

STAR

"The Newspaper That Cares And Dares To Bring Out The Truth"



No. 127

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TWO BOYS ARRESTED FOR POLO'S MURDER

SAN IGNACIO TOWN, Cayo, Friday, September 14, 2007:

Police are today reporting a major breakthrough in last weekend's shooting death of San Ignacio taxi driver **Leopoldo "Polo" Austin Waight**, 47.

The investigation has led to the arrest, on murder charges, of **Thomas Ivan Caretella Jr.**, 23, and **William Pagett Jr.**, 18, both residing on High Street in Santa Elena Town, Cayo.

The case was cracked by Benque Viejo police in the process of investigating the September 5, 2007 robbery of the Texaco service station in that municipality.

Our investigation revealed that on the night of Friday, August 31, 2007 Caretella and Pagett reportedly traveled to Benque Viejo Town along with another unnamed male person from San Ignacio where they teamed up with a fourth male person reportedly residing in Benque Viejo Town.



Thomas Ivan Caretella Jr., 23

The original intention was to rob the Texaco Gas Station but the timing and the opportunity to commit the crime



William Pagett Jr., 18

were not right and so the mission was reportedly aborted. All four persons

Please Turn To Page 2

Crimes Committee Dressing COP

SAN IGNAIO TOWN, Cayo, Monday, September 3, 2007:

The Twin Towns Crime Committee today donated uniform shirts to the Cayo COP programme as a symbol of their unwavering support for the programme.

The COP programme was set up earlier this year. It is administered by the police and is made up of local civilians volunteering their time to assist the police in various duties. There are currently nine volunteers serving on the COP programmes

operating in the Twin Towns and it is hoped that additional volunteers will be recruited in the not so distant future.

In donating the shirts, Chairman of the Twin Towns Crime Committee, John Acott, said that *"members of the Crime Committee offer their full support to these dedicated people who are giving up their own free time to make these towns a safer place for everyone. If we had more people willing to get involved, we could easily make*

these towns an unwelcome place for criminals to operate in" said Chairman Acott.

He added that the Twin Towns Crime Committee will shortly be introducing a programme of their own in which local citizens will be invited to confidentially provide information on crimes and criminals and he hopes that the public will give it their full support. He said that it's time to take back our towns from those who would steal our hard-earned goods and have us live in fear.



COP Volunteer, Desol Neal (c) accepting shirt from Crime Committee member, Eduardo Alvarez (r) while Supt. Louise Willis, acting C.O. Cayo (Police) District, looks on



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TWO BOYS ARRESTED FOR POLO'S MURDER

Continued From Front Page

then reportedly walked to the small bridge at the entrance to Benque Viejo Town where they waited for a ride to travel to San Ignacio.

It so happened that taxi driver Polo Waight was on the return trip to San Ignacio when he was stopped. He reportedly offered to bring all four persons to San Ignacio for a \$3.00 taxi fare.

They reportedly told the taxi driver that they were heading to the Roomba Room Nightclub for a night of partying. However, upon approaching that junction of the

Western Highway and the road leading into the Kontiki area, one of the passengers requested that they first be taken into the Kontiki area. The taxi driver reportedly refused to deviate off the highway telling them that he had received an urgent telephone call requesting his presence at home. He however complied with their request to stop at the payphone near the Texaco gas station at the Kontiki/Western Highway junction, to allow them to make a telephone call.

When the vehicle stopped, Caretella and Pagett reportedly alighted, walked to the telephone

booth and returned shortly thereafter brandishing a sawed-off shotgun and a pistol. They reportedly approached the driver who was still sitting behind the wheel and with guns to his head ordered him out of the car. He was reportedly placed inside the trunk. One of the unnamed passengers then took control of the car. He proceeded to drive into the Kontiki area on a road almost parallel with the Western Highway heading toward the Cahal Pech area.

