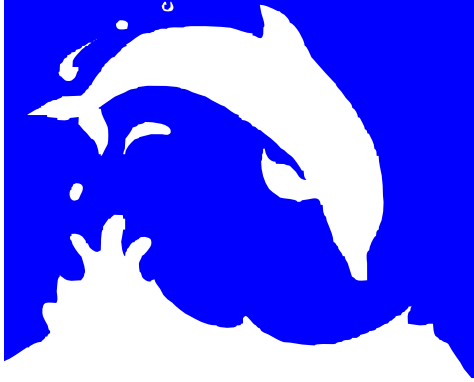


THE SAN PEDRO SUN VISITOR GUIDE



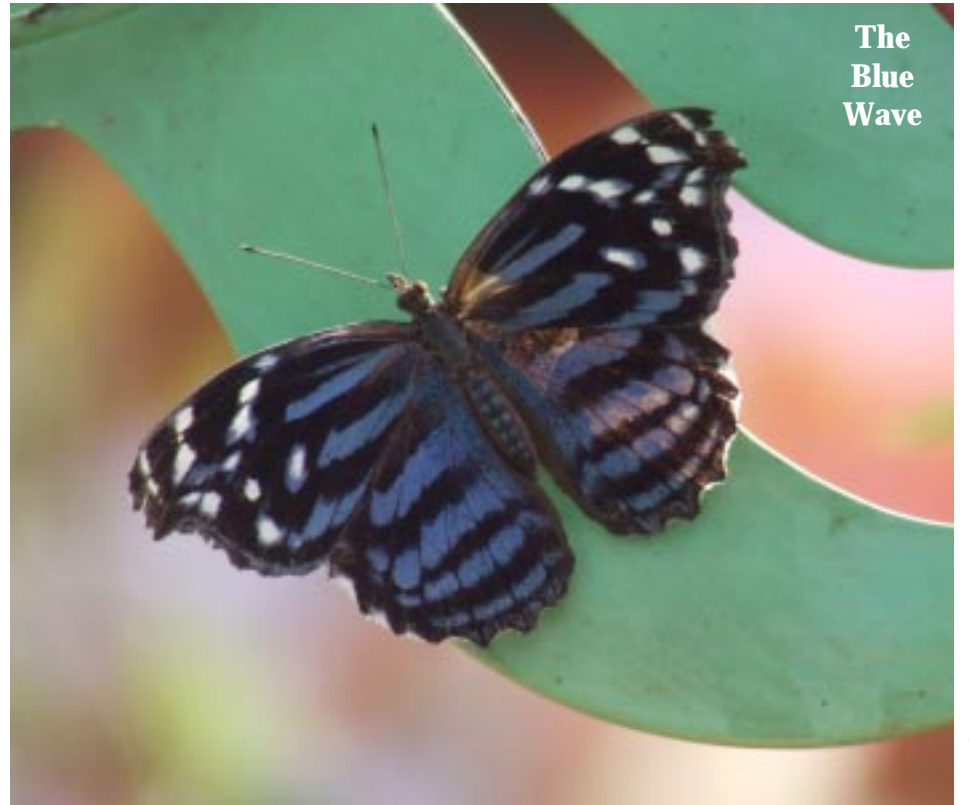
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The Island Newspaper
Ambergris Caye, Belize
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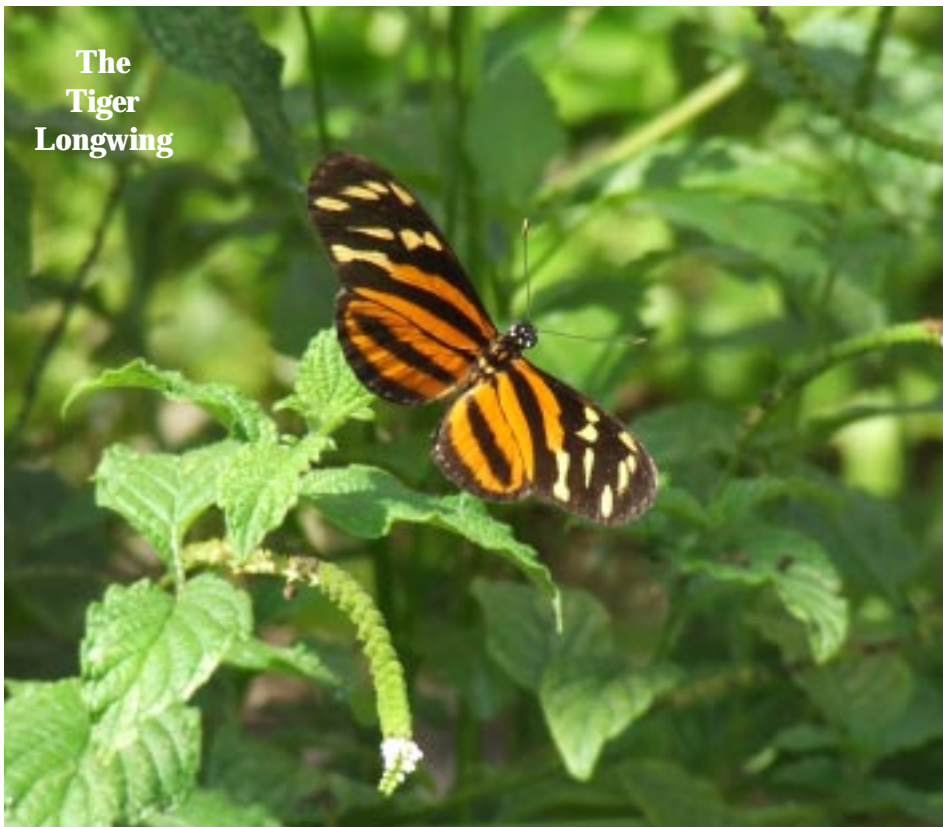


