

Ganador Arroba de Oro 2006



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**WEDNESDAY, MAY 28, 2014**

Volume 14, No. 5 – La Boca Special Edition-Part 2

Founded March 1, 2001

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## **MEMOIRS OF THE OLD CANAL ZONE TOWNSITE OF LA BOCA, PANAMA, PART 2**

Photo courtesy of Jaime Massot (Panama)

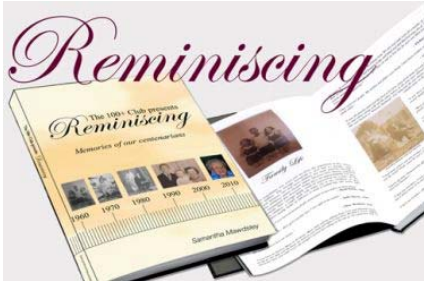
### **LIGHT PLANT IN LA BOCA (LOOKING SOUTH)**



# FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

The various comments received on the La Boca Special Edition, Part 1 (published on March 27, 2014) have described the edition as **awesome, historical, interesting, memorable, educational, fantastic, informative, excellent, helpful and detailed**. Many have indicated that they consider it to be a collector's item. We are grateful for all the positive comments received as well as for the collaboration received from others which allowed us to prepare that special edition.

Because the response to the La Boca Special Edition has been so overwhelming, I am sharing those responses in this separate follow up La Boca Special Edition - Part 2. Thanks to so many of you who have written. Several subscribers have requested authorization to share Part 1 special edition; so we are inviting those of you who are subscribers to feel free to share Part 2 special edition with others who may be interested in reminiscing about our old La Boca Townsite. If you may have missed Part 1 of this La Boca Special Edition, feel free to contact [goberncl@cwpanama.net](mailto:goberncl@cwpanama.net) to request a copy. **CLG (Carm)**



Reminiscing is a great way of reconnecting...



## R·E·M·I·N·I·S·C·I·N·G

### CONTRIBUTIONS AND PHOTOS RECEIVED ABOUT LA BOCA AND ITS PEOPLE

Courtesy of CyberNews Subscriber Lilia Ince Ramirez (Panama/New York)



La Boca Occupational High School 1953 Cincuentenario Queen **Melba Chase**, cousin of **CyberNews subscriber Lilia Ramirez (Panama/New York)**

**FROM OUR E-MAILBOX: “Thanks to those of you who have written.”****CLG (Carm)**

My Dear, Carmela: I just got through reading and enjoying the La Boca Townsite Special Edition. Again, you must be congratulated for such an exhilarating report. I was not born nor lived in La Boca. I knew and saw very little of the town back then, but just seeing and reading about some of the folks that lived and graduated there was so interesting. I was born and lived in Red Tank; we moved to Paraíso when I was just barely two years old. I've lived in Red Tank, Paraíso and Gamboa (Santa Cruz). I'll really love to see an edition about Red Tank, since all I know is what I was told about it, which was not much. Thanks to you and Alonso for all you do to keep us motivated and educated about our background and of the things in our lives that remind us that we are a special breed of people. May the Lord continue to shine his light on you.

**Linda Daniel (Panama)**

Hi, Carmela. Thank you so very much for putting this memoir of the old La Boca townsite together. The map and pictures of what used to be La Boca was awesome and helpful. I was born in 1950 La Boca and lived there until age 5, but really don't remember much about the place and people so reading the things that other people remembered and seeing the pictures was touching. I can remember my parents talking about their neighbors and friends and about some of the things that happened there, but I could not picture it at all. So, reading the stories shared and seeing these pictures was very helpful in understanding what they had been talking about. I cannot say "thank you" enough for capturing a period of our lives and our history as West Indians on the Isthmus and saving those memories for us. I really think that you are doing a great job of compiling and keeping our West Indian heritage and values alive so we can have something to pass on to the younger generations.

**Phyllis Tivey (Panama/Texas)**

Great Job, Sistah. Lots and lots of great memories.

**Cynthia Lowe (Florida)**

Carmela: This special edition was simply fantastic--great work!! It certainly brought back many memories from those who wrote about living in La Boca, and I'm sorry I didn't have the opportunity to submit some input to the edition prior to your publication. My family was one of the last to be moved out of La Boca in the first week of August 1955, and I departed to reside in the U. S. three weeks later. Living there was a significant and key part of my growing up; something I'll never forget. Once more, kudos to you for all the hard work you put into publishing the "Cyberspace News" and may you continue to have the strength and artistic desire to keep producing this newsworthy publication. Best regards to Alonso and keep well.

**Carlyle Clark (New Jersey)**

Dear Carmela: Very, very interesting!!! How many sites survived those years? Only the Baptist Church or St. Theresa Church? Congratulations.

**Ana Chung (Panama)**

Wow! One of your best issues to date. When I read the list of games played and got to Jobalinda, all I could do is cry. Whenever we went to a party etc., Judith would always ask the DJ if he had a song called Jobalinda (my dad used to play that song whenever we guests over). Lord Panama and his group played it at a reunion at Santa Cruz Gym years ago, one of my sisters requested it. When he started playing and singing Jobalinda we got so excited, we all jumped up and started dancing. People at the gym were looking at us like we were crazy. THANK YOU for putting this issue together. Awesome!!!

**Cynthia Pond (Florida)**

Carmela, I love this! Though I was not born in La Boca, I remember my grandmother (Evelyn Best Hall, R.I.P.) and my mother, Enid M. Hall reminiscing about it. I. My mother has a notebook where she listed all the people living in or near where they lived. She also has some notes on persons who had nick names, some of which are hilarious! Great work for a job well done!

**Deborah Mitchell (California)**

**Editor's Note:** See the very well documented information from Deborah's mom Enid Hall on pages 4-9, including two photos of Enid.

**CLG (Carm)**

# CONTRIBUTIONS AND PHOTOS RECEIVED ABOUT LA BOCA AND ITS PEOPLE

Courtesy of CyberNews Subscriber Toribio Martin (Panama)



Group photo of La Boca Clubhouse employees. Seated is the manager - Joe Moore; immediately behind him is his assistant Sylvester Callender. First row, right hand corner is Mr. Moore's secretary Viviana Niles de Martin.

