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Celebrating The Hundredth Episode Of "Not A Drum Was Heard"

The Bargain House Brownes

by Selwyn Walter

In this issue we celebrate the ONE HUNDREDTH EPISODE OF NOT A DRUM WAS HEARD. I therefore wish to congratulate all my readers and tell them how delighted I have been that they have been able to appreciate and endure what, I, in my small way have been trying to do.

One Hundred Episodes

I must confess that I myself have been amazed that DRUMS has reached the mature age of ONE HUNDRED. This could only have been accomplished by the interest and encouragement of a wide cross-section of the community who have told me "...continue! don't give up!" However, perhaps the most encouraging and heartening aspect of this adventure has been the words of one of my girlfriends. At the age of eighty plus or minus two or three years (she has NEVER admitted to me when she was born), she held both of my hands and said "I am praying for you. I relive so many experiences. May God give you the strength to endure". She told me that DRUMS has contained a few errors "here and there" but that they were not only "correctable" but did not detract from the intrinsic worth of DRUMS and the pleasure that some people get from reading it.

Drums - An Addiction

At 100, I recall the early days - Winston Derrick, editor of the Daily Observer said to me, "just write two more and see if you like it". My reply was to commit myself to writing "just a few more". One day, I woke up to find myself addicted to producing DRUMS. I have promised some of my very old friends to see if I could possibly reach episode 125. I wish to promise my readers that I will endeavour to continue to write with the hope that my writing will not only fill a void in the social history of our country, but also, this process will bring pleasure, enjoyment and the kind of laughter that may serve to ease the anguish of a torturing hour.

The Bargain House Brownes

Today's topic has been carefully chosen. I represent many, many years of searching and enquiry. Today, I salute THE BROWNE FAMILY of BARGAIN HOUSE. They were the first BLACK FAMILY since EMANCIPATION to tackle head on, the problem of BLACK OWNERSHIP, BLACK PRIDE, BLACK ENTREPRENEURSHIP and BLACK SELF-RESPECT. Born in Antigua, the BROWNE FAMILY migrated to the USA and returned to Antigua to blaze

across the social and economic horizon like an ominous meteor. Ominous because their example was portentous of things to come. They opened the eyes of Black People about their rights. They told them about a fair day's work for a fair day's pay. They preached Black Pride and Black Ownership. They motivated Antigua to such an extent that when the RIOT of 1918 erupted, the colonial authorities conspired to liquidate ROBERT BROWNE, the young Patriarch of the family. And, by the time that they were crushed and made a quiet exit from the shores of Antigua, they had planted the bug of FREEDOM and DEFIANCE coupled with Black self-sufficiency. Antigua has never been the same since the meteoric rise and appearance of the BARGAIN HOUSE BROWNES. They have been giants and pioneers whose indelible mark on our country has gone unnoticed and unsung. THEY LED THE WAY.

A Peculiar African Heritage

The BROWNES boasted of an African heritage and an African link that in Antigua has been most peculiar. Their mother M'AAM BROWNE was a PIERRE from DARBYS, here in Antigua. Her father was an African from SENEGAL Africa. His name was FARAH PIERRE. His arrival in

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Read

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Antigua was both accidental and coincidental. He had been a sailor on a boat that was sailing from Senegal in Africa to New Brunswick in Canada. The boat stopped in Antigua in order to take on a supply of water. The boat was immediately seized by the Customs Authorities because, on board, were THREE BLACK MEN. The Colonial Authorities "read the Riot Act" to the Captain and threatened to bring the whole wrath of the law upon his head, for, contrary to a law passed in 1807 forbidding any boat to transfer BLACKS across the Atlantic, he had been found to have, not ONE but THREE black men aboard.

Farah Pierre

The Antiguan authorities allowed the boat to take on water and supplies but detained the three African men. FARAH PIERRE who spoke no English, but spoke French fluently told the Customs authorities, that HE WAS NO SLAVE, HAD NEVER BEEN A SLAVE but was on the contrary, a PROUD BLACK MAN who was working as a sailor aboard the boat. Despite his protests, the Colonial Government detained him in Antigua as a FREE MAN. Eight months later, Farah Pierre had not only mastered English but was able to offer his services as a translator in the tumultuous post Trafalgar years through which the Caribbean passed. The struggle was between the French and the British. The year when Farah Pierre was forcibly taken off the boat was 1826. Emancipation came in 1834.

This proud African produced a daughter named MARIA PIERRE. She married a man named DAVID BROWNE and between them, they founded the BROWNE DYNASTY. David Browne was a prolific man who was

in a hurry, for Maria Browne bore him FIFTEEN CHILDREN. They were born in HYMAN'S VILLAGE and all of the children with the exception of two - who remained here and eventually died here - migrated to the USA. *

Hyman's Village

HYMAN'S VILLAGE used to occupy the area on the Cemetery Road, that lies east of the LIONS CLUB and the DEANERY. St. Joseph's Academy and the Catholic Presbytery and Stapleton Lane are all a part of what used to be HYMAN'S VILLAGE. However, the occupants of Government House did not feel comfortable with a village filled with Black People that was located so close to the front entrance of the seat of Power in the Colony. The posh residential area at that time was EAST STREET (now INDEPENDENCE DRIVE) and the users of the NEW CLUB who were the PLANTERS and the other frequenters of Government House devised a plan to "THIN OUT" the Black People from being so close to the seat of power. The settlement south of the LIONS DEN with its few small houses was allowed to remain. SOUR-SOP GARDEN (Church Lane) with its myriad little alleys radiating in all directions was allowed to remain, but the whole of HYMAN'S VILLAGE was moved, lock, stock and barrel. The only exception was the HURDLE FAMILY who owned the plot on Cemetery Road immediately East of the Deanery Lands and East of the traffic lights.

Stapleton Lane

As a boy, the Pigott family, Dada Ivy with her children, Audrey, Cecil, Sylvie, Keith, Dulcie, Kathleen and George, were the only Black Family that occupied what had been HYMAN'S VILLAGE.

