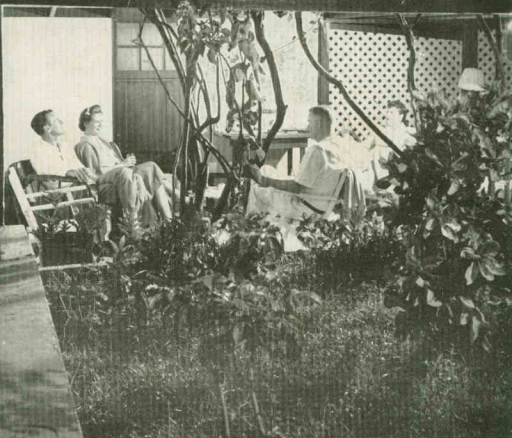




Your Aruba Home





Outdoor patios, used chiefly for evening relaxation or entertaining, are increasingly popular.

NOTE: For design purposes and to fit the shape of the front cover, the map has been slightly distorted from reality; however, it can be taken as a general indication of Aruba's location in relation to North and South America.

Your Aruba Home



This booklet is an introduction to the residential community where the foreign staff (expatriate) employees of the Lago Oil and Transport Company live.

It is intended to be especially useful to the prospective resident, married or single, who for the first time is going to Aruba to live. However, it will also be of interest to those who have lived in Lago Colony for many years, as a digest and reminder of policies and facilities that affect daily life.

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The refinery's graceful towers rise high into the tropical sky.

Introduction

Lago Colony is unique in some respects. It is one of the largest tightly-knit communities of Americans existing outside the continental United States. Its residents come from Florida, Texas, California, Washington, Maine, New York, and nearly all of the States between. In many ways it resembles a small town in the U.S.A.

Yet it is not American at all, but thoroughly cosmopolitan in makeup. Houston and Jersey City are well-represented, but so are London, Amsterdam, and the Balkan States. North Americans represent about 84 per cent of the Colony's population; Holland accounts for about 8 per cent, England for 6 per cent. Other nationalities include Danes, Swedes, Jugoslavs, Hungarians, Czechoslovaks, Swiss, and others. Altogether, it is a small example of "United Nations" at work.

Aside from the Hollanders, who are living in one of their country's colonies, the residents are all foreigners, a fact that it is well to bear in mind at all times. The laws of the Curacao Territory (of which Aruba is a part) may sometimes seem strange to someone from Brooklyn, Sauk Center, or San Francisco, but so might the laws of those places seem to an Aruban set down among them. In either case respect and compliance would be natural.

Currency, postage and language are among essentials that remind Colony residents that they are foreigners. There are other conditions that will remind them that they are not living in the U.S.A. For example, in late 1946 there are United States government restrictions which prevent the exportation of various essential items. The Colony Commissary serves chiefly Americans, yet in the procuring of any restricted supplies it has the same status as any store in Aruba open to the general public.

Lago has an extremely important part in Aruba's economy. Of the island's total population of nearly 45,000, about 7,000 are directly employed in the refinery. It furnishes a livelihood indirectly to many more thousands, who provide services or whose businesses are dependent on the refinery's personnel.

It would be a serious mistake, however, to regard Lago and its Colony as all of Aruba. A flourishing business and social life goes

on apart from the Company. There are good schools and fine clubs. Dozens of athletic groups sponsor sports for their members. While Hollywood's products (with Spanish sub-titles) are a popular form of entertainment, the island has always looked to Europe for its cultural heritage, and before the war a well-to-do citizen might send his son or daughter to the Sorbonne in Paris as readily as an Iowa parent would send his children to the State University.

Aruba's history ranges back to the days when it was a part of the glamorous Spanish Main. Today it makes new history as one of the world's great oil-refining centers.



Unique in the tree-world, this is one of Aruba's "one-way" trees, blown that way by the steady trade winds.

Bungalows

All bungalows in the Lago Colony are of basically the same design*, with all three-room houses alike, all four-room houses alike, etc. However, the addition of patios, garages, walls, and landscaping by the occupants has relieved the sameness of appearance to a great extent.

The size of the bungalows ranges from three to six rooms. They are of one-story frame construction with the outside walls stuccoed and with louvered windows. When a house is to be repainted, the rooms are finished in colors of the occupant's choice.

The essential large pieces of furniture are supplied by the company. The furniture included with the houses varies with the size of the house, but the furnishings for each individual type of room are generally the same.

In the three-room bungalows, the living-dining-room contains two 9' x 10'6" rugs, a sofa, two arm chairs, a center table, an end table, a desk and desk chair, a dropleaf table, a buffet and four side chairs. Bedrooms contain two beds, a dresser and mirror, a chest of drawers, night table, bed springs, mattresses and pillows, and a chair.

Kitchens have an electric refrigerator, kitchen table and chairs, cabinets, and a modern efficient stove.

In the larger houses, (4, 5, and 6 rooms) the furnishings in the living-dining room are slightly different; a coffee table, a sleepy hollow chair and footstool, and a rocker are added, and the end table is omitted.

Other furniture such as lamps, shades, extra occasional chairs, end tables, vases, drapes or curtains, radios, throw-rugs and other items not listed as furnished by the Company are usually brought by the occupants and help greatly to individualize the appearance of the bungalows.

Kitchen equipment, except that mentioned, should be shipped down with the family effects.

Windows in Aruba are generally draped. In calculating material needed for drapes it is safe to figure three windows per bedroom and four in the living-dining room. The windows are three feet wide and five feet high, with the tops of the windows seven and one-half feet off the floor. In the kitchen and bathrooms the windows are approximately 3' x 3'.

*The construction of a number of new bungalows is planned. These will be different in design from the existing ones.

Basis for House Assignment

The assignment of families to bungalows in Aruba is handled through the Lago Colony Housing Board. This is a board appointed by Management representing departments or groups of departments. The Board's function is to supervise the allotment of company-owned bungalows and to revise, periodically, the regulations formulated for the procedure through experience.

Eligibility for housing in Aruba depends upon job status, family requirements, and length of service. The housing index of the new foreign staff employee is determined by his job status and family status.

An individual desiring a bungalow or information as to his status for housing applies to his foreman or immediate supervisor. The foreman will forward the information and his recommendations to the Department head. If approved, the application will go to the Housing Board member concerned who approves and forwards it to the secretary of the Housing Board, who clears the application with the other Board members.

