

Historical and Archaeological Society

The Museum of Antigua and Barbuda

“Knowledge to be of any Value must be Communicated”



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Traditional Merchandising The Firm of John Harold Moore

By Janice Augustin

The firm of John Harold Moore, well-known as J. Moore Hardware, situated at 52 Newgate Street, St. John's, is a delightful store to visit, if one is interested in the rich social and economic history of Antigua and Barbuda. The original proprietor was John Harold Moore, born around 1905 here in Antigua. When he and his siblings were quite young, the family immigrated to the United States, where young John attended school, and began his working life. About the middle 1930's or early 1940's, he and a brother returned to Antigua, and opened businesses, John in the vicinity of Newgate Street, and the brother Leslie Thompson on Market Street.

John actually built two stores. One, at the corner of Newgate and Popeshead Streets, specialized in Dry Goods. Stock included a wide range of fabrics for dresses, suits, school uniforms and drapes. The store was popular with women who needed the special 'haegkerchief' fabric (madras) for their traditional head ties. These head ties were folded in a special way so that women could store their money safely. Even today, one can see small quantities of this fabric in the store. About the early 90's, this store was closed.

The second store specialized in hardware and has not changed over the years. The youngest daughter of John Harold runs the store with her two sons. Mrs. Joycelyn Moore-Common remembers, as a child, the large numbers of customers crowding at the entrance of the store at Christmas time to get their items. The crowd was so large, that her father employed extra help, usually school children who were eager to make some money for Christmas.

Traditional Merchandising, the firm of John Harold Moore continued



The firm of John H. Moore on Newgate St.

Enamel utensils like cups, plates and bowls were popular items, so too were assorted pans for baking, and cooking pots of all sizes. The store also stocked slop buckets and chamber pots, which are still on sale. Mrs. Moore-Common explained that the main problem in still trying to sell these traditional items is that several of the manufacturers have discontinued the items. The store also stocked pretty cut-glass dishes and lemonade glasses, six to a set. These she remembered as costing one dollar! The store had a counter, stretching the width of the store, about 40 feet, and it was a busy place.

John Harold Moore and his family lived above the store, and although he died in 1995, Mrs. Moore-Common, has kept the upper storey as a town residence. Many of her siblings have migrated, but she and her sister have continued to live in their island home. For almost three - quarters of a century, J. Moore Hardware has been keeping the spirit of entrepreneurship alive in Antigua, in the traditional way.

Many thanks to Mrs. Joycelyn Moore-Common and her sons for sources for this article.

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THE ARAWAK HUSTLER VEHICLE PRODUCED IN ANTIGUA

By Agnes Meeker

In 1974 July 26th, the headline in the Antigua Times was “**E.J. Wolfe Announces The Arawak Hustler Produced in Antigua, Arawak Hustler a Reality.**”



I recently spent an afternoon with Mrs. Pam Tyrrell, widow of Terry Tyrrell, designer and builder of the Arawak Hustler and Managing Director of E.J. Wolfe Ltd. and a well-known figure in Antigua. E.J. Wolfe was actually the name of Pam Tyrrell’s father.

It was particularly interesting to me because my father owned one of these vehicles which he kept for us to run around the island in when visiting over the years. They were fun, open and came with a raincoat under the hood! They made you feel that you were on holiday in the sunny, wonderful Caribbean, and if it rained, oh well, you were usually on your way to or from the beach in your bathing suits anyway. It just added to the fun.

The factory was on Airport Road which later became the Galvanize Factory owned by the Hendersons. Over 400 Hustler’s were built and

exported to various islands in the Caribbean during operation.

The idea came about when jeep style vehicles were being built for the world market in the UK and Terry Tyrrell decided that a similar type could be built here in Antigua for the emerging tourist industry.

The idea dawned with visitors to Antigua being the inspiration. Somehow they seemed in need of escape from the air conditioned luxury of those huge fuel hungry cars – to which they were accustomed at home – they wanted the freedom of small agile machines that identified them with the wide open space, the sun, the wind and the sense of freedom that those wide open spaces inspired; they looked then for a new field of enjoyment and satisfaction for their personal transport in which to enjoy all that these Caribbean Islands could offer. They identified themselves with people from the rugged places; in short they sought the image which only a ‘Jeep’ like vehicle could offer.



