

# Memoirs of Panama and the Canal Zone

## By Frank A. Baldwin

I was born in 1920 at the old Panama Hospital, and my Doctor was Dr. A.B. Herrick, who was one of the doctors brought by the U.S. Government during construction of the Panama Canal. He and a few other American doctors decided to stay in Panama and built the Panama Hospital that was so famous that many patients came from Central and South America to be treated instead of going to the U.S.

My father, Floyd H. Baldwin, was born in Kentucky in 1897. He served with the Armed Forces during World War I and was stationed in Panama. After the War he went to work for the Panama Canal as a secretary, and later for the Panama Government, where he became the Comptroller General at age 24 and served for the next seventeen years under various presidents of Panama. One of the incidents I strongly remember was a revolution in 1932, when the rebels came to our home looking for my father. They wanted him to come to the Comptroller's office. He declined and told them when everything was settled he would be available. The US Ambassador wanted him to go to the Canal Zone, and he again declined. Instead he called some of his American buddies and went to play golf. In 1936, because of the anti-American attitude developed by some of the politicians and the rise of the Arnulfistas, he resigned and went back to work for the Panama Canal starting again as an Accounting Clerk, but retiring as the General Auditor, and at several times serving as Acting Comptroller. He was the last American employed by the Panamanian government. After he retired, he returned to Panama several times to visit and passed away at the Fort Amador Golf Course in 1968 while playing with my son, Billy.

My father was also a proud Zonian who retired in 1959, and I dwell a bit on him here because in he was one of those Americans who stepped beyond the boundaries of the Canal Zone during the early years, which is what formed my background. He loved Panama and had many good Panamanian friends, loved the food, customs, and the good humor of so many. My father was very active in sports (He was the center for the basketball team that defeated West Point in 1922 in the Gimnasio de Instituto Nacional.), the founder and President of the Panama Golf Club and the Manager of the Balboa Baseball Club. He was a judge at the dog races at Kennelworth, where the Banco Nacional



is now, in front of the Panama Hilton. He was a founding member of the Lions Club in Panama, along with many well-known established Panamanian families. He was the auditor for the National Lottery (and for many private Panamanian companies), where he was instrumental in bringing in an IBM mechanized system, which he installed personally.

My father married Lea Azcarraga, who was one of Lucho Azcarraga's older sisters. She was born in David, province of Chiriqui. She was one of the first women in Panama to drive a car, smoked and played golf. She was one of the first Panamanians to learn to speak English, too. She lived in Panama City by Simon Bolivar Plaza where Teatro National is, and worked for the Red Cross before marrying.

One year my brother and I went to the US with my father and mother. Lucho came with us, but my father left him in New York while we went to Canada where he had arranged for Lucho to take classes from Lew White at the Roxy Theater, which was very famous. In those days, they didn't have talking movies, so they had organs and pianos playing in the different theaters. Lew White was so impressed with Lucho that he called a fellow named Jesse Crawford from the Paramount Theater to listen to him. When we returned, my father tried to pay but they wouldn't take the money because they wanted Lucho to stay to play in one of the theatres. But Lucho was only 17, and wanted to go home. Lucho had played music like the Tango, Danzón and all the Latin music for these famous organists, and they were fascinated because they had not heard it that way before. Lucho was five years older than I was. When I was 15 years old I played in Lucho's orchestra. In those days it wasn't an orchestra, it was a "combo", and I played the clarinet at the old Union Club. My father would drop me off, and then Lucho would take me home later.

My father's love of Panama and his marriage resulted in my background with intimate links with both Panama and the Canal Zone. My first two years we lived in the Canal Zone; and then my father went to work for the Panama Government and we moved to Panama City. At first we lived in front of the National Institute for many years, which at that time was one of the best neighborhoods. We used to play with the students, and never would I have thought that in the future they would be a big problem in my life. (When I was PIO, I used to have the waiters at the Napoli pizza restaurant call me when the students were going to protest. I would know before anyone else on the Governor's staff).

My parents then moved to Bella Vista on 44th Street next to the Catholic Church, and in those days there were only three streets and the rest bush. Bella Vista then was practically a Jewish settlement, and I grew up with them and never had any problems with our religious upbringing. In fact, several times I went to the synagogue with them in order to go out and play. So I became friendly with the many well-known Panamanian Jewish families.