A Housing Index formula, mathematically derived from permanent salary (without overtime) and service is used as a basis for choice of bungalow. Thus the individual with the highest salary and longest service will receive the first choice. Persons desiring a certain size house, however, are in competition with all others desiring the same size with a few variations; a shortage of a certain size bungalow will force all families not meeting basic requirements for this size house, to drop out of the competition.

Anyone assigned to a bungalow is eligible to move to another. Application to move is made to the Secretary of the Housing Board. Persons who move from one house to another will be allowed one move free of charge; any subsequent moves (except for renovation purposes) involve a reasonable charge to cover haulage, paper work, etc.

As administrator of all Housing Regulations, the Secretary of the Housing Board assigns all bungalows. This includes original assignments, transfers, etc.

Any question or problem not clearly defined by existing regulations is referred to the Board for clarification.

Information concerning housing generally comes from the Secretary of the Board or from your representative on the Board.



A Company-operated postoffice within the Colony receives and distributes mail.



A typical Aruban house is of concrete with a tile roof. The windmill is used for generating electricity.

Rents

Rents for Colony bungalows range from \$24 to \$36 for a three-room house, \$36 to \$52 for a four-room house, \$48 to \$68 for five rooms, and for six rooms \$56 to \$79. Within the rent range of each size the rents will vary according to the number of improvements present. (That is, garage, maid's quarters, flower beds, walls, sidewalks, etc.) As new improvements are added the rents are adjusted upward accordingly.

The Company bears the cost of improvements (and charges rent thereon) up to a certain limit on each size house. These limits are \$800 on a three-room house, \$1,200 on a four-room house, \$1,600 on a five-room house, and \$1,800 on a six-room house. All improvements in excess of these limits are paid for by the occupant.

Permanent improvements such as garages, patios, flower beds, etc., must be planned with a finished overall picture of the bungalow in mind. In regard to this work it is necessary for the field forces to be supplied with the proper construction sketches and drawings. Improvements must be built, however, with regard to certain zoning rules which have been set up to maintain basic safety conditions and consideration for a neighbor's property rights. The property line for new construction is considered to be half way to the next house. Construction is allowed up to 18 feet from the center of the roads, and 15 feet clearance must be left from fire hydrants; also, a vision line of 75 feet must be allowed for at all corner lots.

Permanent improvements fall into several groups and are Company property and cannot be moved without Company permission. Normally all construction of permanent improvements is done by the Company. The three classifications are as follows:

1. Major additions, such as garages, maid's quarters, patios, large flower beds, etc. are considered capital investment with the work done at Company expense and rent increased accordingly.

2. Minor additions, such as walkways, etc. will be constructed on work orders at the expense of the occupant.

3. Fixed (i.e. not in pots or tubs) trees, shrubs, flowers, grass, are provided by the occupant but cannot be moved to another location without the permission of the Company. Relocations may be made provided they do not interfere with safety or the interests of others.

Any question as to whether an item is chargeable to the Company

account or is at the householder's expense will be referred to the Accounting Department for decision.

Generally speaking, the wishes of the householder will be followed on locations, type, etc. of improvements constructed. The Company will, however, if it is considered necessary, require that structures satisfactorily meet Company standards as to what is constructed. Also the Company reserves the right to refuse permission to build additional improvements at a bungalow if in the overall interest it is not desirable.



Bachelor Quarters

With five two-story, H-shaped buildings, there are ample quarters for bachelors.

Single rooms are connected in pairs by a shower-bathroom and toilet.

To check in at the Bachelor Quarters the applicant signs a check-in slip at the Stewards' Service office in Bachelor Quarters No. 3 and is assigned to a room in one of the buildings.

Each room is equipped with a clothes closet, wash basin, mirrored medicine cabinet and shaving lamp, one 3' x 4' book case, one 9' x 10' wool rug, one Simmons single bed with coiled bed spring and inner spring mattress, one feather pillow, one bed lamp, one chair with leather upholstered cushions, one maple Morris chair with leather upholstered cushions, one maple chest of drawers, one maple combination table and magazine stand, a maple bridge lamp, a rocking chair and a clothes tree. Bed linen and towels are supplied. Additional chests, towels and blankets are furnished on request, also extra bed spring, mattress and pillows may be supplied to make day beds.

Bed linen is changed by the house-boys Saturdays and Wednesdays; towels on Saturdays, Mondays and Wednesdays.

Several kinds of laundry soap and a resolvent soap are furnished along with light bulbs, laundry basket and slips.

The room is cared for daily by house-boys who clean, dust, and tidy the rooms, make the beds and polish the furniture. The mattress is taken out to air and sun at regular intervals.

Men may live in these rooms alone (when sufficient are available) at \$15.00 per month, or double up with another man at \$10.00 per man per month, or take two rooms (when available) at \$20.00 per month.

Regular weekly laundry service is supplied at a nominal cost.

A public telephone and an electric water cooler are conveniently located in each building within easy reach of the occupants.

Girls' Dormitory

The Girls' Dormitory is a large stucco building, located between the foreign staff married Colony and the foreign staff Bachelor Quarters.

To check in, an employee is asked to sign a check-in form by the Dormitory matron and is then assigned to her room.

The employee may occupy a room by herself at \$15.00 rent a month, or when there are vacant rooms available, she may take two adjoining rooms for \$20.00 a month (with the provision that the extra room must be given up if it is later needed). All rents are paid by payroll deduction.

She is privileged to change her room status from occupying two rooms to one room or vice versa, or move to another room(s) in the building as often as she wishes, after obtaining permission from the Steward' Service office.

There is an up-to-date beauty parlor in the building operated by a private beautician. Weekly laundry service is available.

The screened porch is furnished with tropical plants, comfortable upholstered swing couches and easy chairs, ash-trays, etc.

The lobby on the first floor is equipped with drapes, wool rugs, upholstered maple arm chairs and couches, maple occasional tables and lamps, ash-trays, telephone and intercommunication system board that connects the occupants' rooms with the lobby.

The music room adjoining the lobby where social gatherings are held is tastefully decorated, and furnished with several small wool rugs, a piano, a console radio phonograph combination, upholstered sleepy-hollow chairs and foot stools, sofas, maple arm chairs, occasional tables, and lamps.

