

1960 – 1980, Twenty one years of growth

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Dr. Victor Quesnel had given the Club prior notice of his intention not to stand for re-election to the post of Honorary Secretary at the Annual General Meeting of 1960. At that Meeting which was held at the Library of St. Mary's College on 11th February 1960, Dr. Quesnel nominated Miss Esla Mollineaux and she was unanimously elected to the post of Honorary Secretary. However, later in the meeting, Miss Mollineaux informed the house that she was unable to attend meetings on the second Thursday of the month, the regular meeting day, and requested that the meeting day be changed.

This request led to a great deal of controversy, with the older members refusing to change from the traditional meeting day. Mr. Clyde Crichlow, resigned from the post of Honorary Treasurer to which he had been elected. The Chairman, Mr. G.E.L. Laforest, called for order and his motion that new elections be held for the post of Honorary Secretary was seconded by Mr. C. L.

Williams and carried. Miss Mollineaux tendered her resignation from the post to which she had been earlier elected and left the meeting.

Mr. Laforest then nominated Mr. Ian Lambie, which was seconded by Mr. Frank Ambard. Mr. Lambie was unanimously elected to the post. He was to be re-elected to the post of Honorary Secretary for the next twenty years. In 1980, owing to pressure of work and having given the Club two years notice he did not seek re-election to the post. He was immediately elected to the post of President which he held for three years. In 1983, Mr. Lambie because of pressure of work did not stand for office.

Administration of the Club

The period 1965 to 1975 saw an appreciable improvement in the administrative framework of the club.

The Annual Programme of Activities

In March 1966 the Club published its first Annual Programme of Activities which listed all the proposed lectures and field trips to be held during that year together with the names and telephone numbers of the officers of the Club. Today twenty five years later the original format has been retained and early every year members receive their copies. In June 1973, "The Field Naturalist", Bulletin of the Trinidad Field Naturalists' Club made its appearance. This and subsequent Quarterly Bulletins of the Club were prepared by Mrs. Kate Gibbs, until her return to the United Kingdom with her husband, Dr. Geoff Gibbs, who was associated with the establishment of a Pesticide Control Unit in Trinidad and Tobago. The Club's Quarterly Bulletin continues to be prepared and circulated to members on a regular basis.

1974 Amendments to the Rules of the Club

At the Monthly Meeting held on 14th November 1974, the amendments to the Rules of the Club as recommended by a committee under the chairmanship of Dr. Elisha Tikasingh were adopted. Among these recommendations was the changing of the name of the Club by including Tobago, and thus giving the Club a national perspective. The new rules included conservation as an objective of the Club and gave voting rights to junior members.

Annual Reports

In 1970 and in 1971 the Club prepared printed annual reports of the previous year's activities for circulation among its membership. These documents contained summaries of lectures delivered, together with the Honorary Secretary's and Honorary Treasurer's reports. Unfortunately, since that time this format has not been used in the presentation of annual reports.

Increase in Membership

The decade of the 70's was one of increased activity and unprecedented growth in membership. With 140 members on roll in 1970, there was a steady increase in membership during the following years, and by 1978 membership had increased to 409.

This rapid growth in membership put the Club's secretariat under severe pressure, and it was decided to notify members of the Club's activities every three (3) months rather than monthly as was customary.

Special mention must be made of the years 1974 and 1975 when the Club experienced its greatest increase in membership. Of the 110 members admitted in 1974, 68 were junior members, and of 97 new members in 1975, 34 were junior members.

It is very gratifying to note that many of the Club's junior members became, in later years, professional ecologists, botanists, zoologists, marine biologists, wildlife managers and professionals in related fields.

Club Projects: 1960 – 1980

During the 20-year period under review, the Club initiated several projects, some of which prospered while others were short-lived or still-born.

The two which generated the most interest among the Club's membership were the Sea Turtle Project and the study of the ground orchid – *Cyrtopodium broadwayi*, a project of the Botany Group. These projects are described later in this report.

Hereunder is a list of other projects and their respective coordinators.

