

ANGUILLA



NO. 93

SATURDAY JULY 26th 1969

Price 10c

JOHN CUMBER RESIGNS.

H.M. Acting Commissioner Mr. John Cumber will resign from his post in Anguilla on Monday July 28th.

The announcement was made in London yesterday Friday 25th and read as follows:- "Mr. J.A. Cumber, who was appointed as Acting Commissioner when Mr. Lee proceeded on leave in April, is leaving Anguilla at his own request for personal reasons. On his departure, Mr. W.H. Thompson will be appointed as H.M. Commissioner. Mr. Thompson will take up his appointment on July 28th 1969 after a short overlap."

Mr. Cumber is expected to leave Anguilla by R.A.F. on Monday 28th July after acting as H.M. Commissioner since April 19th 1969, when Mr. Lee proceeded on leave. Since that H.M.G. announced that Mr. Lee would not be returning, Mr. Lee is now working at the Foreign Commonwealth Office in London.

Mr. Thompson C.B.E. arrived here yesterday. He has been Acting Administrator of B.V.I. for the past three months. Prior to that he was Administrator of the Falkland Islands. He paid a one day visit to Anguilla last week thursday, and lunched with his old friend Mr. Cumber.

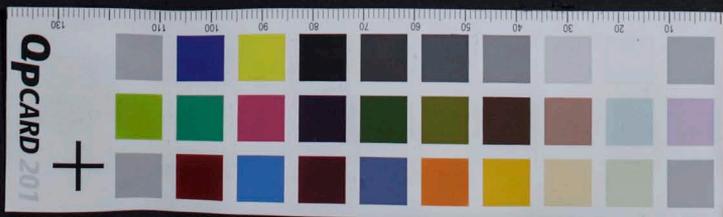
NO OVERTIME LANDING FEES.

The Council has suspended charging overtime landing fees at the airport. A fee of \$15 has been collected from all aircrafts that landed on Wall-Blake airport during holidays and after 5.00 pm on weekdays.

The Council in making the decision decided that this fee should be suspended, but the normal landing fee should be continued.

MISSING SAILOR.

A minor drama was enacted around Anguilla on Saturday over the disappearance of a sailor from his boat in Road Bay late on Friday night. The sailor failed to return to the Gibmac, here to collect salt for Texaco in Trinidad, and on Saturday morning both the sailor and a private rowing boat from Road Bay were reported missing. Teams from the Anguilla Police Unit scoured the island, The gibmac put out to conduct a sea search, and Mr. Don Jacobs, here in his Cessna plane to collect lobsters for Puerto Rico, searched from the air. The R.A.F. Andover which arrived that day, also spent some time in an aerial search of the sea before returning to Antigua. The Sea-Air Rescue in Puerto Rico was also notified. (Cont'd on page 8)



LETTER TO THE EDITOR, "HUSH MONEY-Sh"

In the last issue of the Beacon, an article "Webster's salary revoted" appeared. The article stated in part that it was not clear as to what Mr. Webster's actual duties will be'.

I cannot understand that a responsible Administration did put to the vote a salary without a post. How did the Council determine a salary and travel allowance without full knowledge of the specific duties involved? Further, it is interesting to note

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that the salary has been made retro-active from March. If Mr. Webster's salary was voted on without any consideration whatever of his duties, then we are to assume that Mr. Webster has been automatically reinstated as the Chief Executive of Anguilla, for that was the post under which he received a salary.

Under what head can Mr. Webster receive his salary? Education, Public Works, Health, Development, Social Welfare or just "Hush".

Signed, An Anguillian.

MOTHERS UNION,

On Sunday July 27th at 6pm at St. Mary's Anglican Church, there will be a 'Family Service' and one of re-dedication for the members of the Mothers Union in this island. At this service also, one member will be admitted by (See Union page 8)

CONTRACT TENDERS.

Tenders are invited for the construction of two Septic Tanks, two soakpits, two manholes and relevant drains, to the Coseley School, The Valley, Anguilla.

Details of specification, works schedule, conditions of contract and drawings, may be obtained through Major R.C. Plummer Royal Engineers at Government House Camp on Saturday 26th July 1969 or Monday the 28th July.

All tenders to be returned to the H.M. Commissioner's Office South Hill, Anguilla, not later than 100hrs on Wednesday 6th August 1969.

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THE VALLEY.

LETTER TO"GOOD ENOUGH

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR."GOOD ENOUGH FOR ANGUILLA."

14/7/69.

