastern Caribbean... it has branches throughout western Europe, including two branches in London and one in Birmingham.

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Comment by Mr Ronald Webster

To my people in Anguilla. You may have heard broadcasts from St Kitts on February 27th when Mr Bradshaw told the public that he has now one of the strongest Banks in the World, and so he can do anything now. That may be so, but I can bet Mr Bradshaw that though he may have the biggest bank, he will never get Anguilla back under his control.

According to that speech, one might think that he can mortgage or sell the Government's land in Anguilla, but I can assure you, that according to this Government's agreement with the bank, the Anguilla branch is completely separate from that in Basseterre. The main branch controlling Basseterre and Anguilla is situated in St Croix, and of course, the main offices are at San Francisco.

Bradshaw is bragging and clutching at a shadow, but I can assure you that we have the substance. Bradshaw and his henchmen can not affect us, no matter how he may bark or quarrel. We are away--- and no pressure in the world can bring us together again, No, Never. I want you to know that no reputable character will try to negotiate for Anguilla's land through Bradshaw, nor try to borrow money with Anguillan security. They will be buying a pig in a bag. Bradshaw and his Council are like empty drums that keep noise even in the calm. Anguillans, do not get worried, we are safe and sound, in spite of not getting our money yet from Britain. We are prepared to go it alone until we see fit. Let us keep together, and ignore Bradshaw's big mouth. Thank you. Ronald Webster

HOSPITAL BOARD NEWS Shortage of nurses in Anguilla has for years resulted in long hours of duty for the hospital staff, and the closure of our Health Centres for much of the time. However, as a result of a letter written to The Times by the Rector and the Doctor, OXFAM, the British Relief Organization has offered to send us two experienced nurses, both of whom are qualified midwives. They are Miss Lavinia de Sarigny, and Miss Miriam Hughes, and they have offered to serve in Anguilla for the next 15 months, and are due to arrive next week. As a result, it is hoped that all of the Health Centres will be open daily, and that a qualified midwife will be available to serve each district of the island.

ADVERTISEMENTS For the benefit of the General Public, the GALAXY STORES are extending their current sales for one more week. Take advantage of the most breath-taking discounts ever. Galaxy Shoppe and Furniture Store

Bottled Gas Same old price since 1960. Large Tank \$25; small tank \$6. Best buy from Trinidad to Miami... Four Burner Stove and Oven Automatic Heat-control for \$300 cash installed with 100 lbs of gas, Nobody can beat this. See Collins Hodge, our man about town. Expan

GOVERNMENT NOTICES. Traffic Notice Owners, Drivers and Riders of Vehicles are hereby warned that prosecution for non-licensing of vehicles will start on March 16th. Also owners of Bicycles are informed that license plates can be obtained at the police Station.

Liquor License To the Magistrate, District D. I, Millicent Fleming, of the Quarter, Anguilla, hereby give notice that on the 2nd day of April 1968 I intend to apply for a Liquor License, in respect of my premises in the Quarter. Millicent Fleming.

NOTE TO READERS IN ST THOMAS The Beacon is on sale from now onwards at the BOOK EMBASSY (behind the Catholic High School).

VISIT OF JOURNALISTS. Mr Sid Moody, Feature writer of the Associated Press, presently on holiday in Tortola, spent a few days in Anguilla, and hopes to publicise it when he returns to New York. Mr William Lloyd Editor of a monthly pamphlet called "Toward Freedom", aimed at the peaceful elimination of colonialism, in all its forms wherever it may be found. No doubt he will devote some of his space to Anguilla in future months. We welcome all such journalists, and hope that their visits will be mutually satisfactory.