Their address was Hyman's Village. The white folks called the area STAPLETON LANE. Later on, the segregation policy which did not permit Black People to walk through Stapleton Lane after dark and which prevented Black funeral processions from using Stapleton Lane as part of their route was to be challenged by HAROLD TOBIAS WILSON popularly known as STEAL-AWAY (as in the negro spiritual) who was EDITOR of THE MAGNET. THE MAGNET had been financed by the BARGAIN HOUSE BROWNES. Wilson was a close friend of the Brownes.

The Brownes In The U.S.

Young, energetic, and Black oriented, the Brownes began returning to Antigua towards the end of the first decade of the Twentieth Century. By 1912 they had made their presence felt and certainly by the outbreak of the First World War, they were in full business bloom.

While in New York,

the Browne Brothers worked for the Lilly Cup Company. I think that this company is now named the Lilly Tulip Company. The Company manufactured paper cups and party favours and was listed on the New York Stock Exchange. Among Antiguans in New York, the Brownes were well known. They knew BERT WILLIAMS one of the greatest comedians of all time and who paved the way in show business for Black Actors and Performers. Bert Williams was from SWETES VILLAGE. They were staunch Garveyites and their sister LUCILLE BROWNE was well known in Black Society in New York. She owned and operated THIRTEEN BUILDINGS in Manhattan in the pre-depression days. Her headquarters was at 153 W 126 St., opposite the State Office Building in Harlem. Incidentally, when Lucille Browne eventually liquidated her holdings, she went to Jamaica, Long Island, to

Continued on page 8.

Losing a Mother is one of the deepest sorrows a heart can know, but what the heart has once owned and had, it shall never lose.

In loving memory of

Our Beloved Mother and Grand-Mother

Mrs. Helen Henry of Nut Grove

Who Departed this life on February 2, 1996.

Ever to be remembered by her Children

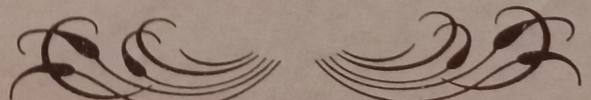
Phyllis-Veronica, Sylvester, Clarence and Raymond,

and her Grand-Children, Nicole, Sean, Fitzroy,

Monique, Keith, Quinn, Sylvester Jr., Meegan

and Raymond Jr.

May her soul continue to rest in peace.



From page 7.

live in a TWENTY-EIGHT ROOM MANSION. She had bought out the estate of the VAN SICLENS and retired to surroundings filled with paintings and antiques. I think that the Brownes still own the property.*

The Browne Brothers

The Browne Brothers were ROBERT (The Leader), JAMES, CYRIL, CLAUDE, EARL (he never left Antigua) CHARLES and ASHFIELD. The sisters were LUCILLE (referred to above) and ANA.

Of particular interest to us in Antigua are the children of CYRIL BROWNE and EARL BROWNE. Cyril Browne had had four sons ELVIN, DAVID, LAURISTON and ROBERT. His two daughters were FERNIE and LUCILLE. David, Lauriston and Fernie have died, but Antiguans will remember the Browne Brothers who have been very well known. Who can forget the history-making football forward line of the Browne Brothers, who when they teamed up with Franklin Browne from St. Kitts, were in the 1940's and early 50's, the toast of the Football public in Antigua? Elvin Browne now lives in Radio Range almost opposite the St. John's Lutheran Church and School premises. Earl Browne had two sons LIONEL BROWNE of WICKHAMS BROWNE Estate east of Emerald Cove. Kenneth is in England and Lucilla lives in the Villa Area.



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Lionel & Elvin Browne

In this the hundredth episode of DRUMS, I must perforce record my gratitude to my friend LIONEL BROWNE, a former director of the Antigua Commercial Bank, property owner, historian and philanthropist and to his first cousin ELVIN BROWNE, retired engineer. Both Lionel and Elvin Browne entertained me at Elvin's home to talk about their fathers who were a part of the fantastic Browne Family that made history in Antigua.

I had never known that they had been connected to the Bargain House Brownes. I know both of them and speak to them often and they have never spoken about their family connection. It was Maurice Bridges who in a recent interview told me "You always asking about the Bargain House Browne, why don't you ask LIONEL BROWNE. He is your neighbour and you are always talking to him". I wish, here to record my gratitude to Maurice Browne and to Elvin and Lionel Browne, for my interview with them have been the culmination of ELEVEN YEARS of searching for a Browne-connection who would be able to fill in the blanks. THANK YOU!

The Coloured Connection

The unique story of the Browne Family is that the players and those who interacted with them were a closely knit what was termed COLOURED section of society that had a common policy - the elevation of the BLACK MAN. At that time, those who controlled SCOTCH ROW (Market Street) and the streets that criss-crossed Market Street were either WHITE or COLOURED. The coloured were those who were the direct descendants of whites from cross-fertilisation with Black women. I should be noted that the Black women were always on the receiving end of the aggression and that there were no children of white women

who could have been regarded as having been coerced or seduced into a sexual relation. The story of Black Men who married White women will be possibly examined at a future date.

The "Coloured" Business World

The prominent businessmen of coloured extract who owned property in town were proud to be coloured and made it know to all and sundry that they were the "its" of the Black Business World. On Market Street, the Pigotts and O'Reilly's are still there. The property once owned by the mother of Leslie Thompson and John H. Moore are still there and still owned by Black Families. The Mercer Family, the Ross Family, the Watts of Watts Drug Store, the Phillips of Redcliffe Street, the Malones. The descendants of Fawcett and the Clarkes - Market Street and the rest of St. John's was littered with names of Black People. White fathers, Black mothers or children of multi-mixed origin, who either bought or had been bequeathed property. To this kind of St. John's that had not yet been taken over by the Lebanese or Syrians did the Browne brothers return. The first property that they brought is an indication of the close working relationship between Black people and those who were once their masters.