The
Banded
Peacock



The
Blue
Wave

Some of the Belizean beauties you will meet at the Butterfly Jungle!



The
Tiger
Longwing



The
Malachite



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(Above, left) The first week of March was a fun one for **Jan Brown** from the Pier Lounge and her employee **Kent Baptist**. It was Kent's first trip to the US. Jan escorted Kent to Houston, Texas to the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo (HSLR) at the Reliant Stadium/Astrodome Complex. While at the Rodeo carnival and on top of the tallest Ferris wheel in Texas, Jan and Kent took a moment to open *The San Pedro Sun*. The Reliant Stadium (in background) held over 63,000 people that day to see the Rodeo and performance by Clay Walker.

(Above, right) Strolling through the vendor's plaza at Reliant Hall, Jan and Kent saw what else was in the paper. The HSLR attracts over 1.5 million visitors over a three week period.

(Near right) Bronze horse statues in a pocket park by the World Famous Astrodome.

Photos taken in unique and unusual places are preferred. Be sure to identify who is in the photo and where the photo was taken. Don't forget to include your names and what you were doing.



The *San Pedro Sun* is mailed everywhere.

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Greetings to my visiting friends



ation and abundant and breathtaking sea life. San Pedro is also home to world-class fishing and scuba diving.

For the more adventurous, "La Isla Bonita" offers a wide array of water sports and for those looking to get a glimpse of the mystical world of the Maya, these historical ruins are just a short expedition away. You will also be able to discover Belize's vast cave

On behalf of the people of San Pedro Town, I extend a warm welcome to all visitors arriving to our shores. I assure you that your trip to "La Isla Bonita" will be no ordinary vacation. Our island is famous for its rich cultural diversity, where Mestizos, Creole and Garinagu blend to form a unique encounter. While here, I encourage you to explore the Caribbean Sea and find Belize's abundant treasures. Hol Chan Marine Reserve and Shark-Ray Alley are just two of the many spots where you can enjoy our coral reef for-

systems and many natural sanctuaries that are home to our country's unique flora and fauna.

Whether you are spending your honeymoon at an exclusive resort or looking for an adventurous, yet romantic escape, San Pedro is surely the place to be. I invite you to explore our home and see the many wonders it has to offer.

We welcome you with open arms. Bienvenidos a San Pedro!

Elsa Paz, Mayor,
San Pedro Town

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The Butterfly Jungle Metamorphosis



The tour begins with an introduction to the life cycle of a butterfly. Inside their education room Tom shows us a variety of butterfly larvae they have in different phases of their development, including the Blue Morpho shown here. The caterpillars' bodies are covered with yellow and red tufts, and their heads are crowned with dense red hairs.

Established over a year ago, the Butterfly Jungle continues to grow and offer visitors a wonderful up-close look at the beautiful butterflies of Belize. Located at Rendezvous Estates, just 4.5 miles north of San Pedro Town, it is a great place to take the family for an afternoon of tropical exploration.

