

# AfroPanamanian Newsletter



*English opens doors. Read the Newsletter*

[www.afropanameniannewsletter.mex.tl](http://www.afropanameniannewsletter.mex.tl)

*We encourage our web readers to feel free to use our links to find scholarships, jobs, grants and others.*

**No.8 Vol. III**

**September 2012**

**Donation**

## SIGNING OF THE PANAMA CANAL TREATY



SEPTEMBER 7, 1977

**Controversy**

**Anecdotes**

**Poetry**

**LOS AMIGOS :**  
**Por la superación de la Etnia Negra**

**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***

**CREDITS**

**Editor : Sandra Patterson**

**Assistant: Ines V. Sealy**

**MEMBERS**

**President  
Anthony Cox**

**Treasurer  
Fernando A. Goldson**

**Others  
Ines V. Sealy  
Sandra M. Patterson  
Roberto L. Alleyne**

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***

***Afrodescendant  
Pre Summit***

*The first Afrodescendant Summit was held last year in La Ceiba, Honduras with the assistance of more than one thousand participants from the whole diaspora.*

*A second summit is called for in 2014 and Spain will be hostess but before this event takes place, come October a “Pre summit” will be held here in Panama towards a decenium of recognition, justice and development for afrodescendants. More so, achievements obtained from the first will be presented and analyzed.*

*This will be an open event that opens the door to learning about the efforts that are being made toward a better lifestyle for afrodescendants and also to allow Panamanians to meet other afrodescendants and learn about their struggles.*

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

FEEDBACK (from the August Newsletter)

Sisters and Brothers, I thank you'll for sharing, a very important coverage.

God blessings.

Claral Richards Thompson

Dear Ms. Sealy,

This is an interesting edition. I benefitted from the history, the poetry, and from the motivation to pursue more knowledge about my ancestry.

Keep up the excellent work!!!

Sincerely,

Doc Robinson

*Worth sharing:*

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nyIG8d4q6Q0> (Rev. Calvin Butts III at Smithsonian African American Museum Groundbreaking )

**AN ONLINE BILINGUAL MAGAZINE – Palenque:** [http://issuu.com/julian12/docs/palenque\\_008](http://issuu.com/julian12/docs/palenque_008)

*This song is a consolation to the aging:(contributed by Cesar Payne)*

<http://www.youtube-nocookie.com/embed/6dbBfXCMbH4?rel=0>

Thank you so much. I will definitely share with our diaspora family through our data base at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade. Thank you also for a special visit to our family who came out to share. A very touching evening. Finally thanks for all the assistance given to Lisa Stoute as she stayed with her sister Lynette who was hospitalised in Panama.

Maxine McClean

*(The staff s ends its sympathy to the Stoute family upon Lynette's demise. God knows best)*

Thank you so much for this newsletter. I found it both interesting and inspiring. It was a pleasure to meet you in Barbados. It brought back many pleasant memories of my days doing research in Panama. If I can help, let me know./ *We will be happy to publish any of your Panama anecdotes, We try to highlight any role models we can give our youth.*

**Ronald Williams** (*Ronald is a Barbadian, the author of FOUR SAINTS AND AN ANGEL; A DEATH IN PANAMA and A VOICE FROM THE TOMB*)

*His feedback from the July Newsletter*

Love this. Under olden days sayings, however, “night does run ‘til day catch it” means you can get away with old tricks or schemes until they catch up with you.

*Punta Paitilla, the area that is being developed today, at exorbitant prices, was a US military reservation from 1920 until reverted by the Remon Eisenhower Treaty in 1955.*

**Panama Cyberspace News Webmaster Walter St. Jones** has sent the following Web site link with useful information on how to avoid becoming a victim of Hackers:  
<http://www.givemebackmycredit.com/blog/2010/07/scam-alert-desperate-friend-mugged-and-stranded-in-london-not.html>

**Hotel/Motel Scam (This one is so simple it is shocking)**

**PLEASE PASS THIS ONE ALONG TO FAMILY AND FRIENDS.....**

You get to your room and settle in.

Someone calls the front desk and asks for (example) Room 620 (which happens to be your room).

Your phone rings in your room. You answer and the person on the other end says the following: 'This is the front desk. When checking in, we came across a problem with your charge card information.

Please re-read me your credit card number and verify the last 3 digits numbers at the reverse side of your

charge card.' **Tell the caller you will clear up any problems at the front desk. Then, go to the front desk and report it.**

## September 7, Anniversary of the Torrijos-Carter Treaties

Ownership of the territory that is now the Panama Canal was first Colombian (when Panama was a part of the Grand Colombia), then the French got permission to build a Canal (that failed) and then North American, which accomplished the feat, before coming under the control of the Panamanian government in 1999.

In 1977, responding to nearly 20 years of Panamanian protests, U.S. President Jimmy Carter and the late Panama's General Omar Torrijos signed two new treaties that replaced the original 1903 agreement to perpetuity; this one called for a transfer of canal control in 1999. The treaty, narrowly ratified by the U.S. Senate, gave the United States the ongoing right to defend the canal against any threats to its neutrality.