Upon reaching an isolated area on the hilltop, the car was stopped; Caretella and Pagett alighted, walked to the back of the vehicle and ordered the driver to pop the trunk. They then pulled Waight out and shortly thereafter the sound of three distinct gunshots broke the silence of that Friday night. The two accused then rushed back to the car for the drive into San Ignacio.

In order to avoid passing in front of the San Ignacio police station, they drove down Joseph Andrews Drive towards the Santa Rita Cemetery and onto Savannah Street. The glove compartment of the car was emptied of its contents and upon passing in front of Hode's Place in the Savannah area, they began throwing the documents through the window before traveling over the wooden bridge into Santa Elena and onto the road leading to Cristo Rey Village where the car was driven off the road into the bushes. All four of them reportedly walked the short distance to the house that Caretella and Pagett were renting on High Street after which the group dispersed.

They reportedly kept a low profile for the next four days before regrouping in Benque Viejo Town to pull off the robbery at the Texaco Gas Station resulting in their arrest, last Wednesday night, from which point the cookie began to crumble.



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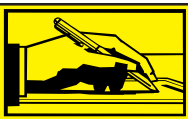
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LIVE INSIDE CAVAL PACH NIGHT CLUB



Editorial



We Know Them - We Feel For Them

There comes a time in every profession when unique difficult moments present themselves. This week is one of those times for us at the **STAR**.

We live in a small community where almost everyone knows everyone and where, as we go about our daily lives, by sheer proximity, due to the size of the community, our interaction increases.

Thomas Caretella Jr. and **William Pagett Jr.** are no strangers to us. We know them to be respectful and mannerly boys, William especially. He is the kind of person who would never pass our home, see us, and not respectfully bid us the time of the day.

Thomas Jr. and William Jr. both come from humble, hardworking and most of all law abiding Santa Elena families.

Thomas Sr. and his wife **Hannie** are good people. Their food stand, located just across the street from us, is a convenience for many of us. We eat from them on a regular basis and they work hard to provide for their family. This development must be hard on them and their family. **We feel for them.**

The very same can be said for **Bill Pagett Sr.** and his wife **Amalia**. These are decent people in this community. We likewise feel for them as they go through these difficult times.

On the other side, who in this community did not know **Polo Waight**? Very, very few if any. Polo also comes from a well known Cayo family. We all knew his father and mother, **Mr. Lyle** and **Miss Maudie Waight**.

In fact, Miss Maudie was the first and still the only person to have had a zoo in town.

As children, we can still remember, leaning against her fence as we teased and stoned her many monkeys as they performed for us in Miss Maudie's yard on Burns Avenue. We still remember her many colorful birds especially the big black one.

Many of us were afraid of the big black bird because we were told the big black one would "**pick**" out our eye if we teased it.

We know Polo's sisters, **Doris**, **Desol** and **Octavia** personally. They have all touched our lives in some form or the other and so

we must share their grief at the untimely passing of their brother.

How can we ever forget **Doris** and her husband **Wally** who provided us with **FREE** accommodations at their Tropicool Hotel for almost a week when our roof blew off during a freak storm a few years ago?

How can we ever forget the many trips, at her own expense, that **Desol** and her husband, **Cecilio Neal**, made to Belize City in order to provide crucial testimony in the Supreme Court case connected with the senseless murder of my son?

Having lost this son, over three years ago, to this senseless crime wave, we therefore know of the associated pain and accompanying sense of hopelessness.

Octavia "Acty" and her husband, **Michael Craney**, residing in California, have been **STRONG** supporters of the **STAR** Newspaper. In fact, they are among the first international subscribers on our mailing list. They have been with us ever since we moved to Cayo over three years ago.

So, dear readers, the Waight family, just like the Caretella family and the Pagett family, are real, and so it is only natural that we feel for all of them during these difficult times.

Oh how we wish, even hope and sometimes pray, that we could report on many more positive accomplishments in the community. Unfortunately, we are so overtaken by this senseless wave of violent crime sweeping across our once peaceful nation that we have reached the point of feeling helpless and useless.