The Bargain House Property

The building known as BARGAIN HOUSE (located immediately west of the main building of BENJIES on Redcliffe Street and which now houses the Industrial Court and the Establishment Offices of the Civil Service) was owned by Dr. Arthur Edwards. He was the son of THE DR. EDWARDS after whom EDWARD WARD at the Holberton Hospital is named. He had a coloured person as his Godfather, and he had acquired the property from his Godfather. The stipulation laid down by this Black Godfather to his white Godson was "if you are going to part with this property it should go back to coloured people". In keeping with the stipulation, Dr. Edwards sold the property to the BROWNE Family headed by Robert Browne.

Black Property Owners

I should add here that Harper of Harper's Drug Store (it is still the Harper's Building) was Black. Martin of Delos J. Martin was Black. The Delos J. Martin building was acquired
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From page 8.

by Thomas Lushington Jeffrey, father of Suffragan Bishop Alfred Jeffrey who was Black. He sold to Henderson Galvanise Company at Coolidge. Henderson then sold to COURTS, who have demolished the building and established their headquarters on Market Street. Bessie Harper who owned the V.A. Derrick building on Long Street was Black. The list of Black property owners and business personalities existing in St. John's at the turn of the Century was astounding. It should be noted that I have used the term Black in the American sense of meaning NOT WHITE, for many of the names referred to above were light skinned people who could sometimes "pass-for-white" but who were the offspring of the union between white males and black females.

Antigua's First Department Store

On the site acquired from Dr. Edwards, the BARGAIN HOUSE was built. It was Antigua's FIRST DEPARTMENT STORE. The Brownes brought fashionable New York to Colonial Antigua. The store displayed Antigua's first Mannequins. The goods were displayed New York-style like any 5th Avenue Department Store. The Brownes employed Black People. They encouraged Black people to go into business. They lent money to Black people to help set them up in what they termed "Black-related enterprises". They encouraged Black people to acquire land and acquire homes. They were close friends of COM-MODORE CARTY who was one of the domineering giants of the waterfront and the ODD FEL-

LOWS LODGE in Antigua.

The Browne Empire Expands

The Brownes expanded. They bought the building now owned by the Wallace Family once the IDEAL STORE now occupied by JACARANDA. They bought the whole of the western side of Friendly Alley. they bought the building now known as COATES COTTAGE. And by the time the expansion had reached its peak the Brownes had established a BARGAIN HOUSE COM- PLEX that contained (1) A grocery on the Corner of Friendly Alley and Redcliffe Street (2) a Liquor Department on Redcliffe Street and (3) on the Western front on Redcliffe Street a Dry Goods and Clothing Store that was to revolutionise styles and patterns and bring to poor people in Antigua the benefits of being Black and of having a New York connection.

Lucille Browne in New York and the other Brothers in New York did the shopping and arranged the warehousing of the goods that were destined for Antigua. The Brownes lived in style. Opulent style. They became the leading Black Businessmen in Antigua. They co-operated with J.A.N. BROWNE (Studiation Browne) who was a cousin. They co-operated with Bowers Browne brother of JAN Browne, and at the height of the co-operation, the name Browne and properties owned by Browne had covered the area from LIFE-SAVER on Market Street (headquarters of JAN Browne) to the Fibrey owned by Bowers Browne, to the block on Friendly Alley owned by the BARGAIN HOUSE BROWNES to Browne & Company on

Lower Redcliffe Street (now a part of Heritage Quay).

The Ulotrichian Society

By 1916 when he launched the ULOTRICHIAN SOCIETY popularly called the Bargain House Lodge. Robert Browne had already forged what was referred to by local Black People as the COLOURED PEOPLES ALLIANCE. The Portuguese led by John J. Camacho had made their bid to control the Estates, some of which had fallen on lean times. The Lebanese were making their first timid steps in the mercantile community, and a combination of the Browne, Pigott, Ross, Malone, Harper and Watt families had established a Black Stranglehold on choice strategic properties in the heart of St. John's. Commodore Carty in the Point, Sissy Nathan and Kassi Hart in the North and Bishopgate and Popeshead Streets areas. Dunbar and the Galloways in the South Street and Tanner Street region, Black people formed the vanguard in thrust to control property and influence development.

By 1918 Robert Browne, Patriarch of the Ulotrichian Lodge had sowed the seeds of awakening. The argument raged as to whether cane should be reaped by the line or by the ton. The clergy also became involved, and Dr. George McGuire of the Anglican Church also become intricately involved. Beneath the surface the ten thousand strong Ulotrichian lodge had lit the fuel, and the infusion of ideas spread like a wind fanned flame that almost consumed Antigua. Next week we will examine further the legacy of the BARGAIN HOUSE BROWNES.

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Viewpoint By

Selvyn Walter

"Not A Drum Was Heard"

Part One Hundred and One

On The Paradox Of A Lifetime Of Service, Old Age, And Eventual Death.

My encounter with the physical legacy of the Bargain House Brownes was made in a most peculiar way. As a boy, my mother used to take me to a doctor named Dr. O'marney. She also used to take us to a Doctor named Dr. McDonald, a white haired, white man, who used to have his office on the east side of Friendly Alley on the top floor of the narrow two-storied building that can be found on the premises of BENJIES building, but neatly nestled between the fancifully painted building that houses the Ministry of Legal Affairs and Benjies headquarters.

Lead Lotion

Those were not the days of pills and tablets and fanciful-looking capsules with long, complicated tongue-twisting names. There was a DISPENSER (today we call these people pharmacists) on the premises who stood behind a counter that formed the front of a shelf-lined room that was jam-packed with a

wide assortment of multi-coloured liquid filled bottles. In those days, patients went to a doctor armed with a clean bottle. The supposed cure for swellings, bruises, cuts and sprains was a miracle liquid called "LEAD-LOTION".

Gall Wash

All other ailments seemed, to my mind, to have been addressed by the drinking of peppermint-flavoured cloudy-looking liquid. The colour of the liquid, however, tended to vary with the ailment, and it was always the same peppermint flavoured liquid. In those days, parents had to be able to differentiate between a tea-spoon, a desert spoon and a table spoon. The directions were written or printed on a label that was stuck to the bottle - for example; one table-spoon twice daily. Colds, fevers, bellyaches, cramps, heartburn were all supposed to fall prey to the onslaught of what my mother mockingly referred to as GALL-WASH.