Each room opens on to an outside porch corridor. Every pair of rooms is connected by a toilet, shower bath, and wash basin with mirrored medicine cabinet with a light over it. Each room has a clothes closet, a book case, two wool rugs, a maple single bed with coiled spring and inner spring mattress, one feather pillow, a bed lamp, trash basket, a maple vanity with detachable mirror and bench, a maple night table, maple combination chest and desk, maple desk chair, maple upholstered armchair, and house telephone. Bed linen and towels are supplied and changed regularly. Additional pillows, towels and blankets are furnished on request.

Maid service is provided daily to clean, dust and tidy the room, make the bed and polish the furniture.

Two different kinds of toilet soap are furnished regularly along with light bulbs, toilet paper, etc.

In addition there is a tidy kitchenette where snacks and light breakfasts may be prepared by roomers. It is furnished with a two-burner electric hot plate, electric toaster, electric coffee percolator, kettles, pans, pots, dishes, tea cups and saucers, glasses and silverware.

Dining Hall



The Dining Hall, with a seating capacity of 900, caters to foreign staff single employees. It also serves married men whose families are at any time away from Aruba, and has a so-called "private dining room" at which families may take meals by making advance reservations. The service is boarding house style.

A foreign staff employee wishing to use the Dining Hall facilities must contact the Headwaiter and inform him of his intention. He is then assigned a seat.

For day workers breakfast is served between the hours of 6:00 and 8:00 a.m. This consists of fruit juices, eggs and bacon or ham, hot and cold cereals, toast and coffee or tea. Luncheon, between the hours of 12 and 1, consists of salads, soups, stews, hamburger steaks, roasts, puddings, compote of fruit with cakes, and coffee or tea. Dinner is served from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. This is the main meal and consists of various kinds of vegetables, chops, cutlets, beef roasts, steaks, fowl, and desserts of various kinds, coffee, chocolate, and tea.

Shift workers, however, will necessarily have a slightly different menu, due to their varying schedules. On the 8-4 shift, breakfast is served between 6:00 and 8:00 a.m. at which time the boarder receives a packed lunch consisting of three sandwiches, (either cold-cuts, cheese, jam or peanut butter) one pack of cookies, a salad (chicken, tomato, etc.) two pieces of fruit and pickles, tomatoes or onion on request. His dinner time is from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m.

On the 4-12 shift breakfast comes between 6:00 and 8:00 a.m. and luncheon is served from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. Between 3:00 and 4:00 p.m. the worker receives a packed lunch (same as on the day shift) at which time he may also have a hot meal which is the same as the day's luncheon or he may order eggs and toast. Upon completion of his shift he may have (between midnight and 12:30 a.m.) a meal which consists of the day's dinner.

On the 12-8 shift (graveyard), breakfast is served from 8:00 to 9:00 a.m. and the regular luncheon from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. is available. His dinner time comes between the hours of 5:00 and 6:30 p.m. Before going on duty, between 11:00 p.m. and midnight a lunch is provided and a hot meal is available which is the same as the day's luncheon.

There is an a la carte service on the menu which the boarder may use if he wishes. This includes a selection of steaks, sandwiches, cold cuts, cheese or omelettes. These items are subject to charge on the boarder's account.

A boarder may entertain guests in the private dining room, with only his guests' meals being charged to his account.

A boarder wishing to check out of the Dining Hall signs a check-out slip furnished by the Headwaiter. If he does not do this he will be kept active on the records and will continue to be charged for his meals.

Colony Commissary

The Company maintains two separate commissaries, one for foreign staff employees and another for the local employees of Aruba and the surrounding Caribbean area.

The foreign staff Commissary, a two-story brick building in the center of the residential section, is very much like a general store in the immense variety of the stock it keeps. It is the only merchantile establishment in the Colony; consequently, it has on sale practically all of the necessities of life and many luxuries as well.

Merchandise available there includes:

Groceries	Ironing Tables	Glassware
Bakery Products	Card Tables	Table Silverware
Beer	Porch Chairs	Light Bulbs
Soft Drinks	Children's Shoes	Kitchen Utensils
Tobaccos	Men's & Boys' Dress	Laundry Tubs
Smoker's Supplies	Pants	Poultry
Drug Sundries	Men's & Boys' Work	Fish
Cosmetics	Pants	Meats
Notions	Men's & Boys' Dress	Fruits
Hosiery	Shirts	Vegetables
Towels	Men's & Boys' Work	Dairy Products
Bed Sheets	Shirts	Seasonable Goods such as
Pillow Cases	Underwear	Toys, Decorations,
Blankets	Hats, Caps	Christmas Trees,
Shower Curtains	Pajamas	Holiday Foods, etc.
Men's Shoes	Other Haberdasheries	Kerosene (furnished with-
Galvanized Buckets	China	out charge).

Hours are from 8 a. m. to 12:30 p. m. and from 1:30 p. m. to 5 p. m. Monday through Friday, and from 8 a. m. to 1 p. m. on Saturday.

Women's or girls' clothes are not stocked, nor are yard goods of any kind. An acceptable variety of these articles is on sale in the stores of San Nicolas and Oranjestad. Fresh milk and cream are not available on the island, and powdered milk and evaporated milk are used instead.

The Commissary carries a representative assortment of standard brands, and no attempt can be made to satisfy individual tastes in these matters. The average prices are kept at a general level with those of the Bayway, N. J. area.

Delivery orders may be phoned in, handed in at the desk, handed to truck crews, deposited in the order box on the rear platform, or mailed in. Delivery is made once daily throughout the colony and the Girls' Dormitory, and once a week (Wednesday) to Bachelor Quarters. Orders for delivery (minimum Fls. 2.00) must be in by 12:30 p.m. of the preceding day. Special bakery orders (for cakes, rolls, etc.) must be in the day before delivery is required.

The Commissary has a special service whereby householders may phone in or hand in orders to be picked up at a later hour. These "call for" orders, which must be in at least two hours in advance, may be picked up at 12 noon and from 4 to 5 p.m. On extremely busy days the Commissary reserves the right to cancel this service.

The Colony Commissary service includes the delivery of free kerosene to the bungalows. Newcomers may request a container and kerosene at the store. All kerosene orders must be received at the store before 3 p.m. of the preceding day. **(The driver of the kerosene truck cannot accept orders.)**

A few general store rules are necessary:

All claims for damage or exchange must be accompanied by the sales slip.

No perishable goods for which damage claims are made are accepted for replacement by the Commissary later than noon of the following day.

Goods other than those referred to above must be returned for exchange during the twenty-four hours following delivery.

