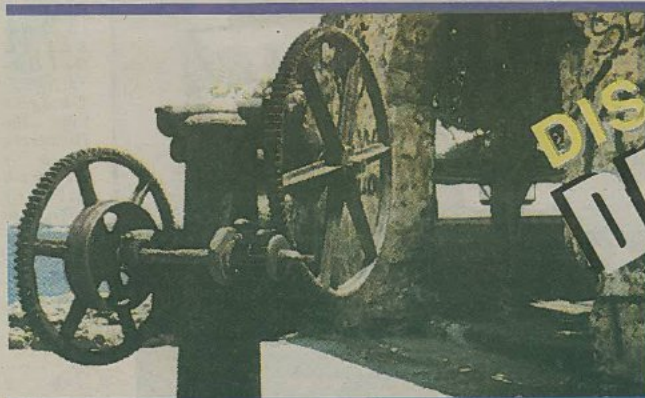




# DISCOVERING DISCOVERY BAY



## HISTORY OF DISCOVERY BAY

### From Columbus to North Coast Highway

Written and researched by Jovel Johnson

**C**hristopher Columbus, that great optimist from Italy, made Discovery Bay, Jamaica, a part of history by landing there May 4, 1494 as he continued his second voyage to the West Indies. Some of the scenery he saw then remains in the coastal community more than five centuries later.

When Columbus landed, he described the place as the "the fairest isle that eyes have beheld, mountains and sky, all full of valleys and fields and plains."

The explorer, who journeyed from Spain, named the sleepy North Coast village Puerto Seco for its Horseshoe shape. It was then called Dry Harbour due to the fact that no fresh water flowed into that area. "Though a good place to

take shelter against a storm, it had no fresh water." Originally inhabited by Arawak Indians, there were many Indian villages, and there Columbus says he found the most intelligent and civilized aborigines of all he met in the Antilles. Possessed with a sense of humour, he remarked that he saw "so many Arawaks, the earth seemed

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The articles in this feature on Discovery Bay were written by

Jovel Johnson.

Photos by  
Andrew Flemming

With assistance by  
Navine Wallace

## Discovery Bay Nail Centre and Beauty Supplies

**J**ean Richards always had a liking for cosmetology, and that's why she decided to create Discovery Bay Nail Centre and Beauty Supplies. It all started in 1995, and almost 10 years later, it is still thriving. With two employees, Moya Lopez and Sandra Archer, she always stays on top of business.

Originally starting in Scott's plaza, it quickly gained a large client base. While she was doing secretarial work, Miss Richards dreamed of opening her own business. Working at Kaiser, it was no different for her, as she had her boss, Louise Allen, as her first customer. She then got other people on board. Seeing that she had the skills, she did a course in cosmetology, and then started doing house calls until she was able to own her own

shop. "I had the confidence to start my own business, that's why I was able to be successful," she said.

When she started out she was the only one in the area, and what she says sets her apart from the rest is her ability to keep her customers coming back, the ambience, and the determination to see to it that a good job is done when doing nails. The Discovery Bay Nail Centre are dominant and the number one such business in Discovery Bay. At this time, her regular customers keep her business alive.

Services offered by Discovery Bay Nail Centre and Beauty Supplies include Manicure, Pedicure, Fiber glass and Airbrushing. They open everyday, Monday to Saturday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sundays, 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. You can find them in Shop #16 in the Discovery Bay Plaza.

## The Discovery Bay Police Station

**B**uilt in 1894, it is one of the oldest buildings in Discovery Bay. It is located in the vicinity of the Puerto Seco Beach on Main Street Discovery Bay. Stationed are 12 regular officers and six District Constables, with Sgt. E. Dawkins in charge.

The Times spoke with Corporal Derrick Levy and Corporal Patrick Mitchell, who were very friendly and easy to talk to. They told us some of the positive points of the Police station and some of the achievements of their fellow officers. "Two of our colleagues, Woman Constable D. O'Conner and Cpl. O. Smith, went to The University of the West Indies and did us

proud. Both excelled in Management," Cpl. Levy said.

In spite of their various achievements, they also point out that their station is in need of major renovation. Their service vehicles are in non-serviceable conditions and are in bad shape. Furniture is badly needed in the station itself and they are in need of computers. Two ex-police officers, Milton and Onel Tucker have promised to donate a computer to the station. The bathroom also needs up grading.

Regardless of this, they intend to protect and serve the community; something they promised to do for crown and country.

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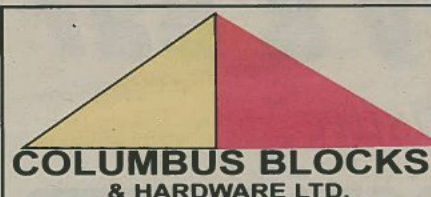
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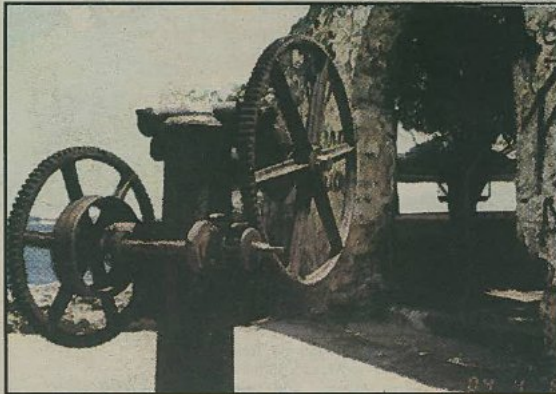
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Jean Richards (left), owner of Discovery Bay Nail Centre & Beauty Supplies is being given a manicure by one of her Nail Technician.