- 1973 – El Tucuche Nature Trail Project –
Dr. Brian Cooper
(Report Published as Paper 2/1973
National Environment and
Conservation Council)
Flowering Trees Project – Dr. Ray Fordham,
Kate Gibbs
Bird-watching for beginners – Dr. Geoff Gibbs
Environmental Conservation Sub-committee –
Professor J.S. Kenny
- 1976 – Environmental Alert Reporting System – Professor
J.S. Kenny, David Rooks
Save Our Savannah – David Rooks, Ian Lambie
Nature Photography Group – Ian Lambie
- 1977 – Botany Group – T.F. Farrell
Butterfly Group – Edward Rooks, Julius Boos,
Scott Alston-Smith
Ornithology Group – David Rooks
- 1978 – Club members took a prominent part in fighting
a forest fire at El Tucuche – Professor J. S. Kenny
The Plant Geography Project was one of those
which was "still-born".

The Turtle Tagging Project

In 1963, as a result of reports made to the Honorary Secretary, a group of Club members visited Matura Beach to verify that Leatherback Turtles were being slaughtered on the beach when they emerged from the sea to carry out their nesting rituals. During May and June of 1964, members again visited Matura Beach during the period of the full moon, since legend had it that turtles emerged on moonlit nights. A few live turtles were seen, but there were numerous rotting turtle carcasses. Beginning in 1965 the Club took an active and organised interest in the nesting habits of the Leatherback Turtle.

During the months of March to July of 1969 the Club, under the direction of Dr. Peter Bacon the co-ordinator of the Club's Turtle Project, accumulated information during the Leatherback Turtle nesting season. Beaches visited included Matura, Fishing Pond, Las Cuevas, Big Bay at Toco and Grand Riviere. Grafton and Turtle Beach in Tobago were visited at least once a year. Fish markets were visited and whatever information was available from market officials, the Fisheries Division and from fishermen was collected and recorded.

In addition the Club obtained basic background information on Leatherback Turtles from Malaysia, where research on this species had been going on for a number of years and from the University of Florida, at Gainesville.

From its observations on Trinidad beaches the Club found that Leatherback Turtles began nesting during the month of March. At that time the official close season for the capturing of turtles was 1st June to 30th September.

During the nesting season of 1970 the Club began a Turtle Tagging Project using equipment supplied by the University of Florida and by 1980, 330 Leatherback Turtles had been tagged. Although many of the tags were lost from these turtles, over the years the Club recorded many returns during the same season of tagging and also in subsequent years. During this period Olive, Ridley, Hawksbill and Green Turtles, although only a few individuals, were also recorded as nesting on our beaches.

In May 1973, the Club submitted a report on the "Status of Sea Turtle Resources in Trinidad and Tobago" to the Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries. This report was based on the findings made during the more than six years of investigation and study and was prepared by Dr. Peter Bacon. It resulted in the amendment of the existing turtle conservation laws. By Act 23 of 1975 issued as Government Notice No. 119 of 8th September 1975 the 1975 Amendment to the Turtle and Turtle Eggs Regulation was issued.

Over the years possibly because of a lack of manpower and equipment the law has not been vigorously enforced. However during the close season of 1990, through the efforts of the Wildlife Section of the Forestry Division, the beaches at Matura and Fishing Pond were declared to be Prohibited Areas. The beaches were patrolled by wildlife wardens and persons wishing to enter were required to be in possession of a permit issued by the Wildlife Section.

Meanwhile the Club continues to schedule trips to various turtle nesting beaches during the nesting season. Unfortunately, the statistical data obtained during the ten-year period of turtle tagging, 1970 to 1980, have not yet been published.

Activities of the Botany Group

The Botany Group of the Club was organised on 10th March 1977 for the purpose of carrying out field studies on the vegetation of Trinidad and Tobago. The group consisted of V.C. Quesnel, T.F. Farrell, Anne Hilton, John Hilton, Denise Lee and Luisa Zuniaga.

While the work of the Botany Group did not generate the same interest among Club members, this small but dedicated group of members did carry out some very important studies on selected plant species in the Aripo Savannas. The account of their work on the life history of the orchid – *Cryptopodium broadwayi* – was published in the 1983-1984 issue of the Club's journal "Living World". This study was conducted in the Aripo Savannas from May 1977 to December 1981.

In the latter part of 1985 the Botany Group undertook a preliminary study of the flowering phenology of some of the more common and conspicuous plants of the Aripo Savannas. A record of this study up to December 1986 is published in the 1987-1988 issue of "Living World".

The Botany Group continues to be the most active special interest group in the Club.

