



Dril Scouts of Borinquen

September 14, 1977

USCG AIR STATION BORINQUEN, P.R.

Volume 2, No. 7

BORINQUEN BEACON



CO'S

COMMENT

Several suggestions/questions have been received as a result of "letters to the CO". Each of the senders has been contacted by me and their questions answered. Of interest to all housing residents was a question submitted by Cherie Terrell concerning the painting of residences. Specifically, Mrs. Terrell asked, "would it be possible for an individual to choose from the colors available? Would it be possible to advise of a particular color not desired?"

Let us initially state that there is an overall painting plan for the housing area whose need rests on three basic causes. First, colors are selected which are near in shade to the original so that less preparation man-hours and less paint (hence less cost) are necessary to complete the job. Second, pairs of four bedroom dwellings are painted the same color so that the inter-located garages can also be painted one color. The same logic applies to using a single color for duplexes. Finally, giving each individual a choice could create a situation where adjacent houses would be painted in clashing colors. In summary, the color a given house will be painted is predetermined by a well thought out and justified painting plan.

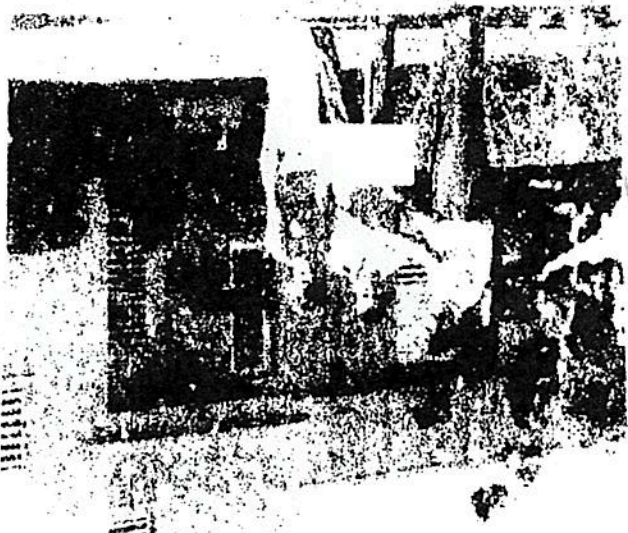
Thanks for the letters - keep those ideas/questions coming.

Cherie Terrell

CDR T. T. Matteson
Commanding Officer

USCG Air Station Borinquen

CONGRATULATIONS to Mr. & Mrs. Angel M. Acaba of 53 Hook Road for winning the Yard of the Month Award for September. Their carefully groomed yard is a fine example for everyone in our housing area. Besides receiving our congratulations, they also receive two complimentary dinners at the Coast Guard Club as guests of the Command.



BATTLE OF BORINQUEN

Continued from last week.

On Pearl Harbor day, Borinquen Field was an emerging Army Air force base. Units stationed there were equipped with antiquated B-18 bombers which fortunately never saw combat beyond the mission of sub patrol. Declaration of war by enemies on opposite sides of the world thrust Borinquen Field and the other air strips of the Antilles into a role of strategic importance as a line of defense east of the Panama Canal. The threat to the Canal, which was so vital to the flexibility of the United States war potential, seemed very real. We occupied a key defensive outpost and suffered from a general uneasiness stemming from the implausible events of the time.

The senior officer on Borinquen Field was Col. Caleb V. Haynes, one of the most respected officers in the Army, and a pioneer of heavy bombardment aviation. He later became a General Officer and commanded the First Air Force. On the night of 10 December, just three days after Pearl Harbor, he was pacing the cliff outside his quarters which overlooked the Caribbean. It was near midnight and he was intrigued by the outline of a large ship, barely visible several hundred yards offshore. The blacked-out ship appeared to be stationary, and it was unusual that a ship of that size would be in so close to the rocky coast. As he watched, he noticed that the larger ship was not alone. There were boats around it, boats too small to be visible but which could be spotted by light signals to shore. The signals were obviously in code. He felt no particular concern but decided that he would summon his second in command, Col. A.L. Harvey, an old friend and a highly regarded aviator, who had been the pilot selected by Washington to fly W. Averell Harriman on his trip to represent President Roosevelt in the first Moscow conference.