## PHOTOS OF ENID "SPIK" HALL AND DTR. DEBORAH MITCHELL

Courtesy of CyberNews Subscriber Deborah Mitchell (California)



Enid at 16



At 80



At 91 (12/31/13)



Deborah Mitchell

# CONTRIBUTIONS AND PHOTOS RECEIVED ABOUT LA BOCA AND ITS PEOPLE

Courtesy of CyberNews Subscriber Deborah Mitchell and her mother Enid Hall (California)

## LA BOCA SCHOOL TEACHERS & 1<sup>ST</sup> NORMAL TEACHERS

### TEACHERS

George Wright	Ashton Parchment (son)
Dewitt Myers	Henry Rose
Kenneth Krough	Robert Livingston
Christina Tuh	Emile Benjamin
Mr. Parchment (dad)	Alfred Osborne
S.K. Walters	James Webster
Teacher Walker	Phillip Daniel
Teacher Walters	A.L.B. Morgan
Teacher Ellis	Teacher Lewis
P.S. Martin	Aubrey Stewart
Teacher McDonald	Robert Beecher
E. McCarthy	Teacher Palmer
Teacher Turner	Teacher Keeney
Teacher Harry	Charles Barton
Teacher Rigsby	Sylvia Doran-Dogue
G.L.A. Davis	Sylvia Grant
Laura Perez	Mae Malcolm
Evelina Pringle	Mrs. Myers
Norine Johns	Ms. McKenzie
Hannah Webster	Louise Dawkins Phillips
Ida Scarlett	Susie Jump (Lenora)
Alfonso Jones	Hazel Whyte
Theophilus Griffith	Ambrozine Williams

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Courtesy of CyberNews Subscriber Deborah Mitchell and her mother Enid Hall (California)

## LA BOCA SCHOOL TEACHERS & 1<sup>ST</sup> NORMAL TEACHERS

George Richards

Henry Blake

Ernest Murray

Esme Parchment

Greg Wason

Martha Baube (name cut-off)

Robert Bushell

Iris Robertson

Alejandro Luison

## 1<sup>ST</sup> NORMAL TEACHERS

Aubrey Blair

Edward Gaskin

Ellsworth Ceasar

Cleveland Inniss

Teacher Clement

Alvin Williams

G. Crichlow

Lewis Williams

Alden Cockburn

Audley Mamby

Preston Blake

Reynold Parkins

Hartley Barclay

Lemuel Shirley

Teacher Greaves

James Watkis

Kenneth Griffith

Andre Bullen

Hamilton Lavalas

Carmen Bullen

Edmund Lynch

Emily Butcher

Stanley Hutchinson

Leafy DeSouza

Theodore Nolan

Lurleen Jergus

Joseph Seales

Egla Gooden

Sylvia Hassan

Lillian Rowe

Janise Ledgister

Beryl Ogle

Adelle Sealy Bolt

# CONTRIBUTIONS AND PHOTOS RECEIVED ABOUT LA BOCA AND ITS PEOPLE

Courtesy of CyberNews Subscriber Deborah Mitchell and her mother Enid Hall (California)

## LA BOCA FAMILIES

THESE ARE THE NAMES AND BUILDING NUMBERS OF THE FAMILIES IN LA BOCA			
HOUSE #	FAMILIES	HOUSE #	FAMILIES
900	Restaurant (Ground Floor) 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor Bachelor Quarters (Male)	911	Commissary
902	Harris, West, Isaac, Dalby, Sealey, Charles, King, Crouch, Ramsey, Robinson, Sterling, Thorbourne, Prescott, Wilson, Atherly, Gaskin, Campbell, Crouch, Eastman, Clark	912	Quarters (Camp)
904	Camp Quarters	913	Bachelor Quarters (Male)
904A	Mess Hall	914	Church (Catholic) Blanchard (Caretaker)
905	Bachelor Quarters (Male)	915	Sealey, Wilkinson, Roberts, Aird, Smith, Markland, Henry, Holdip, Maner, Forbes, Britton
905A	Camp Quarters	915X	Westerman, Beckles, Weekes
905B	Bachelor Quarters (Female)	917	Best, Moore, Boyce, Wilson, Kelly, Nurse, Spencer, Bostic, Simon, Felix, Whyte, Gooden
905C	Office/Chinese Shop	917X	Levene, Powell, Crawford, Clarke, Howell, Forde, Thorne, Goodridge, Allen, Gaul
905D	Camp Quarters	919	Bachelor Quarters (Male)
905E	Camp Quarters	920	Bachelor Quarters (Female) Bauchber, Simon, Kellman, Gibson, Trottman, Lewis, Brown
905F	Camp Quarters	921	Cumberland, Mask, Marshall, Clarke, Straughn, Smart, Alexander, Mootoo, Chandler, Nicolas
906	Vassall, Cogle, Mahoney, Lyle, Cole, Clarke, Kellman, Bynoe, Swaby, Eudoxie, Reno, Thorpe, Johnson, Clark, Ward, Swaby, Barton	922	Camp Quarters
907	Church (Wesleyan)	923	Bachelor Quarters (Male)
908	Reid, Haywood, Greene, Brown, Wilson, Price, Gilkes, Fyffe, Ara, Wilson, Hall, Parris, Clark, Bennett	924	Camp Quarters
908X	Campbell, Conliffe, Forbes, Campbell, Scott, Trottman, Minerve, Goode, Payne, Morrell	925	Bachelor Quarters (Male)

# CONTRIBUTIONS AND PHOTOS RECEIVED ABOUT LA BOCA AND ITS PEOPLE

## LA BOCA FAMILIES

THESE ARE THE NAMES AND BUILDING NUMBERS OF THE FAMILIES IN LA BOCA			
HOUSE #	FAMILIES	HOUSE #	FAMILIES
909	Church (Christian Mission)	926	Camp Quarters
910	Jackman, Inniss, Jordan, Knight, Vernon		
910 X	Jordan, Johnson, Ottey, Best, Moore, Johnson, Forbes, Best, Ledgister, Mack		
962	Morrell, Yarde, Lennon, Marshall, Forbes, Pond, Johnson, Brown, McKindo	980	Barnett, Blaizes, Smith, Codrington, Lamey, Sampson, Jemmott, Johns, Matthews, Dryden
963	Allen, Jones, Holder, McCollin, Headley, Garcia, Samuels, Hinds	981	Turner, Morrell, Hinds, Cumberbatch, Johnson, Dove, Lamey
964	Douglas, McCarthy, Ashby, Ashers, Brown, Silvera, Lewis, Sealy, Pond, Hamilton, Howell	982	Stewart, Williams, Newry, Cockburn
965	Payne, Phillips, Pierre, Clunes, Powell, Brownie	983	Stewart, Daley, Layne, Harewood, Eastmond, Medford, Bell
966	Mendez, Gooding, Sterling, Prince, Lewis, Griffith, Barnby	984	Dyer, Straughn, Boyce, Evans, Francis, Jones, Gaskin, Hall, Wharton, Nurse, Fairclough, Scott, Bullen, Morris
967	Butcher, Alvaranga, Nebblett, Conliff, Williams	985	Robinson, Percy, Morris, Straughn, Medrick, Hosten, Greenidge
968	Bowen, Jemmott, Marshall, Bowen, Estwick, Best	987	School
969	Sealy, Best, Lorde, McClean, Pond	988	Thomas, Clark, Davis, Whyte, Walters, Hunter, Ince, Levy, Howard, Lee
970	Fairclough, Jones, Lewis, McNulty, Bucknor	996	Webster, Robertson, Forde, Batson
971	Griffith, Hall, Jenkins, Pickett, Watson, Daniels, Fawcett	997	Bayne, Miller, Faulkner, Francis
972	Gordon, Smith, Hinds, Franco, Johnson, Anderson, Van Horn, Griffith, Thorbourne	1004	Hall, Hylton, Best, Flynn, Chambers, Edghill, Lowe, Allen, Stairs
973	Thomas, Spencer, Prout, Allen, Merritt, Thorpe, Bynoe	1006	Edghill, Harewood, Gooding, Simpson, Smith, Skeete, Holder, Henry