During the 1970's coinciding with the increase in membership, there was a reawakened spirit of adventure among the membership. It was not surprising therefore, when members became interested in verifying whether the manatee, the paui, the otter and the horned screamer were extirpated or not. Reports of the sightings of these species were investigated by members.

The Search For The Manatee – Trichechus manatus.

Following reports that manatee meat was being sold at the Sangre Grande market and at Cocal, Manzanilla, a group of members journeyed up the Mitán River in the Nariva Swamp on 13th May, 1984. After a two-hour boatride, they came to an area where several manatee were seen. Since that time the Club has received reports of manatee sightings from the North Oropuche River but these have not been investigated.

The Search For The Paui – Pipile pipile.

For many years the paui was considered to be extinct. However in the 1960's a member reported sightings from the Trinity Hills area. During a field trip in the Matura Forest on 6th April 1975, several members identified their first paui. More recently the Wildlife Section of the Forestry Division has located and continues to monitor the paui population in the forested areas of the Northern Range.

brought to the Emperor Valley Zoo from the San Rafael area and during the same year an adult male was killed in the Cumuto area.

Owing to overhunting and the loss of habitat many indigenous species of wildlife are on the verge of extinction in Trinidad and Tobago but the manatee, paui and the otter still survive in very small numbers.

Publications

Club's Journal

The Club's Journal has been published with regularity every two years since 1957. From 1977 the journal was printed in a new glossy-covered format and bore the name "Living World". These changes were the cause of some controversy among the membership, but when the 1977-1978 issue of "Living World" was received in December 1977 there was general satisfaction with the production.

Nature Notes

Early in 1966, a "Nature Notes" column prepared by Richard ffrench was published regularly in the Trinidad Guardian newspaper. Revenue derived from these articles was donated to the Club by the author.

Other Publications

During this period members continued the tradition of publication that had begun in the Club's earliest period, with the difference that some publications were full length books. The first of these was *The birds of Trinidad and Tobago* by Geoffrey A.C. Herklots in 1961. This was followed by *Butterflies of Trinidad and Tobago* by Malcolm Barcant in 1970 and *A Guide to the Birds of Trinidad and Tobago* by Richard ffrench in 1973. About this time (1968-1970) the Ministry of Education and Culture published *Reptiles of Trinidad and Tobago* by Hans Boos and Victor Quesnel (with illustrations by Alexander Gibson and Julian Kenny). Unfortunately, the booklet itself is undated. Some of these same authors published other articles and the club members who were also professional biologists, such as Prof. Julian Kenny and Dr. Peter Bacon, published continually. One such publication worth noting here is *An annotated bibliography to the fauna (excluding insects) of Trinidad and Tobago* by Peter Bacon. In 1975 Stephen Mohammed launched *Trinidad Naturalist Magazine*, a much-needed popular publication on natural history and conservation topics.

The overall result of all this publication is that accounts of the fauna of the country at last began to be easily available to the interested amateur naturalist.

Conservation of our Renewable Natural Resources

Although the Club has been primarily concerned with the study of our country's flora and fauna, it nevertheless has always been interested in the conservation of our country's renewable natural resources, including its land, forests, water and wildlife. As these natural resources came under increasing stress, in the absence of any other non-Government organisation concerned with the management of our natural environment, the Club became the watchdog against abuse.

In 1963, the Club's Honorary Secretary was appointed to the Wildlife Conservation Committee and served until 1976, when on his request he was replaced by Dr. Victor Quesnel. Today, Mr. Hans Boos is the Club's representative on the Committee. In 1966, several members of the Club were appointed Honorary Games Wardens.

Conservation Week

The first Conservation Week organised by the Forestry Division was held from 30th September to 6th October, 1968. Mr. Ian Lambie the Honorary Secretary of the Club, was seconded by the Government from his post in the Customs and Excise Division to assist the Forestry Division in the organisation of Conservation Week.

During the week, the Club together with the Zoological Society (the Emperor Valley Zoo) organised a Flag Day which realised \$600.00.

Preservation of our National Heritage

In 1941 the first organised attempt at promoting the preservation of items of our national heritage, buildings of historical and architectural importance and areas of scenic, historical, biological or archeological and architectural importance was made when the then Government appointed a committee to study the matter and to make recommendations. Captain Alex Mendes was the Club's representative on that committee. During the next thirty (30) years the matter was looked into by various committees from time to time.