The real trouble between St. Kitts and Anguilla seem to come from the fact that the St. Kitts Government felt that anything that was not good enough for St. Kitts was good enough for Anguilla. Today just over three months there is evidence that the British seem to think that anything is good enough for Anguilla, I have seen evidence of this in the choice of the doctor and other officers. When the British invaded Anguilla they brought a doctor (a major) and for the few weeks he was here he made headlines with his operations. Soon they discovered that he was too good for Anguilla, (maybe he came to attend to war victims) so they decided to give Cable, a young and maybe inexperienced doctor, a chance for promotion. Today after months on the island we are hearing of sudden deaths, and that Dr. Cable is not well, Cable is no better than Spector, he is a 'pill doctor' and the British are again ready to put another very young doctor in charge. To my mind the British never seemed keen to get a decent doctor for Anguilla, instead they have plans to fly their people out for treatment. Now, some of the people who said 'God bless the British' are wondering how it is that they cannot get a better doctor than Spector. Can the British deny the fact that this is an excellent chance for their boys to see the tropics, enjoy months by the sea, drink plenty and cheap rum and get quick promotion? I am convinced that if the Anguilla situation remains the same for much longer, Harold Wilson will visit the

island in his present capacity or as a member of the Armed Forces. Where else in the world is there reserved rooms for policemen with a hang over at a hotel or the only Doctor for a long rest. This is really only Good enough for Anguilla. The effect that the British dirty diplomacy has on Anguillans is great. Just to think on how the British are crying for their white brothers in Rhodesia and how they turned their back to their Black servants in Anguilla is enough to make one wonder. It is indeed interesting to note that Bradshaw is asking Britain to use force on White men. Bradshaw boy that treatment is only "Good enough for Anguilla."

I am doubtful if this will get room in the Beacon as the Editor seems committed to back the British. However, this is my personal feeling.

Signed, R. Gumbs, The Valley.

BUILD AN IMAGE. By Claud Richardson.

Every country must have an identity and Anguilla is certainly no exception to this rule. From time to time immemorial she has had it, even if today we only hear our older folk refer to the old days either with regret or with compassion. (Cont'd on page 7)

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THE BEACON is an independent Anguillan newspaper published every Saturday. Founded September 27th 1967. Printed and published at "Lone Star" Anguilla W.I.

Atlin Harrigan Publisher & Ed.
S. Hodge Associate Editor
Patterson Hunte Printer.

EDITORIAL. "BRITISH DIPLOMACY"

This week we are told that Mr. Cumber will resign from his post as H.M. Acting Commissioner in Anguilla, effective from July 28th. The reason given is said to be his personal reasons. We do not intend to query this but we are skeptical of H.M.G. She has handled the Anguilla situation very badly from the beginning, up to when Mr. Lee was withdrawn on Jan.16th 1969, at the end of the Interim Period. At this time things not only got worse for Britain, but also for Anguillans on the whole.

Anguillans had received the sympathy of the world and capitalized on this to aggravate H.M.G. to the highest point. Then she sent in Mr. Lee as Commissioner, first refused in what is knowas the Whitlock incident, then by the backing of force. Anguillans knowing they had the sympathy of the world, demonstrated against such action, and used Mr. Lee to make the case heard. H.M.G., seeing that Anguillans were more concerned about personality, in turn used Mr. Lee as a scape goat to hush them up, and it did, without changing one of the laws that applied to the island. Anguillans fell into the trap. They then praised Mr. Lee's successor as a good man (we also think he is a good man) and overlooked the fact that nothing -repeat-nothing had been changed as

far as laws were concerned, even though Mr. Lee was gone. What happened? H.M.G. saw one way of winning them over; time---time heals and this is what happened. Mr. Cumber came and he was very nice. He put politics asside and won their confidence, fed them with rope, as some people call it, ran the island on make-belief. He on one side as H.M. Commissioner, Mr. Webster on the other side believing he is Chairman of the Council, and even receiving a salary as leader of the people. Here it was very apparent that H.M.G. was playing a double game. Money and time will cure and they used both, now we must wait and see what will happen. Mr. Cumber won the confidence of everyone extreme as well as the moderates, and did the job that he was supposed to do, well. We hope that Mr. Thompson, who is taking over permanently, will also win the people's confidence, but it is about time that H.M.G. played her cards straight. Those who are in the majority here may not see the danger, but the moderates surely do, and is watching the fact that those on the other side rather live in a make-believe fashion, while H.M.G. manuevers over their heads. The moderates may be the minority, but surely they are keeping an eye on both sides.

