

## That Carenage Picture

I stared at a picture of the Carenage and I was suddenly gripped with nostalgia. As I looked at the awe-inspiring horseshoe-shaped geographical scene, I was ushered back in time. The Carenage, scenic and forever beckoning, ignited thoughts I had long forgotten. I was taken back to the time when the Carenage was the venue of Prime Minister Gairy's Easter Water Parade. I thought of the huge crowds that jammed the area to witness or take part in the entertainment.

I thought of Gairy and his political campaign from a wooden vessel in the placid waters close to Empire Cinema. I remembered the sand that was brought from Grand Anse to line the water's edge. Yes, the Carenage had its own beach during the Water Parade. The stevedores who assembled at the Seamen's and Waterfront Workers' Union building looked on in amazement and wondered what other strange ideas Gairy had in mind. The Carnival spectacle on the Carenage came to mind. The wonderfully clad masqueraders used to prance on the Carenage road much to the delight of cheering crowds. The Carnival Tuesday night last lap jump up was an especially thrilling affair. I visualized the famous Angel Harps steel band livening up the area with its scintillating sound. It belted out the catchy tunes while Mafu and Tatoes energetically pushed the stands. Those stands accommodated bass men who pounded relentlessly on their steel drums and sent feet jumping high. There was always a certain urgency on Carnival Tuesday night, as the revelers knew that midnight marked the end of their fun. The jam session picked up the pace as that hour approached.

I remembered the restaurants. The Carenage was always the perfect setting for restaurants. There were Nutmeg, Rudolph's and Portofino restaurants. Pebbles sold a tasty ice cream.

Rudolph's provided the perfect atmosphere for dining and for absorbing the wonderful scenery the Carenage presented. One could nibble on a chicken snack and behold the frosty waves made by massive ships as they propelled out of the Carenage harbor.

Nutmeg Bar and Restaurant was the ideal spot to eat and relax. One could sip on a glass of sea moss or a Carib Beer, and be soothed by the picturesque sights around—or just recline on a chair and read a book from the nearby Sea Change bookstore. The atmosphere at the Nutmeg was always enchanting.

When reflecting on the Carenage, the image of boats came to mind. The Rhum Runner was one such boat. Fun-loving people joyfully boarded the Rhum Runner when the sun went down to enjoy a wonderful offshore cruise. The sound of soca music from the Rhum Runner always disturbed the quietness as it moved out. Tourists and Grenadians who came home on holiday always spoke of the marvelous time they experienced on the Rhum Runner.