# CONTRIBUTIONS AND PHOTOS RECEIVED ABOUT LA BOCA AND ITS PEOPLE

## LA BOCA FAMILIES

THESE ARE THE NAMES AND BUILDING NUMBERS OF THE FAMILIES IN LA BOCA			
HOUSE #	FAMILIES	HOUSE #	FAMILIES
974	Morrison, Daniels, Worrell, Jump, Clark, Thompson, Burrows, Buchanan, Ramsey, Palmer	1007	Taylor, Hunt, Belgrave, Thorne, Grant, Bushell
975	Church, Gooding, Smith, Forbes, Nurse	1008	Davis, Ara, Griffith, Cumberbatch, Livingston, Henriquez
976	Rose, Phillips, Ifill, Messiah, Springer, Quinn, Robinson, Straughn, Spencer, Lashley	1009	Mears, Campbell, Peart, Messiah, Branker, Benjamin, Ottey, Squires, Parchment, Howell
977	Butler, Atherly, Dixon, Charles, Ceasar, Gustave, Williams	1010	Fergus, Tudor, Greaves, Matthews
978	Rance, Donalds, Holder, Johnson, Worrell	1011	Bovell, Williams, Hunt, Bushell, Edwin, Hoyt, Hussey
979	Mandeville, Woodruff, O'Keith, Elie, Lewis, Yancey, Gill, Barnett	1012	Clarke, Joseph, Largie, Murphy, Morrison, Turner
1013	Edwards		
1014	Thompson, Grant, Pueseey, Babb, Sisnett, McDonald, Moore, Smith, Sobers, Shorey, Trotman	1021	Roper, Edwards, Scantlebury, Lowe, Green, Allen, Clark, Grant
1015	Todd, Williams, Tomlin, Moulton, Wilkinson, Goodridge	1022	Levy, Chase, Roach, Howell, Shields, Angel, Greenidge, Prieto, Hinds, Hayes
1016	Padmore, Gaskin, Brown, Joseph, Jpnes, Stanford, Sheaffer, Dacres, Burgess	1023	Wright, Pierre, Peters, Redwood, Joseph, Scott, Allamby, Wynter, Todd, Greene
1017	Howell, Creater, Sterling, Reina, McDonald, Worrell, Hinds, Harbin, Rose, Pinder, Ansbury, Sisnett, Clovis, Davis, St. Louis	1024	Clark, Brewster, Blackburn, Davis, Holligan, Thomas, Moore, Brathwaite, Oliver, Hall, Gibson, Davis, Brown, Prince, Morgan, Lowe
1018	Reese, Forde, Graham, Corbin, Benskin, St. Hilare, Ramsey, Hogan, Greaves	1025	Mitchell, Clark, Bowen, Bizant, Gordon, Worrell, Weekes, Guy, Alleyne
1019	Forde, Lindo, Harris, Yearwood, Weir, Raphael, Mapp, Carter, Howell, Carter, Waterman, Weekes	1026	Roach, Nichols, Miller, Whittick, Crawford, Padmore, Bowen, Nichols, Anderson, Sobers, Davis, McClellan
1020	Gooding, Johns, Williams, Edwards, Hazelwood, Beckles, Todd, Goodridge, Harris		



Hi Carmela: It was so nice going thru the La Boca Townsite edition. It brought back memories of my Dad, Harold L. Fairclough also known as "Pacito or "Pete" and his sisters May, Vie, Louise, and his brothers Cyril "Mac" and Charles who migrated to Peru. Their description of La Boca was so vivid. You could note the love my Dad, my aunts and uncles had for "living in La Boca" as they would always begin their recollection of their childhood and young adult life there. I have no pictures just the memories they left with me. My Dad always talk about his baseball playing years and

being the manager of one of the teams, I believe the team name was the La Boca Orioles. He spoke with so much pride and joy about being the manager when his team won the championship. I spent my early childhood in La Boca. My recollection of La Boca is bits here and there, but I do remember going to Mrs. Prescod Pre-school at a church, skating under the school, skating one Xmas Day with my brother Carlos and my sister Diana, living in front of the Club House and the school, of course, the Ricky drinks and the Sticky Buns pastry. My mother, Julia Fairclough, made beef patties that she sold with the help of Allan Bailey, we called him Orlando. My Dad took us to the movies every Sunday and our big treat was the ferry rides after the movies. My Mom took us to near by Far Fan Beach a lot. According to my Dad, my aunts and uncles La Boca "was the best local rate town". Of course, La Boca was where they spent many happy and memorable days with their friends and their parents who came to Panama from Jamaica. Oh, the memories, the good times.

**Martha Olton (Panama)**

Carmela: WOW! What a people! What experiences! What memories!

**Federico Ellington Smith (Florida)**

Definitely historical and informative. Job well done in bringing the past to life! Gracias Amiga! Definitely a "saver". Is there any way to save this other than to print it? You are awesome lady!

**Annesta Spencer (New York)**

Hi Carmela: Thanks for sharing our history. Very informative and educational. It was good to see the article written by my uncle Lloyd Hogan. I suggest you do a follow-up of the generation that followed. Perhaps from the 1950's moving forward. That will be our generation who were born during the 1940's to maybe 1960's. Just a thought. Thanks again for sharing.

**Victor Hogan (Georgia)**

Hi Carm: What a wonderful job you did putting all this together. It is a great historical document. Good job!!

**William "Bill" McLaughlin (Florida)**

Dear Carm: What a wonderful production!!!! Congratulations and much appreciation! I grew up on the Atlantic side of the Isthmus but heard a lot about La Boca from our neighbors in Rainbow City, Lloyd and Isabel White, who considered themselves, first and foremost, La Bocans. I believe that my uncle George Cockburn and his wife Edith taught at La Boca schools. Of course, many of our teachers in Rainbow City, including my uncle Holden Cockburn, were graduates of the La Boca Normal School. Again, felicitaciones y gracias.

**Carl Cockburn (Maryland)**

Kudos on a job well done on skimming the surface of the Memoirs of our La Boca Townsite...I was hoping that my Bro Carl replied to your request, he was a Valedictorian, my aunts & uncles all finished there...I am often reminded by Malcolm Sandiford that I played the part of "Little Baby Jesus" at a Christmas Play. Most of all I cannot forget the great "Speedy" Moss, who use to work with your Dad, came and pick up a few who were allowed to go hiking, riding the Porras Ferry and swimming in Hideaway Beach down by the ferry crossing - that's where I and most of us learned to swim...we were both Methodist and Episcopal churchgoers "bak n d day". I believe Luisa have most of the pics, but will send one that I have. Once again, great reflections of all the names, your family and lots of old time friends.

**Norman "Ed" Clark (Texas)**

Congratulations on a fantastic CYBERNEWS 'La Boca Townsite Special Edition'! Job well done!

