OUR HUGE JET SOARED OFF AND ONCE IN THE AIR OUR DUTCH TREAT BEGAN. WE SETTLED DOWN TO ENJOY THE STEADY STREAM OF DELICACIES THAT APPEARED ALMOST EVERY MILE OF THE 1900 WE HAD BEFORE WE WERE TO REACH OUR DESTINATION. THIS WAS THE KIND OF FLIGHT THAT MADE US WONDER WHETHER IT WOULDN'T BE JUST AS MUCH FUN TO KEEP ON FLYING, RATHER THAN GETTING BACK DOWN TO EARTH, IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE. THE FIRST PART OF OUR TRIP WAS TO THE 3 MOST IMPORTANT ISLANDS OF THE DUTCH WEST INDIES KNOWN AS THE ABC ISLANDS, LIVING A SHORT DISTANCE OFF THE COAST OF VENEZUELA. THE 3 WINDWARD ISLANDS, THAT YOU'LL SEE LATER, LIE 550 MILES NORTH EAST OF THE ABCs. AS FOR THE ABCs INSTEAD OF STARTING WITH THE FIRST LETTER OF THE ALPHABET WE'RE GOING TO WORK BACKWARDS AND START WITH THE CENTER ISLAND OF THE GROUP, CURACAO. MAP CURACAO IS THE MOST IMPORTANT AS ITS THE SEAT OF THE GOVERNMENT AND ALL SIX OF THE ISLANDS. NOW THE NETHERLANDS ANTILLES OR DUTCH WEST INDIES, FORM AN INDEPENDENT PART OF THE KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS. BEFORE THEY WERE COLONIES, BELONGING TO HOLLAND BUT IN 1954 QUEEN JULIANA OF HOLLAND GAVE THE ISLANDS THEIR AUTONOMY, MAKING THEM SELF GOVERNING AND ON A BASIS OF EQUALITY WITH THE NETHERLANDS. AFTER A MOST GLAMOROUS FLIGHT WE ARRIVED IN CURACAO AND ANXIOUSLY ANTICIPATED WHAT LAY BEFORE US. LUCKILY ANOTHER COURTEOUS, UNSUSPECTING DUTCH MAN OFFERED TO HELP US.....BUT THIS I'M SURE HE DIDN'T ANTICIPATE. NOR DID WE ANTICIPATE THE STRONG TRADE WIND. THIS IS NO PLACE TO WEAR YOUR WIG (OR TO WEAR ONE OF THOSE NEW WIGS) WITH WHAT LITTLE COIFFURES WE HAD LEFT, WE TOOK THE BUS INTO TOWN. WILLEMSTAD IS THE CAPITAL, IN FACT THE ONLY CITY OF CURACAO AND
WHAT A SURPRISE IT IS TO FIND HERE IN THE TROPICS THE COLORFUL DUTCH ARCHITECTURE REFLECTING THE QUAIN'T CHARMS OF HOLLAND.

ONE OF THE MOST MEMORABLE FEATURES OF WILLEMSTAD IS THIS UNIQUE SWINGING BRIDGE, FONDLY CALLED "QUEEN EMMA" AFTER THE PRESENT QUEEN JULIANA'S GRANDMOTHER. THIS MOST RESTLESS OF BRIDGES CONNECTS THE TWO SIDES OF TOWN (ONE SIDE BEING CALLED THE PUNDA, THE OTHER SIDE, THE OSTRABAND) ITS ALMOST CONSTANTLY OPENING AND CLOSING FOR THE MANY SHIPS THAT COME AND GO AND THERE'S CONSIDERABLE HURRYING AND SCURRYING OF BOTH PEDESTRIANS AND CARS WHEN THE SIGNAL IS GIVEN. IF THE CARS DON'T MAKE IT IT MEANS A 15 MILE DRIVE AROUND TO GET TO THE OTHER SIDE!

FOR BEING LATE!

BUT MOST TAKE ONE OF THE TANS AS THEY JUST HOP ON ONE OF THE BUSY LITTLE FERRIES THAT IMMEDIATELY CHUG INTO ACTION SHUTTURING BACK AND FORTH UNTIL THE BRIDGE IS IN OPERATION AGAIN.

THE CLOCK ESTIMATES THE TIME THE BRIDGE WILL CLOSE AND THE TRAFFIC CAN CROSS OVER AGAIN. YOU REALLY HAVE A GOOD EXCUSE HERE FOR BEING LATE TO APPOINTMENTS.

OVERLOOKING THE WATERFRONT IS THE OFFICE OF THE HARBOR PILOTS AND HERE THE PILOTS RECEIVE THEIR ORDERS AS TO THE SHIP THEY ARE TO BRING IN OR TAKE OUT. ONE OF THE MOST EXPERIENCED OF THE PILOTS IS JAN PEENSTRA FROM HOLLAND AND HE'S ON HIS WAY NOW TO BRING IN A CARGO SHIP. HIS SMALL MOTOR BOAT HEADS OUT TO SEA AND TO THE SHIP THAT'S WAITING OUTSIDE THE HARBOR ENTRANCE TO BE GUIDED IN.
There are 18 harbor pilots in all, kept very busy bringing in an average of 2 or 3 ships a day.

Because of tides, ocean currents and the restrictive narrow harbor entrance it takes a great deal of experience to pilot in the large ships. In fact under Dutch law a harbor pilot must have years of extensive training and have earned various certificates that qualify him to be a sea captain himself.

Although the captain is responsible in all ways for his ship, when a pilot is on board he takes over full command. And as ships from all parts of the world come to Curacao, he must be able to give his commands in many different languages in at least 8 languages.

Even though Curacao is only 38 miles long and 7 miles at its widest, it is the world's 4th largest harbor in tonnage of ships using it.

Coming in this way, you see the Intercontinental Hotel interestingly built within the walls of an old fort and the Dutch water front by, is a sight travelers rarely forget.

The narrow channel Jan is guiding the ship along opens into a huge inner harbor called the Shotegot where the Dutch Shell oil refinery is. This is the world's 2nd largest oil refinery was established here due to Curacao's proximity to Venezuela where the crude oil comes from and too because of its fine natural harbors. The refinery has brought great prosperity to the island and is the most important factor in its economy, giving employment to thousands. (Old tankers dock in the Shotegot harbor by the refinery but new's cargo ships dock in the St. Anna channel.)

Having completed his job, Jan crosses back over to the Punda side to await another call.
The Punda is the oldest section where the shopping and business are as well as many buildings of historical interest. The Protestant church dating back to the mid 1700s is an excellent example of colonial Dutch architecture and here in the same square is the old Fort Amsterdam. The Dutch came to Curacao in 1634. They captured the island from the far-reaching Spanish who settled there after discovery it in 1499 and despite several attacks by the French and British, Holland managed to keep the island down thru the centuries. Curacao is an independent part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The yellow building is the oldest synagogue in the Western Hemisphere.

Although gone for many years, the influence of the Spanish still persists in narrow little streets and picturesque alleyways, accompanied by long Dutch names.....not one of which I'd try to pronounce. (I wonder if even the Dutch can!?)

The younger face of Curacao is seen in buildings such as their new post office or their modern war memorial.

And with so many of our dollars going to the 4 corners of the world, United States tax payers should appreciate this American consulate, given to us by the people of little Curacao in gratitude for our protection of them during World War 2.

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The houses of Curacao are another one of its memorable qualities. Their style and ornamentation are distinctly Curacaonian and even their color presents an unusual storm. It seems that once a Dutch governor complained to his doctor that the glare of the tropical sun on the white buildings gave him headaches. When reminded by the Dr. that he was the governor, he promptly passed a law that no more houses could be painted white...well that's a unique cure for headaches!

Here's an appropriate name for a flower shop.

And from this house it looks like maybe Picasso or Dali were here....
ITS REALLY FASCINATING TO WANDER AROUND AND LOOK AT ALL THE RAINBOW HUED HOUSES......BUT, DON'T BE SURPRISED IF YOU FIND ONE LOOKING BACK AT YOU!

IN SEEING ALL THE VARIOUS HOUSES WE CAME TO THE ONE WHERE THE HARBOUR PILOT, JAN FEENSTRA LIVES WITH HIS WIFE AND 3 CHILDREN. HE AND HIS WIFE JANCHA MET IN HOLLAND AND WERE MARRIED 13 YEARS AGO. NOW HE SAYS WHAT A JOY IT IS TO BE ABLE TO COME HOME AFTER A DAY'S WORK INSTEAD OF THE WAY IT WAS FOR THE FIRST 5 YEARS WHEN HE WAS AWAY AT SEA MOST OF THE TIME. IT WAS WHEN HE WAS A CHIEF OFFICER ON A SHELL OIL BOAT AND KEPT COMING TO CURACAO THAT HE DECIDED HE WOULD LIKE TO LIVE HERE AND BE A HARBOUR PILOT. THAT WAS 8 YEARS AGO AND THEY'VE BEEN HERE EVER SINCE.

*********

JUST OFF THE MAIN WATERWAY IS A SMALL LAGOON WHERE THE PICTURESQUE FLOATING MARKET IS FOUND. SCHOONERS FROM VENEZUELA, WHICH IS ONLY 36 MILES TO THE SOUTH, LINE UP HERE BY THE DOZENS TO SELL FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES RIGHT FROM THEIR DECKS. IT'S HERE WHERE THE HARBOUR PILOT'S WIFE JANCHA LIKES TO DO SOME OF HER MARKETING. AS CURACAO HAS A VERY DRY CLIMATE VERY LITTLE FOOD CAN BE GROWN ON ITS ARID LAND, SO MUCH OF IT COMES FROM SOUTH AMERICA. EACH BOAT MAY STAY HERE 10 DAYS BUT THEN IT MUST LEAVE FOR IT'S 36 HOUR SAIL BACK TO VENEZUELA TO MAKE ROOM FOR ANOTHER LADENED SCHOONER.

*********

JAN AND JANCHA, ALTHOUGH RESIDENTS OF CURACAO FOR SOME TIME NOW STILL ENJOY SHOPPING FOR THE MANY BARGAINS THAT ARE AVAILABLE HERE. OF COURSE SO DO THE MANY TOURISTS THAT COME HERE FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD.

THE MALL IS THE MAIN STREET FOR SHOPPING WHERE EVEN A DONKEY COULD FIND SOMETHING TO BUY IF HE WERE SO INCLINED.

EVERYONE IS ANXIOUS TO BUY SOMETHING BUT SEEM A BIT CONFUSED AS TO JUST
WHICH DIRECTION TO PROCEED IN, WHICH STORE TO GO TO ......
AND WHEN THEY FIND A GOOD STORE, DO THEY HAVE ANY MONEY LEFT TO BUY
JUST ONE MORE THING.

...............  

WE TOO WERE UNABLE TO RESIST THE LURE OF SHOPPING AND HEADED FOR ONE
OF THE FINEST JEWELRY STORES IN THE WORLD, SPRITZER AND PURMAN.
BUSINESS IN CURACAO IS CONDUCTED IN 22 LANGUAGES AND CURRENCY OF ANY
COUNTRY IS ACCEPTED....SO THE LANGUAGE BARRIER DOESN'T EXIST HERE,
BUT AFTER ENOUGH SHOPPING, NEITHER DOES YOUR CURRENCY.