A Legacy From The Brownes

One day while we were waiting for Dr. McDonald to arrive, I had quietly wandered away and gone down the steps that led to a huge cellar with several elaborate arches. Through one of these arches could be seen a well-paved ornamental courtyard. The brickwork was superb. Instead of giving me a thorough spanking my mother explained that the elaborate building with all its arches and beautiful courtyard was a legacy of the Bargain House Brownes. She showed me the cellars and explained that there were underground cisterns and secret doorways through which I could roam and be lost. When I was almost ten years old, she took me back to Bargain House and as we sat on the steps she explained the phenomenon of the Browne Family and their terrific impact on the commercial and political life of Antigua. * * * * *

Dr. Edwards, (who sold the building to the Brownes) it seemed, used to raise his own crabs. He kept them in an unpaved cellar where they bred and they were fed in another cellar that was paved with cut stones. The Brownes did not continue the tradition of raising land crabs at Bargain House, but furnished the living quarters in sumptuous splendour.

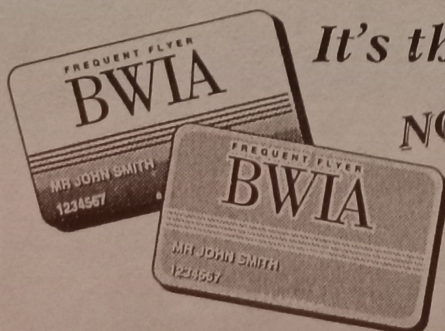
Cyril played the SITAR. Claude played the PIANO, Jimmy played the TUBA and the family always sang together and worshipped together. They owned a huge gramophone and had a wide assortment of records (including recordings of the famous Antiguan, BERT WILLIAMS). * * * * *

The Torch Of Dignity & Self Respect

This love of music was to manifest itself and be of benefit to Antigua and the musical world for ROBERT BROWNE, in 1916
Continued on page 8.

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INTERNATIONAL AIRWAYS

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From page 7. established the ULOTRICHIAN LODGE. The word ULOTRICHIAN, I am told, had its origin in two Greek words which meant "the welfare of dark-skinned, curly haired people". In establishing this organization, Robert Browne in one single stroke lit the torch of dignity and self respect for Black Peoples in Antigua. Whereas the attempts at achieving Black Dignity via rebellion, before KING COURT and after KING COURT had been met by torture, floggings, hangings, being gibbeted, imprisonment and banishment, the post emancipation

bid to direct the minds and lives of Black People came in the form of a lodge. THE ULOTRICHIAN LODGE.

Lodges

It must be borne in mind that lodges did exist in Antigua before the Robert Browne experiment at Bargain House. The FREEMASONS, at the turn of the Century, were exclusively white and exclusively the preserve of the PLANTER CLASS. The GRAND UNITED ORDER OF ODDFELLOWS, which was established in Antigua during the 1880's was, at first, the preserve of the

BLACK MIDDLE CLASS. In fact, ST. JOHN'S LODGE, before its headquarters was transferred to the premises on North Street (the site is now occupied by Steel World) was located on Newgate Street in the building now owned by the Watt family that used to house the popular restaurant CHINA GARDEN (located west of the Stevens residence, now owned and occupied by Dr. Locker). At the Newgate Street location, the lodge was known as the OCCIDENTAL LODGE.

The Henry Family

The Henry family

were heavily involved. Roland Henry, father of Edward Henry, Curator of the Antigua and Barbuda Museum, was prominent in it. His sister, Miss Lil Henry, was in charge of the Juvenile Section. The family of famous musicians, Roland Henry, once Registrar of the High Court, was a superb musician and violinist. Miss Lil, who taught me music, played the Pipe Organ at the Spring Gardens Moravian Church for approximately thirty years. Sister, Mrs Bertha Higgins, Senator of the West Indies Federation, founder of the Antigua Artists' Society and famous music teacher. Miss Ella, another veteran of the Pipe Organ and veteran music teacher.

The Bargain House Band

Roland Henry was a close friend of the Bargain House Brownes and subscribed to the principles enunciated by Robert Browne when he formed the Ulotrichian Lodge. For, the love of music that existed in the Browne family prompted Robert Browne to form the band of the Bargain House Lodge. The first person in charge of directing the Bargain House Band was a Mr. Cole and after Mr. Cole's retirement, Roland Henry took over the band's direction.

The Era Of Coxy Coates

These were the Halcyon years of music in Antigua. Every lodge had a band. The members of Powerful Black families in Antigua took part in those Bands. After Roland Henry gave up the directorship of the Bargain House Band, COXY COATES, whose sister was married to one of the Bargain House Brownes, assumed control. The era of Coxy Coates, the Lyric Band, JAY MARTIN'S BAND. The participation of the Chambers Brothers, of Pat Nanton and Dennis Nanton. The rise of the Bridges Band, and the proliferation of Bands attached

Continued on page 10.