**Ricardo "Butch" Millett (Illinois)**

# CONTRIBUTIONS AND PHOTOS RECEIVED ABOUT LA BOCA AND ITS PEOPLE

Courtesy of CyberNews Subscriber Toribio Martin (Panama)



Acrobatics close to the La Boca tank farm. Toribio Martin standing, Fitz Lowe in the middle and Joseph "Charlie" Martin on top



Acrobatics in the La Boca High School field. Toribio Martin to the bottom with Joseph "Charlie" Martin and other person unidentified.



La Boca "Imperial 5" Basketball team (1932 champions). Left to right standing: Kelly, Toribio Martin, Shorey, Church (coach), Murry, Fat Weeks and Cole. Left to right kneeling: Jones, Bailey, Thomas and Smith.



Oh my gosh! That's all I can say. What pieces of information! I was just wowing to myself while I browsed throughout this priceless wealth of historic tale. Keep it up Carmela; you're the greatest!

**Vilma Nesfield Poyser (New York)**

Thanks for keeping our history alive. I hope our youths of today will take note to add it to theirs and continue our legacy. Congratulations.

**Antonio "Tony" Reina (Panama)**

Carmela: All I can say is WOW a thousand times. What a WONDERFUL Special Edition on La Boca! You and your husband out did yourselves on this edition. This is something the ex-La Bocans will cherish forever and pass down to their children/grand children. I am sure there are a lot of people printing out this fantastic article to put into a scrapbook, if they are not, then something is obviously wrong with them, because what you wrote, the way you presented it, and the layout was just fantastic. They were not my memories, but guess what? I am thanking you for enlightening me of the memories my father, Aubrey Blair, and my godfather, Henry Watkis would have enjoyed if they were both alive. Even though they did not live in La Boca, they were very much a part of life in La Boca. Thank you very much again.

**Emilia Jimenez (Nevada)**

Carmela, your dedication in rounding up the pictures, and history of La Boca Town was excellent. Thank you very much for the memories.

**Antonio (Tony) Thomas (Washington)**

Great initiative and excellent content. I know it will bring back many memories.

**Melva Lowe de Goodin (Panama)**

Excellent Job.

**Charles Meyers (Florida)**

It was an awesome edition. We enjoyed it very much. I knew my dad is from Red Tank and my mom from La Boca but I didn't have much info. I had some photos and was trying to see if she was one of the ladies in white.... ; ) This made me want to ask my Uncle Ralph for more info.

**Divia Forbes (Georgia)**

Hi Carmela: This edition is very interesting. The reminiscences of your subscribers are very vivid. Getting for Red Tank would be a treasure, since Red Tank was destroyed before La Boca was reconstructed to move the White people in and the Blacks out to Paraíso and Pedro Miguel. The AfroPanamanian Newsletter [www.afropanameniannewsletter.mex.tl](http://www.afropanameniannewsletter.mex.tl) includes many references to Canal Zone towns.

**Ines Sealy (Panama)**

Carmela: Thanks for sending this. It's quite a compilation of treasures! Do you mind if I share it with a couple of colleagues here at the University of Florida (Gainesville) who are interested in seeing it?

**Paul Losch (Florida)**

Hi Carmela: Many thanks, and congratulations on the outstanding edition dedicated to La Boca. Am enjoying it very much. I clearly remember the old La Boca townsite and I knew a number of people who lived there. It was always a treat when my mother took me along whenever she went to buy fresh vegetables at the Chinese garden. Thanks Carmela.

**Charlie Hinz (Panama)**

Carm: I really enjoyed the La Boca Town edition. Maybe you should highlight other towns likewise later on.....Saludos.

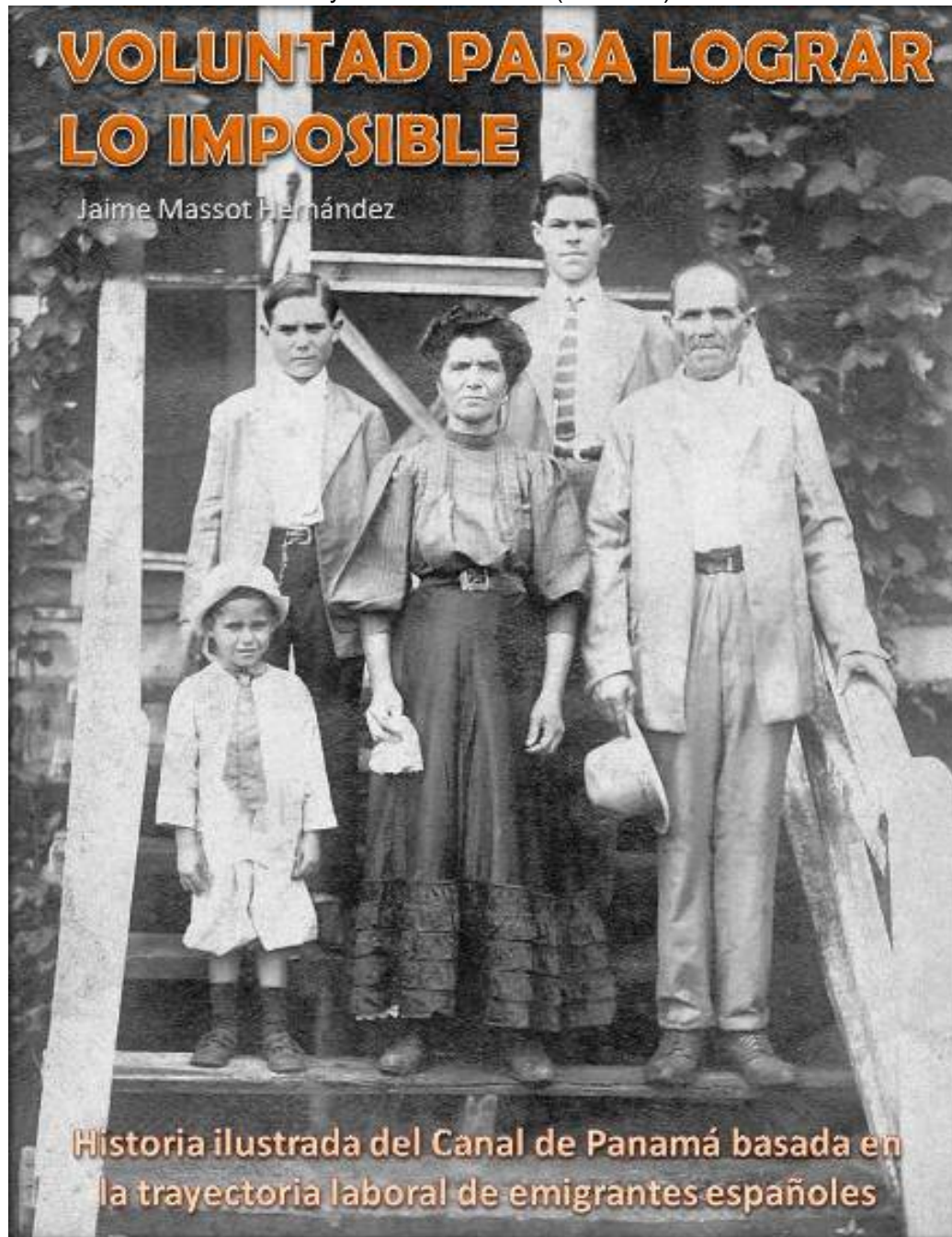
**Tito Johnson (Panama)**

Thanks for all of the memories of La Boca. It took me back in time. We also always looked forward to reading the weekly newspaper "Panama Tribune." You and Alonso have done such a wonderful job of compiling the info. My dad, too, was a shutterbug. But, none of the pictures was saved. He also had one of those box cameras in brown leather that he just loved using it. Thanks for the memories.