If there is ever a silver lining within this dark cloud or even a glimmer of light at the end of this dark tunnel, in reporting on these senseless incidents, it is our **FIRM** desire for those with criminal intentions to realize how the truth eventually rises to the surface.

It is also our unwavering desire for those with criminal intent to see the drastic life changing consequences for everyone involved.

If exposures like these could result in a single youth changing course in the right direction, then we would feel like we would have, at the very least, accomplished something worthwhile.



My Most Sincere Apology To You And Danny

Dear Alberto,

We received the newspaper and enjoyed reading it.

I loved your editorial, I believe the police were on a wild goose chase regarding Polo's murder.

I do hope that they find my brother's murderer or murderers.

I know that you will keep on doing a wonderful job reporting the news. On behalf of my family, *my most sincerest apologies to you and Danny* if we had any doubts about

his involvement, but what could one do when it was the very police giving the family misinformation.

We trusted the police department not realizing that they are using Polo's murder to fulfill a vendetta against you.

If there is anything I can help you with, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Acty and Mike Craney,
California, USA.

Your editorial this week shocked and utterly embarrassed me

Dear Editor,

Thank you for the e-version of the Star Newspaper. It is my news source and sole link to occurrences back home.

First, let me commend you and your staff on the excellent work you put out every week.

Your editorial this week shocked and utterly embarrassed me. It weakened the frail trust I had in those charged with "*protecting*" us.

It takes a lot for a story to get me emotional to the point where I have no choice but to respond.

The people of Cayo are blessed to have a voice that represents them and reports on news happening in their surroundings rather than getting news from the other Belize City based newspapers.

It saddens me to see that people

with "*lee powa*" are hasty to abuse it.

When I read your editorial, it is apparent that you are doing something right because you only become a topic of interest when you are instrumental to a community.

It is unfortunate that your brother had to endure what he did because someone needed to show "**who has the powa**" in Cayo.

My advice to you is to keep up what you are doing. Your newspaper is excellent! Like you rightfully said "*you don't make the news, you just simply report it.*"

Cayo needs a strong voice and your newspaper is effectively fulling that viod!

Keep on doing what you do.

Janel Morgan

A faithful reader in California

I hope you win this battle

Dear Alberto,

I read with great interest the account of your brother's mistreatment at the hands of two local policemen during their investigation of the murder of the taxi driver on Sept. 1.

Let me know what happened to your brother and how the Commissioner of Police replied to your letter.

I know you are always fighting for justice.

I hope you win this battle.

All the best,

Brian Babineau, Canada

Dear Brian:

After being in police detention for 98 hours (with 48 hour being the constitutional limit to which a person can be held without being charged) my brother was released without a single charge.

The Commissioner of Police has responded with a verbal apology conveyed to us by Sr. Supt. James Magdaleno with the promise of taking appropriate action against the abuse.

This is harrassment of the Press

Dear Alberto,

It was very disturbing to read about what happened with your brother.

This is harassment of the press and of a private citizen, and it ain't right.

The **STAR** has my support in your complaint to the police.

Jules Vasquez

News Director

Tropical Vision

Channel 7

Belize City

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Belize

Ten Years Later And We Are Still "Discussing" The Illegal Guatemalan Settlement of Santa Rosa

PRESS RELEASE

September 78, 2007

OAS MEETING OF FRIENDS OF BELIZE AND GUATEMALA GETS PROGRESS REPORT ON RESETTLEMENT OF SANTA ROSA COMMUNITY IN THE ADJACENCY ZONE

A progress report on the project to resettle the Santa Rosa community of Guatemalans living in a part of the Adjacency Zone administered by Belize was delivered today at a meeting of the Friends of Belize and

Guatemala, convened by Secretary General José Miguel Insulza at the Organization of American States (OAS) headquarters.

