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GRENADA

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THE GRENADA NEWSLETTER
For The Week Ending January 17th

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POLICE TRAINING COLLEGE OPENS

The ceremonial opening of the Grenada Police Force Training College took place on January 6th. Located at True Blue on the island's southern coast, the College is under the direction of Nigerian born Deputy Commissioner of Police, Mr F E Oyakhilome, and over 100 recruits will now undergo some six months of intensive training.

Addressing the recruits, Prime Minister Gairy impressed upon them their good fortune that their Commandant, Mr Oyakhilome, has come from one of the best Police organisations in the world. Mr Oyakhilome, he said, was a lawyer, a university graduate and has been involved in police work for over fifteen years. "Discipline is the only safe pillar on which a Police career is built", continued Mr Gairy, "and you are fortunate to have the best of instructors."

(129 words)

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TAWU/CWC AGREEMENT STILL UNSIGNED.

Mr Curtis Stewart, President of the Grenada Technical & Allied Workers Union (TAWU), said today (15th) that the new Agreement with the Central Water Commission (CWC) had not yet been signed, and it was unlikely to be signed before certain "difficulties" had been removed.

Last December, following a breakdown of negotiations between TAWU and CWC, workers at CWC went on strike. A compromise was reached, following which the workers returned to their jobs, but, when they received their pay-packets on December 30th, there was considerable dissatisfaction over the money they received for the period for which they were on strike. There was also dissatisfaction over certain deductions made from travelling allowances.

Sources close to TAWU said the amounts of money received by workers were not in accordance with the terms which had been agreed to for resumption of work, but "because of economic necessity, the payments

had to be accepted under protest."

Since then, discussions have been taking place and on Monday of this week (12th), Mr Curtis Stewart, President of TAWU, had a meeting with Mr Franklin Dolland, the Minister for Labour. Mr Stewart said today that Mr Dolland had promised to consider the matter and get in touch with the Union, but nothing has been heard yet.

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SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS TO RETIRE ?

It is reported that Mr Ernest John, Supervisor of Elections and Magistrate of Grenada's Eastern District, is shortly to proceed on long leave prior to retirement.

Mr John, who was formerly a Permanent Secretary in the then Office of the Premier, became a Magistrate about eight years ago, and was appointed Supervisor of Elections for the 1972 General Elections.

Recently, Mr John has come under heavy public criticism for failure to carry out an enumeration of voters at the time required by law.

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SECONDED TO CARICOM

Mr Otto George, Permanent Secretary in the Grenada Government Ministry of Sport & Youth, has been seconded to the CARICOM Secretariat in Georgetown, Guyana, for a period of two years. Mr George's new job will be that of Health Administrator to the Secretariat, and his appointment is one of a number being made to CARICOM's Trade & Integration Division.

Mr George, who was at one time Deputy Head Master of the State owned Grenada Boys' Secondary School, left Grenada for Guyana on January 7th.

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SCOUT COMMISSIONER RETIRES

Mr Willie "Skipper" Redhead, Chief Commissioner of the Grenada Scouts Association, has retired from the post and has been succeeded by Mr Leslie Pierre. Mr Redhead, who has been involved in scouting for more than half a century, has received several awards from the Movement. These include the Medal of Merit and the Silver Acorn. In

Alister Hughes

THE GRENADA NEWSLETTER - Week Ending 17.1.76

Page 3

1970, he was honoured with Scouting's highest award, the Silver Wolf.

Commenting on the new responsibilities he has taken on, Mr Pierre said, "It is going to be an extremely difficult task to fill the shoes of a person whose contribution to the community and to the development of young men is immeasurable."

Mr Pierre became associated with the Scout Movement in 1939 and has served as Secretary and Scout Leader for several years. He was appointed Deputy Chief Commissioner recently.

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TRINIDAD & TOBAGO WINS FISHING TOURNAMENT.

Trinidad & Tobago won the three top prizes in the three day fishing tournament held in Grenada's waters from 9th to 11th January. Ray Thompson was the most successful angler with Chris Telfer and Ian Periera placing second and third.

Forty-three fishermen from Grenada, Trinidad & Tobago and St. Lucia took part and they operated from 10 boats, five of which came from Trinidad & Tobago, one from St. Lucia and four from Grenada. On the first day, 584 lbs of fish were caught, 917 lbs were taken on the second and 560 on the third.

A total of 44 sail fish were hooked during the tournament, Ray Thompson, the number-one fisherman landing seven of them. Two white Marlins were also caught.

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TRINIDAD & TOBAGO WINS ROUND GRENADA RACE

For the second consecutive year, Trinidad & Tobago has won the annual 70 mile long Round Grenada Yacht Race. Instituted in 1969, this race starts in St. Georges outer harbour on the south-west coast, goes up the lee side of the island to its northern point, then runs down the eastern coast to Point Saline in the extreme south, and finishes with a tricky beat back to St. Georges inner harbour.