On over-the-counter or call-for orders, no shortage claims may be made after the goods are taken out of the store. House delivery orders are checked by the delivery man at the bungalow, and if any articles are missing he will arrange replacement. Shortage calls will not be accepted subsequent to the delivery.

Commissary employees are subject to discharge for accepting gratuities.

Laundry

Laundry for the Colony is done by one of the best-equipped installations in the Caribbean area. The building, located in the refinery area, houses modern equipment capable of handling about 160,000 pounds of laundry per month.

Clothes receive the same care in handling, by trained personnel, as they would at any laundry, with special attention given to certain types of articles which of necessity must be handled carefully.

Types of clothes which may be sent are: cottons, washable prints, washable slacks, Palm Beach suits, and all kinds of linens. All work is done in soft, fresh water with tested and approved solutions.

On the day of pickup, the soiled clothes, accompanied by a list, are put outside the door in a basket provided by the laundry, and the truck picks them up. Four or five days later they will be delivered at the door.

There is a "special" service which takes care of Palm Beach suits, launderable drapes, formal dress shirts and pieces of similar type that require care in finishing. If a customer wants "special" service on a garment he sends it along (enclosing a hanger) with the rest of his laundry, with a tag attached marked "special" or in the case of pressing marked "press only." There is no dry cleaning service, consequently, most women's clothes are done at home. Provision has, however, been made for a steam-pressing service.

In cases of emergency or established necessity for immediate service (vacationists about to leave the island, or linens for the Hospital) there is a "fast" service which takes about 9 hours.

A mending section does some minor mending and sews buttons on pieces in need of repair.

The cost of the laundry is figured by weight at about 12 cents U.S. Cy. per pound, with special pieces costing a little more. This charge is deducted monthly from an employee's pay.

Light-weight, light-colored tropical clothing is worn on Aruba (it reflects the heat of the sun, rather than absorbing it as dark clothes do.) Such washable materials as linens, cotton, and Palm Beach are most common.

There is a privately-owned dry cleaning establishment in San Nicolas.



These third-grade children in the Community School exhibit bright and happy faces.

School

The Lago Community School furnishes the means for the education of foreign staff employees' children.

The School, which is recognized by the Southern Association of Secondary Schools and Colleges in the U. S., covers all phases of educational curriculum. The standards have been set at such a point that it is possible for a pupil to transfer to any high school in the United States, and students upon the recommendation of the faculty are able to enter practically any college or university.

The elementary school affords complete preparation for entrance into high school.

The primary department, consisting of Kindergarten and grades one and two, has its own separate building with four large rooms, two pianos, three victrolas and a library for the little folks. Assigned to the primary department are four teachers whose responsibility it is to instruct and guide their small charges during the school day lasting from 8 to 11 in the morning, and from 1:10 to 2:30 in the afternoon.

The intermediate department, consisting of grades three, four, five and six, is housed in a two-story building with four rooms downstairs and an assembly hall upstairs. The assembly hall contains a piano, a Wurlitzer and movable chairs. This is the scene of school assemblies, dances, plays, etc.

The junior-senior high school faculty is composed of six teachers who teach grades seven through twelve. The high school contains six rooms, one of which is a science room fully equipped for courses in general science, biology, physics and chemistry. The commercial room contains typewriters, calculating machines, and equipment for the teaching of filing and other general office work.

