

True Colors

Kelly's Corner

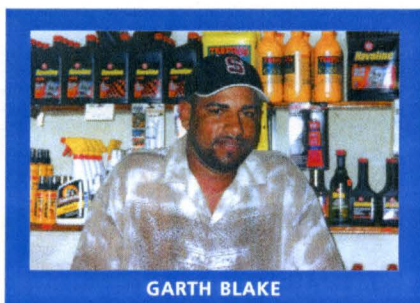
BY JAN KELLY



Jan Kelly follows Provincetown's Jamaican summer residents back to their Caribbean homeland to document their lives away from the Outer Cape.

I visited Jamaica this winter as guest of "Jingles," John Yingling owner of Spiritus and Bubala's. I was interested in meeting our Provincetown Jamaicans on their own footing. The experience was positive as is the summer experience. Visiting their winter home and work places added to my respect for their ethics and way of life. I was there on March 9th when news of suspended visas traveled throughout the island. The lucky ones were smiling, but concerned for those who were denied. The ones denied were philosophical and immediately began planning how to make it through the year and hoped aloud to get back to Provincetown next year. Unless the United States changes their immigration policies, they won't. The Jamaicans will lose and local business owners will lose sorely needed employees.

Joy McNulty of the Lobster Pot, a very smart woman and solution finder, called an April meeting of business owners affected by the visa restrictions. The protection of Jamaicans and Cape Codders was underway and with it their universal commitment to lobby and work towards the continued issuance of visas, specifically H2B visas.



GARTH BLAKE

August 6th is Jamaican Independence Day. The H2B Coalition, the name of the group McNulty established, is working hard to make that independence have even more meaning by helping create opportunities for Jamaicans to have a better life.

Here are some of the people I met in Jamaican and what I found them doing there.

Garth Blake works Kinkead Texaco at the Treasure Beach Crossroads. He is Supervisor of the gas station and auto parts section of the complex. The other half is a supermarket surrounded by batteries, tires and accessories. Garth works in perpetual motion, on the phone ordering parts and dealing with customers. His shop is busy with cars requiring parts and everybody needing gas. Garth has worked for the Texaco for four years. He works four days a week, 16 hours a day and takes one week vacation before coming to Provincetown to wash dishes at Bubala's.

Why does he work so hard? To provide for his wife Paula and his two sons, Shamar and Cody. He wants to be certain that his two sons will go to college. He is building an exten-

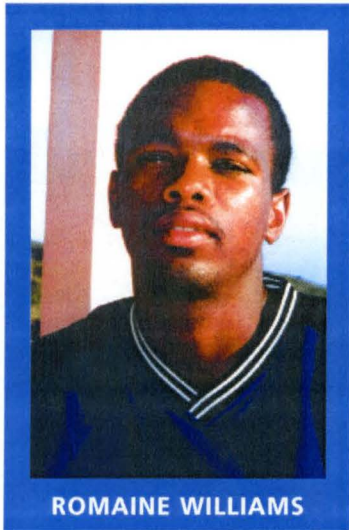


OMAR GLENSTON GRAHAM

For six years he has operated the ovens and mixing machines. When in Provincetown he works as a busboy and pastry chef at Bubala's. Omar's dream is to build his own home.

Romaine Williams is building an addition on his family's house: a kitchen, a bedroom and a patio. It will take him three years to complete. The project, he says, is "for the whole family." When in Provincetown, he washes dishes at Bubala's but is studying to become a chef. "I am moving up the ladder," says Romaine. "I want to be a prep cook at Bubala's."

Romaine is studying with Thompson Education Direct of Scranton, Pennsylvania for a food service certificate in catering. Next is CCHS, California College for Health Services.



ROMAINE WILLIAMS

Domaine Hill is a prep chef at Bubala's. He and his brother Anthony do brick work at Spiritus and other locations in Provincetown. Domaine has been building his house in Jamaica for 6 years. The second story will go up this fall. Domaine and Anthony are powerful swimmers championing at the Jamaican Olympics. But both must dedicate themselves to work now. The younger brother, Odian,



DOMAINE HILL

keeps up the family sport. "That's good," admits Domaine. "He can out swim both of us."

Anthony Hill is a prep chef at Spiritus and a line cook at Bubala's. He works 18 hours a day and has been traveling to America for employment for four years. With his savings he has opened a small restaurant adjacent to his brother Domaine's property. The restaurant, called "The Pot Snapper," emphasizes local seafood.

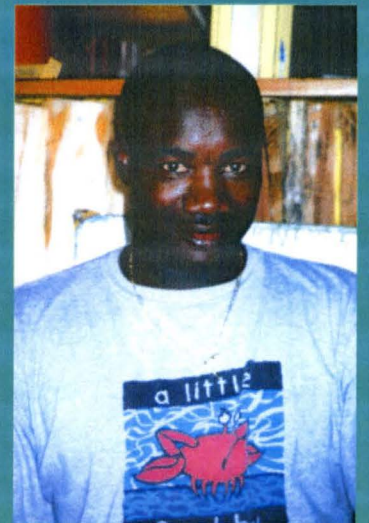


ANTHONY HILL

"Business gets better every year," says Anthony. "Next year I'm going to add pizza. I'm also going to make the restaurant larger, add one to two more employees and have an extended menu. I'm also building a home for my family at Treasure Beach."

Joseph Brown has captained his boat "One Love" for seventeen years. "One Love" is used as a fishing boat, and as an excursion vessel for tourists whom he takes fishing, snorkeling or on pelican safaris. Joseph maintains the boat himself, carefully washing down his outboard after each trip. The money he earns in the States as a dishwasher at Bubala's goes to "run the yard," as Joseph says, and to maintain the house and pay the bills to make a safer, better life.

As you journey throughout the island it is obvious that Jamaicans work hard, have a sense of pride but not a lot of luxury. A car in running condition is prized. Family ties and religion are both important. We in Provincetown have come to love the individuals who come to work and to live with us, helping us manage the tourist season. We make each others' lives more secure. Smooth running is good for the health. For all reasons let's keep our Jamaican workers and friends. ■



JOSEPH BROWN