Some of our neighbors were the McGrath family and the Boyd triplets. The big deal was that we all

had horses; and we had races, chased cattle, went to the beach and rode race horses brought by the race track. We rode those horses in the ocean and could see alligators from the Paitilla River a mile or so away. Another sport was fighting from a hill in Bella Vista with kids from Calidonia; they had sling shots and we had B-B guns. We always ended up in our area, where our mothers served cokes and sandwiches for both groups.

My first two years of high school were at Balboa. I didn't do too well and the principal of the school (Mr. Hosler, will never forget him) recommended to my father an appropriate military school in the States. I ended up in Castle Heights Military Academy in Lebanon, Tennessee.

One of the things I did when I was in Balboa High School was to the son of Harmodio Arias, who was President (of Panama). In those days freshman were called scobies, and they had to cut their hair the first year. The President's car came up with his son, Gilberto Arias, and another fellow and I jumped him and cut his hair off. When we were cutting his hair, we cut his head, and he was bleeding. The presidential car stopped, and the chauffer was going to get involved; but the Canal Zone police said, "No, wait; this is kid stuff," so, boy, I didn't even go into the school. Everybody would come by and say, "Albert, you are really in trouble." Then about 1:00 pm the Presidential car came up with the President's son with a big patch on his head, and I went up to him to apologize to him. And he said, no, his father had given him a bawling out for not being a good sport. I didn't tell that to my father till months afterwards. That is one of the things that got me sent to Castle Heights.

I enlisted in the Army and told General Stayer, who was the Chief Health Officer of the Panama Canal. (My father used to play golf with him, and I used to play with him once in awhile.) One day at the golf club I told him I was going to enlist in the Air Corps and he said, "Good, where would you like to go?" I told him I had heard that Guatemala is the best place. He said, "Okay, I'll see that you get stationed there." After two weeks of being at Howard Field cleaning streets I called him and said, "General, I'm still here". He said, "Your father didn't tell me you had enlisted." "Well, I guess he forgot." He replied, "There is a flight every Friday, I'll see that you get on it." So I made a big mistake. This was on a Tuesday and I told my 1st Sgt that I was leaving for Guatemala on Friday, and he said, "Huh, that will be the day; you just got into the Air Corp; you can't be." I had a carload of girls who came to see me from the Union Club; just then all these troops saw all the girls and you should have heard the crowd yelling, "Hey, hey, hey." I told the girls they better get out of there; but, anyway, Thursday I got my orders, and Friday I was in Guatemala City. We had an airstrip there with U.S. planes that went out into the Caribbean to chase submarines.

My last two years while in the Army were in Panama. There was a Mrs. DeJan; she was mother of Archbishop McGrath, but at that time she was Mrs. DeJan. She had a lot of influence with all the Army brass and she used to live in the Atlas Brewery on top; she had a suite up there where she

hosted parties. Floyd, my brother, told one of the McGrath boys that I was stationed in the States and told him, "My brother really wants to get back to Panama." He replied, "I'll tell my mother," and two weeks later I went to Panama. She had a lot of pull; she was really something. The best part about it was she invited me to all the parties. Here I was a 2nd Lieutenant invited with all the brass.

When I was transferred back to Panama in the Army and I was in finance and was an auditor for the military, I went to several places where we closed places out. We closed out a place in Costa Rica and base in Guatemala, places like that. Rio Hato, Panama, was one and other places in Panama.

I got out of the Armed Forces in 1948, and went back to work for the Panama Canal, where I had worked for a year before entering the military. I worked in the inspection bureau checking accounts, which was part of the Comptroller's offices. I started off as a clerk earning \$131.25 a month and retired as the Panama Canal Information Officer in the Governor's Staff. I spent nearly my entire career with the Panama Canal Company working at the Administration Building in Balboa Heights (38 years Government service, including Army time).

One of the jobs that I had was Chief of the Plant Accounting Branch of the Comptroller's office. That was established because we had to inventory all the assets of the Panama Canal to establish an interest base. They wanted to raise tolls, and the shipping companies asked, "How can you raise tolls if you don't know if you are making money or not?" This was because of government financing, where appropriations came and whatever revenue came and went back, and we didn't have any profit/loss statements.