All the butterflies in the Butterfly Jungle are native Belizeans. They raise 15 to 25 different species, and depending on the time of year they can all be seen

flying in the 18' x 36' flight room. All are distinctive and beautiful in their own way, and most exhibit strange behaviors unique to their family. From the giant Tawny Owl to the diminutive Clearwing, each butterfly will enchant you as it floats through the jungle on sparkling wings.

The tour begins in the education room where your guide tells you about the amazing life cycle of the butterfly. There are many larvae's on site and you get a look at some of the caterpillars that are

in various stages of development. They vary in size and color, from the small, hairy yellow and red Blue Morpho caterpillar to the large, brown sinister looking Tawny Owl caterpillars that thrive on banana leaves. It is a wonder to imagine these crawling creatures turning into beautiful winged insects. During the introduction you also learn that many of the butterflies that are housed there are native to the area although the populations for some have diminished because their host plants have been eradicated on the island. Each species is dependent on specific plants and once that plant is removed from the environment so is the butterfly.

Before we go into the Flight Room our guide explains that the primary goal of the Butterfly Jungle is education. It is their hope that by educating the children of the community about the unique lifecycle of butterflies, they can draw attention to the environmental issues which threaten the special beauty of Ambergris Caye. Half the proceeds of their live pupae sales goes towards building butterfly/caterpillar habitats at the local schools and providing educational materials so that as the children experience the magic of metamorphosis they be inspired with love and curiosity about the unique habitat here in San Pedro and gain a greater appreciation.

Continued on Page 4



While the Tawny Owl is in the larvae or caterpillar stage they eat the leaves of banana, heliconia, ginger and other large-leafed plants.





Resembling a dried, curled-up leaf, the Tawny Owl pupa is the last stage of metamorphosis before emerging as a butterfly.

tion of science and nature.

As we enter the Flight Room we are greeted by colorful butterflies that flit and glide through the fragrant air. The beautiful, blooming plants that host these creatures pale in comparison to the tropical blush of these delicate insects. You feel like “Alice in Wonderland” as you have just stepped into a new world where time

is measured by metamorphosis. One could spend hours here...captivated by the mesmerizing aerobatics of these Belizean beauties. Our guide shows us where butterflies have laid tiny eggs on leaves and where Tawny Owl caterpillars lie in lazy slumber on the undersides of banana leaves. Hanging like carefully hung laundry, we also get a look at the

rack where cocoons dangle, each species possessing a unique shape and color that holds its own kind of beauty. Like a lovely wrapped gift, your first instinct is to wonder what is inside these exotic time capsules.

In the sea of green vegetation, Blue Morpho butterflies sparkle like jewels, as they are one of the most iridescent creatures in the insect world. The Blue Morpho is also among the largest butterflies in the world, with wings spanning from five to eight inches. The vivid color of the Blue Morpho’s wings is a result of the microscopic scales on the backs of their wings which reflect light, causing the butterfly to appear a brilliant iridescent blue. The underside of the Morphos’ wings, on the other hand, is a dull brown color with many eyespots, which serve as a defense against predators such as birds and lizards. When the Blue Morpho flies, the contrasting bright blue and dull brown colors flash, making it appear that the Morpho is appearing and disappearing. A very friendly butterfly, the Blue Morpho will often alight on visitors to the Jungle, especially those wearing bright colors or carrying fruit.

Other butterflies you may see are the lively, bright orange-red Gulf Fritillary that flits from flower to flower. They are about three and a half inches long and they re-

Continued on Page 5

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The Butterfly Jungle Continued from Page 4

mind many people of the Monarch, in color, behavior and attitude. You may also see the Tawny Owl, which is Belize's largest butterfly with a wingspan of six to eight inches. They too are friendly critters that often land on visitors to the Jungle. The large eye spots on the underside of the Tawny Owl's wings



The large eye spots on the underside of the Tawny Owl's wings closely resemble owl eyes. A predator would think twice before attacking something with such apparently large eyes, on the chance that there may be an equally large body on the other side.

