

November 2014 news

Note: some of these 'articles' are from folks answering questions from the Chronicle staff

Interested in renting a car from Hertz Aruba and still get the 20% discount? Contact the following sites: arubarentcar.com or reservations@arubarentcar.com. If you go to the first site you can find out the types of cars and rates. But be sure to mention you are from the Lago Group in order to get the 20% discount.

Bill Rafloski ('49) and wife Liz will head back to Aruba in December on the Norwegian Pearl – “only one day in port, but that should be enough. One more off the bucket list.”

Ron LeGore ('73) in answer to some questions from the Chronicle - Yes, my grandfather was **Eugenius Hassell**, the teacher and author, and my mother was his eldest daughter **Eugenie Bertrand Hassell**. My American father was **Clyde Robert LeGore**. The Hassell family immigrated from Saba in the 30's and my mom worked at Lago where she met my father during WWII. They eloped to Venezuela after the war in 1945 and all four of us children were born in Lago Hospital between 1946 and 1955. **Mary** ('64) is the eldest, followed by **Bobby** ('65), **Duane** ('69) and myself. Dad passed in 1966, mom in 2003 and Duane in 2012. Mary is in Ohio and Bobby is in N. Carolina, both retired. We have many Aruban relatives from my mother's side including aunts and uncles **Nela and Benny Sloterdike** and **Alex and Althea Hassell**. Their children are my first cousins and I visit them on Aruba every several years. They live in old Lago houses in The Colony which is where I stay. My last visit was 4 years ago and I stayed for three months. I spent 4 days clearing away the sticker bushes that have overgrown the Church property and got some guys from the refinery to help with heavy equipment. The minister named me in a prayer that next Sunday. I also co-founded the Aruba Animal Rescue Foundation (AARF) which cares for stray and abused dogs and cats. I may move there permanently for retirement and build a house on my cousin Eugene Hassell's property in the Colony. If so, I will petition the Government to help restore the Church as a landmark and make a park on the old hospital foundations where so many Americans and Arubans were born. I would also lobby to have the government do more to improve San Nicholas as a historic town and tourist destination. I am retired and love Aruba as it is my homeland and spiritual point of origin. I have standing instructions that in the event of my death my ashes are to be spread on the hospital foundation where I was born and then the cycle of life will be complete. I am interested in determining if anyone else cares about helping preserve the history of the Colony and its landmarks. On my last visit every morning I walked up to the Seroe Colorado light, then down along the coast past the pet cemetery for a swim at Baby Beach before returning past the church to my uncle's house. So sad to see the Colony in such a poor state. I watched them tear out the bowling alley at the old Esso Club. [Ron's grandfather, Eugenius Hasse, taught Papiamentu for Lago staff and wrote the first Papiamentu/English Dictionary.]

Al and Ann (Nixon) Leak ('53/'57) are in need of prayers. Al had a stroke in early May. His arms and legs are OK but he has some problems with words. He's able to e-mail though. Ann is in a rehab/assisted living facility in Sarasota FL where she is receiving chemo therapy every other week.

From **John Masters** ('55) regarding the October reunion in San Antonio: “I will not be able to attend this time as I have given up my driver's license due to the loss of one eye and at age 80 I do not need to be driving anything but my power chair. Just let all know they are always in my thoughts and wish I could be there. I have spent 4 years restoring a vehicle I could not afford when it came out so I decided to build one however since it is finished and my condition keeps me from driving it all I can do is admire it but now will sell if any Arubacon out there is interested. It is 100% restored with no miles on it as yet, a new 77 C3 Corvette T-Top.

Lou (Myers) Groves [54-66] moved from Denver CO to Ithaca NY in July to be near Tom ('71) and his wife. She lives at Clare Bridge of Ithaca, a memory care center that is only 2 miles from Tom's house. Tom says it is a very nice place and they visit her a lot. In May she celebrated her 89th Birthday. Physically she is doing very well for 89. The Alzheimer's has made it impossible for her to live on her own any more but she is very happy with her living situation.

Frank Barnes ('59) has pleasant memories of bungalow 638 – “lots of memories about those old Lago houses. Ours was at the extreme East end of the 600's, with a clear view out to the lighthouse. Of course, that meant the lighthouse blinked into our bedroom window every night...something to get used to. The homes were actually pretty good for the 1930's and 1940's. I remember hanging blackout curtains during WWII. Most homes are gone now, of course. And we were close to the coastal defense guns on Colorado Point; when they fired the china danced around in my mother's kitchen - really annoyed her. Once when I was playing outside and they fired the guns, a large piece of debris smashed into the ground near me (powder charge? Piece of the casing? I don't remember).”

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A note from Paul Jensen, son of **Danny Jensen** ('58), was very welcome. As you will see in the Memorial section, Danny passed away on _____. Paul notes “I have promised my Dad that I will maintain the Lago-Colony.com website thru 2020. There are over 132,000 Files and over 13GB of data on the site as of today, this is a lot and I am up to the task. I have already paid for the site ownership into 2018. I know of some fixes that need to be done and will update any needed changes when I become aware of them.”