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"NO PURCHASE NECESSARY"

From page 8.

to the lodges covers the years from pre-1920 to the early years of the 1940's. For jazz musicians and big Brass Bands it was a golden era. Robert Browne and family had helped to plant the seed of musical appreciation. This sudden interest in music, in education and in human rights had come alive because of the Brownes. * * * *

Ulotrichian Lodge, Ten Thousand Strong

Formed in 1916, the Ulotrichian Lodge became an overnight success within six months, in spite of the small population of Antigua, TEN THOUSAND PEOPLE joined the Lodge. Some people were Ulotrichians and Oddfellows at the same time. Ostensibly, the Lodge was a society formed for the mutual benefit of its members. It became a welfare society. It was a Burial Society. It was a cultural organization that sponsored concerts, musical recitals, plays and dances. * As staunch Garveyites, the Brownes quietly spread the message of Black Self-Sufficiency, Black Ownership and Black Pride. * * * *

Renaissance Of Black Awareness

In the Bargain House Lodge, ordinary men and women who would not normally have been exposed to the procedure of conducting meetings and of speaking in public, learnt to speak properly and to address public meetings. There was a resurgence of knowledge of Black heroes. The role of

the Egyptians in world history, the story of the kingdoms of Africa, the role that Black People played in the early years of the formation of the United States and during the Civil War was emphasised. Marcus Garvey became a hero. Frederick Douglas became a hero. Booker T. Washington became a hero. The Ulotrichians introduced a RENAISSANCE of Black consciousness and pride. * * * *

Marcus Garvey's Visit

When Marcus Garvey first visited Antigua, the Colonial authorities refused to allow him to land. Dressed in plumes and his ceremonial uniform, the BLACK MESSIAH descended on Antigua. Thousands of Antiguan were ready to see and hear the great Marcus Garvey. * The Bargain House Brownes had been instrumental in getting Marcus Garvey here. Harold Tobias Wilson, a member of the Ulotrichian Society, was to appear on the Balcony of the John I. Martin building with Marcus Garvey. The Balcony of the same building on Church Street that now houses the Customs Department was a part of Wilson's home. HAROLD TOBIAS WILSON, a Barbadian, a printer and political activist, pamphleteer and newspaper editor, had come into his own. The people referred to Harold Wilson as "STEAL-AWAY".

Steal-Away Wilson

This pet name was not bestowed on him by accident. It arose

out of the lamentation of Black people under the yoke of Colonialism and under the yoke of segregation and slavery in the United States. When Robert Browne would say - "brothers and sisters, brother Harold Tobias Wilson will lead us in song" - Harold Wilson, in his deep voice, would begin the Negro Spiritual "STEAL AWAY, STEAL AWAY HOME TO JESUS". And as his voice began growing louder and louder, the brothers and sisters of the Ulotrichian Society would sing the various parts until it filled Bargain House, sending shivers down the spines of listeners who would congregate outside.

This was Harold Wilson's theme song. In the oppression of Colonialism, "Steal Away" became the paeon of escapism from the harsh realities of Colonial Life. At the Antigua Sugar Factory, grown men with large families had to drop their pants and acquiesce to being flogged; if for some

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*More words cannot adequately express
our gratitude*

*The Family of the recently deceased
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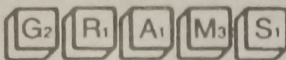
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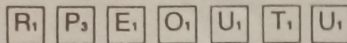
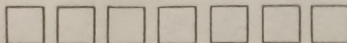
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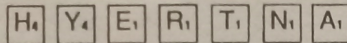
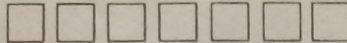
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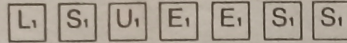
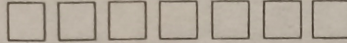
RACK 1



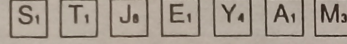
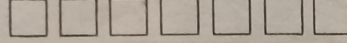
Double Word Score



RACK 2



RACK 3



3rd Letter Double



RACK 4

PAR SCORE 105-115

by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7- letter word from the letters in each row. To total points of your words, use scoring directions to right of each row. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words can be found in OSW Official Scrabble Words (Chambers). **JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW**

2-8-97

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Answer To Previous Scrabblegram

SCRABBLE GRAMS SOLUTION BY JUDD

W4	I1	N1	T1	R1	Y4		RACK 1 =	12
T1	R1	A1	I1	L1	E1	R1	RACK 2 =	57
N1	U1	L1	L1	I1	F4	Y4	RACK 3 =	76
R1	A1	P3	P3	O1	R1	T1	RACK 4 =	83
PAR SCORE 145-155							JUDD'S TOTAL	228

2-7-97
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The Daily Observer Forecast

SAT: A mix of sun and clouds with the risk of a late day shower. High 30C (86F). Low 21C (69F).

SUN/MON: Scattered clouds and pleasant. There is still a chance of a late day shower. High 30C (86F). Low 20C (68F).

When Push Comes To Shove, Piglet Wins Out Over Tiger Kitten

(CNN) — They're an unlikely combination: a pig, a tiger and two puppies. But they get along just fine as roommates. The animals are together as part of an experiment to see how predators react to their traditional prey from an early age.



The animals are just babies: the tiger is two months old and the puppies and piglet are a month older. They've been together now for a month without any problems — except for the piglet, who has been by far the most aggressive of the lot. As for the tiger kitten, he is still sweet and curious.

It remains to be seen whether the tiger will suddenly realise its predator instincts — and bring home the bacon.

Chewing Gum Dates From Stone Age

LONDON (Reuters)— Teenagers have been chewing gum since the Stone Age, according to archaeological research published on Tuesday. Elizabeth Aveling of Bradford University said black lumps of prehistoric tar with human tooth impressions had been found in much of northern Europe dating from about 7000 BC.

The size of the tooth marks suggest that the tar was mostly chewed by children and teenagers and that it could have doubled as a painkiller and a glue to remove milk teeth.

Aveling, writing in the magazine *British Archaeology*, said the gum was made from birch bark tar. She tried a reconstituted sample and described it as having a "strange, smoky flavour."

"The texture is very much like modern chewing gum but it isn't sweet," she wrote.

She said samples of the ancient gum had been found in Sweden, Norway, Denmark and Germany. How it was heated and produced remained a mystery.

From page 12. subsequently transferred to St. Kitts. Banished might have been a better word.

St. Kitts Rejects McGuire

When the authorities realised that McGuire had been in touch with JOSEPH MATTHEW SEBASTIAN in St. Kitts who had started his agitation in 1917 in St. Kitts. The St. Kitts Government refused to have anything to do with McGuire.