closely resemble owl eyes and serve as protection from predators. Another Flight House resident is the slow fluttery Postman who is a close relative of the Gulf Fritillary. Its long black wings, up to three and a half inches wide, have bright red patches and a flash of bright yellow. They can be seen flickering throughout the Jungle following a "trap line", a set foraging route that the butterfly follows day after day in search of nectar and pollen. Named after the semi-precious stone

because of the pale green translucent patches visible on the upper sides of its wings, the Malachite is another butterfly you will see there. A large beautiful butterfly with a four inch wingspan, it has a slow, floating flight. It is very friendly and visitors often have four or five Malachites competing for attention. A Malachite might stay perched on your arm throughout your visit, extending its proboscis to sample the minerals on your

Continued on Page 6

Old Indian Legend

As a gift to His human children, the Great Spirit created butterflies. He took a spot of sunlight, a handful of blue from the sky, the whiteness of the cornmeal, the shadow of playing children, the blackness of a beautiful girl's hair, the yellow of the falling leaves, the green of the pine needles, the red, purple, and orange of the flowers around him. Once he gathered the most beautiful of colors, He made them into butterflies.

If you want a special wish to come true, you must first capture a butterfly and whisper that wish to it. Since a butterfly can make no sound, it can not reveal the wish to anyone but the Great Spirit who hears and sees all. In gratitude for giving the beautiful butterfly its freedom, the Great Spirit always grants the wish.

So, according to legend, by making a wish and giving the butterfly its freedom, the wish will be taken to the heavens and be granted.

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The Butterfly Jungle

Continued from Page 5



Butterfly cocoons hang in anticipation of winged metamorphosis.

skin and fanning its wings slowly as if showing off its brilliant beauty.

Not only does the Butterfly Jungle allow you to experience the immediate beauty of these creatures but it offers much more. For those looking for a way to make a special day even more unforgettable they offer release packages where you release live Belizean butterflies at your special event. According to an old Indian legend, if you whisper your wish to a butterfly and then release it, the Great Spirit, in gratitude for freeing the butterfly, will always grant your wish. Watch in wonder as a dozen or a hundred live butterflies ascend into the sky with your wishes. Also, for those who are interested in attracting these winged wonders to their yard they have a green house with plants specifically for butter-

Continued on Page 12



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SHARKS



The San Pedro Sun's Okra Salad - A Belizean Favorite



Ingredients:

- * 1/2 lbs okra
- * 1/2 tsp salt
- * 1 firm tomato (diced)
- * 1 stick celery (chopped)
- * 1/2 tsp black pepper
- * 1 small green pepper (chopped)
- * 1 tblsp margarine

Directions:

In a sauce pan boil okras. Drain and set aside.
Prepare other vegetables.
Melt margarine. Add okra, celery, tomato and sweet pepper. Stir fry for about 3-5 minutes.
Remove from heat. Serve hot. Accompaniment to the main course.

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Belize Tourism Industry

Association (BTIA) - 227-5717.

San Pedro Tourist Guide

Association 226-2391.

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Wings of Hope - Medical emergency air ambulance. Phone: 223-3292.

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Dr. Lerida Rodriguez: 226-2197 or cell 620-1974.

San Pedro Chiropractic Clinic 226-4695

Hyperbaric Chamber - 226-2851, Dr. Otto Rodriguez - 600-0287 or 226-2854.

Antonia Guerrero - 600-5475 or 206-2152. Eleazar Portillo - 610-4560 or 226-3195.

San Pedro Polyclinic II - 226-2536. 8-12 and 2-5, Mon. to Fri. Emergencies 226-2555/2918 or 606-3864.

Ambergris Hopes Clinic - 226-2660, Emergencies: 606-2316

US Embassy - 822-4011

Canadian Consulate - 223-1060

Mexican Embassy - 223-0193

Guatemalan Embassy - 223-3150

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San Carlos Medical (MD & Dentist Services) - 7:30am - 9:00pm, 226-2918

Church Services

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Sun. Mass: 9 a.m. English; 11 a.m. Children's; 7:30 p.m. Spanish; Sat. Confessions 5-7 p.m; Mass or Communion Service every night at 7:30 p.m.

Living Word Church Service Sun. 10:45 a.m. Bible study Mon. 7:30 p.m. We do Christian charity work. 226-2950.

Assembly of God Church on Angel Coral St. T-W-St. -Sn. at 7:30 p.m.

