

Willemstad

Curacao



HISTORY

The Netherlands Antilles, formerly known as the Netherlands West Indies, is formed by two groups of islands in the Caribbean Sea off the coast of Venezuela. From their comparative positions they are known as the leeward and the windward islands. Curacao, the largest of the islands, lies approximately 38 miles north of the coast of Venezuela at a distance of 1,580 nautical miles from Norfolk, Va.

Willemstad, the Capital of the Netherlands Antilles, is situated on Santa Anna Bay on the southern coast of Curacao. The city itself has been described as a bit of Holland in the Caribbean.

The population of the six islands is approximately 203,519, of which 132,055 reside on Curacao.

Oil refining constitutes the chief industry of the islands, and this industry in turn creates the large shipping industry.

In Curacao, in addition to Dutch, English and Spanish are widely spoken.

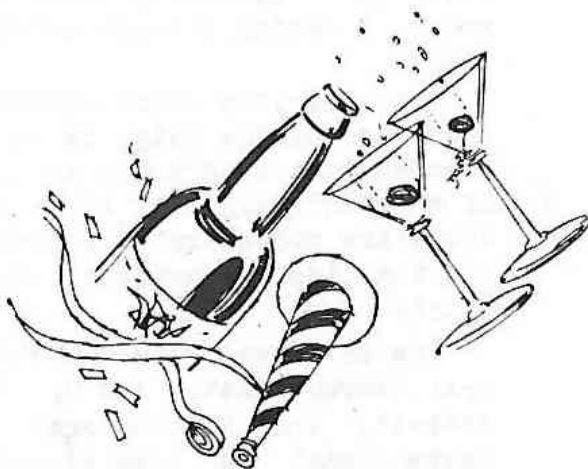
There are no city limits to define its political boundary, for the lowest unit of

government is the island of Curacao, headed by the lieutenant governor. The city's actual status, therefore, is that of the island's largest settlement, its center of trade and shopping, and the location of insular government. Most of the buildings in the city's older districts (Punda, Scharloo, Pietermaai) are painted in a variety of bright colors, and several of them are interesting examples of 17th century Dutch colonial architecture. Modern garden suburbs and extensive labor housing projects, built mostly since 1941, are taking care of the rapid population growth. The airport is at the north coast, 15 miles from the city.

One of the finest ports in the West Indies, Curacao has been an important point of the West Indies slave trade; when that was abolished, the economic life of the island seriously deteriorated. Since the establishment of the oil industry in 1916, however, Curacao has become the busiest harbor in the Caribbean

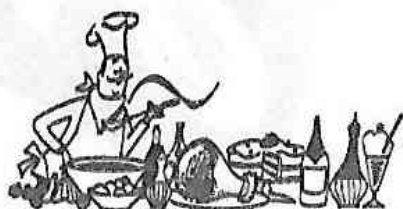
Off Duty

CLUBS—The following clubs generally extend courtesy privileges to visiting officers in uniform: Asiento Sports Club, Curacao Sports Club (Tennis courts, Bar) and Social Club Kwiek.



However, there are several enlisted clubs operated by the Roman Catholic Mission, the Salvation Army and the Shell Refinery, where officers and enlisted personnel are welcome. They are open daily, usually until midnight.

The Curacao Sports Club is the principal club with tennis as the main sport. Courts are illuminated at night when the cooler weather permits tennis. They have fine cement surfaces. A basketball court, bowling alleys are also available.



RESTAURANTS-The Curacao International Hotel, Ft. Nassau, Berliner Hof, La Castellana, Casanove, Hotel Americano, Avila, San Marco provide a

menu of heavy Dutch cooking while the San Marco, located in the downtown area, specializes in Italian dishes. The rates at the San Marco are lowest.

HOTELS-The recommended hotels include, Avila, San Marco, Americano and the Hilton Bay Club. All provide single or double rooms, with or without air-conditioning. Rates are lowest at the San Marco.

SHOPPING

Willemstad is divided into two sections, the Punda shopping area, and the Otrabanda (other side), another shopping area, located near the famous Queen Emma Pontoon Bridge. Two factors combine to make Curacao a haven for shoppers. First of all, the import duty on all goods except tobacco and alcohol is only 3.3 per cent, which is practically tantamount to making Curacao a free port.