The Bargain House Brownes had also been in correspondence with Sebastian, who was an Antigua from Johnson's Point. Sebastian was also preaching the Doctrine of Black Dignity. Joseph Matthew Sebastian is the father of the present Governor General of St. Kitts/Nevis, Sir Cuthbert Sebastian. The Anglican Church did not want McGuire to return to Antigua. The combination of the Ulotrichian Lodge, the Bargain House Brownes and McGuire was thought to have been inim-

ical to the interests of the Colony.

Apostles Of Black Dignity & Self Respect

My mother, who used to conduct voluminous correspondence with her father Dr. Simon Powell Sebastian, who lived in the United States, used to read some of his letters to me. He had not only been a mentor and supplier of books to his nephew Joseph Matthew Sebastian, but he knew Lucille Browne and had also been in correspondence with McGuire and Robert Browne. In one of his letters to my mother, he described the Bargain House Brownes as being progressive and as being apostles of Black Dignity and Self-Respect. * * * * *

Next week, in my final episode on the Brownes of Bargain House, I will deal with the lifestyle of the Brownes and with the Colonial conspiracy to destroy them and bring the House of Browne to its knees. * * * * *

Pg. 10

Viewpoint By

Selvyn Walter

"Not A Drum Was Heard"

Part One Hundred and Two

On The Paradox Of A Lifetime Of Service, Old Age, And Eventual Death.

In this, my final chapter on the Bargain House Brownes, I write with a certain degree of emotion and humility, for as a young nation we are in need of heroes. Our very own heroes. Men and women who had the courage to face the vicissitudes and misfortunes of life by challenging fate and by attempting to chart a new course for themselves and for the people they represented.

Without the Bargain House Brownes, there could not have been a Harold Wilson, a Pookie Davis, a Luther George, a Reginald St. Clair Stevens and V. C. Bird. THEY LED THE WAY.

The Black Antiguan Role Model

The profound impact of this family has been felt in the lives of prominent Antiguan, who have gone to the United States and become wealthy role models. Role models, in that they preached thrift and the dignity of the Black Man. They were proud men whose goal was to establish themselves first as Upright Black Men; and, secondly, as the acquirers and owners of real estate that would give them a platform from which to posture and shout to the world - I AM BLACK. I AM AN ANTIGUAN.

One of the leaders among these men was a woman named LUCILLE BROWNE. A giant who stood tall among the Antiguan émigrés in New

York. Harlem was the area to which they had gravitated and their goal was to "make good". They saw opportunity and took lady luck by the hand. Hand in hand, the group of Antiguan who had migrated to New York, at the turn of the century, and in the first twenty five years of this said century, co-operated and achieved.

Antigua Progressive Society

They stuck together. They formed groups for economic collaboration. They became a close knit unit. They formed the Antigua Mutual Aid Society which was succeeded by the Antigua Progressive Society. The Antigua Mutual Aid Society had been instrumental in making its members owners of their own homes. The society had a band led by DeWitt Martin son of Jacob Martin founder of the Famous J. Martin's Band. Deputy leader of the Band was a relative Jacob Martin. The Ulotrichian Society was patterned after the Antigua Mutual Aid Society. They prospered. They regarded each other as brothers and sisters in a strange land. And, whereas blacks who were native to New York had not been aware of the opportunities that lay around them; if only because they were familiar with their environment, and taking it "for granted", had developed a sort of non-chalant familiarity, the Antiguan grasped at every straw and every

opportunity. They set out to establish themselves by owning their own homes. Their goal was to put their offspring in a position where they owned a piece of New York that they could call their very own. They were a different breed.

A Different Breed

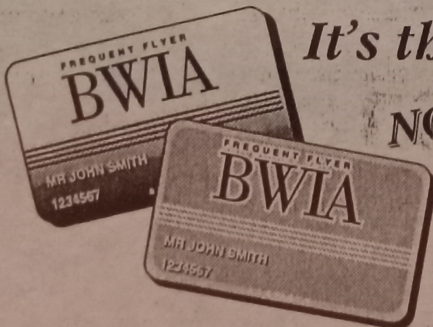
The average American black in New York did not seem motivated to own their own property. This group of Antiguan were different. They helped one another, co-operated with one another and when the map of Harlem was drawn, this group of black people from Antigua owned almost every building on 135th and 136th Streets in Harlem between Lennox Avenue and Seventh Avenue. They had drive and courage. They were regarded as entrepreneurs. Antigua had come to Harlem.

Lucille Browne

Lucille Browne was a leader among them. She was regarded as a whiz kid in the area of real estate activities. She became a role model. She was a mentor to Isaac Hawkins, "Bullah" Davis, Clement Silston, Joshua Aska, and John I Martin. She taught them the real-estate business. Men like Briggs Joseph (uncle of Clarvis Continued on page 8.

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From page 7.

Joseph) who quietly wielded an enormous amount of power in Harlem consulted her and were close to her. "Mail Boat" who could introduce you to any of the power-brokers in Harlem, understood the clout that Lucille Brown carried. She was the matriarch. That breed of Antiguans who made Harlem their bailiwick quietly permeated the society and established their spheres of influence. Thus, when Briggs Joseph died in New York, it was one of the biggest funerals that had been seen in Harlem for a long time. Politicians, businessmen, Jews, Puerto Ricans, blacks and whites turned out in huge numbers. This was the Antiguan connection.

Protégés of Lucille Browne

Those who graduated from under the tutelage of Lucille Brown, became rich and well-known Antiguans. Clement Silston, along with his sister and his brother Alva Silston, established THE SILSTON LIBRARY here in Antigua. And, before the headquarters was built on Redcliffe Street, on a site donated by Isaac and Ethel Hawkins, the Silston Library was housed in the headquarters of the Antigua Trades & Labour Union at 46 North Street. Hawkins returned to Antigua and became well-known for his wealth and real estate holdings. "Josh" Aska, who returned to Antigua to retire and who died in the latter part of December (a few weeks ago) was a wealthy philanthropist. And, John I. Martin, the wealthiest and the greatest of Black Antiguan entrepreneurs, came back to Antigua and bestrode the narrow world of Antiguan real estate activities, like a colossus. Silston and Davis died in New York as wealthy men.