Lighthouse Christian Radio - 101.3 FM. 226-4673, Cor. Buccaneer & Pescador Drive.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints - Sunday Service: 9:30 am, Wednesday Scripture Study 7:00 pm. 17 Lagoon St. (between the bakery and the bridge).

San Pedro Community Church - meets Sundays at 10a.m. at the Medical University of the Americas building. Sunday school available for children. All Are Welcome.

Miscellaneous

The Lions Club of San Pedro relies on income from its Friday and Saturday Night BBQ to support the needy community. Help a great cause -have dinner with us!

Green Reef A non-profit organization dedicated to the promotion of sustainable use and conservation of Belize's marine and coastal resources. greenreef@btl.net /226-2833

San Pedro AA - 226-4464, 600-9061

Saga Society A non-profit "humane society" to address the stray cat and dog population in San Pedro. Phone 226-3266.

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THE SAN PEDRO SUN VISITOR'S GUIDE



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PORTOFINO

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Dig It!

Dr. Herman Smith was the only PhD archeologist to reside in Belize. He was noted in his field as a foremost researcher and expert in the coastal trading of the Maya and headed the archaeological development of Lamanai in Belize. He contributed countless articles to *The San Pedro Sun*, articles that we are pleased to share with you once more.

The Ancient Maya, like all of the pre-Columbian people of the New World, relied on wild animals as a source of protein since domesticated animals were more the exception than the rule. When the first inhabitants came to the Western Hemisphere from Asia across the Bering Straits Land Bridge they brought only one domesticated animal; the dog. The dogs of the Maya were all descendants of this single strain and served as hunting companions and household early warning systems. It is probable that certain varieties of dogs were fattened and eaten as were dogs in ancient Central Mexico. In addition to the dog, the Maya evidently raised doves, turkeys and the Muscovy duck. They may have also managed or tended other animals as food such as the coatimundi and deer. Bishop Diego de Landa in the sixteenth century reported that the Maya women in the Yucatan would: "raise other animals and let the deer suck their breasts, by which means they raise them and make them so tame so they will never go into the woods."

The archeological evidence suggests the deer population actually grew larger through time along with the human population probably because land clearing for agriculture opened up space for browsers and restricted the growth of predators.

Continued on Page 11







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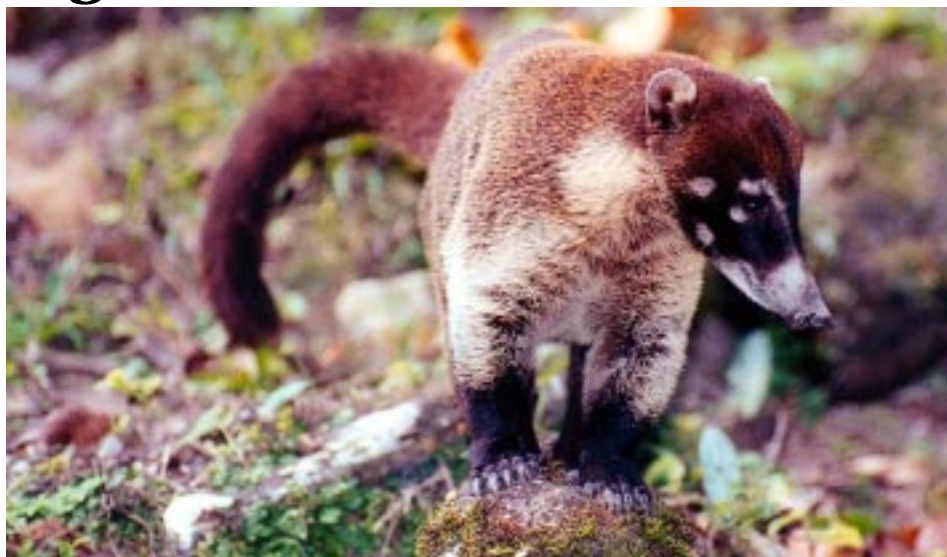
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The Mayas' protein sources came from various animals, including the Coatiundi.

tors. The archeological and paleontological evidence likewise makes it clear that there were no large wild animals such as pigs, cattle and horses available for

domestication as they had, for reasons not clearly understood, all died out before the advent of man in the hemisphere
Continued on Page 14

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fly gardening. The greenhouse is filled with lush jungle plants and outlandish flowers and you can learn about attracting butterflies and hummingbirds to your garden. They also have a gift shop that sells unique items with a butterfly theme. You'll find greeting cards, photos, sculptures, original art, t-shirts, books, plants, live pupae and much more.