On 26th July 1971, a draft constitution for a National Trust was submitted to the Government by the Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Commerce. The Club's Honorary Secretary served as a member of the sub-committee appointed by the Chamber of Commerce to prepare this draft constitution.

More recently, in 1990, a Bill for the establishment of a National Trust was presented in the House of Representatives. However the events of 27th July 1990, delayed the passing of this legislation.

Aripo Savannas

During the early months of 1966 a part of the Aripo Savanna was being cleared by the Government for the use of farmers. The Club together with the Zoology Department of the University of the West Indies lodged strong protests to the Ministry of Agriculture against the destruction of this biologically unique area. The clearing of the savanna was stopped.

The North-West Peninsula

With the return of the North-West Peninsula of Trinidad (Chaguaramas) to the Government and people of Trinidad and Tobago by the Government of the United States of America, the Club in 1967, submitted recommendations for the development of the North-West Peninsula and the conservation of the area's natural resources.

At the public enquiry held in 1974, to discuss the Chaguaramas Development Plan as presented by the Ministry of Planning and Development, the Club was represented by Mr. G.E.L. Laforest, its President. The Club, in its memorandum and at the public enquiry, put forward representations for the early establishment of a National Park and for the prohibition of hunting and bird-catching in the North-West Peninsula.

The Blue River Action Committee

Up to 1973, The Trinidad Field Naturalists' Club was considered to be a very conservative organisation. However in that year it emerged in the vanguard of a very vigorous protest movement – The Blue River Action Committee – which was protesting the use of the Blue River and No. 9 Drainage Canal in the Caroni Swamp for industrial purposes – the transportation of liquified petroleum gas (L.P.G.) by the barge “Shell Pelican”.

Unknown to the Club and to other conservation-minded organisations, the stage was set in 1969 for what developed, four years later, into the first and biggest confrontation between conservationists and a multinational giant operating in Trinidad and Tobago. In 1969 Shell Trinidad Limited sought permission from the Government to transport L.P.G. by barge from the refineries at Point Fortin and Pointe-a-Pierre to its bottling plant at the head of No. 9 Drainage Canal. By letter dated 24th November, 1970, the Ministry of Planning and Development conveyed approval to Shell Trinidad Limited, for the use of the waterway.

It was not until early in 1973 when a contract was awarded for the removal of the mangrove trees fringing No. 9 Canal and the subsequent dredging of the canal that swamp users and conservationists became aware that something was about to happen. Enquiries confirmed that permission had been granted to Shell Trinidad Limited to

use a barge on the waterway for the transportation of L.P.G.

The protests were immediate. On 6th June, the boat operators of the Caroni Swamp held a demonstration outside Shell's bottling plant. On 19th June, the Anti-Pollution Council called on Shell Trinidad to withdraw its application. After receiving a delegation of residents of El Socorro and Caroni, Mr. Kamaluddin Mohammed, the Parliamentary Representative for the area confirmed that he had communicated with the Prime Minister, Dr. Eric Williams on the matter.

By letter dated 4th July, The Trinidad Field Naturalists' Club, wrote to the Prime Minister expressing its deep concern at the proposed utilisation of the No. 9 Canal and the Blue River and requested his intervention to safeguard this vitally important natural resource. On 10th July the Club organised a public meeting at the San Fernando Town Hall, where the topic discussed by the Panel was “The Caroni Swamp as a renewable natural resource of our country”.

The controversy gained momentum with letters in the newspapers expressing both points of view. This was to continue for the next five months.

On, 1st August 1973, the barge “Shell Pelican” arrived in Trinidad from Guyana, where it had been built. The vessel was much larger and of a different design from the vessel mentioned in Shell's approved application. The barge went into operation with its first load of L.P.G. to be discharged at the bottling plant on 13th August 1973.

On 23rd August, The Trinidad Field Naturalists' Club organised a meeting of all the protesting groups and individuals. At that meeting, which was attended by more than 75 persons, the Blue River Action Committee (BRAC) was formed with Mr. G.E.L. Laforest of the Club being elected chairman of the committee.

Several meetings were held between the BRAC representatives including Laforest, Lambie and Bacon of The Trinidad Field Naturalists' Club, the Minister of Petroleum and Mines, Senator Francis Prevatt and representatives of Shell Trinidad Limited, including Mr. Paul Bates, its Managing Director.