Opponents to the Torrijos-Carter Treaties (1977) feared that efficiency and maintenance would suffer following the U.S. withdrawal from the Panama Canal Zone; however, this has not been the case. Capitalizing on practices developed during the US administration, canal operations are improving under Panamanian control. According to the ACP, since the year 2000, the average time it takes a vessel to navigate the canal, Canal Waters Time (CWT), including waiting time, which is a key measure of efficiency has oscillated between 20 and 30 hours. An official accident is one in which a formal investigation is requested and conducted.

Considering total annual transits of more than 14,000, accident rate has been reduced to less than 30 accidents per year, which was the US average.

Increasing volumes of imports from Asia, which previously landed on the U.S. west-coast ports, are now passing through the canal to the east coast of the US. This has been coupled with a steady rise in average ship size and in the numbers of Panamax vessels passing through the canal. For years, major shipping companies built vessels designed to fit the Panama Canal's 110-ft wide locks. However, ship builders began building even bigger vessels, to accommodate larger volumes of cargo. These vessels are termed post-Panamax and they cannot fit.

The inability of large vessels to pass each other in the Gaillard (Culebra) Cut, the increase of the total number of ocean-going transits which require a significant overall growth in canal capacity, has led to the expansion of the Panama Canal.



In October 2006, Panamanian voters approved a \$5.25 billion plan to double the canal's size by 2015 to better accommodate modern ships.

Under the administration of the Martin Torrijos Government, the expansion began on September 3, 2007.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3CFmet9wSSM>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dWwhPCRuQ-c&feature=related>

## Employment on the Canal Zone

Those of us who worked for the Canal Zone were governed under U.S. Federal employment laws. Our salaries depended on U.S. Law. Consequently, we are Federal retirees.

Minimum wage and wage scales were similar to U.S. Wage scales after a legal suit presented by non-US employees on the Canal Zone. Before that, the Canal Zone was another country within Panama, doing as the Canal Zone Government pleased.

US citizens made 12 hours annual leave per pay period (10 days), while Non-US made 8 hours annual and 4 hours sick leave, which we could only use based on a medical certificate, wherein, if we did not use the sick leave by year's end, we lost it. Those working for the US Army, Navy and Air Force were handled differently.

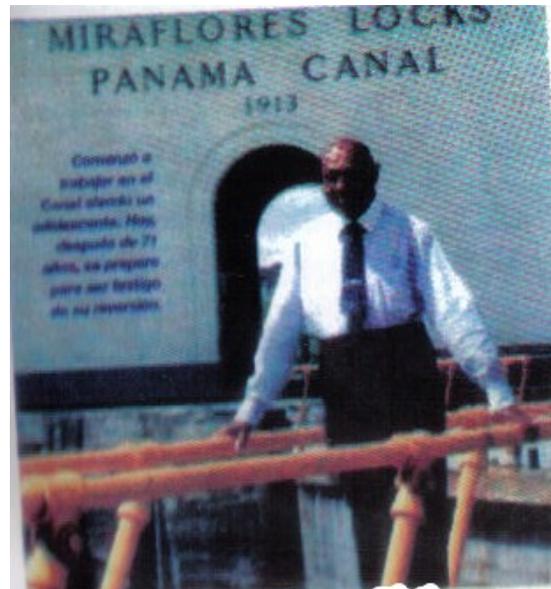
Salary increases had a schedule: there was a grade system which went together with the wage scales contemplating: education, experience, time in service and time in the preceding grade, etc.

Salaries on the Canal Zone were always better than wages in Panama, but those who lived in the Canal Zone quarters and those in the lower grades on the wage scale, carried the brunt of raises. When there was a 2 or 3 cent raise across the board, bread in the commissaries went up 5 cents, milk went up 3 cents, light went up 2 cents, not to consider other things. Take-home pay was reduced instead of increased.

These happenings encouraged contraband: those with privilege would buy from the commissary and resell or purchase for someone else “**to make ends meet**”.

## Panama Canal Employee with Longest Work Record Passed at 99

One of 6 children of West Indian parents: St. Lucian mother and Barbadian father, **Cecil F. Haynes** began to work for the Panama Canal at age 14, in 1928. He worked faithfully for the Canal for 71 and a half years (no tardiness, no absenteeism) until his retirement in the year 2000. For this he received many honors: from ex-President Bill Clinton, even to having a tugboat carrying his name still running on Canal waters. Sunday, September 16, 2012 saw him breath his last.



Born in Gatun, Canal Zone in 1913 his parents moved him to La Boca at age 3. He stated, in an interview: “La Boca was where the steamships reloaded coal, so there was coal dust all over in those days”.

*By the 1940's, all that black dust had cleared up so that, by the 1960's La Boca was an attractive place to build new bungalow type houses and relocate the Black people to Pedro Miguel and the White people out of Pedro Miguel into La Boca, closer to Balboa and the City of Panama.*

## ROLE MODELS



### Mario Small Appointed next Dean of Social Sciences Division

Prof. Mario L. Small (*Jr.*) has been appointed dean of the Social Sciences Division for a five-year term.

Recognized as a leading sociologist of his generation, Small, who joined the faculty of the University of Chicago in 2006, was, up until July 1, 2012, professor in sociology at the College and chair of Sociology.