CONGRATULATIONS. As small as we are, we must find space enough to compliment the Americans for making such a great achievement of landing two men on the moon. Although we here in Anguilla were not able to witness live coverage of the Apollo flight through television, we were equally thrilled by just following up the events over radio. And so the Beacon joins with the many all over the world (See APOLLO page 8)

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ANGUILLA: THE SHIPWRECKED 6000. By V.S. Naipaul. (Cont'd from last week)

For a short time after secession the Anguillans flew the flag of San Francisco, the gift of an editor who belonged to what is known in the island as the San Francisco Group. The Group took a whole-page advertisement in the New York Times in August 1967 for the "Anguilla White Paper" which they composed. Anguillans, the White Paper said, were not backward simply because they didn't have telephones. "Do you know what one Anguillan does when he wants to telephone another Anguillan? He walks up the road and talks to him." But the absence of telephones was part of the case against and it isn't easy to get about the island without a jeep. There are people in West End (where the people are mainly blackish, with occasional blond sports) who have never been to East End (where many of the fair people are).

Anguillans didn't even want one Hiltonesque hotel; it would turn them into a "nation of bus boys, waiters and servants." They didn't want more than thirty 'guests' at one time; it wouldn't be polite for a guest to go away without at least lunching with the President. They didn't want "tourists."

The White Paper-it offered honorary citizenship for \$100-made \$25,000 for Anguilla. Some Anguillans felt they had been made ridiculous by the White Paper. But Mr. Webster who signed it as Chief Executive, told me he stood by it. Jeremiah Gumbs, though, was extending his hotel; other people had put up establishments of their own of varying standards (the tourist

future could still be one of rough bars and souvenir stalls and ice-cream stands, very private enterprises); and Mr. Webster himself said that he would like to see Anguilla as a tourist resort. It was part of the Anguillan confusion. Too many people had wanted to help, finding in Anguilla an easy cause, a little black comedy. The Anguillans, never seeing the joke, always listened and then frightened and self-willed.

One member of the San Francisco Group was Professor Leopold Kohr of the University of Puerto Rico, a sixty year-old Austrian who went to live in America in 1938. Kohr has long promoted the theory of the happy small society; his book, A Breakdown of Nations, was published in London in 1957 (it is now out of print). In 1958 Kohr addressed the Welsh Nationalist Party that wants Wales to break away from England; he is now on a year's sabbatical at the University of Swansea. Kohr feels that small communities are "more viable economically than larger powers", and he thought Anguilla 'the ideal testing ground.' Immediately after secession the Anguillan leaders were beating up support in the San Francisco Group in Puerto Rico. "My team," Kohr says, "was accepted within twenty four hours." There appeared to be early proof of economic viability when it was rumored that Aristotle Onasis

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had offered a million dollars a year for the right to use Anguilla as a flag base. The story is still current in the West Indies and Kohr still appears to believe in it. In St. Kitts and Anguilla, however, it was dismissed as one of Jeremiah Gumb's stories. Mr. Webster, as Chief Executive, wrote twice to Onasis but got no reply. The commercial offers that did come from the United States were, in Kohr's words, from the "interests of all shady shades." A local man I met at the Airport one Saturday-like market-day, then, with the cardboard boxes and baskets and parcels coming off the Aztecs, the women waiting for letters, messages, remittances from their men in the American Virgin Islands - a local man whispered to me about the Mafia and their agents among the local people. (From recent newspaper reports I feel he has been whispering to many other visitors.) I asked Mr. Webster about this. He said, puzzlingly, that this whispering about the Mafia was official Anguillan policy, to keep the Mafia away. He also asked me not to pay too much attention to white "stooges." At this stage I began to feel I was sinking in antique, inbred Anguillan intrigue. There were people, though, who, while not wishing to go back to St. Kitts, had become less happy about the future than Mr. Webster or Professor Kohr. They had seen no "development" in a year of ambiguous independence and they feared what would happen if Anguilla officially declared itself outside the Commonwealth. Anguilla, like Rhodesia, would be outlawed. It would attract outlaws.

The new weekly, The Beacon (type written and offset, the equipment a gift from a United States firm),

had run an editorial warning against a unilateral declaration of Independence. It had created some doubt in the island; it had made independence appear a little more difficult.

"If we sell away our rights to American businessmen now," the young electrician-editor said to me in a bar, "we will be the laughing stock of the Caribbean and the world. Don't get me wrong," he added, speaking slowly while I took down his words. "If Britain don't do nothing then I feel we should go on our own."

"I go put his balls through the wringer," a young man said angrily to Webster on the airstrip, showing The Beacon. Such violence of language was once reserved for Bradshaw of St Kitts. Mr. Webster, hiding his distress-it was Saturday, his Sabbath-calmed the young man down.

The frightened, the bold, 'mafia', this was the rough division at which the visitor arrived, feeling his way through intrigue that appeared to follow no race or colour line. Responsibility, acquired lusts and fears now balancing the old certitude, had brought dissensions, the breaking up of that sense of isolation and community which was the point of independence. (Cont'd next week.)