Shell dismissed the suggestion that the bottling plant be removed to a Sea Lots site and at an interview with the press on 1st September, 1973, Mr. Paul Bates was quoted as saying that on the basis of the permission received from the Government, the company would continue to transport L.P.G. in its barge “Shell Pelican” along the Blue River and No. 9 Drainage Canal in the Caroni Swamp.

This statement infuriated the BRAC membership who then decided to change their tactics and to become more aggressive. At a meeting convened by the Minister,

Senator Prevatt, on 14th September, both sides in the dispute were brought together in an attempt to resolve the matter, and at the conclusion Senator Prevatt gave the assurance that the Barge "Shell Pelican" would ultimately be withdrawn from the Caroni Swamp. However earlier that day "Boycott Shell Products" leaflets had been distributed at the Valpark Shopping Plaza and in downtown Port of Spain by BRAC members, and the Shell officials were clearly upset by this new development. Mr. Bates "demanded" that leaflets be immediately withdrawn from circulation. In early November, there was a sudden shortage of L.P.G. on the market and on 7th November it was announced that Shell Trinidad Limited had made an application to the Government for a rise in the price of L.P.G.

The Oilfield Workers Trade Union confirmed BRAC's suspicions when it accused Shell of creating an artificial shortage in order to pressure the Government into agreeing to a price increase, and allowing the company continued use of the Blue River and No. 9 Canal.

On 8th November, the Government acquired the services of Dr. Edward Towle, a specialist in Resource Management and Conservation Planning and President of the Caribbean Conservation Association, to study the problem and to make recommendations. The Towle Report was presented to the Government in mid-December, and when excerpts were published in the Express newspapers condemning Shell for creating a shortage of L.P.G., Shell filed an injunction to prevent any further publication of the report.

At a meeting with Senator Prevatt held on 16th December to discuss the proposals in the Towle Report, the BRAC representatives were given the assurance that the barge would be withdrawn from the Caroni Swamp route after alternative facilities had been constructed at Sea Lots.

In a nationwide radio and television address on 20th December the Prime Minister, Dr. Eric Williams, announced that the Government would allow Shell Trinidad to use the Caroni Swamp route on one occasion to reduce any possibility of a shortage of L.P.G. for Christmas. However, when the barge resumed a regular schedule of trips up the Blue River in January 1974, the Chairman of BRAC forwarded a letter to Senator Prevatt dated 12th February expressing great concern at this latest development.

Everyone was surprised when on 9th May 1974, Dr. Eric Williams announced that the Government of Trinidad and Tobago had offered to purchase the holdings

of Shell Trinidad Limited. After the take-over on 31st August, the BRAC representatives were re-assured by the new owners, the National Petroleum Company, that, the construction of the L.P.G. bulk installation would continue at Sea Lots and that the Barge Pelican would eventually be removed from the Caroni Swamp.

On Thursday 22nd December 1977, some 4½ years after the first protest was made, Mr. David Rooks, President, Dr. Victor Quesnel, Vice-President, Mr. G.E.L. Laforest, Professor J.S. Kenny and Mr. Ian Lambie, Honorary Secretary of the Club were in the audience to witness the commissioning of the National Petroleum's L.P.G. Installation by the Honorable Errol Mahabir, the Minister of Petroleum and Mines, and to be given the good news by Mr. Fred Talma, the General Manager of the National Petroleum Marketing Company that the barge had been withdrawn from operations in the Caroni Swamp.

The Asa Wright Nature Centre

In October 1967, the 78 acre Springhill Estate, situated in the Arima Valley, was purchased from Mrs. Asa Wright by a group of naturalists. The group headed by Donald Eckelberry, an internationally respected bird artist, raised the money for the purchase through public subscriptions to a fund administered by the Florida Audubon Society. A non-profit trust, the Asa Wright Nature Centre, administered by The Royal Bank Trust Company, was established.

The constitution of the Asa Wright Nature Centre provides for the inclusion of members of the Trinidad and Tobago Field Naturalists' Club to serve on its Board of Management, and members of the Club who have served on this Board include Victor Quesnel, Richard French, Julian Duncan, Hans Boos, Brien de Gannes, Charles de Gannes, Stephen Mohammed and Ian Lambie. To the time of writing, Ian Lambie has held the office of President of the Asa Wright Nature Centre since 1977. The purpose of establishing the Nature Centre was to conserve a part of the Arima Valley in its natural state and to transform the Springhill Estate into a conservation, recreation and study area open to all persons.