So we had to take an inventory to establish the interest base, which was an inventory of all the assets of the Panama Canal. It took four or five years and of course it is unbelievable, but for 90% of the cost we gathered we had records in big warehouses. But we had to verify them to be sure that the records were right and check any improvements. We had to take an engineer and have an estimate made. It was a big job. I was the Chief of the accounting section. There were about 80 of us and when it dissolved, I became Chief of the whole thing. Then it was down to about 10 or 12 because most of them were borrowed people. It was quite an experience--four or five years working with engineers especially and being an accountant at the same time trying to keep peace between them. A man by the name of Col. Jennings was a specialist and an excellent man. He was really something; he was a real hard worker. And we did a good job; it was accepted by the Bureau of the Budget. At one time we had 15 auditors from GAO checking our stuff. We did all right.

There was a very famous woman around this time in Panama called Trona Lefevre. She was queen of Carnival way back in Canal Construction days, I think, and every year she would go on a float (in a parade during Carnival) dressed in a pollera with real jewelry and everything. And she was

quite influential with the big shots. I was Vice President of the Union Club, and the President of the Club became President of the baseball league and went to Puerto Rico, so I became President of the Club during Carnival time. They had certain restrictions if you were a resident of Panama and if you weren't a member you couldn't go during Carnival or New Year's or any of the holidays except if you were a bona fide visitor. So you couldn't give a special complimentary card to guests like we did at other times.

So sure enough a card came from Mrs. Lefevre for the Lt. Governor of the Canal Zone but I turned him down. She came in there, and she couldn't even decide what I was going to die of. Well, anyway, when I got back to work a few weeks later, I had a little note that the Lt. Governor wanted to see me as soon as I returned. Oh, my God. Of course, I went up to see him. He said, "Oh, so you are Frank Baldwin." "Yes sir." "You heard what happened in the Union Club." "Yes sir, I was responsible for it." "Well, good for you; get me an application. I want to be a member of that type of club." Well, I almost dropped dead, you know. Well, anyway, to make a long story short, I went right out and called the Union Club, and said, "Send me an application quick." About 15 minutes later I walked in and said, "Here's your application." "How did you do that?" He became a member – in those days high offices of the Panama Canal and the Armed Forces were allowed to be members for \$5 a month.

Then we had the new governor, Governor Fleming, and he wanted a bilingual Protocol Officer. From quite a few candidates he chose me. I wasn't even interested; I was up in El Valle with my parents, and the Comptroller (Phil Steers) called me in, I was his candidate for that position. (Every Bureau Chief nominated a candidate.) So the Governor chose me; I was the last one to be interviewed. I



PANAMA CANAL INFORMATION OFFICE  
FRANK A. BALDWIN, *Information Officer*

The Panama Canal Information Officer is responsible for all Company/Government public relations activities as well as: The issuance of press releases and informational materials, including the publication of the Daily Digest, the weekly Spillway, and the Panama Canal Review; the maintenance of contacts with news media representatives on and off the Isthmus of Panama; the operation of the Canal Zone Guide Service and related activities to insure public and employee understanding of Company programs and objectives.

knew everyone in Panama, and that is what they wanted. I told the Governor that I didn't know anything about Public Relations. His response was, "That's your problem."

A year or so later I was transferred from Protocol Officer to Public Information Officer (PIO). I was PIO during the 50th Anniversary of the opening of the Panama Canal. I was in that position for 17 years under four governors. When I was PIO I had a budget of \$700,000. Adding Spanish to the Panama Canal Review was my idea. When I took over the office it was just in black and white and I changed it to color. The recipes in the Review I added, too. Fannie Hernandez did those.