Secondly, the cosmopolitan character of the city is reflected in a staggering array of merchandise. Almost all the shops are concentrated in Punda, the oldest quarter of Willemstad.

The chief shopping streets are: Jeeremstraat, and Breedestraat, and Madurostraat. Heerenstraat has been closed to traffic and made into a pedestrian mall.

SPORTS

St. Michielsbay

Seaside swimming pool, recreation area of the Royal Netherlands Navy, shower, nice seats and cool drinks obtainable. Open from 0900 until 1730. A 25 minutes drive from berth. Telephone 23626

Newport St. Barbara Beach

A private beach belonging to the Curacao Mining Company Beautiful beach. There are no refreshments available. It takes a 20-minute drive by car from berth. Telephone 38040

Vaersenbay Police Beach

Belongs to the Police Sports Club. Nice beach. Bar closed on Friday. A 30-minute drive from berth. Telephone 23115

Rif Swimming pool

Open to the public daily 1500- 1800. It is a salt water pool at Rif next to the Soccer Stadium. This pool belongs to the Association for physical development. Telephone 23100

Shell Golf Club

A nine hole private golf course at Rio Canario, adjacent to Shell Curacao N. V.'s refinery site. Open to visiting golfers: Tuesday until 1300 and Monday and Wednesday until 1600.

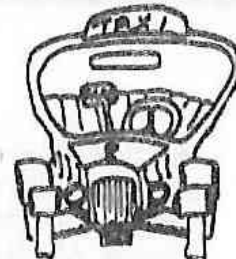
THEATRES

The following four indoor movie theatres and one open air theatre show principally American films. West End - Brionplein, Roxy-Plotermaai,

Cinelandia - Wilhelmnaplein, Caribe- Manzanillaweg, Asiento, open air. The Roxy and West End have daily shows starting at 1830 and 2100 Cinelandia has one show daily starting at 2000.

TRANSPORTATION-There are no facilities for large scale transportation of the crew from berths in anything but commercial busses.

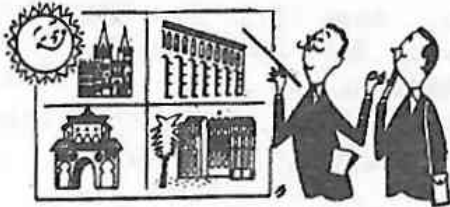
Numerous private taxi lines operate in all sections of the island. Those in the outlying districts consist chiefly of station wagons and smaller types of passenger vehicles. Those in the downtown areas are principally the high priced American cars. All are recognizable by the registration number. Taxi fares, fixed by the government, are high. Every driver in the



downtown area is in possession of a price list which he must show if requested.

Fares in Station Wagons in the outer areas are lower but the drivers are not required to carry a price list. It is best to reach an agreement on fares before a trip is started.

Points of Interest



TOURS-Caracas Bay, noted for its scenery and old fortresses, can be reached by taxi or bus in 20 minutes from Willemstad. A special permit to visit this bay must be obtained two or three hours in advance.

The Groto cave of Hato Airport may be reached in 20-minutes by automobile. Entrance ticket and permit are obtained at the cave.