THEY SELL US THEIR MOST BEAUTIFUL DIAMONDS. THE TOTAL VALUE OF
THE RINGS IN THIS BOX ALONE CAME TO OVER A QUARTER OF A MILLION $3
THE FIRST ONE THAT I POINTED TO WAS THE MOST EXPENSIVE ONE THERE,
$42,000. THEY DIDN'T KNOW THAT WE WERE "JUST LOOKING THANK YOU"...

THESE EXQUISITE PIECES, (SOME OF WHICH HAVE WON INTERNATIONAL AWARDS)
WOULD SELL FOR ABOUT 30% MORE IN THE UNITED STATES....NOW I UNDER-
STAND THEY SAY "DIAMONDS ARE A GIRL'S BEST FRIEND"...quiet off

NO WHERE ELSE IN THE CARIBBEAN IS THERE SUCH A GREAT RANGE OF LOVELY
ITEMS TO BE HAD AT BARGAIN PRICES. THE BARGAINS EXIST BECAUSE THE
IMPORT DUTIES ARE VERY LOW, ESPECIALLY ON THESE LUXURY ARTICLES THAT
COME FROM ALL CORNERS OF THE GLOBE.

ONE OF THE THINGS STRICTLY FROM HERE, AND THAT CAN BE PURCHASED BE
PURCHASED ALMOST ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD, IS THEIR OWN FAMOUS CURACAO
LIQUER MADE FROM THE PEEL OF UNUSUAL LITTLE GREEN ORANGES.

...............  

ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF WILLEMSTAD IS THE CURACAO MUSEUM, ANOTHER FINE
EXAMPLE OF 18TH CENTURY DUTCH ARCHITECTURE. ON THE GROUNDS ARE SOME
OF THE NOW ANTIQUATED CANNONS ONCE USED FOR THE DEFENSE OF THE ISLAND.
BUIT ORIGINALLY AS A MILITARY HOSPITAL, THE MUSEUM NOW CONTAINS
MANY INTERESTING THINGS OF THE COLONIAL PERIOD.
56% of the island's budget goes for education and one of their schools is the Peter Stuyvesant College. Although education's not compulsory, the schools are free. Curacao has one of the highest rates of literacy in the Caribbean. In 1643 Peter Stuyvesant became the first governor of Curacao and is still fondly remembered.

Colorful flame trees dot the landscape along the road that leads to the picturesque Pescadero Beach Club, situated just 3 miles outside of Willemstad on the water. It's not only a favorite place for the tourists to stay and relax, especially after one of those mad shopping sprees, but a place where Curacaos spend much of their free time. Jan too, every chance he gets brings the whole family here to spend the day. The two older children, Robert 12 and Willy 10 were born in Holland and little Meeka aged 4 was born here, but all of them, including Jan and Jancha now feel this is home and more than thrive on the Curacao climate. In fact for anyone who likes swimming and sunshine this is certainly the place, for the sun dips behind the rainclouds a scant 20 days at the most, out of the year. Jan's children, as all children everywhere, are more than anxious to get into the water and if they had their own way about it would stay in all day long...but Jan as most dutiful parents has other ideas, especially for the littlest member of the family who's just learning to swim....but the smallest in this case turns out to be the mightiest, and even proves to be the victor of the day keeping the whole family in the water until they were finally forced to leave when the sun did.

Boaca Tabla meaning literally table mouth but known as Devil's Mouth, is a huge cave on the windward side of the island. Here the waves which present quite another facet of the Caribbean have pounded against the corral rock carving this formation.
SMAILING IS ANOTHER LEADING RECREATION AND OFTEN JAN, ON HIS DAY
AWAY FROM PILOTING THE SHIPS, TAKES THE PERVERBIAL BUSMAN'S HOLIDAY,
SAILING HIS OWN BOAT WITH HIS CHILDREN AT A FAVORITE SPOT A LITTLE
OUTSIDE OF WILLEMSTAD CALLED SPANISH WATER. JAN ALSO BUILDS MODEL
AND IS EVEN IN THE PROCESS OF BUILDING A SMALL BOAT FOR HIS SON.
JAN'S FATHER WANTED HIM TO GO INTO BUSINESS BACK IN HOLLAND AND
THOUGHT HIS LOVE OF THE SEA JUST A PASSING FANCY....BUT WITH JAN
THIS IS A FANCY THAT CERTAINLY DIDN'T PASS.

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THE COUNTRYSIDE IS CALLED THE CUNUCU AND HERE HUNDREDS OF WILD GOATS
HAVE SNEAKILY TAKEN POSSESSION OF THE LAND, REGARDING THE PEOPLE AS
TRESPASSERS!

ALSO HERE SOME STATELY PLANTATIONS FROM THE COLONIAL DAYS STILL
STAND. THEY CONTRAST SHARPLY WITH THE THATCHED ROOFED HOUSES OF
THE FEW PEOPLE LIVING IN THE SPARSLEY POPULATED CUNUCU....THE
MAJORITY OF THE 129,000 ISLANDERS LIVE IN WILLEMSTAD.

FOLK DANCES AND CUSTOMS ARE USUALLY BETTER PRESERVED IN THE RURAL
COMMUNITIES THAN TOWNS AND HERE A GROUP HAVE GATHERED TO ENJOY
THEMSELVES IN A TYPICAL CURACAOON DANCE OF A MOST ABANDONED,
CONGENIAL NATURE.............DID I SAY CONGENIAL!!!!???

THE DANCES ARE THE OUTCOME OF MANY INFLUENCES, SPANISH AND
PORTUGUESE SEAFARERS OF THE PAST IMPORTED THEIR DANCES AND STRONG
TRACES OF AFRICAN INFLUENCE ARE SEEN AS WELL, COMING FROM THE TIME
WHEN CURACAO WAS THE CARIBBEAN CENTER FOR SLAVE TRADING.

AFTER THAT DANCE A WELL EARNED REST, BEFORE HEADING TOWARD
TOWN, WHERE THEY OFTEN PERFORM FOR THE TOURISTS WHO GATHER AT THE
INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL
THE HOTEL STANDS RIGHT AT THE ENTRANCE OF THE CHANNEL AND BECAUSE THE SHIPS PASS BY SO CLOSE TO IT, (YOU CAN ALMOST REACH OUT AND TOUCH THEM) ITS THE ONLY HOTEL POSsessing COLLISION INSURANCE. ITS INGENIOUSLY BUILT WITHin THE WALLS OF A FORT ERECTED BY THE DUTCH IN 1751 TO KEEP THEIR ENEMIES AT BAY.

PASSEngERS FROM THE CRUISE SHIPS ALSO COME TO SEE THIS UNIQUE HOTEL AND TOO, THE DANCERS, WHO HAVE COME IN FROM THE CUNUCU TO PERFORM FOR THEM.

THEy NEVER SEEM TO TIRE...BUT ON CLOSER INSPECTION THERE ARE SOME SIGNS OF WEAR.

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FORT NASSAU, THE OLDEST FORT IS BUILT HICH UP ON A HILL TOP. ITS NOW USED AS THE SIGNAL TOWER FOR THE SHIPS, AS IT CAN EASILY BE SEEN FROM ITS VANTAGE POINT. THE HARBOR PILOTS WATCH FOR THE DIFFERENT FLAGS EACH HAVING THEIR OWN MEANING. WHEN THE LARGE BLACK BALL IS UP, ACCOMPANIED BY A RED FLAG, IT MEANS THE BRIDGE IS OPEN AND A SHIP IS ABOUT TO LEAVE.

AND WHAT A FAMOUS SHIP IT IS...THE PORTUGUESE SANTA MARIA, AND JAN IS THE PILOT TO TAKE HER OUT. IT WAS AT THE SAME TIME OF DAY IN JANUARY 1961 THAT AN AMAZING STORY WAS ENACTED. RIGHT HERE IN WILLEMSTAD SOME PORTUGUESE MEN PEACEFULLY BOARDED, BUT AFTER A SHORT DISTANCE OUT OF CURACAO THEY HIJACKED THE SHIP IN A REBELLION AGAINST THEIR GOVERNMENT. THEY WERE THE FIRST PIRATES OF CONTEMPORARY TIMES AND THE PIGHT OF THE SANTA MARIA BECAME WORLD HEADLINES. THEN AS NOW THIS SAME CAPTAIN, CAPTAIN MAIA WAS IN COMMAND OF THE SHIP AND WAS FORCED AT GUN POINT TO SURRENDER HER TO THE REBEL LEADER GALVÃO. GALVÃO SOMEHOW MANAGED TO KEEP THIS 20,000 TON LUXURY LINER HIDDEN AT SEA AND AS MANY OF ITS 600 PASSENGERS WERE AMERICANS THE UNITED STATES NAVY JOINED IN THE SEARCH. FINALLY 13 DAYS LATER GALVÃO WAS FORCED AT THE BRAZILIAN PORT OF RECIFE. SINCE THEN
Many articles and books have been written about this daring unforgettable incident.

Once down the rope ladder and back in his pilot boat, Jan's job is completed and he sends the Santa Maria on her way, saetey we trust this time.

Curacao is a port, Captain Maia certainly will never forget...nor for many other reasons will we, and no matter whether one leaves by ship or air it's hard to resist just one last peek back at this tropical touch of the north. Little bit of Holland in the Caribbean.

Bonaire...page 1

Third in importance of the ABCs but second in size is the island of Bonaire. It's only 40 miles east of Curacao, but what a change in weather!!

The mystery of the drifting snow flakes and snow banks??...mere wind whipped salt foam and piles of sparkling salt...so Bonaire is a tropic isle after all....

It's a quiet sleepy island devoid of any commercial activity, where its 6000 inhabitants really enjoy being 'off the beaten track'.

Kralendiye go the peaceable little capital has the character of a colonial settlement of the days when the Dutch first came here.

And its fort still stands proudly waving the flags of the Netherlands Antilles and Holland, which are always flown side by side thru out the islands.

A building in the design of a miniature Greek temple, is of all things, the town fish market. Here the fishermen bring in their catch which can consist of an abundant variety anywhere from the colorful tropical ones to the large tunas, barracudas, kingfish and sailfish. In fact Bonaire's fast becoming a haven for those who
ENJOY THE SPORT OF FISHING.
VERY LITTLE FOOD IS GROWN HERE AND MEAT IS EXTREMELY EXPENSIVE SO EVERY DAY THE TOWNSPEOPLE GATHER HERE TO AWAIT THE FISHERMEN AND THEIR EVENING MEAL.

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ONE OF THE MOST INTERESTING INHABITANTS OF BONAIRE IS MR. HEITKOENIC, WHOSE MAIN HOBBY AND OCCUPATION (OUTSIDE OF OWNING THE ONLY CAMERA STORE) IS TURTLES AND THE JEWELRY HE MAKES FROM THE TORTOISE SHELLS. QUITE AWHILE AGO, IN HIS NATIVE HOLLAND, HE WAS OFFERED A JOB AS A JEWELRY SALESMAN IN CURACAO. HE TOOK IT, INTENDING TO STAY ONLY A YEAR BUT ONE WEEK END HE WENT OVER TO BONAIRE. THAT WAS 22 YEARS AGO AND HE'S NEVER BEEN BACK TO HOLLAND, OR FOR THAT MATTER, CURACAO!