**Daisy Prescott Pickett (Tennessee)**

# CONTRIBUTIONS AND PHOTOS RECEIVED ABOUT LA BOCA AND ITS PEOPLE

Courtesy of Jaime Massot (Panama)



Excelente artículo Carmela. Mi bisabuelo Pedro (con su esposa Rosa) vivió en La Boca, cuarto D de la casa 1008, de 1915 hasta su fallecimiento en 1940. Su hijo Genaro (mi tío abuelo) continuó allí hasta 1950. Mi abuelo Julio también vivió ahí (1915-1918) al igual que mi tío abuelo Pedro (hijo). La foto de la portada del libro que estoy escribiendo es frente a su vivienda (adjunto). **Jaime Massot (Panamá).**

# CONTRIBUTIONS AND PHOTOS RECEIVED ABOUT LA BOCA AND ITS PEOPLE

Courtesy of CyberNews Subscriber Cirilo Alexander (Panama)

June 20, 1948 Panama Tribune

## Miss Emily Butcher Gets Degree From Columbia University



MISS EMILY BUTCHER

Reports reaching here from the United States during the past week indicate that Miss Emily Elvira Butcher, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John O. Butcher of La Boca, Canal Zone, was among the 7,995 graduates upon whom degrees were conferred this month at the 194th annual commencement exercises of the Columbia University in New York City.

Miss Butcher, a graduate of the first class of the La Boca Normal Training School, a graduate of the Instituto Pan-Americano and an alumna of the National Conservatory of Panama, up until her departure from

(Continued on Page 2)

## Miss Emily Butcher

(Continued from page 1)

these shores nearly two years ago, was employed by the Division of Schools on the Canal Zone in the capacity of special teacher of music in the colored schools. Granted an extensive leave of absence by the Schools Division, she proceeded to the United States, where she entered the widely known institution

Hi Carm: Your "La Boca Townsite" presentation is formidable. It brings back memories of all who lived there and those who have heard of that once well-known Canal Zone townsite. I decided to do some research and came up with some info on **Miss Emily Butcher**, who was among those graduating in the very first class of the La Boca Normal Training School. I saw the picture of that class sent by one of your contributors, but for those who remember Miss Butcher and those who just heard about her I'm attaching a photo taken from *The Panama Tribune* of June 20, 1948. Miss Butcher was a prominent music teacher in the former local rate schools and took part in many civic events before her departure for the United States to advance her studies in the field of music.

**Cirilo Alexander (Panama)**

**Editor's note:** Emily Butcher is also a CyberNews Subscriber (Panama) and I know that she will be pleasantly surprised to see this publication sent by Cirilo Alexander. I have included photo at right to show that she is just as elegant today.

**CLG (Carm)**



# CONTRIBUTIONS AND PHOTOS RECEIVED ABOUT LA BOCA AND ITS PEOPLE

Courtesy of CyberNews Subscriber Cirilo Alexander (Panama)



Glee Club of La Boca Normal School  
with its Director-Accompanist, Miss Elvira Butcher.

Hi Carm: Hope that everything is fine with you. In following up with your La Boca Townsite & those who lived there, I'm attaching some ads and photos that will add to your already fabulous collection. **There is one with Miss Emily Elvira Butcher and the members of the Glee Club of the La Boca Normal Training School (Miss Butcher is seated, center), also one with the La Boca Strength & Health Club, with Vivian Newton, William Dunn, the Buchanan brothers and several other members. Included are a few ads of some familiar business places (Barber shop, Anesta's Beauty Parlor, etc). These photos are from the 1940's and were published in the "Isthmian Negro Youth Congress Bulletin" dated Dec. 24, 1945.** This publication advocated a "rounded out" advancement of the many West Indian youths who resided in the former Canal Zone towns in those past years. The "Bulletin" was under the direction of Editor Preston McBarnette, associate Editor George S. Brathwaite and Special adviser George W. Westerman.

**Cirilo Alexander (Panama)**

# CONTRIBUTIONS AND PHOTOS RECEIVED ABOUT LA BOCA AND ITS PEOPLE

A few ads of some familiar business places in the Isthmian Negro Youth Congress Bulletin dated December 24, 1945


Courtesy of CyberNews Subscriber Cirilo Alexander (Panama)

*SEASON'S GREETINGS*

from the

**LA BOCA STRENGTH & HEALTH CLUB**


(organized 1940 by A. C. Buchanan and A. M. Parchment)



Joe Balk (U.S.N.) 181-lbs; Vivian Newton (165-lbs); William Dunn (181-lbs); Alfred Buchanan (165-lbs); Kenneth Buchanan (148-lbs); Livingston Davis, 148-lbs.

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May Christmas bring you gladness  
and may joy abide with you throughout the year 1946.




*Tropical Boys*  
**Social And Sporting Club**

Stanley Pusey	Eustace Collins
Gilbert Grant	George Beckles
Kenneth Maloney	Clifford Bovell
James Ford	

La Boca, C. Z.

*Compliments*  
- of the -  
**Centro de Salud y Fuerza**  
*de Panamá*

(Panama Health & Strength Centre)



**LEOPOLDO DE LEON**  
Director

Panama, R. P.



# CONTRIBUTIONS AND PHOTOS RECEIVED ABOUT LA BOCA AND ITS PEOPLE

A few ads of some familiar business places in the Isthmian Negro Youth Congress Bulletin dated December 24, 1945

Courtesy of CyberNews Subscriber Cirilo Alexander (Panama)

PLEASING YOU IS OUR AIM

*Greetings!*



*May the happy atmosphere of the season fill your hearts with Christmas joy and the New Year bring you richer blessings*

## ANESTA'S BEAUTY SHOPPE

LA BOCA CLUBHOUSE

SERVING YOU IS OUR PLEASURE.

*We wish  
Our Customers and Friends*

*A  
Merry Christmas*

*and a  
Happy New Year*

### “THE BARBERS”

LA BOCA CLUBHOUSE

THE LA BOCA CLUBHOUSE  
NEW SHOE REBUILDING SHOP  
wishes you

*Merry Christmas  
And A Happy New Year*

REPAIRS OF ALL DESCRIPTIONS

made by modern machinery  
which enables us to turn  
out work as near as

YOUR NEW SHOES FROM  
THE FACTORY

GIVE US A TRIAL AND  
CONVINCE YOURSELF

Shoes Repaired While You Wait

# CONTRIBUTIONS AND PHOTOS RECEIVED ABOUT LA BOCA AND ITS PEOPLE

A few ads of some familiar business places in the Isthmian Negro Youth Congress Bulletin dated December 24, 1945

Courtesy of CyberNews Subscriber Cirilo Alexander (Panama)

THE CHRISTIAN SPIRIT IS THE ONLY HOPE OF MANKIND

*May the New Year dawning bring bright prospects of social and political progress to our people in this Republic*



**CALEB LAMBERT**  
(Proprietor)

## PYRAMID PRINT SHOP

No. 7, 24th Street East Bis

Telephone 339-L

WAS LOCATED  
ACROSS FROM  
MUSEO AFRO-ANTILLANO

PANAMA



appreciate the patronage you have given us during the present year and expect to be of greater service to you in the YEAR 1946

Management & Staff

### THE BARBERING CENTRE

DAVID W. DUNN.  
Proprietor.