At this point, the calm was interrupted by an urgent call from a highly excited duty officer. He said that Puerto Rican military officers were in the command post with a report that the city of Mayaguez some 30 miles to the south, was under attack from the sea, that an enemy had overrun the port, and that the city authorities were pleading for assistance. With this information, the unusual proceedings which Colonel Haynes had been observing took on new meaning. He ordered an alert and called for his friend Al Harvey to "Strap on your gun and come with me. We've got troubles".

It is unclear what orders were issued following the alert, and the confusion over this point would not be clarified the following day with sheepish principals present. It is completely clear, however, that for several hours the base garrison acted in the firm belief that the field was under attack and that our security was in grave jeopardy. Someone issued an immediate order for the machine guns sited around the base perimeter to open fire and lob their rounds over the base onto the beach where the enemy landing was reported to be in progress.

Continued on the next page.

Due to an error in elevation, much of that fire fell in the base living area. This, more than any other occurrence in the unforgettable charade, led to a state of mind which rejected rational thinking. The frightening sound of hot lead whining around us and the sight of tracer looping high overhead or stitching through our compound like orange comets joined in our sub-conscious with recollections of the astounding attack on Hawaii a few days before. Acceptance that our base was under attack came all too easily. There was a dearth of logic exercised for an hour or so; and if there were men on the base who did not think the attack real or who pressed for restraint, I did not see them. This was the explosive situation we created. While bursts of machine-gun fire laced through the base, members of the Puerto Rican 65th Infantry Regiment, armed with rifles, were cautiously probing the dense palm grove off the beach in search of the landing party. Several hundred Air Force men, with weapons cocked and ready, lined the cliff unaware that infantry troops were below. One shot, one light, one sound from the beach area would have drawn a fusillade of fire from the cliff, and it can only be speculated that a sharp fire fight would have followed. Two B-18 bombers were searching the darkness for an enemy transport offshore, ready to expend bombs in its destruction. Incredible? Yes, in the retrospect of even a few hours, but all too believable at the time. Here, as best I can reconstruct it is the sequence of events which fate timed with such precision as to lead to this strange and dangerous situation. The large ship was a freighter, the American Press, bound for San Juan. On declaration of war, all ports were closed during hours of darkness and the ship's captain had reduced speed so as to arrive in port after daylight. The small boats were those of fisherman out of the nearby village of Aguadilla, and they were using lights to signal information about their arrival and the extent of their catch. The final event that triggered this bizarre affair occurred when a boat tried to enter the closed port of Mayaguez. Apparently the crew had been on a smaller island since the outbreak of war and did not know that the port was closed. They persisted in landing, and in the confusion there was gunfire. City authorities, affected by the same jittery nerves that engulfed the West Coast and much of the United States in those early post-Pearl Harbor days, concluded that they were under attack and placed a frantic call to the nearest military installation, Borinquen Field, a call that could not have been received at a more inopportune time. The results of much frenzied activity can be related with more accuracy. One airplane did locate the American Press and initiated an attack. The bombardier could not see the blacked-out ship through the bombsight so the bombs were released at low level in two attacks. Neither attack was successful and thus the aircrew opened fire with the single 30-caliber machine gun that the old bomber carried. Fortunately, there were no casualties, and the ship's perplexed crew continued to San Juan. It is unclear who ordered the plane crew to conduct the attack. Apparently it came about as a reaction to the prevailing assessment of the situation.

Continued on the next page.

B-18A on the 25th Bomb Group ramp at Borinquen Field, Puerto Rico, in 1941. Hangars in background are under construction.



Submitted by: Maj. Raelf Ramos
USAF (Ret.)

Written by Lt. Gen. Harry E. Goldsworthy

Fate, which so capriciously sequenced the events of that night, was forgiving in the end. The air crews avoided a fatal crash of bomb-laden planes by inches and the bombs aimed at the American Press, which could have easily sent her to the bottom, missed by a few feet. Miraculously, no one was seriously injured by the hundreds of rounds of machine-gun fire that ricocheted through the living area, though several people received superficial wounds. A horse belonging to the son of Colonel Haynes made an untimely move when challenged and was riddled with bullets. Tragically, a Puerto Rican maid, who could speak little English and did not understand an order to halt, was shot as she ran to seek shelter during the peak of activity. But the toll of dead and injured easily could have been high.