Secretary General Insulza described the resettlement of the community of Santa Rosa to Guatemalan territory—the topic of the meeting of countries forming the Group of Friends of Belize-Guatemala—as *“the last remaining material obstacle before we directly move into the substantive issues.”* He also thanked the Group

of Friends for their invaluable support for the process.

In his report, the OAS Secretary General's special representative for Belize and Guatemala, Raúl Lago, highlighted the progress made in the Santa Rosa resettlement project. He made mention of a framework agreement signed in September 2005, which also includes provisions for confidence-building measures between the neighboring countries. Included in the progress report as well are such matters as the purchase of land to which the community is to be resettled, as well as the phases of the project and the related budget.

During the meeting, Guatemala's Permanent Representative to the OAS, Ambassador Francisco Villagrán, and the Interim Representative of Belize, Nestor Mendez, expressed appreciation for the OAS' role in this process, and thanked the Group of Friends for their support. Mendez also stressed the urgent need for central aspects of this Santa Rosa resettlement project to be concluded ahead of elections in both countries.

In this process of negotiation between Belize and Guatemala, the OAS through its Fund for Peace, facilitates the negotiation and supports confidence-and-security-building measures between both countries. This Fund is administered by the Department of Sustainable Democracy and Special Missions, which falls under the OAS Secretariat for Political Affairs



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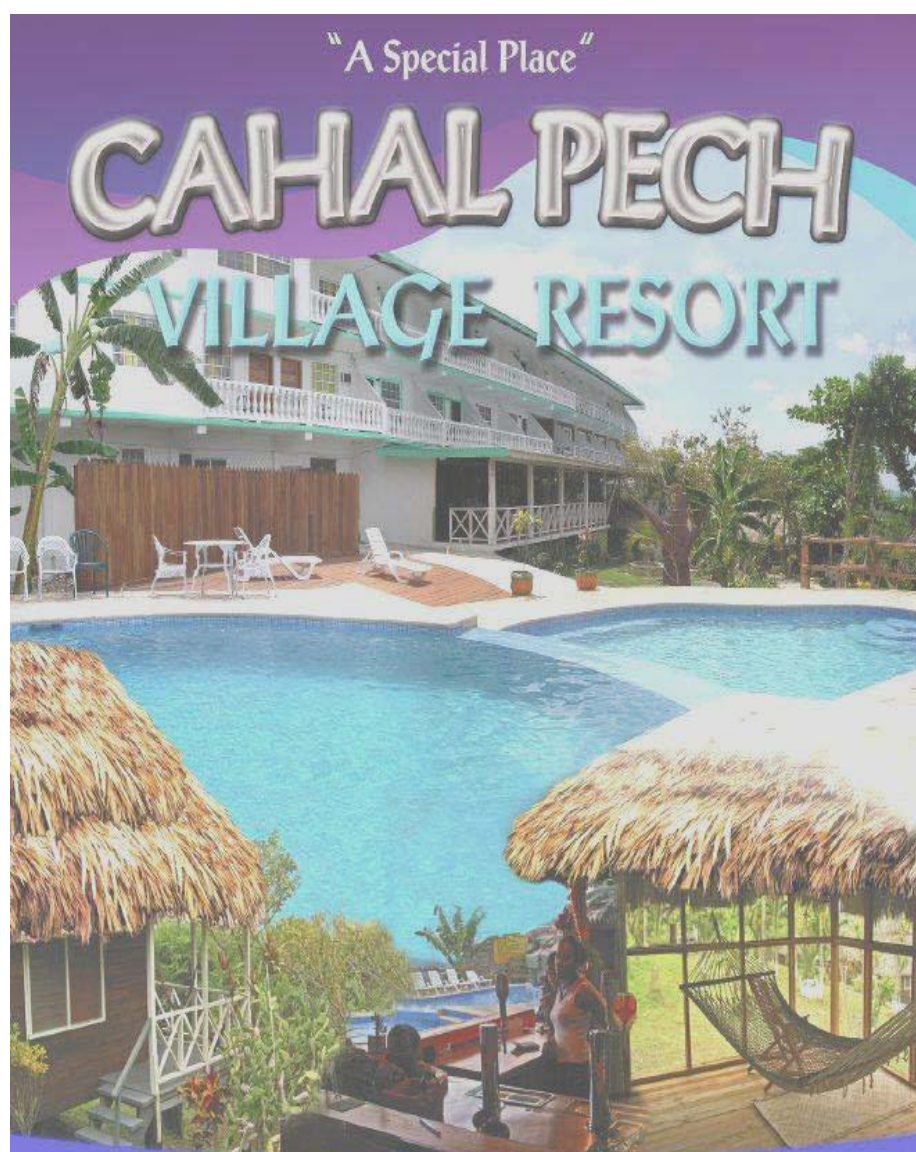
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4 Miles Check Point Officers Fired At