The Antiguan Dream

All of these men had a dream - the advancement of the black man, and the concept of the black man as taking his rightful place in running the affairs of Antigua and Barbuda. It was a dream that they all shared with V. C.

Bird and they all died having implicit trust and confidence in his commitment to Antigua. Lucille Brown, their mentor, was an excellent role model. *

Bargain House Brownes Return

The return of the Bargain House Brownes to Antigua was a historic occasion for it marked the beginning of a black Renaissance. Robert Browne, who had been thoroughly indoctrinated by his sister, had returned to Antigua on fire with the ideas of Black Self Help and Black Co-operation, that had been continuously demonstrated by the group of Antiguans who did the unheard of thing of buying up property in Harlem - in the days when Harlem was Harlem. The days when it was fashionable to go to Harlem for the sheer cultural experience and the unique excitement of visiting the place.

Behind Robert Browne and his young brothers who returned to Antigua to establish the House of Browne, were the brothers who had remained in New York. They bought the merchandise in bulk, arranged warehousing and shipped to Antigua goods and items that had hitherto been unseen or unheard of in this country. *

The Creation Of A New Philosophy

As business increased, the Brownes prospered. Yet along with the prosperity they created, nurtured and fostered ideas of equality and self determination. These were ideas of Black Co-operation and Black Ownership. They helped people to own land and own property. And, having created the powerful and awesome ULOTRICHIAN SOCIETY, they reached deep into the country-side and touched the ever responsive chord of Black Dignity that had lain dormant in breasts that had been indoctrinated and made inactive and unresponsive by the yoke of Colonialism. *

The Spell Of Ulotrichianism

Under the spell cast by the Ulotrichians, the concept of Black Dignity and Black Co-Operation began

to smoulder and come alive. A sleeping giant was awakened, and mass consciousness of right and wrong in terms of the social contract, that had been deemed to have existed between the oppressor and the oppressed, the rulers and the ruled, between massa and the proletariat, reared its rebellious head.

An Unforgivable Act

The Colonial rulers of Antigua never forgave the Bargain House Brownes for the cataclysmic events of 1918. Events which had caused the planter class sleepless nights coupled with fear and trembling. The placid docile world of Antigua seemed to have been turned upside down. The poor whites, and the rabid apologists for Colonialism, blamed the "restless spirit of the Negro who had gradually become contemptuous through familiarity and via a more liberal approach to the science of government. Emancipation had given them an inch, and they had presumed to take an ELL". The more informed and perceptive members of society attributed the "malaise to the presence of new and foreign ideas that had contaminated the thoughts of the Negro and created a hostile spirit within him."

A Threat To Colonialism

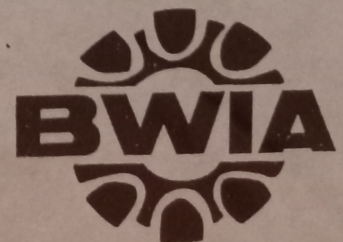
The powers that be, never for gave the BROWNES. From thence their downfall was plotted regularly and the colonial police quietly dogged their steps waiting for them to slip. It was argued that the Brownes were possibly in the process of jeopardising their hard won wealth. The new ideas of the Bolsheviks who had overturned Russia were not blamed for the new attitudes of the blacks. The Bargain House Brownes pursued a life style that was contrary to the new philosophy emerging in Russia. It could not have been Bolshevism. It was the philosophy, they said, of that Jamaican Rabble-Rouser who wanted to turn the Empire on its head. The Bargain House Brownes lived in luxury. They

Continued on page 9.



Coming Soon

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From page 8.

employed several servants and they had upset the normal wage rate of "hired help" by paying them more than the low wages that had been in existence. They had upset the placid world of Industrial Relations, by paying their workers more and by introducing the shift system and granting their workers holidays. They had to be cut down.

Chauffeur Driven Brownes

The Brownes were chauffeur-driven. They were among the first people in Antigua to own a car. Certainly, they were the first Black People to own a car. Whereas, Thomas Entwisle Peters of Jolly Hill (who owned Jolly Estate that included Jolly Beach, Jolly Harbour and hundreds of acres to the North of Bolans Village and who also owned Cedar Hall Estate and maintained a "town house" at Golden Grove Buff (just outside St. John's) on Golden Grove Estate which he owned) had brought the first motor car to Antigua. He also owned a large yacht and his mother, who was an Entwisle, used to own Guana Island (now called Guiana Island perhaps in error). Her father Bertie Entwisle was a powerhouse in Antigua.

The Brownes owned three cars - a CHALMERS, a PULLMAN and a JIGGY (probably made by Forde). The three cars were chauffeur-driven. Today, when a family owns two cars, they are regarded as having arrived. In those days when motorcars were scarce, it was a novelty to own a motor car. It was sensational to own three cars. Because the Brownes were black, it was a highly visible phenomenon to have three chauffeur-driven cars.

Bowers Browne

Bowers Brown was a brother of J. A. N. "STUDIATION" Browne. He was my godfather and he told me that he had owed his brother some money, and after his brother had kept harassing him for the money, Bowers calmly told his brother to take the whole of the Fibrey in return for what he was owed. I don't think that I will ever write of the exploits of "Papa Bong" as I used to call him. He was more than a character. He was a character and a half. His exploits are the stuff of which legends are made. He was a businessman and one of the biggest wheeler-dealers that Antigua has ever seen. He encouraged the Brownes to go into the business of distilling liquor. He was a close cousin to the Bargain House Brownes.

The Still

At Bargain House, there was a hardware store, a grocery and a department store. The Brownes manufactured their own ice-cream cones and their own ice-cream. In those days, ice-cream

was sold every Saturday night. Today the consumption and sale of ice-cream is a daily occurrence. The Brownes also sold liquor by the bottle. They produced and sold it by the bottle. It was very popular. The distilling equipment "THE STILL" had been bought in Montserrat. Bowers Browne had master-minded the whole transaction and the entire operation in Antigua. The Colonial authorities searched the law books and unearthed a law which said it was illegal to operate a distillery without certain permits and licenses.