Stationed at Borinquen Field that night were experienced and capable personnel, people who were to lead many World War II combat units. Some our most decorated combat leaders were participants. No fewer than 10 of the officers were to reach General Officer rank during their careers. The events of that night have become known as the Battle of Borinquen and the tale is told and retold by the people who were there. As we contemplate those hours of anxiety with a mixture of humor, embarrassment, and gratitude that a tragedy was narrowly averted, it can only be concluded that we were afforded a lesson in mass psychology that should last a lifetime.

Need a P.R. Drivers License????

By HMCS M. V. Crespo

It is license time again. It is called to your attention that the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico law requires that all persons, after having been in Puerto Rico for a period of 120 days acquire a Puerto Rican driving license. Persons not complying run the risk of being cited and fined. The Security Office has made arrangements to have the required tests taken here at Base Borinquen.

INFORMATION:

a. All persons not having a valid Puerto Rican driving license will report to the Security Office and obtain the needed forms for application for the driving license.

b. All persons, upon receiving the application forms will fill in the blanks as appropriate and will make arrangements with the dispenser to have the required physical examination taken.

c. The persons involved will also make arrangements with the Office of Personnel to have three two by two photos taken for the license, if they so desire, or will procure three two by two pictures locally.

d. After gathering all required in b and c above, the persons requiring the licenses will keep the papers and the pictures until the day of the exam and will bring them with them to the exam room.

e. The exam room is located on the second floor at OBRAS PUBLICAS which is the large building across from our hangar and across from the Police Station on Ramey.

f. The written exam has been scheduled for the morning of the 21st of September at 0830 hours. Be sure to bring \$10 in cash withyou!

g. The practical exam has been scheduled for the 22nd of September at Cliff Road by the Coast Guard Club. The time will be set and published as soon as possible.

h. Interested persons will be taken on a tour of the practical exam site on the 20th of September. All persons interested will contact my office and give the person answering the phone their names.

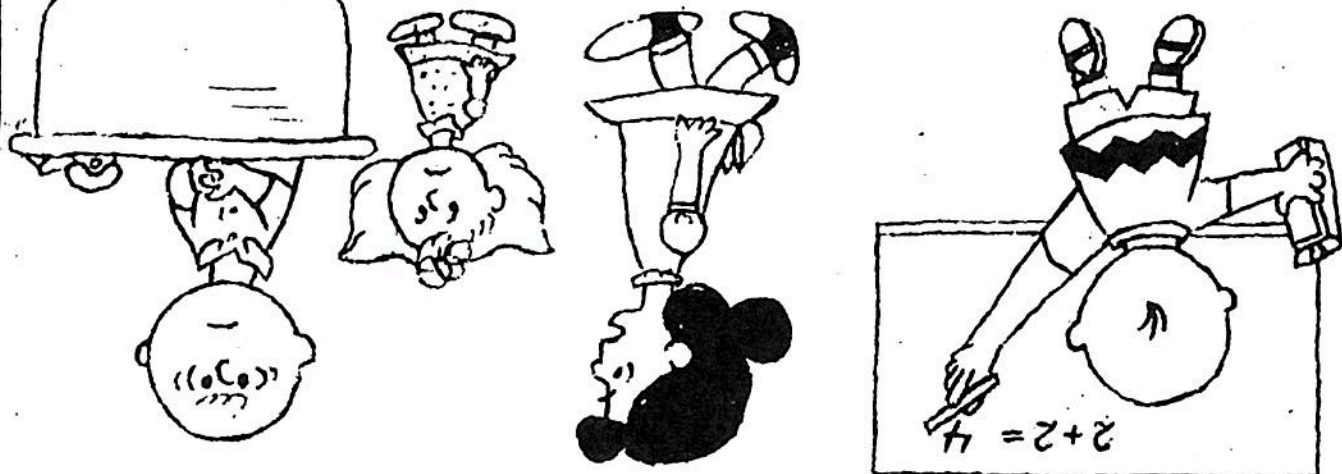
i. If you have any questions, please address them to my office during normal working hours.

k. All of those having foreign licenses will be required to bring them with them and turn them in prior to examination. The licenses will in turn be given to me and I will place them at my office so that if you have to go back to the states you will give me your Puerto Rican license and I will give you the stateside license. The reverse will occur upon your return to Puerto Rico.

l. The 19th of September is the deadline for the issuance of applications. All persons that come after the 19th will have to take their exams in Aguadilla on their own.

