

The Grand Opening of the SECAR building



On Sunday 16th October the St. Eustatius Center for Archaeological Research, located on Rosemary Lane, held a grand opening for everyone on Statia. This occasion gave interested members of the public a chance to see where the Island Archaeologist and his team of volunteers spend most of their time! People who came to the opening enjoyed looking at what we do with artefacts once we have taken them out of the ground, and where we conserve fragile items, such as jewelry, coins, and bone. They were also able to get a first glimpse of two displays showing the items that were found during the Mikveh excavation in January 2005 and during the ongoing Oranje Bay excavations that began in April 2005.

□□□□The Director, Grant Gilmore, would like to take this opportunity to thank the Killy Killy Band for providing excellent entertainment for the evening, and Ocean View Terrace for donating the tasty snacks. We would also like to thank Duggins Supermarket for donating drinks for the evening, the Blue Bead Restaurant for donating ice, Ronnie Coutar for loaning

two palms trees, Mazinga's Giftshop for donating balloons and Dive Statia for providing the air to blow them up!

□□□We would also like to specifically thank the Lt. Governor Gittens for attending the Grand Opening and for his continued support, the Historical Foundation Board, and Evert Rijlaarsdam for his brawny muscles. Special thanks for their years of support and generosity goes to Sjouke Bakker, Cees Van Groningen, Paul Schats, and Albert Van Der Waag who is the new owner of the SECAR building. Thank you also to those visitors who made donations to SECAR at our Opening.

□□□The Young Archaeologist's Club has now been running for 4 weeks and has proved to be very successful so far. In fact last week we had almost 30 children attend. We meet at the SECAR building every Wednesday from 3-5pm. Every other week we excavate in a new area on Oranje Bay that has been created specifically for the Young Archaeologist's to learn how to excavate and how to interpret artefacts in this 'new' area. On the weeks that we are not excavating we take the children on

field trips to different archaeological sites. □□
 □□For example on Wednesday 12th October we conducted a survey of the gravestones around the Dutch Reformed Church. The first survey of these gravestones was conducted in 1888. The Young Archaeologist's took rubbings of each of the gravestones, which is the best way to record the state of preservation of the engraved stones and to make a record of which stones have disappeared or are new additions. Gravestone engravings and styles can tell us a great deal about social views on death in the past, which can inform us about beliefs that are held today. □□



The Young Archaeologist's Club at the Dutch Reformed Church

Next week, 26th October, we will do a fieldwalking survey at Battery St. Louis on the English Quarter property. This Battery consists of a gun emplacement (for three cannons), and the foundations of a barracks and a magazine. The SECAR has been monitoring Battery St. Louis for the past five years, as unfortunately due to erosion caused by free roaming goats and cattle, it is quickly disappearing from the historical record. The erosion of the archaeological remains means that new artefacts are continuously being uncovered, therefore we have set up a grid

to make a record of the location of them every six months before they fall off the cliff into the Atlantic!



□□ *Belinda Thayne and Grant Gilmore with the YAC digging on Orange Bay*

In November Grant and Joanna Gilmore will be making a visit to Virginia, USA. Here we will be meeting with Dr, Barka and other archaeologist's from the College of William and Mary, who excavated on Statia from 1979 until 1998. Grant will be giving lectures at the University of Virginia and at William and Mary about current archaeological projects on Statia. We will also visit the Yorktown Victory Center, which attracts 1.5 million visitors per year, and is putting together an exhibit about Statia's role in the War of Independence that will be open from 2006 to 2008.

□□**Don't forget to listen to our radio program from 7-8pm on Monday 31st October, which is about BONES, BURIALS AND CEMETERIES!** We want to know what YOU think we should do with human remains that are uncovered during development on Statia.

"The goat's must go!"