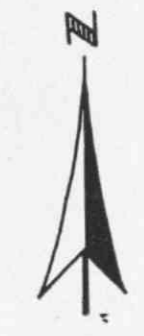
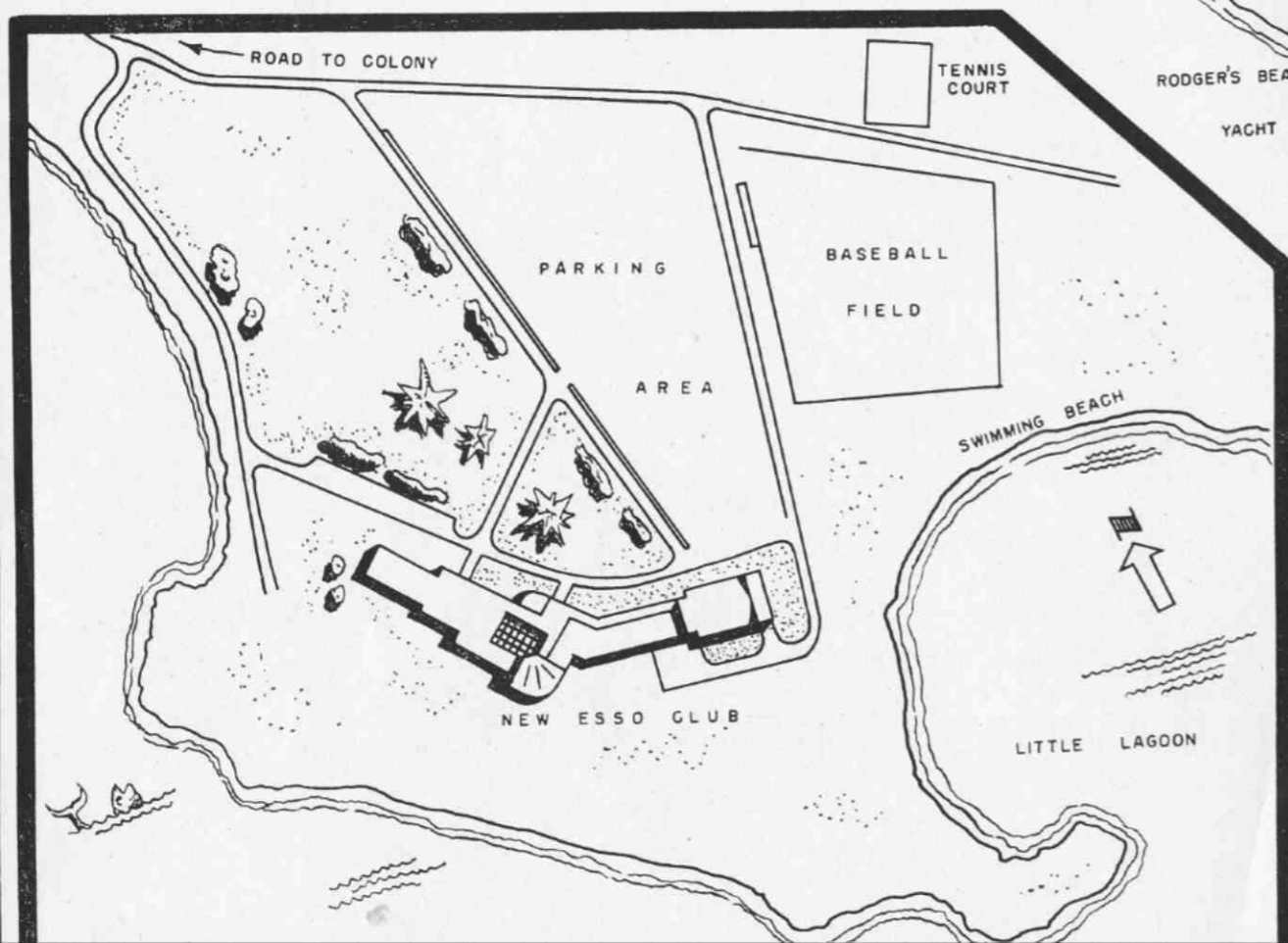
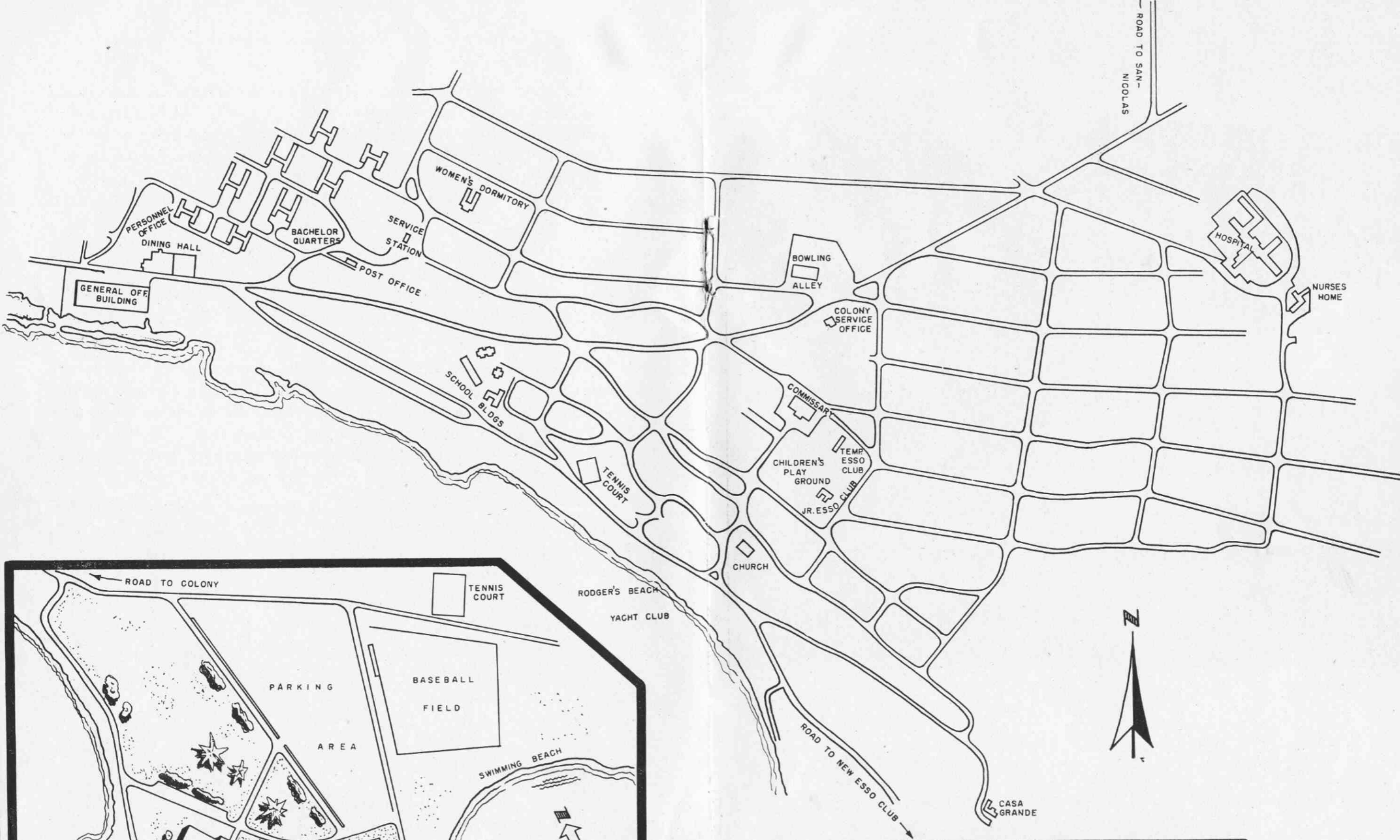
In addition to these buildings there is one housing shop equipment such as a power lathe, sanders, jig-saw and tools for wood-working, metal craft, and jewelry making. A well-equipped library is housed in this building.

The high school is primarily a college preparatory institution and its curriculum includes:

Mathematics	4 years
English	4 "
Sciences	4 "
History and Political Science	4 "
Spanish	3 "
Typing	2 "
Stenography	1 year
General Business Training	1 "
Laboratory as required.	

The complete faculty is composed of 18 full-time teachers, one assistant principal, and a principal.

All of the high school teachers are properly certified in the United States.



Lago Colony



One of many control houses. These are the heart and brains of the stills.



Schooners make a picturesque scene in Oranjestad harbor.

Services

The Company, through the Colony Operations Division, furnishes a householder, from one single office, as many as possible of the ordinary household and housing services and conveniences which are normally obtained from separate sources in the States.

Even in large cities in the States some of these services are hard to obtain and the prices are apt to be high. In Aruba some of them are supplied free of charge.

Along the line of construction, and improvements to bungalows, four services are available. They are:

1. **Design Service** —Advises on construction, repairs and renovation, also prepares working drawings.
2. **Estimating service** —Estimates on the cost of various construction, renovation, and work order jobs before work starts.
3. **Materials sales service**—Provides a source of material for miscellaneous interior work and exterior improvement.
4. **Work order service** —Provides a means for having interior work done, cabinets, etc., made, and minor repairs performed.

In addition to these more or less personal aspects of service the Division is charged with the care of the Colony's recreational facilities, which include the tennis courts, the baseball field (Lone Palm), the softball field (and lights), and beaches within the concession.

The gardens of vacant houses are cared for by garden crews; after renovations bungalows are put in order for their occupants by house-boys.