FRIENDS OF RAMEY SCHOOL

GENERAL MEETING



The Friends of Ramey School was formed for parents, school staff, teachers, students and other interested members of the community; in other words for anyone interested in the education of our children. Participation by everyone is needed to make it an effective organization.

Awareness and understanding is essential to anyone interested in what our educational system is doing. All of us can contribute to improving the total education of our children at Ramey School by assisting the school wherever possible. Therefore, the Friends of Ramey School was formed to provide an avenue to get involved. To use the talents of all interested persons to assist the school in enriching the total education of our children. To solve real or perceived problems together.

FORS

FIRST GENERAL MEETING OF SCHOOL YEAR

PLACE: RAMEY SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

DATE: 20 SEPTEMBER 1977

TIME: 7:00 PM

PLEASE COME

DON'T FORGET

COAST GUARD CLUB

* Bar open 7 days a week at 4:30
* Sandwiches available during bar hours.

* Wednesday BINGO at 6:30, Jackpot this week is \$525 in 60 numbers. Mini-Jackpot can be won with 52 numbers, or less, this week. If you win you can have your choice of either a CB 9-40 channel set or an 8 track AM-FM car radio- Take a chance- who knows- You might be the lucky one.

* Friday Happy Hour 5 - 6 PM
* Friday Buffet 6 - 9 PM, Beef & Burgundy.

* Sunday Dinner, 5 - 8 PM A La Carte.

* Come out and enjoy a cool drink on the Patio before dinner.

* Reservation & Parties-----
afternoons 2581 or NAFA office.

* COAST GUARD CLUB PHONE: 2581

* Located at LA PLAZA, 34, 35, 36
hours of operation:

Tuesday 0730 - 1630
Wednesday 1800 - 2300
Thursday 0900 - 1500*****
Friday 1800 - 2300

* Nursery Classroom is in session.
* Contact the Nursery Supervisor
for special openings 48 hrs in advance.

* NURSERY PHONE: 3123

PACKAGE STORE
Located at LA PLAZA, 38

* Hours of operation:
Tuesday - Saturday, 1000 - 1700
Sunday & Monday CLOSED

* Liquor, Domestic & Imported
Wines, Beer, Soft drinks &
Tobacco products.

* PACKAGE STORE PHONE: 7272

GUEST HOUSING:

For reservations Please con-
tact the NAFA office, ext. 6227

NAFA has received a limit-

ed number of 77 - 78 AAFES catalogs. One copy has been distributed to each of the Art Station Sections, Library and other Government activities whose personnel reside in the Boringuen Housing Area. We anticipate receiving enough catalogs for each family in approximately 2 weeks. When additional catalogs are received a notice will be published in the Beacon.

SPECIAL SERVICES ACTIVITIES

Family Services:

Mondays, 0900 - 1100
Library:

Monday - Friday, 1300 - 1600
Mon, Tue, & Thu evenings
1900 - 2100

Saturday, 1300 - 1500
Rec Gear Locker:

Daily, 1100 - 1200 & 1500 - 1600
Swimming Pool:

Closed Tuesdays for cleaning
1000 - 1700 Wed. - Mon.

Karate:

Monday Wednesday, Friday
1700 - 1830, Ages 6 - 15
1830 - 2000, Ages 16 & up

Physical Fitness:
Week=days 0830 - 0930

Slimnastics:

Tuesdays & Thursdays
1800 - 1900

Weight Room:

Key is kept at main gate.
Auto Hobby Shop:
Tuesdays, 1800 - 2100
Saturdays, 0900 - 1700

For further information
call the SPECIAL SERVICES
OFFICE at ext. 6236.

MEXICAN CHOW



Only 2 days left to get tickets!

THE E.W.C. WOULD LIKE TO INVITE ALL ON BASE RESIDENTS, VALID ID CARD HOLDERS AND THEIR GUESTS TO A MEXICAN SUPPER ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19. WE WILL BEGIN SERVING OUR DELICIOUS FOOD AT 4:30 PM AND END AT 7:30 PM.