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BUILD AN IMAGE. (Cont'd from page 3)

But in general, the events of the past three hundred years and in particular of the past three years are only sketchily remembered by some of us and no one seems to care to set them down in their chronological order so that generations after us will read and learn about the success and failures of their ancestors. Indeed if we take up the torch now, we must be sure to give them some craving to carry on. For-gotten too, are the

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social activities traditional to every generation up until the end of the last decade or so, dances like the Skitteesh, the Polkas etc., have been completely routed by the modern rocks and shades in much the same way as clown dances, mock jumbee displays and tight rope balancing have been cast into the dustbin and remembered only vaguely each year when Xmas comes around. The full force of this lost identity is brought home to us by the complete absence of locally made crafts and dishes, and yet we say we want to cater to the needs of our foreign visitors whom we continually disappoint, both with our souvenirs boldly marked Anguilla and made, say in Japan, as well as with our dishes the recipes of which have been borrowed from somewhere else.

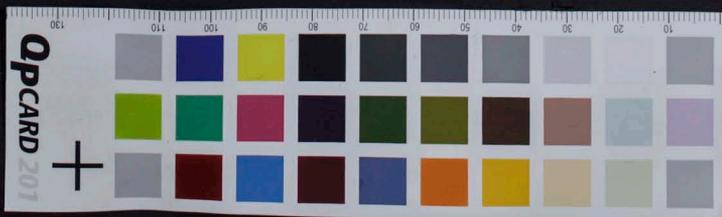
This writer is not asking too much

because those of us who had the opportunity to travel know only too well native customs etc., are well preserved and indeed, people take pride in showing off their talents to their guests. We know too, that where there has been the migration of certain races to foreign countries, these races retain their culture and indeed their native ways of life. Anyone doubting this can study the behavioral pattern of Chinese, Jews and Indians to name a few.

Anguillans are about to be drowned in the sea of lost identity unless we start now to reclaim some of the things we have almost lost, Believe me, we are to encourage everything, arts, crafts, croquery, cooking, writing, dancing, singing, the lot. We cannot continue to adopt all the fads which originate in the bigger countries of the world at the expense of our wonderful traditions otherwise we shall wake up and find that we know ourselves less and less.

ADVERTISEMENT. The Mothers Union presents a grand variety concert and Fashion Show on Tuesday July 29th, at the Community Centre at 8 pm. Admission adults \$1.00, Children 50¢ Lots of fun - do not miss it.

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ANNOUNCEMENT.

Because of the enthusiasm exhibited in Boat Racing in the island, a group of Anguillans gathered at the home of Mr. Christopher Romney and formed an Association known as the Anguilla Boat-Racing Association, for the promotion and contrroll of this past time.

A series of Boat racing will take place on the first week in August, beginning at the Road Sandy Ground on August Monday, at Crocus Bay on Tuesday August 5th, at Meads Bay Thursday August Thursday 7th, and Blowing Point on Friday 8th.

All sports fans who are desirous of helping this association are kindly asked to send donations to any one of the following:- Mr. Christopher Romney of Blowing Point, Mr. Mac Brooks of the Valley, Mr. E Carty of the Road Sandy Ground and Mr. Vivien Vanterpool of West End.

V.A. Vanterpool, (Secretary General)

FOR SALE. One 17ft. racing boat "Green Dolphin". for further information see Percival Romney, Blowing Point.

UNION (Cont'd from page 2)

Mrs. Jane Eversley, the organizer of the Mothers Union for the Diocese of Antigua; Mrs. Viola Wilson is the enrolling member of the branch at St. Mary's. As the purpose of the Mothers Union is to strengthen, safeguard and promote Christian family life, all members of the community are warmly invited to attend. Special slides of the World Wide Conference of the Mothers Union will also be shown at this service.

MISSING SAILOR (Cont'd from page 1)

Fortunately, all ended happily when the sailor and the boat were sighted, neither much the worse than wear, beached on Prickley Pear Cay.

The Gibmac is now being loaded with a cargo of salt for Texaco Oil Refinery, Trinidad.

MUSICAL HARRIGAN FAMILY.

A large gathering turned out to hear the religious programme held at St. Mary's Church last Sunday 20th, rendered by the "Harrigan Family." The programme consisted of solos, duets, and choruses, and the instruments played were organ, recorder, trumpets and melodia. Mr. Murray Harrigan and his six children, ranging from four to nineteen, were congratulated by many persons after the performance.

Mr. Harrigan has another three children abroad who are all musicians. As most people said, it was a great performance.

APOLLO (Cont'd from page 4)

in congratulating the Americans, and especially their astronauts, on their successful Apollo 11 flight.

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