The author of two books, this native of Panama, earned his bachelor's degree from Carleton College in 1996 and his doctorate in sociology from Harvard University in 2001, working with William Julius Wilson. He served on the faculty at Princeton University from 2002 to 2006. His books:

- VILLA VICTORIA received numerous honors, including the C. Wright Mills Award for Best Book and the Robert E. Park Award for Best Book.
- UNANTICIPATED GAINS also received the C. Wright Mills Best Book Award, making Small **the sole two-time recipient in the history of the award.**

An elected advisory committee of the Social Sciences faculty recommended Small for the post.

“This demanded a dean with outstanding scholarly credentials, who was a collaborative leader for the faculty, and who would work with other deans, the provost and the president to help build and fulfill the highest aspirations of the University. In appointing Mario to this position, we are confident in his ability to be such a leader,” the president and provost wrote.

Humbly, Small states, “I am honored by this opportunity, and I hope to serve the Division to the best of my abilities.”

### SUMMA CUM LAUDE Honoree

**Mairo L Small**, who is a high school graduate of the *Colegio Episcopal de Panama* obtained a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Interactive Design and Game Development on May 21, 2012, SUMMA CUM LAUDE from the Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD).

This young entrepreneur enjoys working in 2D and 3D equally. He loves doing quick concept sketches and turning those into finished illustrations. He also enjoys taking those illustrations and making 3d assets out of them. Besides presenting an underwater 3D side-scroller puzzle game, together with a group of other SCAD students (mostly eLearning), developed two games from scratch for the Independent Game Festival. He worked mostly on character art and environments.

For those of us who like to play computer games Play their games here!

[www.acourseofactiongame.com](http://www.acourseofactiongame.com)



*They are the sons of Mario L. Small (Sr.), an afropanamanian architect of West Indian descent, whose grandparents came from Jamaica and Barbados during the construction of the Panama Canal.*

## OPPORTUNITY

There are vacancies for English teachers:

-----At the St. George International School in Panama. Contact the School at Tel: 220-3358 or at [jmoreno@stgeorge.edu.pa](mailto:jmoreno@stgeorge.edu.pa)

-----Do you know any high school students interested in coming to study in the USA?

-----Or high school teachers who are interested in coming to teach in the USA? Robin Lerner will be talking about the J-1 visa programs that bring students and teachers to the USA. DATE: October 10, 2012 TIME: 8:30am EDT (see time zone converter) [webmaster@alumni.state.gov](mailto:webmaster@alumni.state.gov) or contact [kazein@gmail.com](mailto:kazein@gmail.com)

### -----[Education: Degrees that Busy Adults Can Earn Anytime](#)

Do you want to go back to school and earn a degree, but not sure how feasible it is with your full-time job and family responsibilities? Don't let your busy schedule discourage you. Even if your days are jam-packed, earning a degree is possible thanks to online education. In fact, many schools now offer degree programs that can be completed entirely online.

[http://positivetourism.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=2695&Itemid=18](http://positivetourism.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=2695&Itemid=18)

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SAFETY IN FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS

### Preventive Measures When Handling Cash In a Financial Institutions

- \* Be alert in the streets and be careful that you are not followed, being watched when performing your financial transactions and where you store your money.

- \* Avoid talking to strangers while waiting, do not be distracted or confused.



- \* In case you are attacked, do not resist, try to memorize the appearance of the offenders and denounce the act to the police.

- \* Do not board a taxi outside the financial institution. They maybe in cahoots with the banking employees to rob you.

- \* Don't expose yourself by passing empty lots or lonely shortcuts.

- \* Be discrete and get trustworthy company upon doing your financial transactions. If you are going to deposit money, only give it to the official cashier, if someone approaches the line offering assistance to speed up the transaction, do not hand over your money, instead, call the attention of the security guard or a bank official.

- \* Do not stop to run other errands either before or after your withdrawal.

- \* Upon receiving your money, count it at the window and store it away. Do not leave the window with loose cash in your hand.

- \* In case of suspicion, walk a few meters or return to the institution and inform the officials, or find a policeman.

- \* Board and leave your mode of transport as close to the banking institution as possible.

- \* If you find that you are being followed by another vehicle, enter a crowded public place for help or to find a policeman. You may also drive to a police station.

- \* Wear your purse or bag across your body.

September 2012

## PANAMANIAN CURRENCY

by Sandra Patterson

On October 2 1941, the Panamanian government presided by Dr. Arnulfo Arias issued and put into circulation paper money with denomination of **“un Balboa”** as Panama’s legal currency.

The Panama Canal Comptroller emitted a note on October 7<sup>th</sup> 1941 which stated that the Panamanian Balboa could be used in all Canal Zone dependencies.

Dr. Arias’s government was overthrown a couple of days later and the paper money was taken out of circulation.

It’s estimated that around three hundred five thousand Balboas circulated in the country, most of them were incinerated between June 13 and July 6 of 1942. Still, about seven thousand survived.

This is one.



*Other Presidents have emitted currency, only coins. Some large, and some small, but very interesting to numismatists.*