In 1962 we had reports that there were going to be student protests at the Thatcher Ferry Bridge inauguration, where I was to be the Master of Ceremonies. So Governor Fleming decided to invite the President of Panama (Roberto Chiari) to an evening cruise the night before. We rode from Pedro Miguel Locks to Galliard Cut and back on the Governor's boat, the Anayansi. Then the Governor said, "We have a surprise for you, Mr. President." We then took him to cross the bridge which was going to be inaugurated the next day. The Governor told the President, "We wanted to make sure that you were the first government official from Panama to cross the bridge." So around 9 or 10 at night, the evening before the inauguration, Governor Fleming, President Chiari, their wives and Coqui (my wife) and I crossed the bridge and had champagne on the top of the bridge over the Canal. We were joined by some of the bridge construction supervisors. The next day turned out to be a mess. We had to cancel the main ceremony. We were suspicious something was going to happen and had the Armed Forces on alert. We had invited about 100 honored guests (my father was one of them). Governor Leber, who was Lieutenant-Governor then, was watching the ceremony from a house near the bridge in case he had to call in the troops. Mr. Thatcher was there, of course. I took him down to cut the ribbon and then I noticed Harmodio Arias, Jr., who had been printing in the Panama American newspaper that the bridge name should be changed Bridge of the Americas and stirring things up. He had the nerve to come to the inauguration. Somehow he managed to squeeze in to where we were cutting the ribbon. But I saw him and I gave him a push to one side and threw him on the ground. I guess he left because I didn't see him anymore.

The hardest event was the 1964 riots. I couldn't go into Panama for six months after that and then with bodyguards. I think the worst disaster in my career were the 1964 riots. That was a very big disappointment because of the things that happened and the lies that we heard compared to the facts that I had personally. In fact, they invented that Frankie (my oldest son) was the one that tore the flag. Things like that. Unbelievable.

One of the things that I was responsible for as PIO was the Panama Canal participation at the fairs throughout the Republic of Panama. The biggest was in David, Chiriqui, which was the Feria de San Jose. We would take a big pavilion with exhibits, and I would hire Lucho Azcarraga to play the

organ. At night time, we would often have blackouts throughout the fair, except for our exhibit, because we brought electric plants that we would then start up. We had the only lights and Lucho would start playing and the fair would come to where the action was.

The fairs were cancelled after the 1964 riots – the fairs in all of Panama. The year the David Fair Committee approached me to re-invite the Panama Canal, I said, sure, but on one condition, and that was that we be allowed to fly an American Flag at our exhibit. They said of course, no problem.



I then told the Governor and the Ambassador when they came to visit the Fair that I had a surprise for them when we got to the fair grounds. When they saw flag, they didn't know what to say. The Ambassador was speechless. The Governor congratulated me.

Many of the trees that are in the David fairgrounds were donated from Summit Gardens in the Canal Zone. We also donated cattle from the Mindi Dairy in the Canal

Zone. The U.S. Air Force would fly American executives and VIPs two or three days during the Fair, which lasted two weeks. All of the local labor that we hired in David for handing out pamphlets, etc., would be dressed in Canal Zone Guide uniforms, which they wore proudly.

It is pretty hard to say who my favorite governor was because all of them were very good. Fleming did more for me because he was the one that hired me. I could give him more advice and ideas than the others. I liked the fellow very much, and of course Leber was very straight; but he was very, very good. But they were all good. Parfitt, oh, but Parfitt was excellent. I didn't have any problem with any of them. The Governors were all Generals of the Corp of Engineers. And all but Leber were West Pointers.

I retired a year before the Canal was going to change jurisdiction. Coqui (my wife, Laura Garcia de Paredes) was still working and she didn't want to quit because she had just a few more months to go before she could retire. About a month before we were ready to go, Bill DeLaMater came over to see me and says, "Governor Parfitt wants to know if you would want to go back on the Cristobal with him. But only five couples are going, and you are one of them, if you want to go." I said, "Bill, the only way I would go is if that boat leaves before the changeover on October 1st" or something like that. And you know they pulled the Cristobal out of the dock, and the only ones on the trip were the Governor, Lt. Governor, the head of the Health Department, his private nurse and her husband and Coqui and I." So we got there, and it was raining like the dickens. Finally we got on the boat and left, and we were five days at sea just the five couples. Oh, they were very friendly with us, and we really had a good time, you know, talking and so forth and seeing movies. We liked cowboy movies. And when we got to New Orleans, he (the Governor) had been told that there would be some people from the press there. And the poor guy dressed up and everything--coat and tie, and nobody showed up. Not only that but the way the personnel treated him there was unbelievable. He wanted to go and rent a car, and you would think they would have stayed with him; but Coqui and I stayed with him on the ship with his wife, I helped him put everything back and I didn't leave until he left. The administration there didn't do anything for him. I was very disgusted with them. He is Karen Hughes' father. She used to play with Nancy (my daughter) all the time. I would never have thought that she would get that high. She has done very well; she is a very intelligent girl.

