

## Remote St. Croix Produces Link

(Continued from page 1)

mongoose to end the rat. In no time at all, the islands were free of one rodent, but overrun with another who continued to clean up the snakes, and according to some local residents, took to the trees and robbed the nests of birds.

There are lizards, from the tiny two-, three- or four-inch variety, to the more fearsome iguana, which can reach a length of five or six feet. On Puerto Rico, the lizards of one foot to 18 inches was more common. The iguana, natives say, makes excellent stew, while the smaller lizards are the best insect catchers the islands can offer.

Transportation — from the days of Bluebeard — has made these islands famous as trading centers. Old slave blocks in the market place today carry a supply of fruit and vegetables grown by the natives carried to market atop their heads. But still the smooth surface of the stones is worn deep from the shuffling of chains and bare feet.

Today, there has been an economic upset by this change. Where ships once came to port loaded with building material as ballast and cargo, to depart

with a load of refined sugar, today on St. Croix one sees the empty shells of hundreds of Dutch-type windmills, their insides and windows rotted away by wind and weather. Only one or two sugar refineries are in operation on St. Croix, one native told, expressing the wish that industry — such as concrete block plants — could move in to furnish a labor source.

Hence today there is a deep cordiality and respect for the tourist. Restrictions on building are severe; zoning ordinance on the Virgin Islands strict. As a result, only a few new hotels have been constructed and practically all beach property has been sold.

Take Erik for example, a native of St. John's who drove four of us over six torturous miles of mountains in 45 minutes. He knew the best views; he would stop to identify trees and shrubs, blooms and birds. His name, of Danish origin, reflects the Piers, Tomes and other common names of other races.

First stop from San Juan, a 35-minute flight, was St. Thomas at Truman Airport. Tiny islands, rock bound with cliffs, are framed in foam of a sea whose blues and greens show accurately the depths. There is one sweeping curve of beach where the airport

## Acreage Reserve

### Payments To Nov. 9 Total \$202,959,759

WASHINGTON — (USDA) — Payments to farmers participating in the 1956 Acreage Reserve program of the Soil Bank totaled \$202,959,759.75 in 45 States and Puerto Rico reporting through Nov. 9, 1956, the U. S. Department of Agriculture announced today.

This is the seventh report on payments (negotiable certificates) issued under the 1956 Acreage Reserve program. The sixth report, covering payments through Nov. 2, showed a total of \$181,147,696.39 disbursed in the 45 States from which reports were received.

In the report on participation in the 1956 Acreage Reserve program (USDA 2464-56), the maximum amount of payments farmers could earn by remaining in compliance with the program was placed at nearly \$261 million.

rests between Brewer's and Lindbergh Bays; Water Island standing guard at the entrance to St. Thomas Harbor where Charlotte Amalie lies in thousands of soft-toned colors.

Only 42 inches of rain falls each year here, within a short season. The balance of the year the island is dry. Huge catchments of concrete are constructed along hillsides, funneling precious rainwater into mammoth storage tanks where water is first chlorinated then dechlorinated for human consumption. Homes in the many new housing projects, attractive residents, each carry their own water tanks and gutter spouting is carefully maintained.

Several of these catchments each cover several acres. One by the airport is dull red. Others are plain concrete, all on hillsides.

In the bays and just off the islands the sea water is clear. With Mitch Cubberley of Belleville, N. J., under the experienced tutelage of Harry Harman, former Georgia football captain, several dives were made into clear waters that housed thousands of colorful fish atop the wreckage of a 300-foot grain ship that sunk in a storm several years ago. In shallow water, Harry introduced the novices to the use of goggles, snorkel tubes, flippers. In deeper waters, it was every man for himself. Some tried spear fishing, but none with the results of Mr. Birch who speared a 33-pound sea bass that provided tasty caviar with sour cream as well as huge filets for later use.

At a meeting in St. Croix of the Virgin Islands Chamber of Commerce, the Hon. Walter A. Gordon, appointed in August 1955 as first native governor, spoke on proposed revisions in the Organic Act as they affect the islands economically. The Organic Act, passed in 1936, granted universal suffrage to all who could read and write the English language.

Schools are excellent, and some educational plants surpass those of United States neighborhoods. One-room schools in the out country prevail, and education is offered to all.

Two events highlighted the week in the Virgin Islands, the arrival of the Stockholm, and dedication Saturday of the Virgin Islands National Park on St. John at the Cruz Bay baseball field. Some 5000 acres of land were presented to the federal government by Laurance S. Rockefeller, president of the Jackson Hole Preserve, Inc. On hand were the governor, U. S. Secretary of the Interior Fred A. Seaton and Conrad L. Wirth, National Park Service Director.

There's more to come from the West Indies, rich in the lore of yesterday, undoubtedly an element of rank tomorrow.

Job total sets October record in nation.

## It's The Law

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Q. Is a husband responsible for debts acquired by his wife before they are married?

K. F.

A. Generally not, unless he made some agreement to be responsible, or unless he led the creditor to believe that he would assume such responsibility.

Q. My mother is 82 years old and has five children. She keeps her money in a safe deposit box in a bank. My oldest sister, who drinks very heavily, is the only one who can get control of the key. When mother dies, we are afraid this sister will take the money and go on one of her long drunks. Is there any way we can prevent this?

A. D.

A. The only possible solution would be to have the mother draw a will, which would dispose of her entire estate, specifically mentioning the contents of the safety deposit box. Some person other than the oldest sister should be named executor of the estate in the will. After the mother's death, the box could be opened and the contents disposed of only by the executor of the estate after he has been duly qualified by the Orphans' Court.

Q. I live in an apartment on the second floor above a doctor's office. In the rear yard there is a small fish pond where I have had fish for 7 years. A neighbor has asked the landlord to have the pond filled because her granddaughter, 5 years old, might come into the yard and fall in. The landlord thinks he would be

responsible. Would he be? It seems to me that when an adult or a child enters someone else's property, they are the ones to worry.

A. The landlord's fears are quite justifiable, and once he is on notice of the possibility of children trespassing on his land, he is responsible if an attractive condition which he maintains on the land, such as the pond, results in injury to children. The rule is different regarding adult trespassers, but in some instances even adults have recovered against landowners for injuries sustained by them while they were technical trespassers. Accordingly, it would be wise for the landlord to erect a "child-proof" fence around his property, or around the pond, or else remove the pond.

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