Trash and garbage disposal as well as the control of insects, the maintenance of oilpots, and the spraying of houses, all are among the services rendered by the Operations Division.

Maintenance and Renovation

The normal maintenance of company-owned property and improvements is a function of the Colony Operations Division. This covers necessary repair work on all buildings and furnishings, utilities, roads and walkways in the Colony. A phone call to the maintenance clerk starts the procedure of the Operations Division, and on any ordinary job the work will generally be started within a few days. Plumbing and stove repairs of an emergency nature are handled more quickly.

If there is any doubt as to the necessity of the repairs or whether renewal of furniture is necessary, an inspector goes to the location and decides what is to be done. Also as the work progresses, the inspector will check from time to time to see that it is being carried on properly.

The maintenance work generally covers minor repairs to Company owned property (patios, walls, normal wear and tear on furniture). In conjunction with the performance of this kind of work approximately 8,000 normal maintenance requests are issued annually. A general list showing the building crafts involved in the fulfilling of these requests is as follows:

Carpentry	Labor
Masonry	Electrical
Paint	Refrigeration
Plumbing	Upholstery

The complete renovation of each bungalow is on a 3½ to 4-year schedule, but it is subject to change as required by conditions.

Renovations are carried on while the occupants are on vacation in most cases, but circumstances may arise whereby this is not possible and unless the householder can find other temporary quarters (vacation house), it must be done while the family is living in the house.

Prior to the start of work, an Operations representative consults with the householder and discusses the selection of colors and trim combinations, and assists in the planning of the job to satisfy the occupant best when it is completed.

During the renovation the following work will be done:

- a) The house will be painted inside and out with a choice of colors at the option of the householder from charts provided.
- b) The house and all improvements will be inspected by a Colony Service representative and repairs will be made where they are necessary.

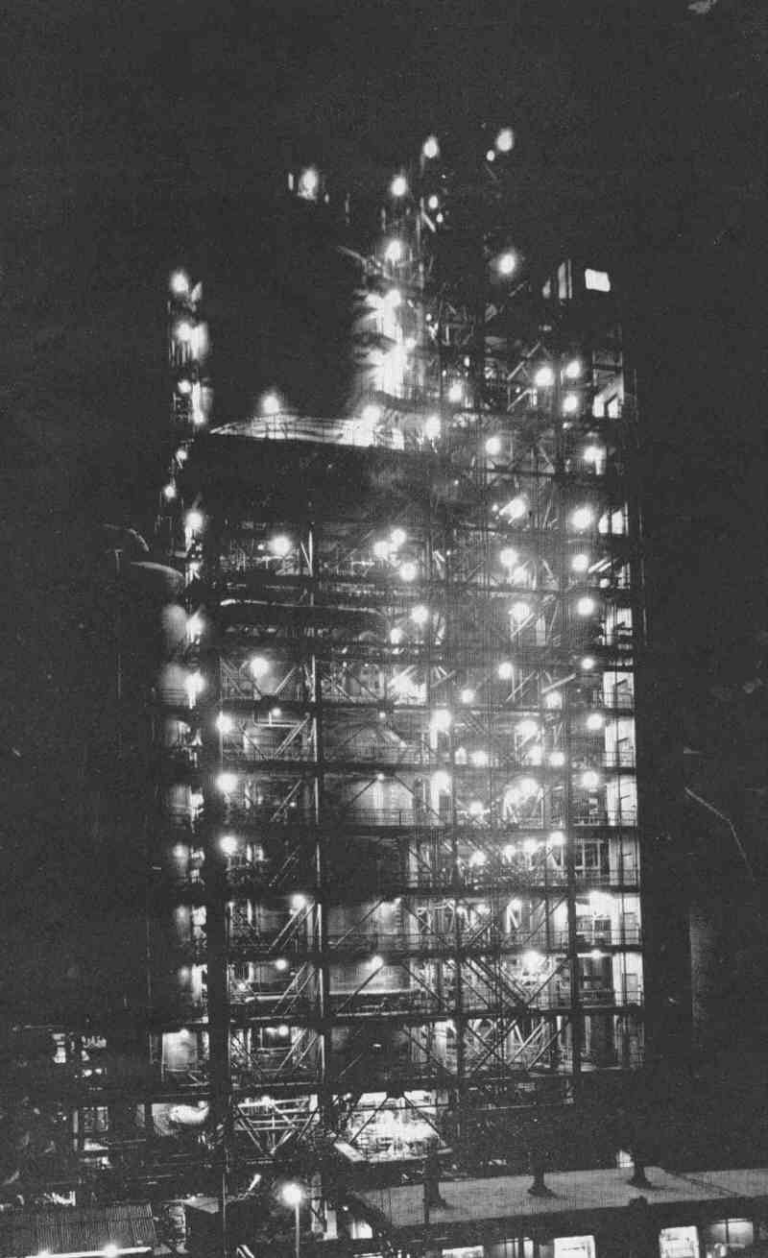
- c) The furniture will also be inspected and overhauled as required.
- d) Any repairs found to be necessary at the inspection in (b) and (c) that were the result of improper usage or neglect by the householder will be considered as chargeable to his personal account.
- e) Personal equipment will be painted or repaired at the expense of the occupant on a work order.
- f) During renovation, rugs will be cleaned at company expense. At other times a flat charge per rug is made.

Durable hardwood furniture or its equivalent is provided for all living rooms, bedrooms, and dining rooms. Satisfactory electric refrigerators, stoves and kitchen furniture are also supplied. All furniture except rugs will be replaced piece by piece when maintenance or repair as a result of normal usage is not practical. Replacements of this kind are charged to the Company. If the replacement required is due to neglect on the part of the householder, he will be charged for it.

Suites of furniture are assigned to definite bungalows, and householders are required to leave them at the old location should they move to another bungalow. Furniture that becomes available from a bungalow no longer in service may be used to replace worn out items in other bungalows. Rugs will be replaced every five years or as near thereto as possible and practical.

→

The 20-story "Cat Cracker" presents a Christmas tree-like appearance at night. During the Christmas season the illusion is heightened when colored bulbs supplant the usual ones.





Recreation

Amusement on Aruba is varied and not hard to find. There are sports activities throughout the year, and social activities include dances, musicales, bridge, picnics, and barbecues. The well-equipped Esso Club provides a community social center.