BELIZE CITY, Friday, September 14, 2007:

Latest police reports indicate that at about 2:30 a.m. today, Friday, September 14, Police officers were

working at the Western Check point situated at mile four on the Western Highway, when they observed a two door gold color car approaching.

Upon reaching the check point,

police saw two male persons inside the vehicle, which was driven by a dark skin person.

When the police were approaching the vehicle, a back seat passenger fired several shots, one of which grazed one of the officers in the region of the abdomen.

One of the officers returned fire with his 9mm pistol and the car sped off towards the direction of Hattieville Village.

In the exchange the private vehicle, belonging to one of the officers, parked near the booth, received

bullet damage to the rear passenger door. Bullet holes were also observed on the booth.

Investigators retrieved seven expended 9mm shells from the scene. The Police investigation continues as several leads are being pursued.

The Police would like to assure the general public that we will not be deterred in our efforts and will remain vigilant to confront those persons bent on criminal acts in order to ensure the safety and security of the law abiding citizenry



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With Deepest Sympathy To The Fonseca and Balderamos Family

BELIZE CITY, Thursday, September 13, 2007:

The death of a loved one, regardless of the circumstances, is always hard on any family. The grief becomes even more burdensome when that loved one is here all healthy and well one moment and then gone the next.

It is therefore only fitting that we take this opportunity to express sincerest condolences to the Fonseca and Balderamos families on the sudden passing of their sons **Ralph Fonseca Jr.** and his friend, **Ralph Balderamos Jr.**

A police report on the tragic incident informs that at about 4:20 p.m., on Tuesday, September 11, 2007, Orange Walk Police visited the scene of the fatal traffic accident in an area between miles 51 and 52 on the Northern Highway.

Preliminary investigations revealed that about 20 minutes earlier, at around 4:00 p.m., **Alberto Chan, 33**, Belizean driver of Nuevo San Juan Village, Orange Walk District, was driving a truck bearing license plates OW-A-3673 which was towing a 15 foot trailer loaded with steel rods. Chan was reportedly traveling from towards Orange Walk Town when upon reaching the location, the trailer



Ralph Fonseca Jr., 34

separated from the truck and collided into a black Toyota Prado SUV bearing license plates BZ-C-21897 which was traveling in the opposite direction, heading towards Belize City.

The driver of the black Toyota Prado was subsequently identified as **Ralph Balderamos Jr.** while the passenger was identified as **Ralph Fonseca Jr.** the only son of Home Affairs Minister. **Hon. Ralph Fonseca.**

When police arrived, Balderamos and Fonseca were still trapped inside the extensively damaged SUV as they were seen with severe head and body injuries. They reportedly died on the spot. Seated in the back seat of the vehicle were their friends, **Galdane Stevenson, 34**, of # 48 Rio Bravo

Street, Belize City and **Eugene Webster, 41**, of Belama Area, Belize City.

Stevenson was observed with injuries to the face and head while Webster sustained injuries to both hands and feet.

Stevenson and Webster were immediately extracted from the vehicle and transported to Orange Walk Town's Northern Regional Hospital where their condition was stabilized before being transported to the Universal Health Services Hospital in Belize City where they remain hospitalized in stable condition.