Central Avenue & 24th Street East



Something right on the beam for MEN

### MURRAY'S SUPERIOR HAIR DRESSING POMADE

keeps your hair in place and makes you look your best at all times

Agents,

### NOVEDADES YANKEE

No. 1, 24th Street East

(Across from Muller's Building)

My name is Dubois W. Andrews, who graduated in June 1948. **Among the many outstanding students were** Sadie Springer [died in 1972), Wilfred Callender [died in 2012), Roland Watson+, Maurice Heywood+, Eric Green+, Joscelyn Russell+, Myrtle Kirkaldy+, Phillip Walker+, Claude Clark+, Ruth Miller+, Mabel McLean+, Elsie Hayott+, among others who were all in my class of '48. **Those who are still "smelling the roses" from my class are** Louis Walker, Gladys Mauge, Milton Clark, Elaine Elliott, Edna Holder, John Evans and Roy Hogan. Also, Luther Franco, Francine Richards, Myrtle Brown who may still be among the living, but I've not been in touch with recently. At a

later date, I'll try to add to this list by class. To the best of my memory, the above mentioned is what I can immediately recall. Old La Boca School was built on a cliff below which the Panama Railroad had a railroad line which connected Balboa through La Boca to Ft. Amador. This position allowed the students of La Boca to view the Breakwater of the Panama Canal at the southern entrance at the mouth of the canal. [For almost 50 years the bigoted, prejudiced US authority (The Metals Trade Union) finally made the CZ Government exchanged La Boca non-US citizens for Pedro Miguel US citizens and vice-versa. Hence, the new La Boca School was converted to the Canal Zone Jr. College while Pedro Miguel became a non US community. While La Boca was a non-US citizens community, the Thatcher Ferry was in operation allowing traffic to cross to the West Bank and to get to the Interior towns of the Rep. of Pma. The residents of La Boca had easy access to Hide Away and Far Fan Beaches on the West Bank. Life in La Boca was pleasurable though, much was done to keep people in abject poverty. Good Luck!

**Dubois Andrews (Florida)**

I have only one word to describe the "La Boca" special edition "**AWESOME!!!**"

**William Murrain (Georgia)**

Carmela: Thoroughly enjoyed the presentation to the extent that we have re-visited it several times. My wife is not from the Isthmus so explained things familiar to me. Also, it is being shown to friends who drop by, especially to non-"family." I appreciate the historic data, collaborative artistic work, and attention to details. Well done!

**Cyril Pessoa (Georgia)**

Excellent work; It fills me with mixed emotions. I am joyful to learn more about the place of my mother's birth and childhood. But I am sad that she is not with us today. I have so many questions that I would like to ask her. I thank all of you who were a part of compiling and putting this great work together. Special thanks to Carmela & Alonso. I am very grateful.

**Bishop Stanley Webb (Pennsylvania)**

Great job, Carmela! Your keen interest and passionate desire to put together this special edition were quite evident. I saw my cousin Tony Reina also submitted a contribution. He lived for awhile on 1074, where my paternal grandparents/family lived for many years. My maternal grandparents and my mother also lived in La Boca for many years, but I don't remember the house number. This special edition stirred up many memories for me, mostly positive. Are you getting requests to showcase other townsites as well? Thanks for a job well done, good and faithful servant! Hope and pray you, Alonso, your kids, and entire extended family are well. Peace in Christ,

**Richard "Ricky" Williams (Illinois)**

VERY IMPRESIVE PIECE OF WORK. We will be sharing it tomorrow in the DIASPORA SUNDAY SUPPLEMENT. Outstanding job Lady Carm; lets hope the oral testimonies folklore catches on in the Diaspora. I do believe the Silver People Chronicle had shared a call for papers for such purposes.

**Raymond Grant (Virginia)**

Hi Carmela: I love your page 11 article. The graduating class of 1935. Do you have a list of the graduates? If you do please email it to me with a photo of the graduating class to be used on the year book project I am doing with The University of Florida. If not can you give the email of the person that send it to you. Thank You.

**Emilio J. Collins (Florida)**

# CONTRIBUTIONS AND PHOTOS RECEIVED ABOUT LA BOCA AND ITS PEOPLE

Courtesy of CyberNews Subscriber Celestina Grannum Gayle (Colorado)



Hi Carmela: This photo was taken at a birthday party in La Boca, Canal Zone. I was looking at this picture and I thought it would be interesting to share for the people to see if they could recognize themselves in this picture. I believe it was taken in the back of Building 1022 or 1023. I think it would be a nice conversation piece.

## SEEKING THE NAMES OF THESE GRADUATES



The Panama Canal 1935 Graduates of La Boca Public School (8th grade)  
(Courtesy of Celestina Grannum Gayle)

Celestina writes: Reference the photo I sent on the graduates of La Boca Public School of the year 1935, maybe you could ask if anybody's parents or grandparents who are still alive would recognize or may know the names of the people in the above picture. I tried to get the names from DODEA records center in Ft. Benning, Georgia but was informed they only keep records for 50 years. You never know somebody may have that picture too and could give us the answer if they know we are looking for the names of those graduates. Contact [marva0709@aol.com](mailto:marva0709@aol.com)

Hi Carmela: Just wanted to let you know how I've enjoyed the La Boca Cyberspace News. I felt like I was back there in La Boca reliving all the memories. Family and friends. Running to the baseball park almost every evening to see the games or just to play. My parents were very strict too but we appreciate that today. My parents Marcus and Myrtle Grannum moved to La Boca in 1950. We lived on 1022 upstairs from Jan 1950 to sometime in 1953, we moved to 1018 upstairs corner till we moved to Paraiso around Nov or Dec 1954 when we moved to Paraiso.



Our neighbors were all very close with each other and looked out for each other and the children. My grandfather Arnold lived in La Boca from 1908 and Sophia Grannum lived in La Boca from 1914 when she came to Panama and married my grandfather. My father Marcus, his sister Catherine, brothers St. Clair, Aubrey and George. It is unreal but I go to sleep thinking about La Boca and it is as if I am really there. Great memories. Carmela and Alonso. I thank you for the memories. A job well done. Thank Ilene Bovell for the idea. Blessings,

**Celestina Grannum Gayle (Colorado)**

I was extremely pleased to receive this bit of information about La Boca. I was born in Panama and all of my 3 children were also born there. Please continue your good works in keeping us all informed about events in Panama. Thanks,

**Lorell E. Belgrave-Lowe (Florida)**

Thanks for the memories. We had a great Aunt in La Boca and spent many weeks with her during our breaks from school. Any chance you are going to do one on Red Tank? My mother and her sisters and brothers, Sylvia Tappin siblings, were born there and went to school there. I guess a lot of the older ones are now gone so there would probably not be a memoir as rich as this one on La Boca. Thanks again!