After consultation with Government, who were most encouraging, the Chrysler Corporation was approached for the supply of engines and transmissions etc. They most willingly agreed to

The Arawak Huster Vehicle cont'd

co-operate and the Arawak Hustler became a reality.”

This concept has been taken a step further today with 4-wheel drive, all-drive vehicles and the off-road 4-wheelers we see around the island today. It's all about the experience and the thrill of discovery.

We must give Terry Tyrrell his due for his foresight and ingenuity in manufacturing the Arawak Hustler RIGHT HERE IN ANTIGUA.

The great earthquake of 1974 in Antigua and Barbuda

By Walter Berridge

On the morning of Tuesday 8th October 1974, a major earthquake jolted Antigua and neighboring islands at about 5:50am. It measured 7.5 on the Richter Scale.

The epicenter was 20 miles NW of the north coast of Antigua and at an estimated depth of 52 miles. Had it been lesser, the damage would have been more severe.



In the following days, up to 100 tremors per day were recorded most of which were too light to be felt by people but were recorded by seismic instruments. Miraculously there was no loss of life and most

buildings were left in tact.

However, the prison was damaged and the 61 inmates had to be housed on the recreational dining room and the infirmary. Three of the four bakeries on Barbuda were damaged and in Antigua, residents experience a temporary shortage of bread. Most of the houses that were damaged were “vintage models of the old mortar type”. The twin towers of the St. Johns Cathedral were “rent from the top and other parts of the building had been thrown to the ground”. 31 families comprising 84 individuals were made homeless.



Total property damage was estimated at EC \$60million back then. Amongst other damaged buildings included to name a few :

- The Roman Catholic Cathedral on East & Church Streets
- GEM Cinema on Factory Rd
- All Saints Anglican Church
- The Supreme Court
- St. James Anglican Church
- The Registrars Office
- The St. John's Health Centre
- Deep Water Harbour
- Lebanon Moravian Church, Seaview Farm
- West Indies Oil Company fuel tanks

The Great Earthquake of Antigua & Barbuda cont'd



In an article in The ANTIGUA TIMES dated Friday 18th October 1974, Reuben Harris wrote “ The average Antiguan now lives in desperate fear. Even the usual vibrations from vehicular traffic appear to stimulate nervous reactions in the average person”.



The old adage “It’s better to have the protection and not need it, than to need protection and not have it” still holds true today. Back then the deductible was 20 Sterling Pounds or EC\$100.00 for earthquake damage. Let’s hope and pray that we do not encounter any more earthquakes of this magnitude in our life time.

And just in case you didn’t know the Richter Scale, there are 8 measurements of intensity to measure earthquakes, 1 being the lowest and 8 being the highest:

- **1** – detected only by seismographic equipment
- **2** – hanging objects sway slightly, a few persons may feel the vibrations
- **3** – people indoors feel some vibration
- **4** – buildings tremble, glass ware breaks
- **5** – furniture & pictures fall from the walls
- **6** – masonry cracks, some houses cave in, windows break
- **7** – extensive damage is done to dams, dikes and bridges, many buildings collapse
- **8** – all structures receive catastrophic damage



About Antiguanite (Petrified Coral)

By Hans Smitt, The Goldsmitty

During the Oligocene the sea level dropped considerably exposing large areas of ocean floor. The seaway withdrew at the close of Cretaceous time and volcanoes formed during the Oligocene Epoch. Over millions of years and volcanic upheavals, the organic leftovers of coral heads, which had been originally a gift from the seas, were covered by mud and ash, they were gradually replaced by mineral laden substances which eventually crystallized in mostly hexagonal (quartz) patterns in many different colours and sizes



We invite visitors “to own a piece of our rock” as a memento of your visit to our lovely island. Locals can also enjoy and proudly wear, an exquisite piece of the rock!



Antiguanite is Trade marked

For more information or to view, please visit The Goldsmitty located on lower Redcliffe St. in the historic Redcliffe Quay, St. John’s, Antigua Tel# 462-4601

40 Years Ago

by Walter Berridge (Excerpts from The Antigua Times Friday 18th October 1974)

We discovered this fossilized or petrified (from Greek Petra: rock) coral as part of a geological formation, known as the “Antigua Formation” (according to Harvard University), its 30 million years old.

We learned how to cut it, slicing off its brown protective coating of ironoxyde and exposing its hidden beauty with all its different patterns.