- 1 Taco
- 2 Enchiladas
- Spanish Rice
- Beans

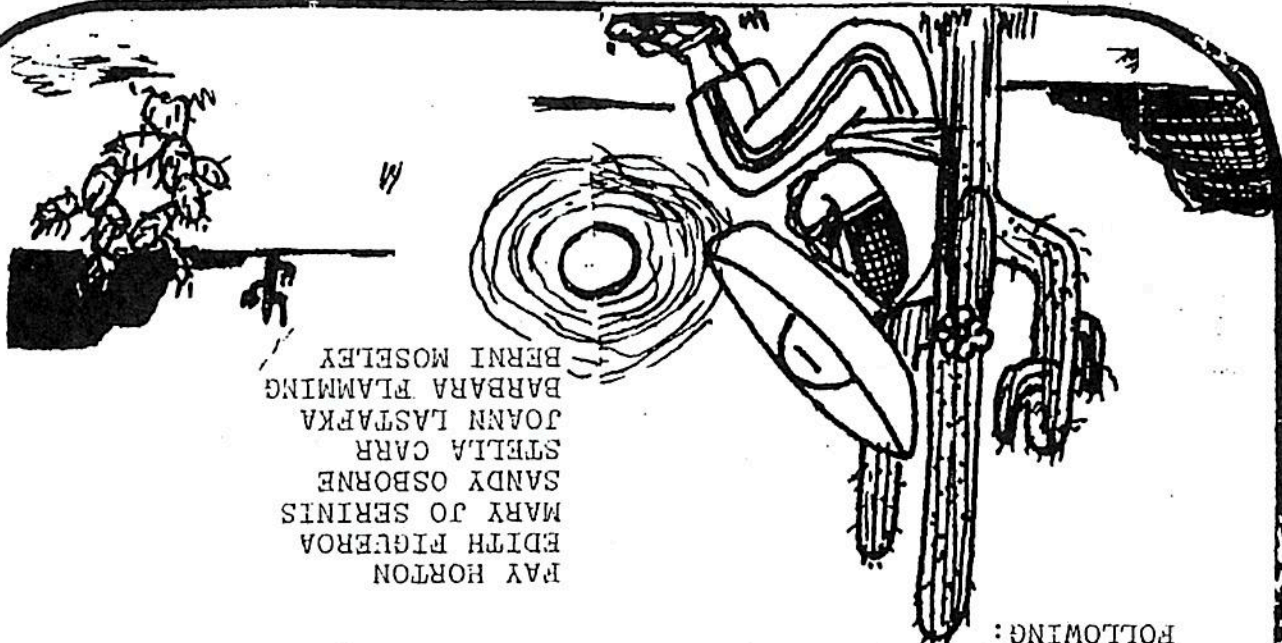
PRICE ----- A MERE \$2.50 per plate.

DRINK BOOTHS WILL BE SET UP SERVING LEMONADE FOR 10¢ AND TEQUILLA PUNCH FOR 25¢.

THE SUPPER WILL BE HELD AT 76 HOOK ROAD. WE THANK THE CARR'S FOR ALLOWING US THE USE OF THEIR LAWN FOR THE EVENING.

TICKETS WILL BE ON SALE FROM SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10 THRU FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16th. TO GET YOUR TICKETS, CONTACT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

- RAY HORTON
- EDITH FIGUEROA
- MARY JO SERINIS
- SANDY OSBORNE
- STELLA CARR
- JOANN LASTAPKA
- BARBARA FLAMMING
- BERNI MOSELEY





FOR SALE: Two blue parakeets and cage, \$10; Inflatable canoe, 6ft. long, \$50, call 6294.

WANTED: Good used Baby Play Pen, call 3242.

WANTED: Part-time housekeeper for on Base Guest Houses for information see Mrs. Mercado, LA PLAZA, NAPA Office - Ext. 6227.