THE MAIN PLACE TO STAY IN BONAIRE'S A DELIGHTFUL RUSTIC LITTLE INN, THE FLAMINGO BEACH CLUB. HERE ONE CAN RENT THE CLUB'S 40 FOOT KETCH FOR THE DAY OR IF ONE PREFERENCES, SWIM AT THE CLUBS OWN BEACH...A BEACH WHOSE BATHERS APPEAR QUITE ROUTINE... OR DO THEY......

THIS BATHERS NAME IS MAX, THE DEVOTED PET OF MR. HEITKOENIC, WHO I'M SURE IS THE ONLY MAN IN THE WORLD WITH A 165 POUND PET LOGGERHEAD!

MAX WHO DEARLY LOVES SWIMMING WITH HEIT AND FOLLOWS HIM AROUND LIKE A PUPPY, IS A MERE YOUNGSTER OF 8 AND HAS MANY SWIMMING YEARS AHEAD OF HIM AS HIS LIFE EXPECTANCY IS 300.

THE STORY OF THIS STRANGE FRIENDSHIP BEGAN WHEN ONE DAY A NEWLY HATCHED BABY TURTLE WADDLED OVER TO HEIT AND SEEMED TO ENJOY BEING PETTED. WELL, AS HE GREW SO DID HIS DEVOTION GROW FOR HEIT... (AND AS LOGGERHEADS ARE OF THE SNAPPING, DANGEROUS VARIETY, THIS WAS A DEVOTION CERTAINLY OUT OF THE ORDINARY) ONE DAY HEIT DECIDED TO TAKE MAX SWIMMING WITH HIM TO SEE IF THIS TURTLE-LOVE WOULD DISSOLVE IN THE DEPTHS OF THE OCEAN. INSTEAD, THE TURTLE STAYED WITH HIM, CAME UP FOR AIR WHEN HE DID AND SWAMM ASHORE WHEN HE DID. SO NOW THESE IMPROBABLE FRIENDS ARE A COMMON SIGHT IN BONAIRE!!
ALTHO LITTLE EXPLOITED NOW, THESE SALT PANS ATTEST TO THE ONCE THRIVING SALT INDUSTRY OF THE 17th AND 18th CENTURIES. NEAR BY ARE ROWS OF STARK SLAVE HUTS USED TO HOUSE THE MANY SLAVES BROUGHT HERE TO WORK THE SALT PANS. AN AVERAGE SIZE MAN HAS DIFFICULTY IN EVEN ENTERING AND YET AS MANY AS 6 SLAVES STAYED IN ONE HUT. HERE TOO THE PICTURESQUE PYLONS STILL STAND THAT USED TO GUIDE THE SALT SHIPS TO THEIR MOORINGS.

NEAR BY IN THE GREAT SALT LAKE, IS ONE OF THE NATURAL BREEDING PLACES IN THE ENTIRE WORLD OF RARE, PINK FLAMINGOS. WE WERE TOLD WE MIGHT FIND THEM OUT IN THE CENTER OF THE SHALLOW LAKE NEAR THEIR NESTS. NOT TOO KEEN ON SUCH A WATERY HIKE BUT ANXIOUS TO SEE THESE BEAUTIFUL BIRDS, WE SPLASHED OFF IN SEARCH OF THEM. UNLIKE THE TAMES ONES GENERALLY SEEN, THESE ARE EXTREMELY SHY AND DIFFICULT TO APPROACH. HAPPILY WE SAW A GROUP IN THE DISTANCE BUT WHEN THEY SAW US OFF THEY FLEW. ALTHO KNEE DEEP IN WATER OUR HOPES REMAINED UNDAMPENED AS WE CAREFULLY APPROACHED ANOTHER GROUP. BUT WERE MET WITH THE SAME COOL RECEPTION. THIS SANCTUARY'S SO PROTECTED THAT EVEN PLANES AREN'T ALLOWED TO FLY OVER IT BUT AT LAST WE WERE ABLE TO GET FAIRLY CLOSE TO ONE, STILL SO YOUNG ITS FEATHERS HADN'T AS YET TURNED PINK ( THEY DON'T FOR NEARLY A YEAR ) LUCKILY IT DIDN'T NOTICE US...I GUESS IT WAS TOO BUSY DOING THE FLAMINGO TWIST.....

AFTER TRUDGING THROUGH THE WATER 2 MILES WE FINALLY REACHED THEIR NESTS, ELEVATED TO KEEP THE EGGS DRY, BUT STILL NO FLAMINGOS!!! THE SUN BAKES THE MUD NESTS TILL THEY'RE FIRM ENOUGH FOR THE EGG AND MOTHER. TO THINK, THERE ARE ABOUT 18,000 FLAMINGOS IN THE WORLD WITH 5,000 OF THEM HERE, AND WE CAN'T REALLY GET A GOOD LOOK AT THEM! BEFORE RETURNING TO SHORE, MISSION UNACCOMPLISHED, WE WEARILY MADE USE OF THEIR NESTS......EMPTY ONES THAT IS..... EARLY THE NEXT MORNING WE SET OUT AGAIN AND THIS TIME WE SAW A RARE SIGHT...
As these graceful creatures flew away, so did we. Leaving Bonaire behind, our next stop is Aruba.

And what a rare sight! A whole group of wild F.

How we admired a rare sight.

Finally we found a whole group of...
Lying only 15 miles from the coast of Venezuela, its the smallest of the ABC's group but is second in importance. Its airport's an important link in international air traffic but from all the Royal Dutch planes on the field, I wondered if I were in Amsterdam instead of Aruba.

Sitting right out on a beautiful stretch of beach is the Aruba Caribbean Hotel. Its sweepingly modern with its 8 stories making it the highest building in the Dutch West Indies. It was built 4 years ago by an American architect at a cost of 5 million dollars and has stepped up tourism for Aruba greatly. (The pools for those who feel the Caribbean not quite large enough for them)

A band that plays at the hotel's composed of a father and his 7 sons ranging in age from 18 down to only 5 and sometimes an even younger conductor takes over......

They play here every Sunday lending even more atmosphere to an already glamorous setting.

When the Caribbean moon comes up, so do the lights of the hotel's famous casino. With the turning of the wheels the quests gather hoping to see if Miss Lady Luck will turn too, in their direction.

Well it looks like she turned in his direction....

Slot machines, aptly called one arm bandits are here too, but even they aren't holding anyone up tonight....

Aruba, mind boggling is a small but only of adobe around the hotel is a living cactus fence of cactus and as Aruba, like Curacao and Bonaire is dry and arid, cactus not only grows everywhere but, is put to practical use too.

With this unique clothes line, the laundry's firmly anchored to the cactus needles...enough of this and I'm sure the laundry can serve as a sieve as well.

The most distinctive feature of Aruba's fascinating landscape is the
TREE WHICH GROWS SIDEWAYS, ENCHANTINGLY CALLED THE DIVI DIVI TREE...
YOU'LL NEVER NEED YOUR COMPUS IN ARUBA, FOR THE DIVI DIVI TREE IS
BENT BY THE INCESSANT TRADE WINDS, TO ALWAYS POINT SOUTH WEST.
ASIDE FROM BEING A NATURAL COMPASS THERE'S ANOTHER USE FOR THE DIVI
DIVI TREE AND JACOB HENDRIQUES HAS FOUND IT. CUTTING DOWN ONLY THE
TREES, HE THEN PROCEEDS, THROUGH A GREAT DEAL OF WORK, TO TURN THE
TRUNKS OF THE TREES INTO WHAT HAS BECOME KNOWN AS DIVI DIVI TABLES.
MR. HENDRIQUES, OF CARIB INDIAN DECENT IS A MOST INGENIOUS, ARTISTIC
CITIZEN OF ARUBA. AS ALL ARUBANS, LOVES THE DIVI DIVI TREE BUT ONE
DAY HE TRIED AN EXPERIMENT WITH ONE OF THE DEAD-ONES. FIRST HE
SPLIT THE TRUNK AS HE'S DOING HERE.
ONCE SPLIT HE PLACED THEM IN THE HOT SUN TO THOROUGHLY DRY.
THE NEXT STEP IS TO SAND THE UNUSUALLY HARD WOOD UNTIL ITS PERFECTLY
SMOOTH.

THE ONLY THING HE DOES TO ANOTHER WOOD, USED FOR THE
LEGS IS WASH IT... HIS CHILDREN WATCHING HIM ARE PROBABLY GLAD ITS
NOT THEY WHO'RE BEING SCRUBBED....

WITH THE APPLICATION OF LAGUER, THE MAGNIFICENT GRAIN OF THE WOOD
GRADUALLY COMES MORE AND MORE TO LIFE.

MR. HENDRIQUES UNTIL 2 YEARS AGO WAS A SHIP BUILDER BUT HE'S BECOME
SO SUCCESSFUL IN MAKING THESE TABLES THAT NOW THIS IS HIS FULL TIME
WORK. THE TABLES SELL, DEPENDING ON SIZE, ANYWHERE FROM 75 TO 125
DOLLARS AND AFTER THE FINISHING TOUCHES HE CRATES THEM AND SENDS
THEM TO THE PEOPLE WHO'VE ORDERED THEM... MOSTLY PEOPLE HERE IN THE
UNITED STATES, AND OF COURSE ONE CAN SEE THEM TOO IN THE ARUBA
CARIBBEAN HOTEL.......

************

ANOTHER ARTIST OF ARUBA IS PANDELLIS WHO ONE CAN FIND ALMOST ANYWHERE
ON THE ISLAND BUSILY PAINTING THE MANY SUBJECTS IT HAS TO OFFER.
THE STRONG TRADE WIND WHIPPING AT HIM AND HIS EASEL DOESN'T SEEM TO DETER HIM, BUT HIS DOG... SHALL WE SAY IS A HORSE OF ANOTHER COLOR? IT COULD BE THAT THIS WANTS TO PAINT TOO.....

THE MORAL TO THIS STORY IS, DON'T TAKE YOUR DOG PAINTING......

ALL'S FORGIVEN AS PANDELLIS TRIES TO FINISH HIS PAINTING OF A HEX HOUSE. THESE HEX HOUSES ARE SCATTERED THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRYSIDE. THEY'RE SO NAMED BECAUSE OF A SUPERSTITIOUS BELIEF THAT THE TILES OF HEX SIGNS DECORATING THE HOUSES WILL HELP WARD OFF EVIL SPIRITS.

........................

WORK OVER PANDELLIS WALKS HOME THROUGH THE STRANGE COUNTRYSIDE, OR CUNUCU AS IT'S CALLED HERE TOO. HE SAYS IT ALWAYS GIVES HIM IDEAS FOR MORE CANVASES SUCH AS THIS OF THE HAYSTACK MOUNTAIN TOWERING ALL OF 500 FEET! ALSO IN THE CUNUCU FASCINATING ROCK FORMATIONS AND HUGE BOULDERS REAR UNACCOUNTABLY FROM THE EARTH. THIS TOO PANDELLIS HAS PUT ON CANVAS. NATURE HAS FORMED SOME REMARKABLE FEATS SUCH AS A HUGE BOULDER BALANCING PRECARIOUSLY, AND OTHER SHAPES SUCH AS AN ENORMOUS FLAT IRON.... A HUNGRY BEAR, OR FOR THOSE HUNGRY, A HAMBURGER... AND NECESSARY TO SAY, A TURTEE.....