As PIO I met a lot of presidents (five US Presidents), diplomatic people, movie actors and actresses, famous people, kings and queens, astronauts, just about anybody you can think of. I met Queen Elizabeth, President Arbenz from Guatemala, and all the presidents from Panama, President Somoza of Nicaragua. One time they had a meeting of 21 of the presidents in Panama and I was invited to a couple of parties and I met them all. One of the most impressive people I met was Spain's Queen Sofia. She was very intelligent; and when I took her to Miraflores Locks, she asked good questions. I had to get the locks engineer so we could answer them.

I had to keep briefing all these people that Jimmy Carter was sending down to give the Canal away. Jesse Jackson was down there with some of his group. I had to give him a briefing at Miraflores Locks Theatre; and when he got there, of course, I gave him a briefing and told a couple of jokes during my briefing. And everybody laughed except him; he was just staring at me. I knew what was coming; and, anyway, when I got through, he said, "Mr. Baldwin, I enjoyed your briefing; however, you didn't mention the blacks who helped build the Canal." I said "No I didn't mention them because you were 45 minutes late for the briefing so I just cut out the historical parts." Well, I saw the two guys from the State Department almost drop out of their chairs. The group there was just staring at me; you don't talk to the Reverend that way, you know. So when the trip was over, we



went through a partial transit (of the canal on a ship); he was friendly then. I saw two guys from the State Department going straight for a phone. So when I got to the building (the Administration Building), I went straight to the Governor's office and told the secretary I wanted to see him. "He's expecting you." You can imagine, and I went in there. "Governor, I want to tell you something." "The Ambassador has already called me," he interrupted. "What did he say?" "Good for you!" I was lucky.

I am pretty sure it was Noriega who instigated for someone to beat me up. But I got tipped off, and then I had bodyguards for a while. Then I had an encounter with him. He was there giving me trouble in the newspapers. He controlled them. I talked to a good friend of mine who was a friend of Noriega. So I met Noriega at our mutual friend's house to have lunch one day; there he came in with body guards and said, "Oh, you're Frank Baldwin. I'll never forget you. You know once [when he was a junior officer] I went to the Visitor's Center in the Panama Canal, and our bus broke down on the way there. I was taking about 36 shoeshine boys to the locks. Our bus broke down and you drove by in an official car and you stopped and you sent a bus from the Motor Transportation Division (of the Canal Zone). Then you offered to take us to the locks and then to the Tivoli Hotel; then we had lunch there--all on the Panama Canal. I'll never forget you. In fact I have a picture of us at my house." "Well [I said], I didn't come to talk to you about that; what I came to talk about is these attacks I'm getting in the newspapers, and then last week you mentioned something about my wife, that she was a gringo lover. I don't care to be attacked, but I've got the backing of the Governor and the Ambassador of the United States. You can do anything, but don't mess around with my family. I have two boys right now in Vietnam; and if anything happens to me, they know what to do." And my friend got very nervous.

We had a few drinks and had a little lunch there and then he said, "I've got to go to David. Do you want to go with me?" He had his plane waiting for him. I said, "Yeah, but I've got to get back." "I'll send the plane right back with you." So I got in the plane with him and our mutual friend and his bodyguard and the aviator. We went to David with a bottle of scotch and ice and everything inside the plane--went to David and left him there. And he says, "Here is my personal phone number, and you call me anytime." "Okay, Colonel." He was a Colonel then. So, anyway, the attacks in the newspaper stopped. About two weeks later they started again so I called my friend and said "Look, you tell that SOB if he thinks I am going to call him, he's crazy. Do you see how it has started already?" "Yeah, I saw it in the papers this morning." I said, "I'm not going to do anything, I'm not going to call him." They stopped a little while later after that; but every time he saw me, he said, "Hey, Frank, how are you?" Like nothing happened. So I enjoyed going to see his trial. He didn't look back at all during the trial.