FOR SALE: Bowling ball, 14 lb \$15; Bowling shoes \$55; Soccer shoes with cleats, size 5, size 8, \$2.50 each, worn once; kitten, 8 weeks old, orange & white female, Mother cat approximately 1 yr. old, calico grey, white & orange. Will pay half spaying fee on both cats. Call 7278

CATHOLIC MASS 1700 Sunday
PROTESTANT SERVICE 0800 Sunday

chapel

Note: Confessions heard 15 minutes before Mass starts.

CCD CLASSES: Mondays at 3:15 PM

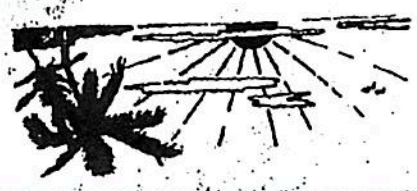
ALTAR BOYS: MEET ON THURSDAYS AT 3:30 PM

DUTY CORPSMEN SCHEDULE FOR SEPTEMBER 14 - 20, 1977

date	name	home phone	date	name	home phone
14	HM3 W. Jones	5267	18	HM2 Mercado	5267
15	HM2 Icenhower	5223	19	HM3 L. Jones	5267
16	HM2 Szekeley	3244	20	HM3 W. Jones	5267
17	HM3 Segul	6205			

MILITARY SICK CALL, 0800 - 0900, 1300 - 1400
DEPENDENT SICK CALL, 0900 - 1100, 1400 - 1500, BY APPOINTMENT ONLY
IF YOU HAVE A PROBLEM with alcohol, call ext. 2671 or ext. 2691 and give the person answering the phone your first name and phone number so we can reach you. The confidentiality of your call is guaranteed as well as your privacy respected.

Commanding Officer CDR. T. T. Matteson
Editor
Circulation Director Mary Finley
Rosemary Johnston
Art Director



Photography Director Roy Wilson

Bruce Gorcyca

Come to
PROTESTANT CHAPEL

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

ENGLISH SERVICES

- in air-conditioned chapel

Nursery Available

Sunday School for 5 to 10 year olds

Services and Sunday School

both held at 8:00 A.M.

in the "LA PLAZA" section

of the Coast Guard housing

area (first right turn inside

the gate)

New Chapel Lay Committee:

Lay Leader - Vince Parton

Sunday School - Mrs. Judy Young

Mrs. Dana Goward

Music Directors - George Snyder

Mrs. Ruth Barrow

FOR MORE INFORMATION
CALL VINCE PARTON 3256

USCG AIR STATION BORINGEN
NAFA THEATER - LA PLAZA

MOVIES

WED 14 SEP	-- CLOSED	1900	COUNSELOR AT CRIME - RNA - Drama, 102 minutes
THU 15 SEP		1830	Francisco Rabol & William Anderson
FRI 16 SEP		2100	COOL MILLION - TV - Drama, 97 minutes
			James Farentino & John Vernon
			SINK OR SWIM - RNA - Drama, 98 minutes
SAT 17 SEP		1300	Jean Paul Belmundo & Marlene Jobert
			COOL MILLION - TV - Drama, 97 minutes, KIDDIE
			MATINEE: James Farentino & John Vernon
		1830	IT'S ALIVE - PG - Horror Drama, 91 minutes
			John Ryan & Sharon Farrell
		2100	TOO HOT TO HANDLE - R - Action Drama, 86 minutes
			Cheri Caffaro & Aaron Ipale
SUN 18 SEP		1900	WHERE THE LILIES BLOOM - G - Drama, 97 minutes
			Julie Cholson & Jan Smuthers
MON 19 SEP	-- CLOSED		
TUE 20 SEP		1900	TOO HOT TO HANDLE - R - Action Drama
			Cheri Caffaro & Aaron Ipale

G - All ages
PG - Parental Guidance
R - Under 17 not admitted without Parent.
RNA - Rating not available.

NOTE: Any movie which 25 or more people wish to have re-peated, please contact the theater manager or leave a message at the NAFA office, and we'll try to show the movie again if possible.

October fest!!!

1 OCTOBER 1977 at the COAST GUARD CLUB

GERMAN BEER
REAL HOMEMADE GERMAN SAUSAGES
(for Buffet menu see next week's Beacon)

AND LAST - BUT NOT LEAST
REAL GERMAN OOMPAAH-PAH
MUSIC (Hopefully)

LET'S MAKE A DATE FOR THAT NIGHT