Recently added to the grounds is a large, shady barbecue area with picnic tables and the butterfly garden has been

expanded. There is also a beach barbecue held once a month that is jointly hosted by the Butterfly Bar at Rendezvous Restaurant. The day also includes a butterfly plant sale, reduced admission to the Jungle, a butterfly release, live music by Sol Tre, volleyball and other fun activities. The next barbecue is scheduled for Saturday, April 28 from noon to 5 pm.

The Butterfly Jungle is not only a place to take in the natural beauty of the butterflies but to learn about why they are so

important to our environment. After spending a couple hours there you will feel like these delicate winged crea-

tures have lifted your spirits along with your heart and you will never

Continued on Page 13



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Beach front home at Flying Fisherman: (W28) New two story concrete house with one apartment on each floor. First floor 2 bedrooms/1 bath. Second floor owner's one bedroom apartment with large master bedroom. \$549,000.00US

Santa Fe (M64) 5.5 miles north - second row lot accessible by boat and golf cart and within electricity. 70' x 180'. Price-\$85,000.00 US.

Paradise Coves (C49) Good sized lot 3.5 miles north of San Pedro - great location and great price at \$25,000.00 US

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San Pablo (G40) Great corner lot located in the nice San Pablo subdivision. Excellent investment and opportunity for a home or business. \$60,000.00US.

San Pablo Lagoon Waterfront Parcels (F20) - 2 beautiful lots with combined approximate dimensions of 230' x 100'. These parcels give you a large water frontage and magnificent views of the tranquil San Pedro Lagoon. \$185,000.00 US for both!

Ambergris Bay (A25) Beachfront Lot # 446, approx. 66' x 110'. \$66,000.00 US. Can be bought together with lot 447 for a combined beach frontage of 148'

Ambergris Bay (A26) Beachfront Lot # 447, approx. 82' x 110'. \$82,500.00 US. Can be bought together with lot 446 for a combined beach frontage of 148'

Ambergris Bay (G36) Lot # 33. Measuring approx. 58' x 155'. \$70,000.00 US.

Ambergris Bay (E13) Beachfront parcel approx. 50' x 95' depth. \$65,000.00 US.

Playa Blanca (L21) 2nd row lot 140' off the beach. 60' x 120'. \$70,000.00 US.

Flying Fisherman (D16) lot 300' off the beach, measures 50' x 78'. Only \$22,000.00 US

Alta Mar (S45) - 100' x 100' nice parcel in residential area. Priced at \$85,000.00 US.

Santa Rita (H32) Lot 18 - 50' x 110' - 3rd row - \$24,500.00 US

Club Caribbean (E11) off the beach lots 116 - \$39,000.00 US.

Holiday Lands (M53) Approx 78' x 72', 2 rows off the beach. \$70,000.00 US.

Robles (D19) Lot 23a measuring 100' of beach front x 360'. \$105,000.00 US

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The Butterfly Jungle Continued from Page 12

Malachite butterflies sip the liquid from rotting fruit and occasionally it enjoys a drink of nectar from flowers, especially from the milkweed.



look at another butterfly the same way. For people of all ages, the Butterfly Jungle is a great place to visit while you are here.

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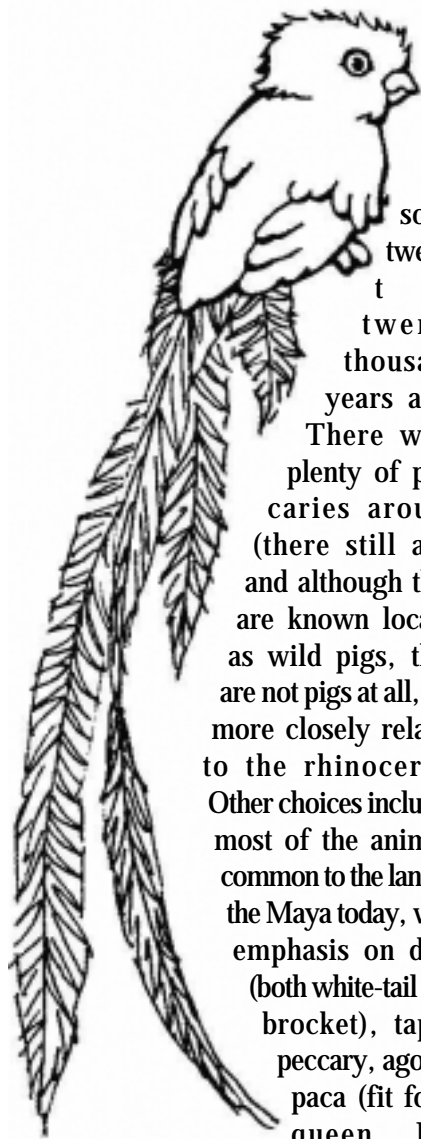
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Dig It!