Another story I can tell is when I was in Washington, D.C., once, and Panama had the revolution

and Arturito Morgan was in charge of the embassy. He was the Secretary, but was the Acting Ambassador, and I called him up to say hello and asked how he was. He said the State Department didn't want to know anything about him. He said he called them and tried to reach them. I told him I was going to have lunch the following day with a man I knew from his time in the USIS (United States Information Service) in Panama, but had now transferred to the State Department. I told him that if he wanted he could join us, but that I would have to tell my friend that he was coming and that he was bringing this problem with him so as not to surprise my friend. Sure enough, I called my friend and said, "Look, I'll see you tomorrow for lunch, but I'm bringing another guest."

"Who's that?"

"The Ambassador of Panama."

"Oh, yes, he's got problems, doesn't he?"

"Yes, I wanted to warn you that he was coming, so he's probably going to be asking you something."

"Sure. Fine."

So Arturito Morgan came and my friend got him an appointment at the State Department. And that's how the State Department got a hold of the U.S. Ambassador in Panama and got together with Torrijos. The only one that knew about that story was the Minister of Foreign Affairs in Panama. And he told Torrijos, "Imagine that a Zonian is the one that fixed things so you would be recognized by the State Department." Torrijos asked, "Who?"

"Baldwin, of public relations." Then he told the story.

The Minister told me afterward, and while I can't say here what Torrijos's reaction was, every time he saw me he was, you know, not friendly; but he would acknowledge me.

The above is only a small sampling of stories about someone who has the Canal Zone and Panama intertwined in his personal and professional life. I know I am not a typical Zonian, but I am very proud of the American era in the Canal Zone and whatever small contribution I made during this time. My five children were all raised in the Canal Zone and went to Canal Zone schools. Equally, like so many Zonians, I love Panama and its people. It is where I live today.

Sincerely,

Frank A. Baldwin



Frank Baldwin acted as Master of Ceremonies at the opening of the Thatcher Ferry Bridge.



With NASA Astronauts Neil Armstrong, Gus Grissom, Scott Carpenter, Gordon Cooper and John Glenn.



With Panama President Marco Robles.



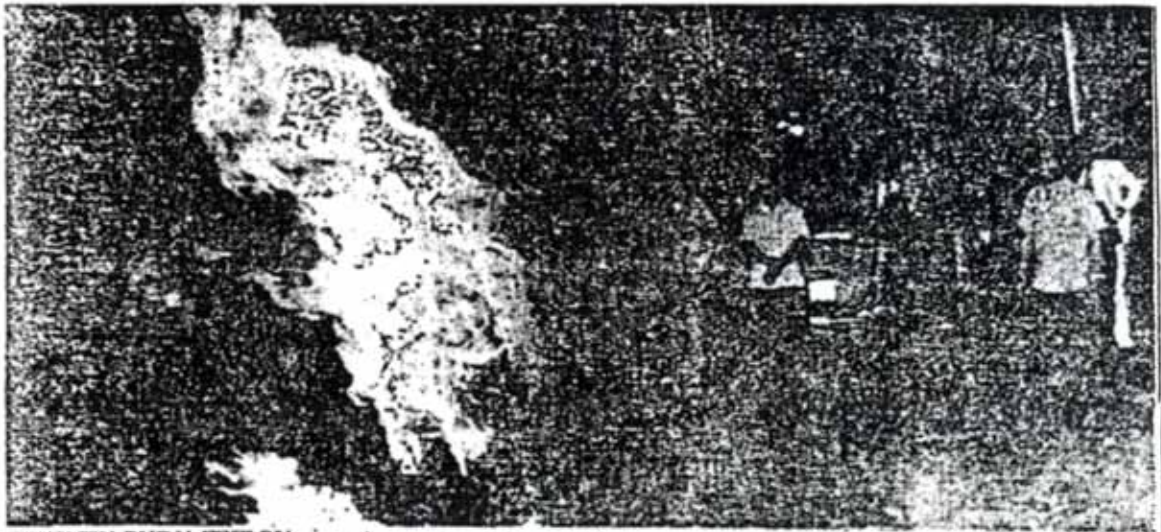
**NEW DIRECTOR—** Mrs. Margory Shanard, recent United States Presidential appointee to the Panama Canal Co., board of directors is shown with Public Information Officer Frank Baldwin in the VIP room in the Tocumen International Airport last night. Mrs. Shanard will attend the 13-member board of directors quarterly meeting which convenes in the Administration Building Jan. 19. Board meeting are presided by Canal Zone Gov. Walter Leber. Under Secretary of the Army Tadous Beal will also attend the meetings.