**Sandra Honeywell Solomon (Arizona)**

Hi Carm: The article is magnificent and I'm passing it on to others here and abroad. I was born in that town 71 years ago and I do realize that many of the folks with all of those memories are passing on slowly. In view of that fact I think that you should think of future articles. I know that it is a lot of work, but if you put out the feelers, you could gather info on Old Red Tank; Silver City and Camp Bierd and a few other forgotten townsites like Empire. Lots of hugs and kisses to you for a wonderful awakening of fond memories; it is also a wonderful way to celebrate the Centennial. God Bless

**Eric Brathwaite (Panama)**

Carm: Good, very good work. Though I never lived in any area of the CZ, I do remember as a child going to La Boca by train with one of aunts. She loved to shop at the Commissary, though she was not allowed. I certainly remember the goodies she used to buy for me, especially peppermint (the long ones, they were delicious), and the refreshments. Thanks for the wonderful work.

**Eva Escala (Panama)**

Carmela this is very good work. Brought back many memories. I even remembered one of the janitors name, and some of the residents of the Gold Street. It is weird, that I have dreams of buildings in the area. Sorry I didn't give you a picture of the Christian Mission Church with its members to publish.

**Miriam Wilson (Panama)**

Excellent work on La Boca. I was too young to remember anything.

**Dorotea McGrinson (Panama)**

It was BEAUTIFUL; I printed a few copies and sent to my father who was from the La Boca. Great Job! Carm, Is a spread coming on Paraiso next????? LOL

**Aminta Maynard (California)**

Carmela: This publication was great and brings back memories. Perhaps this could be a regular feature highlighting other communities such as Paraiso, Gambia etc.

**Carlos Cox (Panama)**

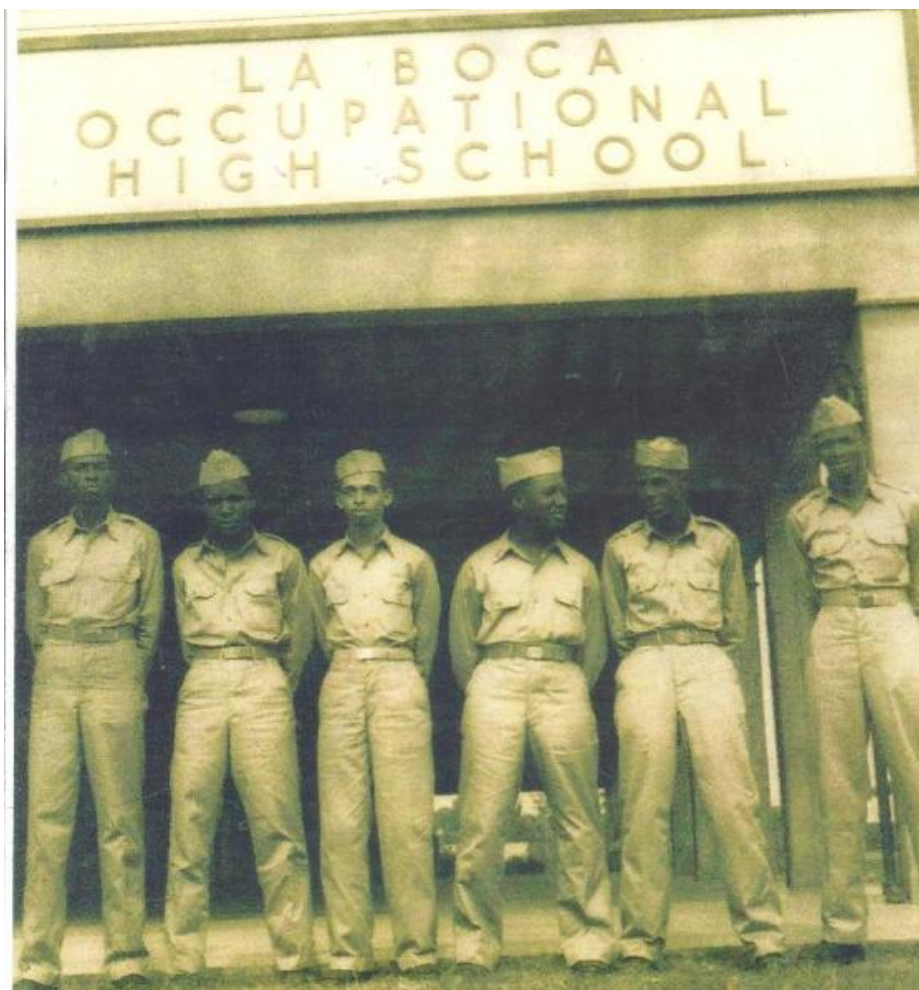
Carmela, OMG. Thank you, thank you so much, this is a treasure.

**Joshua McLean (U.S.)**

## CONTRIBUTIONS AND PHOTOS RECEIVED ABOUT LA BOCA AND ITS PEOPLE

Hi Carmela: Your Memoirs of La Boca was inspiring and superb. It brought back a lot of my boyhood memories. My family and I resided in La Boca on Trinidad Street, Building No.1074, Apartment K. A total of 12 families resided on that building. Some of our neighbors were the Williams: Lunis, Lester, Frankie, Agnes, Felida and Alice. The Hogans: Lloyd, Frankie, Roy, Raymond, Guy, Kenneth, Ilene, Ivy, adie and Monica. The Watsons: Carlos, Junie, Teddy, Shirley, Earl. The Searles: Venicia, Elena, and Virginia, the Jones Rupert, Frankie, Enrique, Clara, May and Mary. The McKenzies: Freddy and his parents; The Maloneys: Kenneth, Myrtle and Carmen; the Greens: Ashton Cardova and his parents. During the Korean Conflict and the last quarter of 1951, the U.S. Government opened the Draft Board in Balboa, Canal Zone. The Draft was intended for the American Citizens who were residing in the Canal Zone at the time, some of them were born and raised in the Canal Zone and believe it or not some of them spoke Spanish fluently. The American boys weren't able to fill their quota and the local boys (La Boca, Paraiso, Red Tank, Gamboa, Silver City, Gatun, etc.) heard of this draft and saw an opportunity and all decided to signed up for the draft and were accepted. Both of my brothers, Andrew and Kenneth Atherton, were drafted in March 1952 along with other set of brothers, Popey and Twist-up Jordan, Melbourne and Alcides Belgrave. I don't know Popey and Twist-up first names, I only know them as Popey and Twist-up. I have some photographs. Some of the other guys in their group were Owen Blanchard, Leonard Peacock, William Howard, Donald Goode and Glaskow. **Cyril Atherton (Arizona)**

Courtesy of CyberNews Subscriber Cyril Atherton (Arizona)



Group standing in front of La Boca Occupational High School (left to right):  
Andrew Atherton, Twist-up Jordan, Donald Goode, Popey Jordan, Leonard Peacock, Kenneth Atherton.