IN PLACES THE WEIRD LANDSCAPE RESEMBLES SOME PREHISTORIC WORLD OR EVEN ANOTHER PLANET. ARUBA'S BELIEVED TO BE THE TOP OF A SUBMERGED MOUNTAIN RANGE WHICH ENDS IN NEARBY VENEZUELA. THIS LITTLE CHAPEL STANDS SILENTLY BY ITSELF ON THE DESERTED WINDWARD SIDE, ALONG WITH RUINS REMINISCENT OF THE DAYS WHEN ARUBA WAS THE CENTER OF THE SPANISH MAIN TEAMING WITH PIRATES WHO ATTACHED THE TREASURE SHIPS LADEN WITH PRECIOUS CARGO.

PANDELLIS' SEASCAPE CAPTURES THE MOOD OF THE RUGGED WINDWARD SIDE WHERE THE SEA CONSTANTLY CRASHES AGAINST THE CORAL ROCKS.

HERE TOO THE THUNDERING SURF HAS CARVED OUT THIS HUGE NATURAL BRIDGE, THE LARGEST FORMATION OF THIS TYPE IN THE CARIBBEAN.
IN CONTRAST IS THE PLACID WATER OF THE LEeward SIDE. HERE FABULOUS WHITE BEACHES STRETCH ALONG FOR MILES. ONE CERTAINLY CAN'T COMPLAIN ABOUT CROWDS HERE......

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ASIDE FROM ALMOST CONSTANT PAINTING, PANDELLIS ALSO CONDUCTS ART CLASSES GENERALLY COMPOSED OF SOME OF THE MANY AMERICANS NOW LIVING IN ARUBA. THE SUBJECT HERE FOR THE DAY IS THE ONLY NATURAL VEGETABLE GARDEN ON THE ISLAND. BECAUSE OF THE ARID LAND A NEW, REVOLUTIONARY METHOD OF SOILLESS PLANT GROWING HAS BEEN DEVELOPED AND THIS IS THE NUTRI CULTURE FARM WHERE VEGETABLES ARE GROWN IN BEDS OF GRAVEL BY MEANS OF PUMPING WATER, WITH JUST THE PROPER AMOUNT OF CHEMICALS IN IT, THROUGH THE GRAVEL. THE SAME WATER CAN BE RECHEMICALIZED AND USED REPEATEDLY. THE MANAGER PROUDLY SHOWED US SOME OF THE CROP WHICH GROWS TO KING SIZE. INCIDENTALLY, THIS METHOD WAS DEVELOPED BY AN AMERICAN HORTICULTURIST, SY ROBINS. THE YIELD PER ACRE IS 20 TIMES GREATER THAN THAT OF AN ORDINARY TRUCK FARM WHICH MORE THAN TAKES CARE OF THE 58,000 INHABITANTS OF THE ISLAND.......THIS MUST BE WHERE JACK AND THE BEAN STALK CAME FROM........

WHERE THE NUTRI CULTURE FARM GETS ITS WATER IS AN EQUALLY INTERESTING TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENT. AT THIS ELEVEN MILLION DOLLAR PLANT SEA WATER IS CONVERTED INTO FRESH WATER. THE WATER IS BROUGHT IN FROM THE SEA THROUGH THESE PIPES TO THE HUGE VATS WHERE THE SALT IS BOILED OUT OF IT. AFTER OTHER PURIFYING STEPS IT IS THEN PIPED, AT A RATE OF ALMOST 3 MILLION GALLONS A DAY, THROUGH OUT THE ISLAND. LITTLE ARUBA IS MORE THAN PROUD OF THIS PLANT, THE LARGEST OF ITS KIND IN THE WORLD.
AND THE WORLD'S LARGEST OIL REFINERY, BELONGING TO ESSO IS HERE TOO, GIVING EMPLOYMENT TO 80% OF THE POPULATION AND PANDELLIS EVEN FINDS IT AN ARTISTIC SUBJECT TO PAINT. THE REFINERY, CALLED THE LAGO OIL COMPANY HERE, MAINTAINS ITS OWN COMMUNITY WITH SCHOOLS, CHURCHES, A HOSPITAL AND HOMES FOR ITS MANY AMERICAN EMPLOYEES AND SINCE IT WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1928 ITS BROUGHT UNTOLD PROSPERITY TO ARUBA.

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THE OIL REFINERY IS ALSO INDIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR BRINGING A FORM OF ENTERTAINMENT... THE STEEL BAND. THE DISCARDED OIL DRUMS ARE INGENIOUSLY TURNED INTO MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS. THE DEPTH AND SHAPE OF THE DRUM DETERMINES THE TONE QUALITY WHILE THE MUSICIANS, USUALLY BOYS WITH PERFECT PITCH, BEND THE TOPS INTO VARIOUS SECTIONS FORMING THE SCALE, WHICH WHEN PLAYED PRODUCE A SURPRISINGLY MELLOW TONE.

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ACROSS THE WATER IS THE SMALL, NEAT CAPITAL OF THE ISLAND, ORANJESTAD, NAMED AFTER HOLLAND'S ROYAL HOUSE OF ORANGE. HERE PANDELLIS LEAVES THE CULTURAL CENTER IN SEARCH OF MORE SUBJECTS TO PAINT IN TOWN. OFTEN TOO HE CAN BE SEEN HOLDING CLASSES RIGHT ON THE STREETS. THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGE OF THE ENTIRE NETHERLANDS ANTILLES IS DUTCH, BUT THE ABC GROUP HAVE AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE ALL THEIR OWN CALLED PAPIAMENTO. ITS RECIPE CONTAINS 2 CUPS OF SPANISH, ONE CUP OF DUTCH A TEASPOON EACH OF FRENCH AND AFRICAN, A DASH OF PORTUGUESE AND A PINCH OF ENGLISH... THE PINCH OF ENGLISH BEING THE WORDS "O.K. AND PAY-DAY" ......

ALONG ORANJESTAD'S WATER FRONT SCHOONER COME, AGAIN FROM VENEZUELA, TO SELL THEIR FOOD WHICH CONSISTS MAINLY OF FISH AND FRESH FRUIT. AT THE MARKET EVERYONE SEARCHES FOR A BARGAIN AMONG THE BANANAS, BUT AT THE LOWEST PRICE POSSIBLE, A SOUTH AMERICAN STUFFED ALLIGATOR WOULD BE NO BARGAIN TO ME!!!
WE'VE ENCOUNTERED MANY CAMERA SHY PEOPLE ON OUR TRAVELS, BUT THESE 2 WOMEN REALLY TAKE THE FIRST PRIZE.

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MOORED ALONG THE WATERFRONT IS A LITTLE HOUSEBOAT, THE HOME OF A UNIQUE FLOATING RESTAURANT CALLED THE BALI. WE WENT IN TO HAVE THEIR SPECIALTY, RICESTAPEL, A MEAL TO HAVE ONLY WHEN YOU'RE HUNGRY AND NOT COUNTING CALORIES, AS IT CONSISTS OF 20 TO 40 DIFFERENT DISHES. IT TAKES 2 DAYS TO PREPARE ALL THE DISHES, 2 HOURS TO EAT THEM AND I MIGHT ADD, 2 WEEKS OF STRENUEOUS DIETING AFTERWARDS. BUT NOW I WASN'T WORRYING ABOUT THE TWO WEEKS...I DID THAT LATER! WE WERE TOLD THAT THIS WAS JUST THE FIRST GROUP OF DISHES TO BE SERVED...I COULDN'T BELIEVE IT, UNTIL WE WERE BROUGHT THE SECOND... LATER, THE OWNER WAS OUTSIDE TO GREET US, OR, WAS IT TO CONGRATULATE US?

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ALONG WITH WOODEN SHOES AND WINDMILLS, ANOTHER THING TYPICALLY DUTCH IS THE BARREL ORGAN. THIS ONE, IMPORTED STRAIGHT FROM HOLLAND IS ACCOMPANYING A MOST UNUSUAL DANCE, TYPICAL ONLY OF ARUBA.... AT FIRST GLANCE YOU MAY THINK THIS IS JUST AN ORDINARY MAYPOLE DANCE, BUT ON CLOSER INSPECTION, YOU'LL SEE ITS MUCH MORE THAN THAT, ITS A MAYPOLE DANCE DONE WITH A RUMBA BEAT..... THE RHYTHM IS ACCENTUATED BY SCRAPING A SMALL PIECE OF RIDGED METAL CALLED A WINI, WHICH IS AN IMPORTANT INSTRUMENT IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD. THIS DANCE IS ONLY DONE ON SPECIAL OCCASIONS AND TODAY, THEY'RE CELEBRATING THE BIRTHDAY OF A MEMBER OF HOLLAND'S ROYAL FAMILY, PRINCESS IRENE. ......... THE FEET, IN THE SAND QUICKLY DISSAPEAR, NOTHING CAN DISPEL THE CHARM OF THESE ISLANDS, SO TRULY A TROPICAL TOUCH OF THE DUTCH.

WAVE TAKES AWAY —> INTERMISSION WRITTEN IN SAND
FROM THE ABCs WE FLEW NORTH EAST 550 MILES TO THE THREE WINDWARD ISLANDS OF ST. MAARTEN, SABA AND ST EUSTATIUS. THE LARGEST AND MAIN ISLAND OF THE THREE IS ST MAARTEN, WHICH IS THE FIRST ONE WE'RE GOING TO SEE.

WITH THE FIRST SIGHT OF ST MAARTEN WE KNEW WE HAD ANOTHER DUTCH TREAT TO LOOK FORWARD TO, WITH AN ADDITIONAL BONUS OF FRENCH...AS THIS ISLAND IS DIVIDED BETWEEN FRANCE AND HOLLAND.

WE LANDED AT THE JULIANA AIRPORT, WHICH IS ON THE DUTCH SIDE AND FOUND ITS REPUTATION AS THE 'FRIENDLY ISLAND' TO BE TRUE.

EVERYWHERE ONES GREETED WITH SMILES, WARMTH AND GENUINE FRIENDLINES.

AND IN THESE TROUBLLED TIMES ITS REFRESHING TO FIND SUCH A PLEASANT ATMOSPHERE.

THE REASONS FOR THE OBVIOUS HARMONY ARE NUMEROUS, AS aside FROM AN IDEAL CLIMATE AND EASY WAY OF LIFE, ST. MAARTEN HAS NO UNEMPLOYMENT, ENJOYS THE HIGHEST STANDARD OF LIVING IN THE CARIBBEAN AND HAS NO RACIAL PROBLEMS... WHICH PERMITS A TRUE FEELING OF UNDERSTANDING AND BROTHERHOOD.

THE CAPITAL OF THE DUTCH SIDE IS PHILIPSBURG, BUILT ON A NARROW SANDBAR FACING THE SEA WITH A LARGE SALT PAN AT ITS BACK. THERE ARE ONLY TWO THREE STREETS THAT RUN PARALLEL WITH THE IMAGINATIVE NAMES OF FRONT ST., BACK STREET AND OF ALL THINGS, THE "OTHER STREET."