One athletically-inclined may play a couple of fast sets of tennis on one of the four well-kept hard-surface courts, or a not-so-fast nine hole round at the golf course, a mile away on the north side of the island. In the evening, if the exercise urge is still in him, he can bowl. Scratch and handicap bowling leagues are held periodically. For several months in the year the softballers are out in force during the evenings. Bowling, golf and softball are three of the most popular sports, and there are usually enough devotees of one of them around to get a game together.

Swimming is among the more relaxing of activities, and the two lagoon beaches are excellent. The temperature is right for year-round bathing. There are adequate facilities for diving at the larger lagoon, with a dock and a diving tower. Sail-boating is carried on from the Yacht Club dock. Snipe class boats are predominant and races are the feature of many Sunday afternoons. A few people own heavier boats, motor-driven, for fishing outside the reefs.

The Aruba Flying Club, with a membership of over 50 men, maintains a private field near the Colony and operates half a dozen planes of various types.

The center of social activity in the Colony, the Esso Club*, is situated on a point of land on the south side of the Colony with the blue Caribbean fronting it.

Outstanding among the Club's facilities is the modern, all-weather theater seating 500 people. Movies are shown nearly every night. At the other end of the Club are located eight standard bowling alleys.

The cocktail bar and lounge afford a pleasant atmosphere for a quiet drink. Attached to the separate men's bar are a card room and a billiard room.

*Since 1942, when the old Esso Club was destroyed by fire, Club activities have been carried on in a group of converted Army barracks. Construction on the new club building described above began during the latter part of 1946, but material shortages may delay its completion for as much as two years.



The soda bar at the Esso Club is one of the most popular spots in the Colony.

A glass enclosed main lounge opens onto the dancing patio with covered galleries, the scene of most of the large dances which are held at frequent intervals. The library offers a variety of reading material for leisure hours. A restaurant and soda shop complete the arrangements.

A convenient feature of the Club is that it is located only a stone's throw away from both children's and adults' beaches, the tennis courts, and the baseball field.

The building is in the modern tropical style, of concrete block construction with terazzo flooring.

A wide range of organizations contribute to the life of the community. Among these are the American Legion, Women's Club, Women's Guild, Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts and Brownies, Community Sunday School, Men's Forum and Women's Bible Class, Engineers' Club, Yacht Club, Golf Club, Gun Club, Flying Club and the Masonic Order.

Guests

Colony residents may bring outsiders into the concession as their guests, provided the sponsor or host assumes full responsibility for the guests while they are in the Colony. The host is also responsible for the guests' compliance with Colony and Company regulations as well as those of the various clubs and organizations within the Colony.

Due to the proximity of the residential community to the refinery and the consequent necessity for control of the movement of persons in the general refinery area, it is necessary that all Colony visitors be properly identified. If guests do not already have the proper credentials, they or their sponsor may apply for them at the Lago Police Office.



Dutch military police use bicycles to patrol their rounds in San Nicolas.

Soil-less Culture

The Colony has had in operation since March 20, 1945, a soil-less garden which turns out at various intervals limited crops of fresh, perishable, vegetables for sale at the Colony Commissary.

The object of the garden is the production of a local supply of fresh tomatoes, lettuce, and limited other crops for Lago employees and their families. The local output provides a much fresher supply than that shipped from the United States. This method of supply cuts down greatly the possibility of spoiled or partly spoiled products.

The soil-less or gravel culture method is employed because local conditions make ordinary truck gardening out of the question. Lack of good soil and water combined with excessive heat and an abundance of harmful insects make ordinary soil culture nearly impossible, while in soil-less culture conditions of growth can be controlled.

Soil-less method employs the use of water-tight beds, filled with crushed gravel, in which plants are set. The plants are fed by passing a chemical solution through the gravel. It is from the solution itself that the plants take all their food needs.

There are of course certain kinds of foods that cannot be grown here, but the types that can include tomatoes, lettuce, chard, spinach (New Zealand), bush beans, pepper, eggplant and carrots.

As this is written plans are being made to enlarge the unit and grow a greater variety of foods.



Small Aruban donkeys carry heavy loads. The boy is on his way to a public well to fill his half-barrels with water.



This little girl in the Company's hospital shows her interest in the nurse's story.



Worshippers gather at the non-denominational Community Church, which is supported by employee donations. Regular Sunday School classes are a part of its program.

Maids

The services of housemaids may be obtained in Lago Colony by contacting the Personnel Department which has established a procedure for their hire. By following this method the householder protects himself from any difficulties or embarrassment which might come as a result of hiring a maid in any other way.

Residents desiring maids are often aided considerably in their choice of suitable help by use of the employment records of the girls, which are kept by the Personnel Department. In addition, applicants for jobs as maids are cleared by the Personnel Department through the Medical Department where they are required to pass a food handlers examination.

Girls are not allowed to seek employment in the Colony without a letter of introduction from the Personnel Department. Those found doing so are subject to having their passes cancelled and being forbidden to enter the Colony.

Questions arising concerning the hiring of domestic help should be referred to the Maid Service section of the Personnel Department.

Pets

Persons owning pets in the Colony are responsible for their care and the prevention of their becoming a nuisance to other residents.

Dogs are required to have collars with a government license tag and a tag bearing the owner's name attached.

Unlicensed strays will be picked up by the Lago Police, and any dog that has become mad and a menace to the public should be reported to the Colony Operations or to the Lago Police.

Owners of pets, on leaving the Colony, must advise Colony Operations as to who is assuming the care of their pet while they are gone.

Live turkeys, ducks or chickens cannot be kept at an individual's home, and donkeys, horses, goats, or cattle are not allowed in the Colony.

Passes

A system of passes is in use for the passage of various Company and privately owned items taken from the Foreign Staff Colony through the concession gates.

Commissary articles may be cleared on a valid receipt or pass only by the person or his immediate family to whom Commissary privileges have been extended. This prohibits persons without Commissary privileges from carrying items from the Colony.

When taking Commissary articles from the Colony for picnics and other personal uses, they must be cleared on a pass. The Commissary receipt will not be accepted. The articles need not be itemized, "a box of Commissary articles for a picnic," or similar terminology is all that is necessary.

Company owned property must be cleared on a pass signed by an authorized person as designated by the various departments.

Residents who sell their personal property to people living outside the Colony are authorized to issue such passes. Passes for building materials, furniture, and rugs must, however, be approved by a Colony Operations foreman.

Blank passes are available at Gate No. 6, Colony Commissary, Colony Headquarters, Esso Club and the Post Office.



The troughs contain a harvest of aloe, a plant which yields a useful drug. Aruba is one of the world's greatest suppliers of this drug.