With Marjorie Burns Shanard, US Presidential appointee to the Panama Canal Company.



With Queen Sofia of Spain





### NEWSMEN BURN EFFIGY

A group of Panama City newsmen burn an effigy of Frank Baldwin, Chief of the Panama Canal Information Office, during a "solidarity meeting" held last week at the Casa del Periodista. The

newsmen accuse Baldwin of being responsible for alleged persecution of a member of the Union's Board of Directors who has received a reduction in force notice.

Star & Herald - January 10, 1976

# la traición?



Los coroneles antes de dar el gorilazo contra el Dr. Arnulfo Arias.

Note: Arnulfo Arias was overthrown for the third (and last) time on October 11, 1968

PRESIDENT ARNULFO ARIAS AND I WERE TALKING AND COLS. UALCIA AND PINILLA JOINED US AND OVERTREW HIM THE NEXT DAY!



# Star & Herald



ESTABLISHED IN 1849

FOR THE CAUSE THAT LACKS ASSISTANCE. FOR THE FUTURE IN THE DISTANCE.  
FOR THE WRONG THAT NEEDS RESISTANCE AND THE GOOD THAT I CAN DO.

PANAMA, R. P., SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4, 1987

## Chicago's Teachers Strike Ends As Negotiators Reach Accord

By HERBERT G. McCANN  
Associated Press Writer

CHICAGO (AP) — Negotiators reached a tentative contract agreement Saturday that would end a four-week-old teachers strike, the longest on record in the nation's third-largest school district.

The agreement must be ratified by the 28,000 members of the Chicago Teachers Union, who are scheduled to vote Sunday. They have been on strike since Sept. 8.

If they approve the pact, they will return to schools Monday for a day of preparation before the district's 430,000 students return to class Tuesday. Mayor Harold Washington said at a morning news conference at City Hall.

Elsewhere, strikes by just over 3,500 teachers continued in Little Rock, Ark.; Elizabeth, N.J., and in two small districts in Pennsylvania, affecting 44,100 students. Striking teachers in Youngstown, Ohio, ratified a new contract Saturday.

The two-year Chicago agreement calls for a 4 percent salary increase in the first year, with raises in the second year

contingent on funding received by the Chicago Board of Education.

The agreement also calls for reductions in class size in some schools. The board had said previously it couldn't afford to reduce class size because that would require hiring more teachers.

Washington said the pact was reached at 7:30 a.m. following all-night negotiations.

On Friday, the teachers rejected an offer by the school board of a 3

percent raise in a one-year contract, which also offered full pay for the 19 work days that were canceled by the strike.

"Parent pressure had a big role to play in resolving the strike," Washington said, adding his own staff had "worked without stop" to resolve the dispute.

Early in the strike, Washington was criticized by parents and teachers for not getting involved in negotiations like past Chicago mayors.

## Letter To The Editor

Panama, R.P. October 3, 1987

Mr. Jose Gabriel Duque V.  
Editor  
Star & Herald  
Panama City, Republic of Panama

Dear Mr. Duque:

It was indeed a sad day for many of the present and past United States residents who lived many years in the Republic of Panama on learning the suspending publication of the "Star & Herald" effective October 5, 1987.

For many of us, the "Star & Herald" was always our paper which not only furnished us with world news, but also published our school events, our sports, our patriotic exercises, and our social notes! In fact, we got all the support we needed...

We in the ex-Canal Zone know so well Don Tomas Gabriel, Don Alejandro, Lucho Noli, the Buntings, McGeachys, Flynns, Kirklands, Perez, etc. Some have already gone and now the "Star & Herald" joins them!

In behalf of many of us, thanks for a job well done!

Sincerely  
Frank A. Baldwin  
Box 754  
APO Miami 34002

cc: Panama Canal Record  
Tampa, Florida

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October 4, 1987

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## In Persian Gulf Speedboats Scared Off By Aircraft

By ALY MAHMOUD  
Associated Press Writer

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP) — Low-flying aircraft scared off Iranian speedboats from a joint Kuwaiti-Saudi Arabian oil port Saturday after scores of the attack vessels darted from bases in the Persian