This year's race was run on Sunday 11th with 10 starters and under conditions described as "extremely rough sea conditions and with

Alister Hughes

THE GRENADA NEWSLETTER - Week Ending 17.1.76

Page 4

winds of 20/25 knots." Two boats, the "Olinka", a Sparkman & Stephens 60' yawl, and the Grenada built 23' "Satyrion", a gaff-rigged sloop, dropped out of the race, the first because of a torn mainsail and the second because of damaged rigging.

The first boat to cross the finishing line was "Tangaroa", a Swan 65 ketch sailed by John Thorpe, and her elapsed time, (that is the actual time in which she completed the course) was 7 hours, 2 minutes and 8 seconds. Next over the line was the Trinidad boat, "Bewitched", a Hughes 38 sloop, and her elapsed time was 7 hours, 54 minutes and 33 seconds. "Bewitched" was skippered by Lauri Vaigo. Third over the line was the Grenada boat "Zig Zag", a yawl rigged Pearson 43, and at her helm was skipper/owner Carl Schuster. "Zig Zag's" elapsed time was 8 hours, 28 minutes and 25 seconds. The record time for monohull boats in this race is held by the yacht "Bolero" which completed the course in 6 hours and 20 minutes in 1970.

The Round Grenada Race is a handicap race and, on corrected time, "Bewitched" is the 1976 winner with "Tangaroa" beaten into second place by 34 minutes. "Zig Zag" is third.

This is the second time "Bewitched" has won this race and Grenada Yacht Club officials say no other boat has done this. Her previous victory was in 1973 when she was based in Grenada and was sailed by Douglas Taylor of the United Kingdom. "Bewitched" was among the winners last year also when three Trinidad boats, "Sweet Luv", "Domani" and "Bewitched", in that order, took first, second and third places.

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GAS PRICE TO GO UP AGAIN ?

Sources close to the Government disclosed today (15th) that another price rise in the cost of gasoline is being considered.

As a result of applications made by both the Gasoline Distributing Companies and the operators of service stations, Government authorised

Alister Hughes

THE GRENADA NEWSLETTER - Week Ending 17.1.76

Sheet 5

an overall increase in the price of gasoline with effect from January 8th. The old price of gasoline used to be EC\$1.78 per gallon, and, with an authorised increase of 19¢ per gallon, the retail price of gas was increased to EC\$1.97 per imperial gallon.

This increase was to be divided between the Gasoline Distributing Companies, Esso, Shell and Texaco and the service stations, the Companies receiving 15¢ per gallon and the service stations getting the remaining 4¢.

Informed sources state, however, that the Distributing Companies do not feel they can continue to operate with the selling price permitted them by Government. With increasing world prices of crude oil, the application made late last year was for an increase slightly above 20¢ per gallon. But, this was before the Grenada budget proposals increased the cost of gasoline by an additional 5%, and it is understood that the Distributing Companies now feel that an increase of over 30¢ is required if they are to continue to operate.

Discussions have been held this week with Mr George Hosten, Minister of Finance, and it is understood that Cabinet is to consider the matter shortly.

Meanwhile, informed sources estimate that, considering the increased price of crude oil and the additional expense imposed by the 1976 budget proposals, Cabinet is likely to authorise a price increase which will bring the retail cost of gasoline to approximately EC\$2.15 per imperial gallon.

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DISSOLVED NUTMEG BOARD SUIT.

Mr Maurice Bishop, one of the legal Council appearing in the Suit filed by members of the dissolved elected Nutmeg Board, said today (15th) that a tentative date had been fixed for hearing on Monday January 19th.

This Suit challenges the validity of the Order which dissolved

Alister Hughes

THE GRENADA NEWSLETTER - Week Ending 17. 1.76

Page 6

the elected Nutmeg Board on July 4th 1975, and hearings were begun in the High Court on December 1st and 2nd. A postponement to January 12th was advanced to January 14th, but Mr Alan Alexander, a Trinidad barrister associated with Mr Bishop in this case, was unable to come to Grenada for this date.

Mr Bishop said he would have to find out whether Mr Alexander is able to come for the proposed continuation of the hearings on January 19th.

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CRUISE LINER CALLS

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During the week ending January 10th, six cruise liners with over 2,500 visitors called at Grenada. These were the "Istra", "Amerikanis" and "Stella Oceanic" on the 7th with 80, 537 and 226 passengers respectively, the "Italia" and "Sun Viking" with 370 and 756 on the 9th, and the "Statendam" on the 10th with 623 passengers.

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BANANA SHIPMENTS

Officials of the Grenada Banana Cooperative Society have advised NEWSLETTER that the Geest boats have changed their schedule and will now arrive for loading late in each week instead of on Mondays or Tuesdays.

Because of this, statistics will not be available for publication in NEWSLETTER until the following week.

For the week ending January 17th, the S.S. "Geestland" is expected to arrive on Friday 16th.

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Alister Hughes
15th January 1976