Shopping

While this booklet is chiefly concerned with the details of life within Lago's foreign staff colony in Aruba, a description of shopping possibilities in the island's two towns is in order. The Colony Commissary stocks mainly routine necessities, and most employees make purchases in varying amounts in the public stores in San Nicolas, which adjoins the refinery, and in Oranjestad, 12 miles away.

Nearly all of Aruba's stores are comparatively small, but handle an amazing variety of merchandise. There are no businesses comparable to the department stores of the United States, but an establishment no larger than a department store's glove counter will stock literally hundreds of different items.

Several good dress shops specialize in women's wear, and a number of other stores have this as a secondary or minor part of their stock. (U.S.-made shoes for women are not available in quantity; no store attempts to carry the wide variety of widths, lengths, and styles that would be required).

Several of the island's stores usually carry Palm Beach and other tropical varieties of men's suits. Popular brands of U.S.-made shoes for men may be had.

There are no large electrical supply houses as they are known in the States. No stores specialize in children's clothing, though a number carry it as an incidental line.

There are gift shops and several jewelry stores. Before the war oriental goods was a popular line, and no doubt will become so again.

Many stores specialize in yard goods, mostly cottons and rayons of an excellent quality.

Hardware stores are comparatively well-stocked, and a limited assortment of automobile parts is available.

A dozen or more agencies are distributors for various makes of U.S. automobiles.

Perfumes and colognes have always been a major stock in trade, being sold at prices generally lower than those current in the United States.

About the only safe generalization to be made on shopping in Aruba is that if one looks long enough, he can find almost anything.

Giving employees the opportunity to discuss and advise on policies, decisions, and programs affecting them, a group of committees made up of employee-elected and management-appointed representatives acts in an advisory capacity.

The foreign staff committees in operation in Aruba are four in number, the Foreign Staff Employees Council, the Lago Colony Advisory Committee, the Lago School Advisory Committee, and the Esso Club Advisory Committee.

The Foreign Staff Employees Council, whose function is the handling of problems concerning wages, hours and working conditions, concerns itself only with on-the-job matters.

Elected from and by Lago Colony residents and with the addition of Management-appointed representatives, the Lago Colony Advisory Committee has as its objective the handling of all problems pertaining to life in the Colony except where they are covered by other groups such as the Esso Club and the School Advisory Committee. These might take the form of differences between individuals, matters concerning living arrangements or the ordinary civic problems of a small community. The Colony Advisory Committee differs slightly from the usual advisory committees in that it does handle specific differences or problems which may arise between individuals in the off-the-job life in the Colony. These problems and their solutions are kept separate from the job as much as possible.

The Lago School Advisory Committee is elected from among Colony residents having children attending the School. Its aim is to develop a better understanding by the parents of the school's activities, policies and problems. In addition, in its advisory capacity the Committee serves to bring to Management's attention the views and interests of the parents.

The Esso Club Advisory Committee is elected by employees. The Committee, in conjunction with Club management, sponsors and organizes over-all Colony social and sports activities. It is also the responsibility of the Committee to acquaint Club management with any problems, requests or complaints as well as any reactions to announced changes in policy. In this way Club management is assured of close contact with the patrons and is better able to serve them satisfactorily.

These committees have an important part in community life within the sphere of their functions. Employees have a maximum opportunity to participate in and advise on activities and solution of problems involving the general interest.

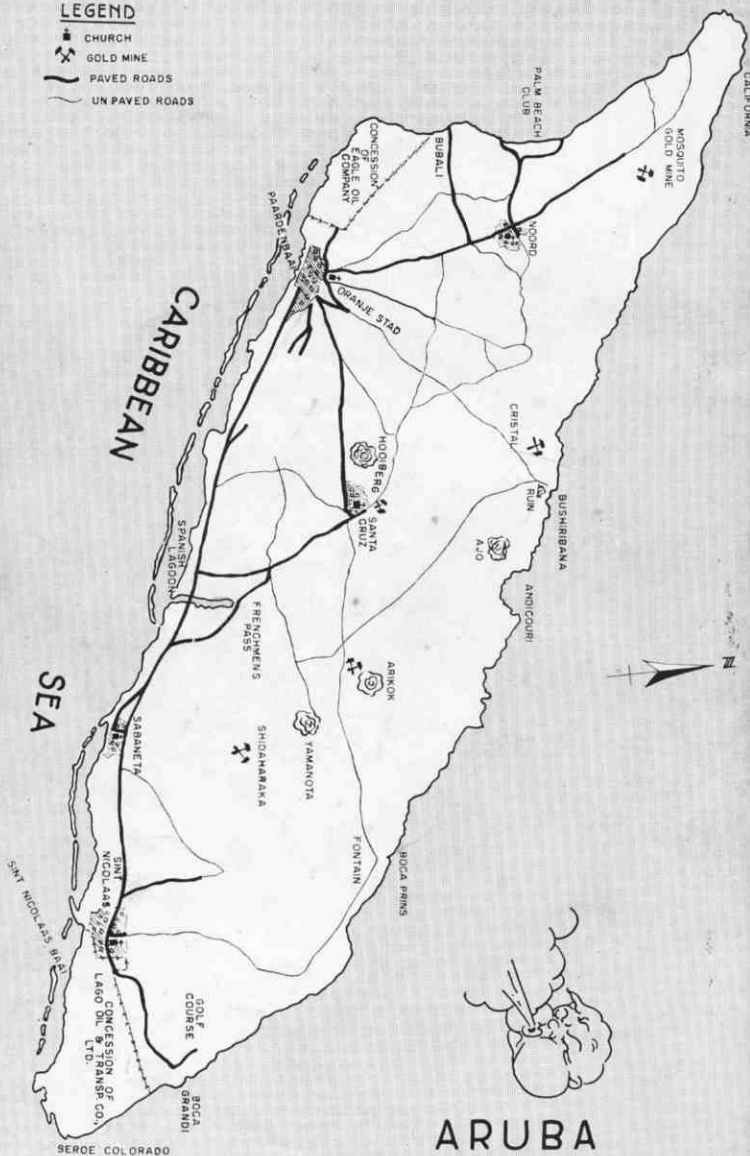


Rodger's beach is a mecca for swimmers and sailboat enthusiasts.



LEGEND

-  CHURCH
-  GOLD MINE
-  PAVED ROADS
-  UN PAVED ROADS



ARUBA