We now grind and polish it into beautiful gemstones which we set into our unique silver and gold jewelry, designed and made and only available at The Goldsmitty.

There were no faxes, no e-mail addresses, no websites. Many business places advertised and did not even list a phone number or address.

A 1-bedroom apartment above Halcyon Cove rented for \$300 monthly, Antigua Times newspaper cost 50 cents, a take-away dinner at LIONS set you back a mere \$4.00 for adults & \$2.50 for children.

40 years ago cont'd

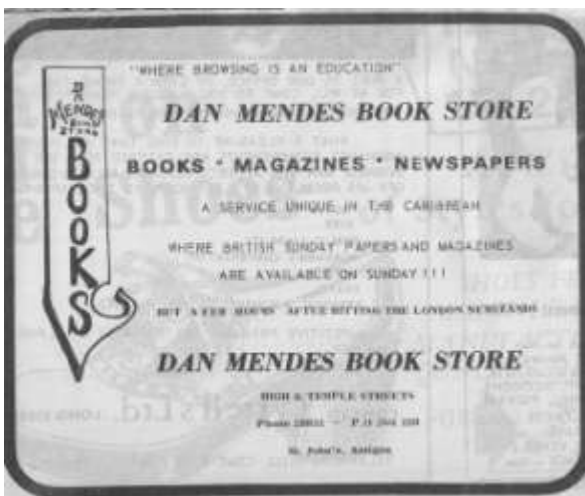


Those were the days of SEEJAY Brothers down at the Market, Dan Mendes Book Store on High & Temple Streets, The Musical Shack on Church St., The Specialty Shoppe Ltd., Bashour Hadeed & Sons, VI National Bank

LHC Wescott advertised stud fees for \$150 for a thorough bred mare, \$75 for 1/2 breeds and \$50 for common mares.

A for sale ad for an auto read - 1973 Dodge Avenger, low mileage \$3500 ono.

That was Antigua, 40 years ago..... ☺



Tea party at the Blind School was \$1.25 and Laviscount Brass played at Jabberwock, all drinks \$1.00 and admission to the dance was only \$3.00. FRU-T Bottling Plant down at Halls Estate was in receivership.

Meeting Space Available for Rent

The Museum conference room located upstairs on Long St. is available for rent at a very reasonable price. It can seat approximately 75 persons comfortably and is fully air conditioned.

For more information and to book, please contact the Museum at 462-1469 or 462-4930 during our business hours.

Help identify historic Antiguan photos

The photos can be viewed at:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/nationalarchives/sets/72157630634941210/with/7596548674/>

Please leave comments, tags and add stories on the archives' Flickr page.

Restoration Donors

Government of Antigua and Barbuda
Public Works Department

New Members

FAREWELLS

The Museum expresses deepest sympathies to the families on the loss of:

- Mosilyn Joseph, former staff member
- Clare McLean, member
- Paul Patterson. Jr

Got News to Muse

If you have an article of interest & would like to have it included in our next issue, please send to us at the Museum along with a photo, the e-mail address is museum@candw.ag

Upcoming Events

OCTOBER

- ✓ A multimedia presentation on Guadeloupe, date & time to be announced
- ✓ Book launch: 30th October, 7:00pm Upstairs Gallery :*The Black men of Harley New book: Black Oxford The Untold Stories of Oxford University's Black Scholars.*

by Pamela Roberts. Available from Blackwell's, Waterstones and Amazon.

NOVEMBER

- ✓ An update feature on our loco restoration project, date & time to be announced

AGM

- 23rd November, 6:00pm Upstairs Gallery

DECEMBER

- ✓ Annual Christmas Party, Friday 12th December 6:00pm: Courtyard, Expression Choir . Bring along food or drink for the Christmas table

The Historical & Archaeological Society Newsletter is published at the Museum quarterly in January, April, July, and October. HAS encourages contribution of material relevant to the Society from the membership or other interested individuals

Tel/Fax: 268-462-1469, 462-4930 E-mail: museum@candw.ag Website: www.antiguamuseum.org

Historical and Archaeology Society

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Join HAS! Discover & Preserve Antigua & Barbuda's Heritage

TO BECOME OR REMAIN A MEMBER OF THE SOCIETY, FILL IN & SNIP OFF. Mail to P.O. Box 2103, St. John's Antigua.

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CIRCLE MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY	
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