FRONT STREET IS THE MAIN THOROUGHFARE WHERE THE LEADING SHOPS, RESTAURANTS AND BUSINESSES ARE LOCATED AND ITS SHINGLED ARCHITECTURE CREATES A TYPICAL ISLAND ATMOSPHERE.

A 100 YEAR OLD BUILDING SERVES AS BOTH POST OFFICE AND TOWN HALL, WHILE ALSO ON FRONT STREET, THE OLDEST STRUCTURE IS THE METHODIST CHURCH.

ALTHOUGH DUTCH IS THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGE HERE, ENGLISH IS PREDOMINANT WITH EVEN CHURCH SERVICES CONDUCTED IN IT.
AROUND ON BACK STREET WE FOUND AN ARTIST, CYNDRIC GRIFFITH, PAINTING
OUTSIDE HIS STUDIO. HE'S A MEMBER OF ST. MAARTEN'S ART COLONY AND HE'S
WINDED MANY PRIZES IN THE CARIBBEAN ART SHOWS FOR HIS WORK.
AN UNUSUAL PAINTING HE DID W THE IS OF A LITTLE GIRL . . . WHEN SHE'S
GOOD HER PARENTS HANG HER PICTURE THIS WAY . . . BUT WHEN SHE'S BAD . . .

FROM PHILIPS BURG
WE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE FUN TO EXPLORE MORE OF THE ISLAND SO RENTED A
CAR, AND SINCE IT CONSISTS OF ONLY 37 SQUARE MILES, WHERE ELSE CAN YOU
GET FROM HOLLAND TO FRANCE IN JUST A FEW MINUTES.
THE BORDER BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES IS MARKED BY A MONUMENT ERRECTED IN
1948 TO COMMEMORATE THE 300 YEARS OF FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN THE
Netherlands AND FRANCE. ST. MAARTEN, ON THE NETHERLAND'S SIDE IS SPHEL
THE DUTCH WAY, WHILE ON THE FRENCH SIDE, IN FRENCH . . . AND THE CAPITAL
OF THE FRENCH SIDE IS MARIGOT.

THE SPLIT PERSONALITY OF THE ISLAND IS QUICKLY FELT HERE WHERE EVERY
THING IS COMPLETELY FRENCH. IT'S ARCHITECTURE, FINE CUISINE, AND OF
COURSE PARLEZ FRANCAISE HERE . . . ALL OF WHICH MAKES ST. MAARTEN A REAL
DOUBLE FEATURE, NOT TO BE MISSED.

BUT AS THE MAIN FEATURE OF THIS FILM IS DUTCH, WE HEADED BACK TO THE
Netherlands SIDE AND WERE IMPRESSED WITH HOW GREEN EVERYTHING WAS HERE
IN CONTRAST TO THE ARID ABC ISLANDS.

DRIVING AROUND WE FOUND A VARIETY OF GUEST HOUSES AND HOTELS. THEY
INCLUDE PLUSH BEACH RESORTS, ALWAYS WITH THEIR OWN GLEAMOROUS, INVITING
SWIMMING POOLS, TO RUSTIC HIDEAWAYS NESTLED IN THE HILLS.

ITS LITTLE WONDER THAT ST. MAARTEN'S KNOWN AS THE BEACH ISLAND AS IT
BOASTS OF 36 BEAUTIFUL BEACHES CARESSING ITS COAST LINE, SO ITS VERY
EASY TO BECOME A BEACH BUM HERE. L YING IN THE
SUN IS THE MOST POPULAR PAST TIME, IN FACT SUNNING IS NOT ONLY A PAST
TIME BUT A VERY SERIOUS BUSINESS.

SINCE MANY VACATIONERS LIKE TO GO HOME AND IMPRESS THEIR, FRIENDS WITH
A BEAUTIFUL GOLDEN TAN, MANY HOURS ARE SPENT AT THE BEACH - AND MANY
BOTTLES OF SUN TAN LOTION ARE SPENT ON THE BODY, AS THESE serious
SUMMERS WORK AT ROASTING THEMSELVES.
GUESS HE RAN OUT OF SUN-TAN LOTION . . . . . BUT THIS ONE, WELL, 
MAYBE ALL SHE WANTS ARE TAN TOES. 
(or, well, at least she'll have tan toes) 

ST MAARTEN OFFERS ANOTHER DIMENSION IN ITS INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES. 
HERE AT THE MULLET BAY COMPLEX, CONDOMINIUMS CAN BE PURCHASED. IT'S A 
SELF CONTAINED RESORT WITH BEACH, SWIMMING POOL, GOLF, TENNIS, FINE 
RESTAURANTS, SHOPS . . EVEN A CASINO . . SO THE OWNERS CAN RENT 
THEIR CONDOMINIUMS FOR INCOME, USE THEM FOR TAX PURPOSES AND ALSO ENJOY 
THEM FOR THEIR OWN VACATIONS. 

WE CONTINUED ON INQUISITIVELY CROSSING OVER THE MINI MOUNTAINS TO SEE 
WHAT WAS ON THE OTHER SIDE. HERE WE FOUND THE AREA KNOWN AS CUL DE SAC, 
WHERE A NEW GOVERNMENT HOUSING PROJECTS HAS BEEN BUILT. THE STREET 
NAMES ARE MOST UNUSUAL . . OR YOU MIGHT SAY DELICIOUS. 
THE INTERSECTION HERE SHOULD BE CALLED COLESLAW. \_VILLAGE \_MAYBE THIS 
ST MAARTEN'S A VERY POPULAR PORT OF CALL FOR THE CRUISE SHIPS THAT 
ANNUALLY BRING IN OVER 100,000 EAGER TOURISTS . . . WHICH MORE THAN 
OUT NUMBER THE DUTCH SIDE'S POPULATION OF 12,000. 

THERE'S ALWAYS A LOT OF ACTIVITY ON THE DOCK THE DAY A SHIP IS IN. 
TAXIS AND BUSES CARRY THE VACATIONERS TO THEIR DESTINATIONS OF BEACHES, 
GOLFCOURSES, SIGHT SEEING OR FOR THE MOST PART, INTO PHILIPSBURG, TO 
PURSUE THE MOST POPULAR ACTIVITY - SHOPPING. 
THEN THE TRANQUIL CHARACTER OF FRONT STREET DRAMATICALLY CHANGES. 

SOME 150 OF THE FINEST SHOPS AND BOUTIQUES LINE THE STREETS, WITH THEIR 
COLORFUL SIGNS INVITING SHOPPERS TO PURCHASE THE VARIETY OF ITEMS THAT 
CAN BE FOUND HERE. 
TOURISM ACCOUNTS FOR 100% OF THE ISLAND'S ECONOMY AND OF COURSE 
SHOPPING IS A MAJOR SOURCE OF REVENUE.
Bags are quickly filled here, as there are no import taxes and no sales tax. So, St. Maarten is one of the few Caribbean islands that is truly duty free.

Shoppers scurry along in all directions, seeking more bargains for their bags.

But as the day wears on... the feet wear out.

*Is there a doctor, Shoals, in the house?*

Aside from the sport of shopping, on St. Maarten you can find almost any other sport under the sun. All the leading hotels have their own courts and tennis is as popular on the island as it is here.

And for the golf enthusiasts, the Mullet Bay Hotel offers a challenging 18 hole course beautifully situated.

And of course, for those who prefer to see the sea, all types of water sports abound, for all types of vacationers... and I do mean all types! (here you can play away the carefree hours in any way you choose)

Day parts... night starts. A variety of casinos offer a variety of games of chance, so you can take your pick as to which one you'd like to put your chips on... and as the dollar is the principal currency used here, you can tell at a glance how much you've won... or lost.

But if you don't feel like taking a chance at the casino, you can really take a chance at the discotheque.
(after a night to be remembered)

Well, after all of that, early dawn found us in a small boat headed out for a schooner and, for what would prove to be an adventurous journey. This time we were bound for another of the Dutch Windwards, and as the sun appeared just above the horizon and the crew hoisted the final sails, we left St. Maarten behind and headed out to sea, for the island of Saba.

The captain remained at the wheel for the entire 29 mile voyage, while his crew worked very hard at their own self-appointed chore of fishing.

I couldn't help but wonder though... what would he do if he caught a really big one.

Because of the pitch and roll of the schooner, passengers rarely budge from the camp chairs along the deck and depending on the sea and wind, the 29 mile trip can take anywhere from 5 to 10 hours.

It was nearly noon as we approached the little volcanic island of Saba jutting abruptly out of the sea. Saba's the Caribbean's most unusual island consisting of only 5 square miles... mostly vertical miles.

And as the sails were lowered, we prepared ourselves for a most unusual landing, with no pier or dock.

Sturdy islanders row their boats out to get the passengers, who must then step, at just the precise moment, from the schooner down into the rowboat (or into the sea). High waves and wind can make this very difficult; in fact quite dangerous.

When a wave comes, putting both boats on the same level, that's the time to go. Jeanne was first off and was told to be especially careful not to catch her foot between the boats.

I cautiously followed and was relieved to get safely in the rowboat too.

Saba, as yet, is not a big tourist spot... in fact if one's looking for a place to really get away-from-it-all... this is it.

The next thing was to be able to get on the island and this was done by jumping, just so, from the rocking rowboat, on to wet, slippery stone steps.
WELL JEANNE MADE IT, WITH THE GREATEST OF EASE . . . . BUT WILL HE!? WE'RE GLAD TO SAY THAT SINCE THAT LANDING, A NEW DOCK HAS BEEN ADDED TO THE SHORELINE, SO IT'S FAR EASIER TO JUST STEP ON TO THIS LITTLE ISLAND.

NOW FOR THE REALLY COURAGEOUS, THE NEWEST WAY TO REACH THIS SPECK IN THE SEA IS BY AIR. FROM FROM ABOVE THE AIRFIELD APPEARS LIKE A BAND AID, ALTHOUGH THE SKILLED PILOT ASSURED US ITS 1300 FEET WERE MORE THAN ENOUGH. HE SAID ITS AN EXCITING LANDING, BUT SEEING THE SWIRLING SEA AND JAGGED CLIFFS, WE FELT DIFFERENTLY ABOUT IT (or, we thought it harrowing).

WE UNCROSSED OUR FINGERS AS WE TOUCHED DOWN ON SOLID GROUND.

WHETHER ONE ARRIVES BY PLANE OR BOAT, ONCE ON THE ISLAND EVERYONE IS TRANSFERRED TO CARS AND JEEPS WHICH WHEN FULLY LOADED START THEIR WINDING JOURNEY UP THE STEEP MOUNTAIN TO THE MAIN VILLAGE ODDLY CALLED 'THE BOTTOM'.

BEFORE THE ROADS WERE BUILT DONKEYS WERE THE ONLY MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION UP TO THE BOTTOM. THE VILLAGE IS BUILT WITHIN THE CRATER OF AN EXTINCT VOLCANO, WHICH ACCOUNTS FOR ITS NAME.

AND HERE THE LITTLE BOTTOM SITS . . . AND ITS JUST ABOUT THE ONLY SPOT ON SABA WITH ANY AREA OF LEVEL GROUND. THERE ARE NO REAL STREETS; JUST A FEW PEACEFUL SHADY WALKS THAT ARE JUST WIDE ENOUGH FOR A SMALL CAR.