You (plural) did a super job with the La Boca Edition. As an Occupational High School graduate ('48), I enjoyed every aspect of the story and comments. It brought back memories of great teachers, schoolmates, projects and accomplishments. Un abrazo,

**Lloyd O'Meally (Panama)**

Morning..... I've been tied up with taxes and refused to divert myself on emails.... .looks like we did GOOD.... ever so happy to have been part of it. I see I have lots of messages from you.... will be getting to them ASAP. In the meantime... my congratulations too. if you ever want to do Rainbow/Silver City or Peter Magill (or Anything else) I can help there too. i enjoyed every word of it... you will get so many pictures I bet like the ones I sent too late to be included that you will be able to issue a follow-up easily. I would like to have seen (Maybe I missed it) the actual history of when it was decided to make La Boca a west Indian community & something about the decision to convert it into a Gold Roll townsite and Pedro Miguel becoming a Silver Roll. As stamp & postal history collector that kind of detail is important. What I like most were all the memories that former residents had.... a wonderful job indeed, and i see more than one person asked about "more." Good luck my friend. I will take a look at The Canal record of the times to see what i can ascertain about the history of the place. I noted that my dol real photo of "The La Boca Colored School" that there was a later building that was erected.

**Robert "Bob" Karrer (South Carolina)**

Hola Carmela: I really enjoyed your latest edition of the Canal Zone Townsite of La Boca it brought back quite a few memories. You do a fantastic job in keeping everyone abreast of the current news, trips, and also the obituaries. I don't know if you recall that, back in the day, there was a photographer on Central Avenue, Foto Bennett. Well, he was my grandfather. Foto Norman Bennett in Calidonia, was my cousin. I live in Springfield Virginia, right outside of Washington DC.

**Elsa Francis (Virginia)**

Yes Carmela: My memories of La Boca were when I was a pre-teenager. We lived on the Atlantic side and I remember going to my aunt's house in La Boca when it was a new community, new house. In those days, 50 miles was a great distance and we visited family once or twice a year. Much later I learned that La Boca was first a black community. I don't know how the former residents were evacuated, what was around there, what it looked like, etc. As stated the edition is educational and historical information. I enjoyed Roman Foster Diggers video and feel it deserves recognition in the Panama Canal Museum (another view of the same history) and I recommended to Roman at your house that he visit the museum.....I don't know if he did. That was great! The town was bigger than I thought it was and when the trees grew in a very nice location and the vegetable gardens. Funny how everybody remembers their house # and neighbors.....and the games we all use to play. I to had a breadfruit tree close by. When I was in elementary school, a Panamanian wife of a police officer pulled some down and took me home and showed me how to fry them which my sisters, our children and I do to this day. When my black mother, Elaine, found out we liked breadfruit, she baked us ripe breadfruit stuffed with bacalao and we died and went to heaven that day.

**Margaret Ender (Panama)**

Hi Carmela: I graduated with the class of 1940. After graduation I entered 4th grade in Simon Bolivar next to the Presidencia. Went to 5th in 1941. All the schools in Panama were closed the 28th of December right after Christmas. All parents were instructed to take their children to the Interior because the Japanese were coming to bomb the Canal. School vacations were normally March through May. That year (1941-42) it was Dec. 28th through May. I then started to work at 16 years of age at the Corozal Laundry in February 1942. Then to the Navy at Pier 18 in September 1943 and onto Rodman 1n 1945 until 1974 when I transferred to the Army Procurement retiring in 1982. Last January I was 32 years retired. History! Ha! Ha! Have a nice day. Hello to Alonso.

**George Caesar (Georgia)**

Hi Carmela: I just finished reviewing the La Boca Cyberspace special. It is wonderful; I totally enjoyed it, great memories. You and your team continue to produce great works. Thanks.

**Ernesto Charles (New York)**

Morning Carm: After reading and enjoying the CyberNews-La Boca Townsite Special Edition, I got flashbacks. My dad used to play baseball against the La Boca team; we have been there many times. I remember sitting in the clubhouse and watching the ferries at work. A gentleman at my church, St. Matthew is a 1937 graduate of La Boca High School, also my mom. He lived on 1059 Trinidad St. next to St. Peter's Church; my mom lived on 917X La Boca Road. He plays dominoes every Tuesday at the parish hall, and has participated in the Olympic baseball games in 1946. My mom same as



Mr. Warner are in good health, both of them healthy in mind and body, and goes wherever by themselves. They know each other well. My mom will be 96 years old early next month, and her schoolmate is maybe a year younger. God bless them. And you also. **Louis Emanuel (New York)**

Carmela: Me permito felicitarla por tan extraordinaria remembrase de nuestros ancestros. Es como usted dice: Gone but not forgotten. Definitivamente, esto no se puede olvidar y ojala que nuestros hijos, nietos y bisnietos nunca olviden. Nuevamente Felicidades! Y muchas gracias,

**Verna Patricia Forbes (Panama)**

Hola Carmela: Gracias por el CyberNews, lo encontré muy interesante e informativo. Felicitaciones por la edición de La Boca; además de disfrutarlo, sentí que recorría el lugar. Dios te Bendiga

**Isabela Gibbs (Panama)**

Me encanta la edición de La Boca. Podía ser mayor si tuviera más fotos de La Boca y sus alrededores., perdóname por mandar mis fotos tarde y comentarios sobre mis documentos que tengo. Quizás mas tarde en el futuro. Gracias por abrir este orario sobre La Boca en esa Época. Que Dios te bendiga siempre y la familia.

**Roberto Díaz (New York)**

Carmela: Your "Memoirs of the Old Canal Zone Townsite of La Boca, Panama was so compelling, it captivated my memory of those precious childhood days. I want to read more about our people who made one of the Seven Wonders of the World, "The Panama Canal" the Bridge of the World and how proud we are to share this part of our history with the younger generation. I would also like to say thanks to Roberto Diaz for allowing us to watch the World Series on their television set (the only one at the time in the neighborhood) back in the La Boca days.

**Miguel "Tito" Reece (Florida)**

Thanks a million Carmela, after reading about the memories of our childhood townsite, I felt homesick, I really cherish all that was written and really realize it was such a special time. Thanks again for sharing those special moments. Excellent job.

**Shirley George (Panama)**

I will be most pleased if you could mention the "Mendez" Family, my grandfather Isaac Nathaniel Mendez, and grandmother Thedosia Mendez and they lived on Building 966 in La Boca where I Victoriana Conchita Wellington Mendez and my brother Pedro Wellington Mendez where born to Iris Mendez a well known dressmaker and D'Orsary Wellington the Trompet player. Daisy, Alfred, Iris, Eddie, Bert, Myrtle, Buster, Ruthie and Roy, other grandchildren that grew up in La Boca are Carlie, Ralph, Papito, Victor, Robert-Junie, Ricky, Stanley, Tony, and Culisa. Thank you for posting.

**Victoriana Bowen (U.S.)**

**Special thanks to all those persons who have contributed to making this report a reality**

*Carmela Lowe Govern*

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