Anniversary celebrations

70th Anniversary

In 1961, the Club observed its 70th Anniversary with a one week Natural History Exhibition mounted at the Royal Victoria Institute Museum.* This Exhibition was opened by the Governor, Sir Solomon Hochoy on 10th July, 1961.

* A similar exhibition at the same venue commemorated the 50th anniversary in 1971 - Ed.

With the assistance of the Ministry of Education a drawing and painting competition for school children was held and the winning paintings were hung at the Exhibition.

75th Anniversary

To observe its 75th Anniversary, the Club once again mounted a Natural History Exhibition. On this occasion the venue was the Centenary Hall of St. Mary's College from 10th to 16th July, 1966. As in 1961, a drawing and painting competition for school children was held and the winning paintings were exhibited.

90th Anniversary

The 90th Anniversary celebration of the Club began with a tree planting ceremony at the Botanical Gardens, Port of Spain, on 10th July, 1981. Nine species of native trees were planted by Dr. Cuthbert Joseph, the Minister of Education and Culture, Mr. Ian Lambie, the President of the Club, Mr. T.F. Farrell, the vice President of the Club, Dr. Victor Quesnel, the Honorary Secretary, Mrs. Judith Gonsalves, representing the Naturalist Magazine, Mr. Isles Celestine, an official of the Ministry of Agriculture.

The species planted were:

1. Crappo – *Carapa guianensis*
2. Guatecare – *Eschweilera subglandulosa*
3. Mora – *Mora excelsa*
4. Bois Mulatre – *Pentaclethra macroloba*
5. Cocorite – *Maximiliana elegans*
6. Debasse – *Licania biglandulosa*
7. Serette – *Byrsonima spicata*
8. Palma Real – *Jessenia oligocarpa*
9. Podocarp – *Podocarpus coriaceus*

On the 26th July, 1981, a six day Natural History Exhibition, mounted at the Centenary Hall of St. Mary's College, was officially opened by Dr. Wahid Ali, the President of the Senate, and Acting President of Trinidad and Tobago. An Anniversary Dinner was held at the Ling Nam Restaurant on 15th September, 1981, where a Chinese menu was served. The Naturalist Magazine published a Special Issue (Vol. 3 - No. 11, September, October, 1981) to commemorate the 90th Anniversary of the Club.

Participation in other exhibitions

During the period under review the Club participated in a number of other exhibitions. From 17th to 27th August 1972, the Club had an exhibit depicting its work on the Sea Turtles of Trinidad and Tobago at the

National Agricultural Exhibition held at Marabella Lands. The Club also participated in the Trinidad and Tobago Book Festival which was held from the 16th to 26th of November, 1972. The Club had on show its journals and books depicting several facets of Natural History.

Monthly meetings and field excursions

During the period under review monthly lecture meetings continued to be held at St. Marys College, Port of Spain, on the second Thursday of every month, except in December. Field excursions were held on the last Sunday of every month, except in December. The only Club activity scheduled in December was the Annual Christmas "Get-together".

Field trip to Guyana – 10th to 15th April, 1974

On the invitation of Mr. N.S. Poonai of the Royal Agriculture and Commercial Society of Guyana, ten members of the Club visited Guyana during the Easter weekend 10th - 15th April 1974. The trip took them to the Essequibo Coast and the Pomeroon River. A full report on the trip was published in the Quarterly Bulletin of 20th September 1974.

Tragedy strikes on a field trip

On Sunday 22nd March 1964, the Club visited the Cumaca Cave, which is regarded by many persons as the source of the North Oropouche River. The British Sub-Aqua Group also visited the Cumaca Cave on that day and the members of both groups hiked the trail to the cave together. Most of the Club's members had already left the cave when Victor Abraham and Adam Richards, two members of the diving club, descended into the hole in the cave from which the water flows in an effort, they said, to locate the source of the river.

They were never to emerge alive. Victor Abraham was a member of both the Trinidad Field Naturalists' Club and the British Sub-Aqua Group.

Club Receives a National Award

At the Independence Day Celebration of 1980, the Club was awarded the Medal of Merit Gold, in recognition of the Community Public Service which it had performed over the 89 years of its existence. Mr. Ian Lambie, President of the Club received the award, on behalf of the Club, from Mr. Ellis Clarke, the President of Trinidad and Tobago at the National Awards Ceremony held at President's House on Independence Day, 31st August 1980.