THE ENTIRE POPULATION OF THE ISLAND IS ONLY 978 - WITH MEN OUT NUMBERING WOMEN 3 TO ONE. (maybe this is why its my favorite island. Marlin - IT A WONDERFUL ISLAND)

ACTUALLY SABA IS LIKE STEPPING BACK INTO A MINIATURE OLD FASHIONED WORLD, WITH GINGER BREAD HOUSES THAT CLING TO CLIFFS OVERLOOKING THE AZURE CARIBBEAN.
ALTHOUGH DUTCH, MANY SABANS ARE OF ENGLISH, SCOTS AND IRISH EXTRACTION. THEIR DECENDANTS CAME HERE IN THE 1600s AND SINCE THEN, ENGLISH HAS BEEN THE ONLY LANGUAGE OF THE ISLAND.

EVERYWHERE WOMEN ARE SEEN ENGROSSED IN MAKING SABA LACE . . A SPECIAL KIND OF NEEDLE WORK FOUND ONLY HERE AND VERY POPULAR WITH TOURISTS.

ABOUT 4000 TOURISTS FIND THEIR WAY TO SABA EACH YEAR, AND NESTLED IN THE HAMLET OF WINDWARDSIDE IS A CHARMING INN TO HELP ACCOMODATE THEM CALLED CAPTAIN'S QUARTERS.

AND EVEN THOUGH IT NOW HAS A REFRESHING POOL, IT WAS ONCE THE 19th CENTURY HOME OF A SEA CAPTAIN, WITH ALL THE ATMOSPHERE OF THE PAST COMFORTABLY-BLENDED WITH THE PRESENT.

ALL IN ALL, WE FOUND SABA NOT JUST A PLACE TO GO, BUT, TO EXPERIENCE.

ST EUSTATIUS

OUR SCHOONER SET SAIL ONCE AGAIN AND LEAVING SABA BEHIND WE CONTINUED ON BY SEA TO THE THIRD ISLAND OF THE DUTCH WINDWARDS, ST. EUSTATIUS.

SECOND IN SIZE, IT'S POPULATION IS 1400 . . ALTHOUGH DURING THE 18th CENTURY IT WAS ONE OF THE RICHEST ISLANDS OF THE CARIBBEAN, KNOWN AS THE 'GOLDEN ROCK' WITH A POPULATION OF OVER 25,000. BUT NOW ITS AN ISLAND STEEPED ONLY IN THE HISTORY OF ITS PAST.

THIS IS THE MAIN SQUARE OF ITS QUIET, ALMOST DESERTED CAPITAL, (ALSO) CALLED ORANJESTAD. ST EUSTATIUS PLAYED A VERY IMPORTANT PART FOR US DURING THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION. IT WAS HERE THAT ARMS AND SUPPLIES WERE TRANSFERRED AND SENT TO OUR COLONISTS TO HELP THEM FIGHT THE BRITISH.

IN RE-TALIATION FOR THEIR HELP TO US, THE BRITISH, IN 1780, LOOTED AND BURNED THE CAPITAL. THE ISLAND NEVER RECOVERED FROM THIS ATTACK AND THE PROUD TOWN OF FORMER DAYS IS NOW A DESERTED OPEN AIR MUSEUM OF DECAYING RUINS.
This is all that remains of the Dutch Reformed Church, and walls still stand with bits of Holland's Delft tile in them, reflecting the wealth of by-gone days.

And along the waterfront ruins of 18th century warehouses stand in remembrance of the island's prosperous past. One such warehouse however is an important part of the present, the Old Gin House. Dating from 1720, it has been reconstructed and is now one of the most charming inns to be found anywhere.

The creators of Old Gin House are two ingenious Americans from New York, John May and Martin Scofield. They believe in using the island's history to shape its future and have started a restoration program with the cooperation of Holland and the United States, to make St. Eustatius the Williamsburg of the Caribbean.

The Old Gin House terrace overlooks the beach where you can still see foundations of warehouses where ammunition was stored for our use during the American Revolution.

St. Eustatius performed another gallant gesture in our behalf. In 1776, Governor De Graff, who lived in this house, gave the order to salute the rebel American flag...and here inside for Oranje, these same canons fired the first salute ever given by a foreign power, to the new born flag of the United States of America, flying from the brig, Andrew Doria. And in 1939, President Roosevelt presented this plaque to St. Eustatius to commemorate the historic event.

As Americans, one can't help but feel great warmth and a sense of gratitude to this little island, which so bravely contributed, in its way, to our history.
FROM ST. EUSTATIUS WE FLEW SOUTH ACROSS THE CARIBBEAN TO THE CONTINENT OF SOUTH AMERICA AND THE COUNTRY OF SURINAM, A LITTLE KNOWN, EXOTIC LAND OF INCREDIBLE CONTRASTS. IT COVERS AN AREA OF 55,000 SQUARE MILES WITH MANY BROAD RIVERS CUTTING THROUGH THE DENSE IMPENETRABLE RAIN FORESTS, WHICH COVER MORE THAN 9/10THS OF THE COUNTRY. IN THESE STEAMING JUNGLES, ONLY THE MOST PRIMITIVE TRIBES OF MAN LIVE AND HERE LARGE AREAS STILL REMAIN UNEXPLORED.

AT THE EDGE OF THE JUNGLE, ALONG THE FLAT COASTAL AREA IS THE DEVELOPED SECTION OF THE COUNTRY AND OVER LOOKING THE SURINAM RIVER, IS THE CAPITAL AND ONLY CITY, PARAMARIBO.

HERE PARAMARIBO'S DUTCH HERITAGE IS SEEN NOT ONLY IN THE OLD COLONIAL DUTCH ARCHITECTURE, BUT EVEN THE BYCICLES AS THE FAVORITE MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION.

AND PART

SURINAM WAS FORMERLY KNOWN AS DUTCH GUYANA, A COLONY OF HOLLAND, BUT IN 1975 IT BECAME A FULLY INDEPENDENT NATION. THE SPANISH DISCOVERED IT IN 1499, BUT THEY DID NOT STAY HERE. LATER THE BRITISH CAME AND STILL LATER BOTH ENGLAND AND HOLLAND CLAIMED THE TERRITORY. IN THE 1600S, AFTER YEARS OF STRUGGLE, A TREATY WAS SIGNED GIVING SURINAM TO HOLLAND. THIS PLEASED THE DUTCH AS IT WAS THOUGHT TO BE A RICH LAND AND IN RETURN HOLLAND GAVE ENGLAND AN INSIGNIFICANT PIECE OF THEIR PROPERTY CALLED NEW AMSTERDAM... OR, NEW YORK. WHAT A REAL ESTATE DEAL!

THE POPULATION OF THE ENTIRE COUNTRY IS 400,000 AND OF THAT NUMBER, APPROXIMATELY 113,000 LIVE HERE IN PARAMARIBO.

THIS IS GOVERNMENT SQUARE WHICH IS THE FOCAL POINT OF OFFICIAL LIFE... AND WHERE THE STALLY PRESIDENT'S MANSION STANDS, ALONG WITH OTHER GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS.
ONE OF THE MOST INTERESTING FEATURES OF SURINAM IS ITS MIXTURE OF RACES. AND IN THE MARKET, THIS MULTI RACIAL SOCIETY MINGLES TOGETHER, YET EACH RETAINS THEIR OWN CUSTOMS, DRESS AND RELIGION.

THE CREOLES NUMBER THE MOST, ABOUT 118,000 IN ALL.

THE HINDUS ARE NEXT, NUMBERING 94,000.

THE JAVANESE FOLLOW AND IT'S INTERESTING TO KNOW THAT NO WHERE ELSE IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE IS THERE SUCH A LARGE INDONESIAN POPULATION.

THEN THERE ARE ABOUT 4,000 CHINESE AND THE SAME NUMBER OF EUROPEANS, MAINLY DUTCH.

HERE IN THE UNITED STATES WE TOO HAVE A TREMENDOUS VARIETY OF NATIONAL RACIAL AND RELIGIOUS BACKGROUNDS; BUT GENERALLY BY THE 2nd GENERATION WE BECOME WHAT IS CALLED AMERICANIZED. NOT SO IN SURINAM. HERE, ALTHOUGH ALL ARE SURINAMERS, THIS UNIQUE SOCIETY OF PEOPLE WITH SUCH DIVERSE ORIGINS AND DISPOSITIONS ALL LIVE TOGETHER AS ONE UNIT, BUT AS I SAID, EACH GROUP STILL MAINTAINING THEIR INDIVIDUAL HERITAGE OF DRESS, CULTURE AND RELIGIONS.

HERE YOU’LL FIND THE CATHOLIC CHURCH, WHICH IS THE LARGEST WOODEN STRUCTURE IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE.

AN OCTAGONALLY SHAPED PROTESTANT CHURCH.

THE OLD SYNAGOGUE.

A HINDU TEMPLE.

AND FOR THOSE OF THE ISLAMIC FAITH, A COLORFUL MOSQUE.

JUST A SHORT DISTANCE OUTSIDE OF PARAMARIBO, THE DENSE FORBIDDING JUNGLE STANDS LIKE A HOSTILE GUARD. THE RIVERS ARE USED AS HIGHWAYS AND AS OUR BOAT GLIDED UPSTREAM, WE BOTH FELT QUITE APPREHENSIVE ABOUT GOING TO SUCH A REMOTE, INACCESSIBLE TERRITORY.

HERE ONLY PRIMITIVE TRIBES OF INDIANS, THE ORIGINAL INHABITANTS OF THE COUNTRY, AND TRIBES OF BUSH NEGROS ARE ABLE TO LIVE WITHIN THIS HUMID, HARSH, INTERIOR. WE WERE ON OUR WAY NOW TO VISIT ONE OF THE VILLAGES OF THE BUSH-NEGORS. THOUSANDS OF THEM WERE BROUGHT HERE FROM WEST AFRICA BY THE EARLY COLONISTS AS SLAVE LABOR, BUT HUNDREDS ESCAPED AND FOUGHT THEIR WAY UPSTREAM INTO THE WILD JUNGLE INLAND, WHICH WAS SIMILAR TO THEIR HOMELAND, BUT WHERE AT THAT TIME, NO ONE COULD FOLLOW.
AS WE PULLED IN TOWARDS SHORE IT REALLY FELT AS THOUGH WE WERE IN THE
PROVERBIAL, DEEPEST DARKEST AFRICA.

ONCE ON LAND OUR GUIDE EXPLAINED JUST HOW FAR IT WAS ALONG THE PATH TO
THE VILLAGE AND BEFORE-HAND HE HAD TOLD US WHAT TO WEAR TO KEEP OUR ARMS
AND LEGS WELL COVERED FROM THE HORDES OF INSECTS, PLUS OUR HEADS PROTECTED
FROM THE PENETRATING RAYS OF THE SUN.......FOR IT WAS AUGUST, AND WE WERE
ALMOST ON THE EQUATOR!

WE MET A FEW DISINTERESTED NATIVES ALONG THE PATH BUT UPON OUR ACTUAL
ARRIVAL IN THE VILLAGE THEY TOOK ONE LOOK AT US AND ALL SCURRIED IN
DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS.