The driver of the truck Alberto Chan emerged unhurt and was taken into custody. Orange Walk police jumped into quick action and within hours a case file was prepared and sent to the Director of Public Prosecutions for legal guidance and advice. Alberto Chan was subsequently formally arrested and issued with nine related charges as follows: two counts of manslaughter by negligence, two counts of causing death by careless conduct and two counts of negligent grievous harm. He was additionally charged with one count of driving without due care and attention; one count of driving an unlicensed trailer



Alberto Chan, 33

and one count of driving an unregistered trailer.

A memorial service for Balderamos Jr. was held today, Thursday, September 13, at Holy Redeemer Church in Belize City after which his body will be transported to Florida for burial.

Funeral services for Ralph Fonseca Jr. will be held at 2:00 p.m., on Friday, September 14 at the Divine Mercy Church on the Northern Highway in Belize City.

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Roches Charged For Injuring Law Officers

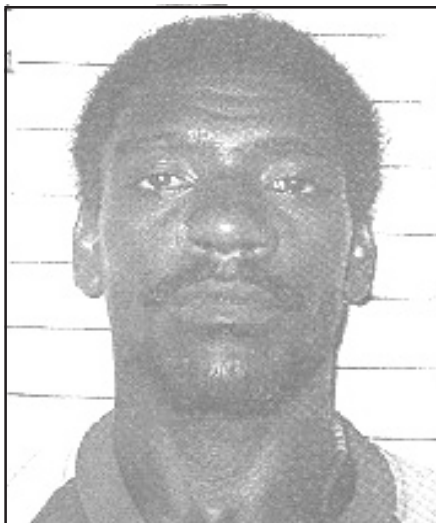
SAN IGNACIO TOWN, Cayo, Wednesday, September 12, 2007:

After over five weeks of intensive investigation, San Ignacio police are of the opinion that they have laid their hands on the man responsible for the August 4, 2007 incident resulting in the injuries to three members of a police team.

San Ignacio police today reports the arrest of **Anthony Roaches, 27**, of a Red Creek Santa Elena Town address

Roaches was formally charged with three counts of attempted murder as he is suspected to have been the gun man who opened fire on the police team as they were processing a crime scene at the Galindo residence on August 4, 2007.

The incident resulted in Scenes of Crime Technician, **Filiberto Pott** emerging with a gunshot wound to the



Anthony Roaches, 27

chest, whilst **Sgt. #1 Enrique Aldana** and **PC #292 Roland Augustine** emerged with grazes to their feet.

Roaches appeared in court earlier this week and was remanded to the Hattieville Prison until Monday, October 8, 2007.

Outrageous Price Increases

SANTA ELENA, Cayo, Thursday, September 13, 2007:

International news sources this week indicated that the price of crude oil has reached the record \$80 US per barrel mark.

We are left to wonder what effects will this new record high cost of fuel have on small and fragile economies like ours.

Is the **HUGE** increase this week in the price of **KLIM** reflective of the new oil price? The 4lb tin of this product mostly used as infant formula has sky rocketed from \$26.25 to an unbelievable \$32.35 while the 2lb tin in our neighborhood grocery store has gone up from \$12.75 to \$16.25 and

the smallest 400 gram tin has seen a sharp increase from \$6.50 to \$7.65.

While we were inquiring of the shop owner for the reason behind this massive increase, a customer inside the store informed that the increase in the price of **KLIM** is chicken feed when compared to the overnight **MASSIVE** \$20.00 increase in the price of dog food which went up from \$47.00 per sack to \$67.00 for the very same product.

If this trend continues, given stagnant wages, we might very soon be unable to feed ourselves and even our dogs for those of us who have dogs.