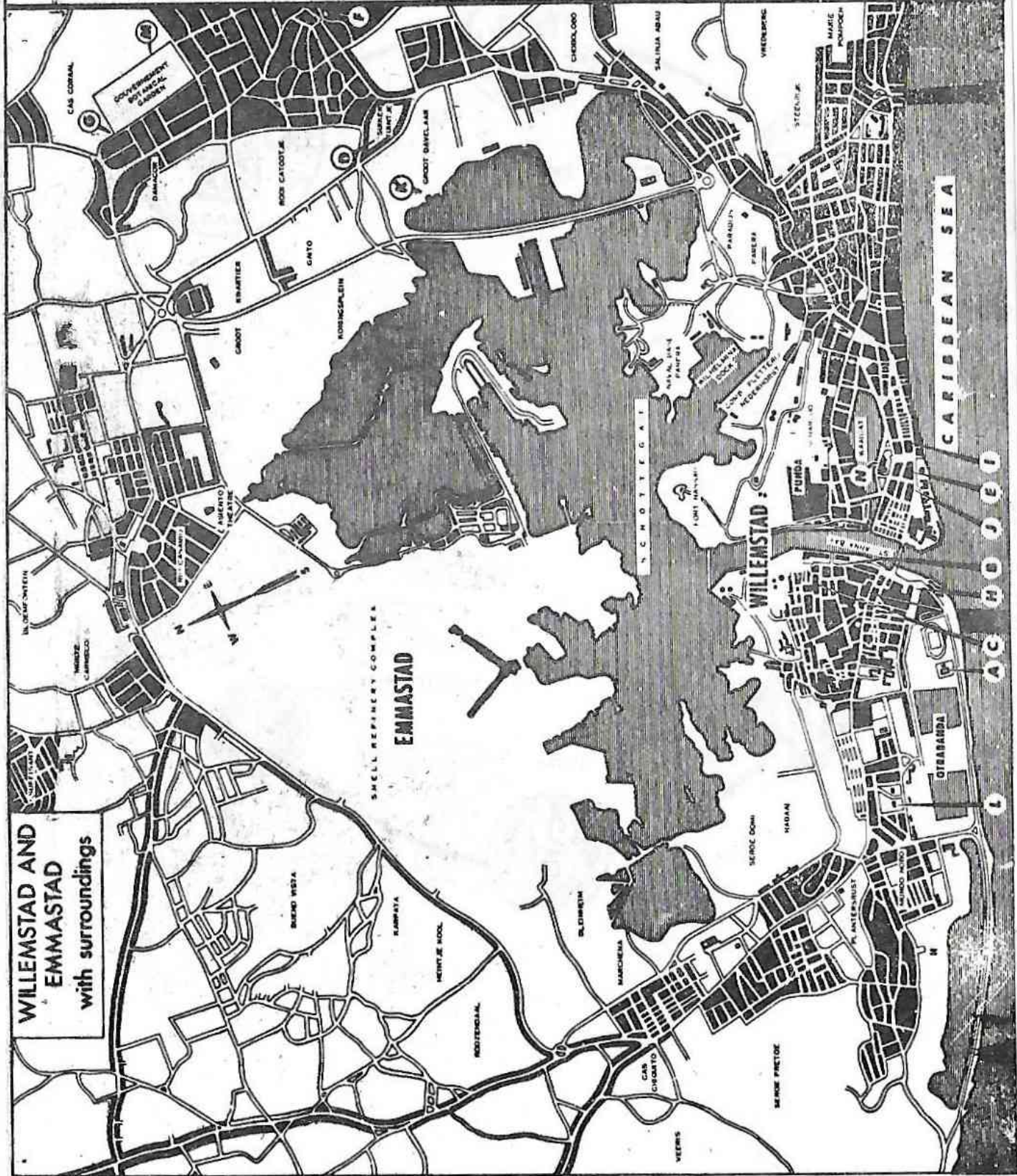
The principal points of interest in Willemstad include the town hall, the pontoon bridge, the Jewish cemetery, on the otrabanda and Curacao Museum in Van Lefuwehnoakstraat. Admittance to the latter is one Guilder (Florin), but free admittance to visiting crewman is usually provided. The Botanical Gardens at Cas Cora are also of interest.

PICTURE TAKING-The taking of snapshots within the precincts of the small refinery in Willemstad and the installations at nearby Caracas Bay and Bullen Bay is strictly prohibited. There is no other restriction on picture taking.

Currency

The Guilder or Florin (names are interchangeable) is the Netherlands Antilles unit of money, subdivided into 100 cents. It is issued in all demoninations including a square nickle. The official rate of exchange is 1.87 Florins to the U.S. dollar, and many stores accept U.S. currency at an exbchange of two Florins to the dollar. If you figure the Florin as half an American dollar, you won't be far off. When shopping, it is adviseable to pay in dollars.

**WILLEMSTAD AND
EMMASTAD
with surroundings**



- A** - SWIMMING POOL RIF
- B** - R. C. SEAMEN'S HOME
- C** - SALVATION ARMY'S SEAMEN'S HOME
- D** - WATAPANA BOWLING CLUB
- E** - CLUB "DE GEZELIG-HEID"
- F** - CLUB SUVEK
- G** - CURACAO SPORT CLUB
- H** - THEATRE "WEST END"
- I** - THEATRE "ROXY"
- J** - THEATRE "CINE-LANDIA"
- K** - DRIVE-IN THEATRE
- L** - CURACAO MUSEUM
- M** - GOUV. BOT. GARDEN
- N** - POST-OFFICE

1 Guilder = 4 Quarters = 10 Dimes