THEY CERTAINLY DIDN'T WELCOME US THE WAY THEY DO IN HOLLYWOOD MOVIES!

AFTER A BIT THEY BECAME DOSTER AND CAME BACK TO INSPECT US. THE CHILDREN
AS ALMOST EVERYWHERE, OVERCOME THEIR TIMIDITY MORE QUICKLY THAN THE
ADULTS AND SOON WERE SURROUNDING ME FOR THE CANDY WE' D BROUGHT THEM.

PAGAN AFRICAN CUSTOMS REMAIN UNCHANGED FROM THE DAYS WHEN THE FIRST
SLAVES WERE ENSLAVED INTO THESE JUNGLES AND IN THE CENTER OF THE VILLAGE
IS THEIR VOODOO SHRINE CALLED A HOKEY-POKEY.

ONE THING THAT ADDS TO THE BUSH MEDJEGEL MAN'S PRESTIGE WITHIN HIS TRIBE IS
HIS WOOD CARVING ABILITY. AFTER MAKING OBJECTS SUCH AS DRUMS, PADDLES,
STOOLS AND SPEARS, HE LIKES TO ADORN THEM WITH DECORATIVE DESIGNS. HERE
HE'S PUTTING THE FINAL TOUCHES ON A STOOL.

WOMEN TAKE CARE OF DOMESTIC CHORES AND HERE FLOUR IS BEING PREPARED FOR
THEIR BREAD. IT COMES THOUGH FROM A MUCH MORE UNUSUAL SOURCE THAN OUR
FLOUR AS IT'S MADE FROM THE ROOTS OF THE DEADLY POISONOUS PLANT THE
KANICOC. FIRST THE POISON IS SQUEEZED OUT, THEN THE ROOT POUNDED AND
SIFTED ANY MANY TIMES. THE EXTRACTED POISON IS ENUF TO CAUSE INSTANT DEATH
I TASTED AND, AM STILL HERE......BUT I WONDER WHERE THE FIRST TASTER IS?

TOWARD DUSK THE SAVAGE RHYTHMS OF THE JUNGLE DRUMS BEGAN TO FOUND IN OUR
EARS. WE WERE TO WITNESS A FIRE DANCE, ONE OF THE STRANDEST, WIERDEST
EXHIBITIONS OF VOODOOISM TO BE SEEN. IT'S PERFORMED AS A CERTAIN PART
OF THEIR RELIGIOUS RITES.

FRENZIED WITH EXCITEMENT AND AS IF POSSESSED BY SPIRITS, THEY ARE ABLE TO
GO RIGHT INTO THE BLAZING HOT FIRE WITHOUT ANY PAIN OR BODILY HARM.
NOW WATCH THE ONE IN THE BACK....LOOKS AS IF THE SPIRITS REALLY MOVED HIM!

MEDICAL SCIENCE HAS ALWAYS BEEN BAFFLED BY THIS SUPERNATURAL DISPLAY AS THERE'S NO PHYSICAL EXPLANATION FOR IT AT ALL.

AS DARKNESS CREEPT OVER THIS UNCANNY SPECTACLE THE BUSH NEGROS CONTINUED THEIR MYSTERIOUS RITE AT THE SAME WILD PITCH LONG INTO THE NIGHT.

AND WE REALLY FELT AS THOUGH WE HAD WITNESSED A KIND OF SORCERY AND BLACK MAGIC TAKEN RIGHT FROM THE ANCIENT HEART OF AFRICA.

THE NEGROS THAT DID NOT ESCAPE INTO THE BUSH-COUNTRY REMAINED AS SLAVES BUT ONCE SLAVERY WAS ABOLISHED THEY LEFT THE PLANTATIONS TO LIVE IN TOWN.

AND HERE IN PARAMARIBO THEIR DESCENDANTS, NOW CALLED CREOLES, PRESENT A MOST UNUSUAL SIGHT.

THESE PROUD WOMEN ARE WEARING THE UNIQUE KOTTO-MISSIE, THE TRADITIONAL DRESS OF THE CREOLE WOMEN OF SURINAM, FOUND NO WHERE ELSE IN THE WORLD. THEY'RE REALLY NOT THIS FAT....ACTUALLY THEY'RE WEARING 18 PETTI-COATS, IN FACT THE NAME KOTTO-MISSIE MEANS 'PETTI-COAT WOMAN'. THE DRESSES, THE MORE COLORFUL THE BETTER, ARE MADE OF FROM 20 TO 30 YARDS OF STIFFLY STARCHED COTTON WITH THE HEM ALONE MEASURING 5 YARDS....AND INSTEAD OF BEING HOT AS ONE WOULD THINK, ESPECIALLY FOR THE TROPICS, THEY'RE ACTUALLY COOL....AT LEAST THAT'S WHAT THEY SAY....(BUT I THINK THOSE FANS MIGHT HELP A BIT)

THE MOST AMUSING ASPECT THOUGH OF THE ENTIRE DRESS IS THE HAT. IN MOST PLACES IN THE WORLD THE MOOD OF THE WOMAN CAN REMAIN A MYSTERY INDEED.... BUT NOT HERE...THE WAY A CREOLE WOMAN TIES HER HEAD DRESS, IN THE BACK, LEAVES NO DOUBT TO THE ONLOOKER FOR EACH STYLE OF TYING HAS A NAME THAT CLEARLY INDICATES HER THOUGHTS AND WISHES FOR THE DAY.

FOR INSTANCE, EACH OF THESE GIRLS' MOODS VARY QUITE A BIT...THIS YOUNG WOMAN SEEMS TO BE IN A PROVOCATIVE MOOD...HER STYLE IS CALLED "WAIT FOR ME ON THE CORNER"........THIS ONE, "YOU'LL SEE ME AGAIN"........HER MOOD IS A LITTLE MORE DEMURE, THIS STYLE IS CALLED "I FEEL LIKE A BUTTERFLY"

OFTEN WOMEN ARE FACED WITH JUST ANOTHER HUM-DRUM DAY OF HOUSEWORK....AT SUCH A TIME, NO SPECIAL MESSAGE IS INTENDED, SO THIS STYLE, WHY I DON'T KNOW, IS SIMPLY CALLED "DOG TAIL" ........

THIS SIGNIFIES A FLIPPANT "GO TO....THAT CERTAIN HOT-PLACE".....

HERE'S A DIRECT APPEAL..."HUG ME TIGHT"...
THE OLDER WOMEN HAVE THEIR SAY TOO, ALTHO THE MESSAGE IS MORE BEDATE...
"I'M FINE THANK YOU"

AND HERE'S A BOLD ONE...SHORT AND TO THE POINT..."FOLLOW ME"...AND IT
LOOKS AS THOUGH HER MESSAGE GOT ACROSS.....

RATHER PLAINITIVE PLEA FROM A MARKET WOMAN, "PLEASE COME HOME"

ANOTHER ONE THAT SAY'S, "I DON'T CARE"....

BUT OF ALL THE DIFFERENT WAYS TO TIE THESE HEADDRESS, I THINK THE MOST
EXPLICIT ONE IS THIS...."KEEP YOUR DISTANCE ".....

NO MATTER WHERE ONE GOES IT SEEMS MOST GIRLS ARE USUALLY INTERESTED IN
CLOTHES AND SOME OF THEM HERE, WITH A DEFINITED FLARE FOR STYLE ASKED
US IF WE'D LIKE TO SEE SOME OF THE NEWER TYPE CLOTHES THEY'RE WEARING
TODAY. SO WE WERE DELIGHTED WHEN THEY PUT ON A LITTLE FASHION SHOW
FOR US.

ONE OF THE GIRLS EXPLAINED TO JEANNE HOW THE STYLES, ALTHO MODERN, ARE
INSPIRED BY, AND PATTERNEDED AFTER THE TRADITIONAL FORMS OF DRESS WORN IN
SURINAM.......SUCH AS THIS ONE, BASED ON A HINDU SARI.

THIS DRESS IS CALLED THE MODIFIED KOTTO-MISSIE, AS WAS THE FIRST BLUE
ONE YOU SAW, AND ITS CHANGED QUITE A BIT FROM THE TRADITIONAL KOTTO-
MISSIE WITH THE ONLY SIGN OF VOLUMINITY BEING THAT LITTLE FLOUNCE AROUND
THE WAIST. WITH THE ORIGINAL DRESS IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW MANY CALORIES
ONE CONSUMES FOR THEY ARE WELL CAMOFLAGED, BUT ITS A DIFFERENT STORY
WITH THIS ONE.

THE JAVANESE WOMEN'S DRESS ALWAYS HAD A STRAIGHT LINE, WITHOUT ANY
FULLNESS, AS THIS ONE PATTERNEDED AFTER IT.

BUT NO MATTER THE STYLE ALL THE DRESSES
IN SURINAM ARE MADE OF COLORFUL COTTONS.

THE HINDUS HERE VENERATE A STATUE
OF GANDI AS MUCH AS THEY WOULD IN INDIA.
A VERY LIFE LIKE STATUE OF GANDI STANDS IN ONE OF THE SQUARES AND THE
HINDUS VENERATE HIM AS MUCH AS IN INDIA. AFTER THE ABOLITION OF
SLAVERY, HINDUSTANIS WERE IMPORTED FROM INDIA UNDER 5 YEAR CONTRACTS TO
WORK ON THE BEREFIT PLANTATIONS. WHEN THEIR CONTRACTS EXPIRED MANY
CHOSE TO REMAIN AND HERE THEIR DESCENDANTS STILL MAINTAIN THE INDIAN
CUSTOMS.
WE FELT VERY FORTUNATE AT BEING INVITED TO A HINDU WEDDING FOR IT'S AN UNUSUALLY COLORFUL CEREMONY THAT WE WESTERNERS RARELY SEE.

HERE THE BRIDE IS BEING PREPARED FOR THE CEREMONY. THE PAINTING OF HER FACE IS PURELY FOR DECORATIVE PURPOSES, JUST AS WOMEN HERE PUT ON MAKE UP AND LIPSTICK. BUT I JUST HOPE OUR STYLE NEVER GOES THIS FAR HERE!

THE HINDUS IN SURINAM MARRY THE ONE OF THEIR OWN CHOICE BUT AS IN INDIA, A HINDU MARRIAGE CAN NEVER BE DISSOLVED IN DIVORCE FOR ANY REASON. THEY MUST ALWAYS TRY TO SOLVE THEIR DIFFERENCES, OR TOLERATE THEM, BUT NEVER TO CHANGE THEM. I DON'T THINK THE GROOM WILL HAVE TOO MUCH TROUBLE TOLERATING THIS BRIDE.

THE CEREMONY COMMENCES AS THE GROOM, KRISHNA, ENTERS THE MARRIAGE ENCLOSURE. HIS PUNDIT OR PRIEST POURS WATER OVER HIS HANDS TO SYMBOLIZE THE WASHING AWAY OF ALL IMPURITIES. HIS DRINKING THE WATER SIGNIFIES THAT HE ACCEPTS THE BRIDE FOREVER, NO MATTER WHAT HARDSHIPS MAY ENSUE.

THIS CEREMONY DATES BACK MORE THAN 1,000 YEARS AND EVERYTHING THEY DO HAS A Symbolic Meaning.