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HAPPY SEPTEMBER CELEBRATIONS

From The Management, Staff & Students of The CAYO INSTITUTE OF COSMETOLOGY

Clifford Mapp or Generoso Romero? Fatal Head Injury

SAN IGNACIO TOWN, Cayo, Saturday, September 8, 2007:

It was shortly after 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 8, 2007, when an altercation erupted in front of Courts Store in the heart of San Ignacio Town which ultimately resulted in the death of one man.

Police reports that it was around 7:20 p.m., that Saturday night when **Joseph “Coolie” Garcia**, 53, Belizean taxi driver of a Kontiki Area address in San Ignacio Town rushed up to the station and lodged a report.

In the report to the police, Garcia informed that a few minutes earlier he was at the Taxi Stand in front of Courts (Belize) Limited’s San Ignacio Branch Store when he was approached by an individual he knows as **Clifford Anthony Mapp** who pulled up to the taxi stand in a large blue pickup truck.

According to Garcia, “**Mapp**” appeared to be under the influence of alcohol and he began accusing Garcia of owing him money.

A younger male person reportedly exited from the passenger side of “**Mapp’s**” vehicle, he moved up to Garcia and began choking him and punching him in the face. With very punch Garcia began retreating towards his taxi car that was parked

in the area. He then proceeded to open the trunk of his car and pulled out a baseball bat. Upon seeing the weapon, the individual ran back to the truck. This was when the deceased **Generoso “Nasho” Romero**, carrying an American passport under the name, **Clifford Anthony Mapp**, jumped from behind the steering wheel of the vehicle. Garcia reportedly took one swing at the approaching man with the blow landing squarely to the right side of the head.

The man reportedly fell to the ground in an unconscious state. He was subsequently picked up off the ground, loaded into the front passenger seat of his pickup truck and rushed to the nearby San Ignacio Hospital.

Realizing that the case was too much for the hospital to handle, the injured man was prepped and subsequently transferred to Belize City Hospital. Although the police report on the matter indicate that “*he was pronounced dead on arrival at the San Ignacio Hospital*” reports reaching us indicate that he actually passed away on the journey to Belize City.

Up to press time on Thursday the body was still in Belize City awaiting

the legally required post mortem examination while the family makes burial preparation in Benque Viejo Town.

Police have since arrested and charged **Joseph “Coolie” Garcia**, 53, on a single manslaughter charge. He appeared in court on Wednesday, September 12, 2007 and is currently on remand at the Hattieville Prison.

An interesting aspect of this incident is that while the deceased is referred to as **Clifford Anthony Mapp** and while a daughter refers to the mother as **Mrs. Mapp** instead of **Mrs. Romero**, an individual actually known to us as **Clifford Anthony Popper Mapp** is reportedly very much alive in California.

Generoso “Nasho” Romero (Clifford Anthony Mapp), 60, is originally from San Ignacio but has been living in California for several years. He arrived in Belize from Los Angeles a few days prior to the incident with intention to spend two weeks vacation.

Generoso “Nasho” Romero is survived by his wife **Mrs. Ruth Romero Mapp**. Two sons **Julio** and **Sergio** and one daughter **Yadira** all living in Los Angeles, California.

He is also survived by four sisters

Sally, Elda, and Paulita all residing in California as well as **Eloisa** living in Belmopan.

He is additionally survived by two brothers **Roberto Romero** residing in Guatemala City and **Luis Caliz** residing in Punta Gorda Town.

This was among one of those particularly peculiar incidents as we noted that the police were somehow reluctant in releasing a photograph of the accused **Joseph “Coolie” Garcia**.

Furthermore, although we traveled all the way to the family house in Benque Viejo Town, we somehow got the strange feeling that “**Mrs. Mapp**”, as her daughter **Yadira** preferred us to address her mother, was not too keen in providing us with a photograph of her deceased husband for publication.

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**From the Management & Staff
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*The parade moves off at 1:00 p.m. and
will proceed through the principal
streets of San Ignacio & Santa Elena ending
at the Macal River Park with a live
presentation of the Pandy Show.*