Continued from Page 12



some twelve to twenty thousand years ago. There were plenty of peccaries around (there still are) and although they are known locally as wild pigs, they are not pigs at all, but more closely related to the rhinoceros. Other choices included most of the animals common to the land of the Maya today, with emphasis on deer (both white-tail and brocket), tapir, peccary, agouti, paca (fit for a queen, I'm told), squirrels, rabbits and manatee.

A variety of birds were taken, including chachalaca, crested guan, turkey and curassow. Some were probably killed for their plumage rather than a source of meat: the Scarlet Macaw, quetzal and numerous parrots come to mind. The degree to which the Maya exploited aquatic resources is not easy to get at as fish remains do not preserve well in the acidic soils of the region. It is certain the Maya made nets of cotton twine and net weights carved from pieces of broken pottery are very common in sites along the coastal zone. Birds and mammals were taken with nets, blowguns, snares and spears. The bow and arrow were a very late introduction into the Maya area from Central Mexico, arriving sometime around 1200 A.D. The spears of which I speak looked like large arrows, complete with feathers. They were propelled with the aid of a long hooked stick which added great velocity to the weapon. I do not know the Maya term for this spear thrower, but in archaeological literature this device is called an atlatl, an Aztec term in Nahuatl, the language of the Aztecs. Of course when the atlatl was used in combat it was a battle atlatl. For ceremonial purposes a gourd rattle was attached, making it a rattle, battle atlatl. After the Maya acquired horses and livestock, the herds were guarded with a saddle, cattle, rattle, battle atlatl. Slaves, on the other hand were guarded with a chattel, saddle, cattle, rattle, battle atlatl.

It doesn't take much to amuse me these days.

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Wolfe's Woofers by Dennis Wolfe

Our Forefathers

"Dad, you fought in Vietnam didn't you?" Dennisito asked.

"I certainly did."

"Were you a hero?"

"A hero? No, son. All the heroes I've ever known are dead," I told him. "Why do you ask?"

"I'm writing something for my English class about heroes. I was hoping there might be some in the family or at least somebody famous."

"Let me think about this," I said. "Well, there was my uncle Bill who was well known throughout the Southern states. I still have one of his pictures around here somewhere. He was very well known in the banking business."

"At least we have one famous person in the family," Dennisito said.

"Oh, and there was also my mother's cousin, Lester. He was pretty famous in South Georgia. Everyone knew him. He was taking part in a public function and the platform gave way and he got killed. I don't remember the exact circumstances."

"Thanks, Dad."

"What was that all about," Dulce asked, as she walked in from downstairs.

"I was telling Dennisito about some of my well known relatives."

"You should have shown him that Wanted poster we have for your Uncle Bill; the uncle that robbed banks."

"Uh, yeah. I told him about Uncle Bill."

"Who else did you tell him about?"

"My mother's cousin; Lester."

"Oh, I remember your mom telling me about him. Isn't he the one that got hung for stealing horses?"

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Trivia Tidbits & Fun Phrases

You can bet your _____ dollar.

- a) last b) bottom c) only

You made it by the skin of your _____.

- a) tongue b) feet c) teeth

Two _____ do not make a right.

- a) wrongs b) lefts c) clues

*The Egyptian vulture, a white bird about the size of a raven, throws stones with its beak to open ostrich eggs to eat. This bird is one of the very few animals that, like man, manipulates objects as tools.

*A fly can react to something it sees and change direction in 30 milliseconds.

*The word "tip," meaning a gratuity, was originally an acronym standing for "To Insure Promptness."

*A newborn gray whale calf is an average 16 feet long. For reasons unknown, all gray whale calves are born in the warm, shallow lagoons of Baja, California.

Fun Phrases Answers: 1) b 2) c 3) a



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