Brownes Hauled Into Court

The police pounced. The Brownes were hauled into Court. They thought that their operation had been legally covered because of certain signed documents that they possessed. They were found guilty. In addition to confiscation, every member of the family who had been involved in the family's business enterprise was judged to have had constructive knowledge of what the court called the illegal operation of a "STILL". Each member was fined ONE HUNDRED POUNDS.

The £600 Penalty

When it is considered that a property on Market Street could have been bought for ten or fifteen pounds, the penalty was excessively punitive.

The family had to pay six hundred pounds. In addition, there was continual harassment from the customs department. There was subtle harassment from the police, and the constant reminder from the Registrar of the High Court that a thin line existed between the scope and activities of a Friendly Society and that of a Trade Union. They were openly told that however thin and illusive the boundary seemed to be, it was very tangible. If the pushfulness of the Ulotrichians reached the stage where it could have been interpreted as attempting to usurp or intrude on the activities of a Trade Union, the law would have to intervene - for Antigua had no Trade Union Legislation on the books, they were told.

The authorities declared that the Lodge was disrupting the peace and the harmonious relationship that existed between the races and between the haves and the have-nots. This peace had been ordained of God and a disruption of that peace - however fragile it appeared to be - would be regarded as a hostile act. A friendly society should know its parameters and restrict its activities accordingly.

Robert Browne Dies

When Robert Browne died in 1927, he was in his early forties. In his

Continued on page 10.

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From page 9.

Today, he was possessed of the energies of a man who was in his thirties. With his death, the driving force and spear head of the thrust of the Bargain House Brownes had been blunted. If the Ulotrichian Society can be regarded as the genie that had attempted to escape from the Colonial Bottle, after his death the Colonial authorities seemed to have succeeded, at least temporarily, in containing the genie of Black awareness and social discontent.

The Seed Planted & The Fuse Lit

The seed had, however, been planted and the fuse had been lit. That fuse was to smoulder and sputter for another ten years before the minds, that had been earlier liberated, stoked the fires of discontent and before it exploded into the unrest that led to the setting up of the Moyne Commission, the catalyst that produced the Antigua Trades & Labour Union. * * *

The Clan Dispersed

The official harassment coupled with the adverse decision of the Courts, the death of Ma'am Browne, their mother in 1925, followed by that of the Patriarch of the Lodge and the family in 1927, created a change of attitude in the clan. Claude went back to the United States, Earl and Jimmy went to Curacao. The business activities were quietly and neatly terminated and the Bargain House Brownes quietly made their exit from the front of the stage in Antigua. * * *

Browne's Avenue

As a postscript, it is interesting to note that the children of Cyril Browne - Elvin, David, Lauriston and Robert - were the first people to live in what I believe to have been a part of Ottos Estate in the south-eastern suburbs of St. John's. Today, the area is known as BROWNE'S AVENUE. The name of the Bargain House Brownes still lives on.

Lucille Browne Takes Over Properties

It is also interesting to note, that while the Lodge in a separate building had remained active, many poor families had occupied and rented the premises from which the Brownes had operated. Lucille Browne in New York assumed control of the properties after she had assisted her brothers in bringing a tidy end to their business ventures. The building now known as Coates Cottage was sold by Lucille to Coxy Coates whose sister had been married to Charles Browne. The Brownes had kept the walls and the yard-way in tact because the area had been a BARRACOON. From this area, slaves were auctioned to the highest bidder. Coates cottage is now being operated by Antigua's most outstanding sculptor CARL HENRY. A visit to the yard of Coates Cottage would be interesting.

Lucille Browne Loses Bargain House

For many years Bargain House remained like a derelict monument. Asot Michael, grandfather of the present Asot Michael of Lester Bird fame, went to New York and entered into an agreement with Lucille Browne to buy the property. Lionel Browne who now lives in Antigua at Wickham Browne's Estate and had become a successful real estate student of his Aunt Lucille, suggested to his aunt to give the property to the Antigua Trades & Labour Union and to name the building LUCILLE HECTOR BROWNE HALL. She therefore wrote to Sydney Theophilus Christian Q.C. (father of Sydney Preston Christian Q.C.) and instructed him to ignore Asot Michael's offer and sell the property to the Antigua Trades & Labour Union led by V. C. Bird. Both Christian and Asot sued Lucille Browne in the High Court in Antigua for specific performance of contract. Lucille Browne did not come to Antigua to contest the lawsuit and in approximately

1946 she lost the case and Asot Michael acquired Bargain House.

A Black Thing

It is fortuitous that when the Bargain House Lodge had taken the decision to wind up its affairs, that patriarch Sammy Joseph, mindful of the reason why the Ulotrichian Society had been formed, ignored the offers made by Lebanese, Syrian and other business interests and sold the property to Edris Silston. His words spoken to me at his home in Perry Bay were significant. "Brother Walter, this thing started as a Black thing. I would be failing in my duty, and betraying the trust of brother Robert Browne when he turned over the property to the Lodge. I know what he told us. Regardless of the stories that you hear, Bargain House Lodge going back to black people." Last year, eighty years after Robert Browne had started the Ulotrichian Society, Edris Silston and here husband were in the process of restoring and re-appointing the building.

A Beacon Of Hope

Today, Bargain House Lodge and Bargain House are no more. The Bargain House Brownes had launched out of Harlem and returned to Antigua and blazed across the Antiguan landscape like a bright, searing comet. Their passage was like a bright, searing light that excited the imagination and ignited the hopes of a people wallowing in despair. Today, I salute the Bargain House Brownes for their precocious bravery in attempting to lead the way. For them, NOT A DRUM HAS BEEN HEARD.

Who would have thought that the descendants (the grandchildren) of FARAH PIERRE, who had been forcibly taken from a boat, on its way from Senegal to New Brunswick, would have within one hundred years become a beacon that would help to lead the way in entrepreneurial excellence amid the encircling gloom of bigotry and colonial prejudice that had been compounded by the waging of World War I?

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