AFTER WAVING THE MARRIAGE BENCH OVER A FIRE, WHICH IS A FORM OF BLESSING IT, KRISHNA WAITS FOR HIS BRIDE RAHDEEKA TO ENTER AND SIT BESIDE HIM. AND AS IN OUR WEDDINGS, BRIDESMAIDS ACCOMPANY THE BRIDE.

AFTER THE PUNDIT READS TO THEM FROM THEIR HOLY BOOK, DOUGH, SIGNIFYING FOOD AND PLENTY, IS PLACED IN THEIR HANDS IN THE PROMISE TO SHARE EVERYTHING TOGETHER.

THE PASSING AROUND OF A TRAY WITH MONEY ON IT IS DONE IN THE HOPE OF ASSURING A PROSPEROUS MARRIAGE. MAYBE THIS IS WHERE THE EXPRESSION, 'PASSING THE BUCK' COMES FROM.


THE 2 FAMILIES ARE UNITED BY TYING THE FATHER OF THE GROOM TO THE MOTHER OF THE BRIDE, WHOM HE LATER CONSOLES IN THE OLD ADAGE SHE HASN'T LOST A DAUGHTER BUT GAINED A SON.

KRISHNA AND RAHDEEKA ARE NOW MARRIED AND

And as Krishna y Rahdeeka's story Together just begins, our story about them ends
NOT ONLY CAN ONE FEEL IN SURINAM AS THOUGH THEY ARE IN INDIA BUT ALSO CHINA, FOR HERE THE CHINESE ARE THE MAIN SHOP OWNERS AND TRADERS AND HAVE A THRIVING COMMUNITY OF THEIR OWN. WHEN ONE GOES OUT TO THE NEARBY RICE PADDIES ITS HARD TO BELIEVE THAT THIS IS REALLY THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE AND NOT THE ORIENT. THE CHINESE ALSO WERE IMPORTED TO WORK ON THE PLANTATIONS...IN FACT THEY WERE THE FIRST FOREIGN GROUP Brought TO SURINAM FOR THIS PURPOSE.

THE JAVANESE WERE THE LAST GROUP BROUGHT IN UNDER WORK CONTRACTS FOR THE PLANTATIONS. THEY HAVE A CIVILIZATION AND CULTURE DATING BACK CENTURIES IN WHICH MUSIC AND DANCING HAVE ALWAYS PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE.

THEIR UNUSUAL ORCHESTRAS ARE MADE UP OF ENTIRELY PRECUSSION INSTRUMENTS AND WITH THEIR EXOTIC SOUND THEY ACCOMPANY THESE YOUNG GIRLS AS THEY PERFORM THEIR HIGHLY STYLIZED DANCE...JUST AS IT WAS DONE IN THE ANCIENT COURTS OF THE KINGS OF JAVA.

THESE GIRLS ARE IN THEIR EARLY TEENS AS WERE THE YOUNG GIRLS WHO CENTURIES AGO DANCED IN THE ORNATE COURTS. THEN IT WAS THE CUSTOM FOR THE KING TO MARRY WHICH EVER ONES HE PREPARED, TO ADD TO HIS HAREM OF MANY WIVES.

IN SURINAM THEY DANCE NOT FOR KINGS BUT FOR THEIR OWN PEOPLE WHO STILL TAKE GREAT PRIDE IN REMEMBERING AND IN MAINTAINING THEIR JAVANESE HERITAGE.

NOW THE MEN PERFORM THEIR DANCE, WITH THE SAME SLOW GRACE AND UNUSUAL RESTRAINT THAT TYPIFIES JAVANESE DANCING. EVERY MOVEMENT, GESTURE AND GLANCE CONVEYS A CERTAIN MEANING AND ITS ESPECIALLY INTERESTING TO WATCH THEIR FASCINATING NECK MOVEMENTS. THE ENTIRE DANCE IS SYMBOLIC. HERE THE STORY TELLS OF THE ETERNAL STRUGGLE BETWEEN GOOD AND EVIL. THE DANCER WHO REPRESENTS GOOD IS WEARING WINGS...THE SYMBOL OF WHAT WE ALL HOPE TO WEAR ONE DAY. THE ARROWS DENOTE THE FORCES OF EVIL...SHARP AND DESTRUCTIVE.

BUT AS IN MANY STORIES, AND IN REAL LIFE TOO, THE FAITH AND HOPE OF PEOPLE EVERYWHERE, IS THAT GOOD WILL TRIUMPH OVER EVIL AS IT DOES HERE IN THIS DANCE.
THE BIGGEST DAY OF THE WHOLE YEAR IN SURINAM IS FREEDOM DAY, CELEBRATED EVERY JULY 1ST TO COMMEMORATE THE JULY 1ST OF 1863 WHEN SLAVERY WAS OFFICIALLY ABOLISHED. THE JOYFUL EVENT IS MARKED BY A VARIETY OF ACTIVITIES, ONE OF THEM BEING THE BOAT RACE BETWEEN 2 TEAMS OF THE BEST ROWERS. CROWDS OF PEOPLE ARE HERE TO CHEER ON THEIR FAVORITE TEAM, IN FACT A GOOD SPOT TO SEE FROM IS HARD TO COME BY, SO EVEN THE TREE TOPS ARE FILLED.

Government

ALSO IN ORANGE SQUARE, AS SOON AS THE BOAT RACE IS OVER, VARIOUS GAMES AND CONTESTS FOR THE CHILDREN ARE HELD.

UNLIKE OUR SCHOOL YEAR, THE CHILDREN HERE GO TO SCHOOL DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS AND HAVE WHAT THEY CALL THEIR BIG VACATION IN SEPTEMBER, THE HOTTEST MONTH OF THE YEAR, WHEN THE TEMPERATURES ARE WELL UP IN THE 90s. SO THIS IS A BIG DAY FOR THEM, WHAT WITH NO SCHOOL AND THESE SPECIAL GAMES ARRANGED FOR THEIR BENEFIT.

EDUCATION IN SURINAM IS COMPELLING FOR THOSE BETWEEN THE AGES OF 7 TO 12. AFTER THAT, THOSE WHO WISH AND WHO ARE ABLE TO PASS THE ENTRANCE EXAMS, MAY CONTINUE ON THROUGH WHAT IS SIMILAR TO OUR HIGH SCHOOL. MOST OF THE CHILDREN DO GO ON... AS FOR COLLEGE, THE MAJORITY OF THE STUDENTS IN THE PAST HAVE PREFERRED GOING TO HOLLAND BUT RECENTLY MANY HAVE BEEN COMING HERE TO THE UNITED STATES ALSO.

HERE'S A WISE RACE FOR THE TROPICS... THE WINNER IS NOT THE ONE WHO CAN RIDE THE FASTEST, BUT THE SLOWEST RIDER HERE WINS THE PRIZE.

SOMETHING OUT OF THE ORDINARY IS SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE ALMOST HOURLY DURING THIS SPECIAL DAY, AND BY EARLY AFTERNOON THE MANY PEOPLE WHO HAVE COME FROM ALL PARTS OF PARAMARIBO AND THE SURROUNDING COUNTRYSIDE, CROWD AND FILL THE STREETS ON THEIR WAY TO THE SQUARE TO HEAR THE GOVERNOR'S ANNUAL FREEDOM DAY ADDRESSES.

ALTHOUGH FREEDOM DAY IS MAINLY SIGNIFICANT TO THE NEGROES AND THE CREOLES, FOR IT WAS THEIR FOREFATHERS WHO WERE FREED FROM THE BONDS OF SLAVERY, NEVERTHELESS ALL THE PEOPLE OF SURINAM JOIN IN THE CELEBRATION.
EVERYONE IS WEARING THEIR VERY BEST FINERY TODAY AND NO WHERE ELSE IN THE WORLD WILL YOU EVER SEE SUCH AN ELABORATE ARRAY OF FINELY STARCHED HANKERCHIEFS WORN ON ANYONE’S HEAD.....

HERE’S A WOMAN THOUGH WHO BELIEVES IN BEING A BIT MORE PRACTICAL... A PIPE, A POT AND A BITE TO EAT ARE ENOUGH FOR HER.

THE CHINESE HAVE GATHERED FOR THE OCCASION AS HAVE THE HINDUS, BUT ONE OF THE MOST UNUSUAL SIGHTS OF ALL WAS A GROUP OF AMER–INDIANS WHO HAD COME IN FROM THE INTERIOR FOR THE DAY. THEY WERE THE ORIGINAL INHABITANTS OF THE COUNTRY, BUT AS MORE AND MORE PEOPLE CAME TO SURINAM, THEY PUSHED FURTHER BACK INTO THE INTERIOR TO SEEK SHELTER FROM CIVILIZATION AND ONLY RARELY CAN ONE GET A GLIMPSE OF THEM.


EVEN THE BUSH NEGROS HAVE COME IN FROM THE INTERIOR FOR THIS BIGGEST CELEBRATION OF THE YEAR. PREVIOUSLY THEY USED TO COME IN WEARING THE TYPE CLOTHES THAT THEY WEAR IN THEIR OWN VILLAGES, MAINLY NOTHING... BUT NOW, IN ORDER TO ENTER THE CITY THE MUST DRESS AND IT LOOKS LIKE PIECES OF CLOTH AND LARGE COLORFUL BATH TOWELS ARE THEIR FAVORITE BITS OF WEARING APPAREL.

EACH GROUP TIES FAST THE GOVERNOR'S PALACE, WHERE HE AND HIS PARTY VIEW THE WHOLE SPECTACLE FROM THE BALCONY.

THE NEXT GROUP TO PASS BY ARE THE JAVANESE, MOVING IN THEIR OWN SLOW DISTINCTIVE-MANNER. THE PARADE CONTINUED UNTIL NIGHT FALL, WITH EVERY ONE CONCERNED THOROUGHLY ENJOYING THEMSELVES, ON THIS ALL IMPORTANT DAY.

SURINAM IS CERTAINLY A LAND OF CONTRASTS. ITS CAPITAL, PARAMARIBO HAS A SURPRISINGLY COSMOPOLITAN, DUTCH AIR, DESPITE ITS BEING A STONES THROW FROM THE WILD PRIMITIVE JUNGLE; A JUNGLE WHERE NATIVE INDIANS STILL HUNT WITH POISON ARROWS AND TRIBES OF BUSH NEGROS STILL PRACTICE CEREMONIAL RITES OF THEIR AFRICAN ANCESTORS, (AS WE SAW EARLIER.) INDIA, AFRICA, JAVA THE ORIENT AND HOLLAND, ALL ROLLED INTO ONE LITTLE–KNOWN NATION. ITS FLAG BEST SUMS IT UP... ON A WHITE BACKGROUND SYMBOLIZING PEACE, 5 DIFFERENT COLORED STARS REPRESENT THE 5 DIFFERENT RACES, WITH AN ENCOMPASSING CIRCLE JOINING THEM ALL TOGETHER AS ONE NATION.
THIS TRIP, INCLUDING THE 6 ISLANDS, REALLY DIDN'T TAKE US A GREAT DISTANCE FROM THE UNITED STATES, AS DISTANCES GO TODAY, BUT STILL WE FELT AS THOUGH WE HAD BEEN AROUND THE WORLD ON A MOST UNFORGETTABLE JOURNEY.

THE END

WAVES TAKE AWAY