Thank you Paul from every one of us.
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The extended families in Lago Colony continue to amaze your editor. Take the **Massey** family – 3 Massey men worked for Lago, beginning in the early 30's. **James** was the oldest. We don't have much info about him yet. His younger brothers were Marvin and Harold. **Marvin** started with Lago in the early 30's and left in the early 60's. He and **Mildred** had 3 sons: **Sonny** (?), **David** ('55) and **Bob** ('59), all now deceased. **Harold** was in Aruba from 1928 to 1965. Married to **Viola May**, their children were **Barbara May** ('50), **Carla** (52), **Paula** (56), **Douglas** (61) and **Bruce** (65). Barbara May died about age 8 from a fall at the elementary school. Bruce has 3 sons: Douglas, Taylor and Clayton. Carla was married to **Bill Van den Heuvel** (deceased): they had 5 children. Mia, Nicole and Tanya (twins), Jodi Ann, and William. Paula was married to **Thomas Armstrong** (deceased): they had two children, Tara and Turner (deceased). Douglas (61) is married to Barbara; they have no children.

Blaine and Sulin Nelson [57-81] like the new web-site. They see **Polly** ('52) and **Erik Eriksen** [__ - 75] for about 5 months every winter and keep in touch with **Tom and Beverly Fredricksens** [68-76], **Larry and Kay Tekker** [72-76] and **Johan Rooze** [__ - __].

Xenia (Swarz) Sriberg ('51) keeps in touch with **Elvira South** ('50) and **Bill Moyer** ('51). “I am here in Aruba spending the winter months at my home and enjoying the weather, the beach and the people. It's nice being away from all the troubles in the world. Here one does not hear about the problems. It's just local news.”

In answer to a question about his family, **Berry Schendstok** ('55) provided the following. His parents, **Dr. Johan Diederich and Francina Hermina Schendstok**, arrived in Aruba in January 1938. Johan was an Internist at Lago Hospital for 25 years; Fran was a housewife & mother. All five of their children were born at Lago Hospital. Fran also worked at St. Fiilomena School (Associated with St. Teresa's Parish at St. Nicolas), as a 3rd Grade Teacher for about 6 years. They returned to The Netherlands upon retirement in 1963 and both died there: Johan in 1998, age 9, and Fran in 1997 at age 90. At their respective requests, Johan was cremated and Fran was buried; they are

both at the St. Willibrord Parish Cemetery & Colombarium in Wassenaar, The Netherlands.

Wendy Severs ('72) bought into a timeshare at Casa del Mar in the early 80s and still has it. Last March, she arranged for a family get together in Aruba to celebrate the 80th birthdays of her folks, **Don and Carleen Severs** [56-69] as well as their 60th anniversary. Wendy's sister **Dee** ('77) and her family (husband Lucio Filipetto and daughter Kira) were there, along with Wendy's son Rob (and his significant other) and daughter Laura. Even Don's cousin, Doug Beffort and wife Doreen, were there. Don thinks of Doug as his best friend in Canada. When Doug and Doreen married in the 60s, Don arranged for them to stay in **Erik and Polly (Mingus-52) Eriksen's** [__-75] house for their honeymoon, while Polly and Erik were on furlough. While the Severs were in Aruba this last March, Doug and Doreen bought a unit at Casa del Mar for the same week as Wendy. [from Don: Like many an old man, I've been rambling in answering your simple question. Thank you so much for the great work you do in maintaining the memories of Lago. We lived there in the glory years of the 50s and 60s, and anyone who lived there then was indelibly marked by the experience, and have never forgotten.]

From **Don Rosborough** ('57) [39-57]: Suzanne and I were married in June of 1961 and spent several months in Aruba on our honeymoon while I awaited USAF orders for Flight School. First flying assignment was at Dover AFB with oldest brother **Dick** ('49). I retired from USAF and the WI Air National Guard in June 1986 and retired from US Airways in 1999. We have 3 children and 8 grandchildren. Our oldest grandchild is marrying his college sweetheart on New Year's Eve this year. We are in good health and plan to stay that way! We celebrated our 50th Anniversary in June of 2011.

From **John and Ann Geis** [55-59]: We spent last week at the Marriott OceanWatch Villas in Myrtle Beach SC. Their new general manager was the GM at the Aruba Ocean Club for 12 years. John and Ann just sold their timeshare there; when the sale closes, our financial ties to Aruba are over, but not our memories of 4-years and two boys being born there, plus our many return visits and emails about the anchor and cannon salvage diving I did in 1957---still regret that those 300+ year-old artifacts have not been located and returned to the museum in O'stad.

Peter Storey [46-84) was born in Brighton, England, on August 30th 1922, and went to Aruba in 1946. **Joanne Rae**, daughter of **Bill and Margaret Rae** [28-__], was born in Casper WY on December 31, 1923. She was 5 when she went to Aruba with her parents. Peter and Joanne were married the following year on November 28, 1947 in the Lago Church. Peter passed away November 24, 1993 and Joanne on August 29, 2004.