A PIECE OF HISTORY: A picture of the historical canon located at Old Folley, Discovery Bay that was used as a weapon of defense during the American War of Independence.



READING IS THE KEY TO OPPORTUNITY: That's what the Discovery Bay Branch Library offers to the public.



The Discovery Bay Post Office is in its authentic state.

## Puerto Seco Beach-popular public spot

**P**uerto Seco Beach is one of Jamaica's best-known public beaches attracting thousands, especially at holiday weekends, such as the coming Easter weekend.

Always a place of fun and excitement, Puerto Seco caters to the young and the old. With its attractions such as the Big Red Water Slide, volleyball and basketball courts, swings, and kite flying, there is no reason to go anywhere else.

Holidays and weekends see the most patrons, as this is the time people will have more freedom to unwind and cool off in the beach's world renowned waters. Swimming classes are also held at the beach.

Puerto Seco is mainly known for its waters, but it is used for many different functions. People rent the

beach for different occasions such as company parties, weddings and wedding receptions. If you don't feel like catering for your event, the staff at Puerto Seco will do that for you. Privacy is also available for those who need it. If you have rented the spot, and your party wants to be alone on the beach, no one else will be allowed inside. They open everyday, 9 a.m. to 5p.m.

Going to Puerto Seco is always an exciting event. When speaking of the attractions, the Big Red Water Slide, cashier, Marion Gibbs said, "Children love it, and big people enjoy it!"



The Discovery Bay Police Station has been in operation since 1894 is located near to the square in Discovery Bay.



BIG RED WATERSLIDE: One of Puerto Seco's, Discovery Bay main attractions.

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# GERONTECH - New service for peace of mind of the elderly

**GERONTECH** (Gerontological Empowerment and Collaborative Development through Technology) is an all-inclusive daytime centre which caters to people with mental retardation. It is also for the well-being, training and development of adults. The total person is their focus - body, mind, and soul.

President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Jacqueline D. Goulbourne, saw a great need to create something new and cutting edge in Jamaica. "I went abroad to study Gerontology (the study of aging and old age) and Human Resources Development, and while I was there, I had a thought to come back home and start a business. It's something I've always wanted to do," she said.

GERONTECH officially opened on

April 1, 2004, although she has been training others way before then. She finds that her most difficult time in starting the business was when she was trying to find a location. Finding a location that was suitable and affordable was hard, but fortunately, she found a quiet place that compliments one of the main concepts of what GERONTECH is all about - peace of mind. Another problem she has right now is getting clients who are willing to pay for the company's services. "Some people want things for free," she said.

Although geared mainly towards adults 55 years and older, GERONTECH also caters for the young in body and mind, as it offers other services. They offer classes in foreign languages, computers, music, dancing and personal development. They also offer health monitoring which allows

for a doctor to come once a month.

GERONTECH does not offer live-in services, but they have a courtesy bus that picks up anyone wanting to be there for the day. They do not pay for transportation. On Tuesdays, they are taken to the gardens, and on Wednesdays they are taken to the beach.

Opening hours are Monday to Friday (except holidays), 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

GERONTECH, with its services and friendly professional staff, ensures engagement that celebrates life in a safe, healthy and enriched environment.

## HISTORY OF DISCOVERY BAY

From page 11

to have been covered with them."

It was renamed Discovery Bay in 1947 by Hal Peat, as being more colourful for tourist purposes. The old name has been preserved in the beach development area which is well known to everyone as Puerto Seco - a popular place for swimming and water skiing. Bauxite interests had built houses for there staff there.

Discovery Bay no longer has Arawaks, but there are several races of people living in the area, races that have made Discovery Bay what it is today. Kaiser Bauxite Company has long ago moved in and helped to inject life in the sleepy village. The pier, located at its northern entrance has

had ships coming to the island for the bauxite produced by the company at the Discovery Bay plant located at the top of the hill over looking the town. The serene waters of the Caribbean Sea for which Discovery Bay is famous is no less important.

Kaiser's involvement in the community includes the development of the Columbus Park and the historic Quadrant Wharf at Old Folly. The company also developed the Puerto Seco Beach, which residents say is full every holiday. The total occupation of the beach provides all sorts of social and economic activity for the area.

Although Kaiser's financial involvement in the bauxite mining operations in the area will soon pass, the company has made an indelible mark on the community.

Columbus Park One of the most historical landmarks in Discovery Bay, the Columbus Park is unique, and is said to be the only piece of land in the West Indies which is still in its exact condition as when Columbus first set foot on the soil in 1494. This is a

favourite stopping place for visitors, though not so popular these days and often times, one will find various vans and buses here, with tourists from all over the world wandering happily around the park.

Columbus Park continues to attract thousands of visitors each year. The park was built by Kaiser Jamaica Bauxite as a public attraction in 1968, and is an open-air museum housing relics and containing many artifacts of Jamaica's past. The park overlooks Discovery Bay harbour and is spread over approximately half an acre of land, with descriptive signs relating to each artifact.

Discovery Bay is changing in many ways, with new housing development and a boom predicted as the North Coast Highway will cut distances to the area. Not many commercial developments have come to the area but the history of the 90s and early 2000s will have the names Scott, Chin, Fitzroy and Moulton among those who kept business alive to enhance the historic town that seems lacking in so much.

## Columbus Blocks and Hardware Limited

Columbus Blocks and Hardware Limited started as a block making factory. As the business grew, the need for other hardware items were required. They ventured into general hardware, hence, the name changed to Columbus Blocks and Hardware Ltd.

The company's main goal is

satisfying their customers. Columbus Blocks and Hardware Ltd. has three branches: Discovery Bay, Runaway Bay, and White River in Ocho Rios.

They have been through tough times, but with the support of their customers and a committed staff, they hope for a better tomorrow.

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