

**Insight or Retrogression!  
Architects of Wisdom!**

Drum! Drum! Drum!  
Knowledge is power –  
Information aids the psyche –  
Tap your feet – clap your hands – analyze and preserve “the foot prints” –  
Rhythm! Rhythm! Rhythm!

The sounds and vibrations linger: The hum, the rumbling, the clanging, and the whizzing sound of steam engines, the smell of smoke, molasses and feces, the thumping of carriages, station activities, interaction among people, staff, the station bell and flag man, the distribution of “railway kill” and stories associated with it...

Guyana was fortunate to have the first passenger railway system in South America, operating from its Capitol, Georgetown, to Rosignol. The tracks were laid in phases; starting in 1847, 4.5 miles of tracks were laid from Georgetown to Plaisance; then after seventeen years, it reached Machaica, which is twenty two miles from Georgetown. The tracks reached Rosignol sometime in the 1900's. Hence, there was an estimated 60.5 miles of tracks from Georgetown to Rosignol. These tracks crossed trenches and creeks with a two hundred feet span over the Machaica and Machicony creeks. This railway linkage facilitated the transporting of people, local produced, sugar, molasses, rice, food, cattle, postal materials and also invigorated all communities and economies along its route.

Drum! Drum! Authenticate, elucidate and record the people's narrative – Drum! Drum!  
Celebrate in Rhythm with rhythm – as these data lines will affirm the significance of the railway systems as it bound and preserved the common good throughout the counties.

November 3<sup>rd</sup> 1848 Georgetown, Kitty, Ogle, Plaisance.  
March 1850 from Plaisance to Beterverwagting, Lusignan, Annandale, Buxton & Friendship ....  
November 1850 from Buxton & Friendship, Strathspey, Non Pareil, Bachelor's Adventure, Enmore, Nabaclis & Golden Grove, Victoria & Ann's Grove - not forgetting Two Friends - extended to Belfield in 1854 and Clonbrook in 1863 – reaching Mahaica and its environs in 1864 – Belvidere, Fairfield, Cottage, Sarah, Mahaicony, Huntley, Belladrum, Weldaad, Lichfield, Ross, Temp<sup>e</sup>, Onverwagt, Bush Lot, Hopetown, Fort Wellington, Waterloo - with the tracks to Rosignol completed between 1897 and 1900.

Rhythm! Rhythm! Rhythm!  
Stay the course – Drum! Drum! Drum!

On the West Coast of Demerara, tracks were laid in 1899 at Vreedenhoop, and extended to Parika in 1914. In 1922 these passenger tracks were also instrumental in promoting trade and commerce, while stimulating the economies along its path: Vreedenhoop, Harlem, Windsor Forest, La Jalousie, Hague, Leonora, Uitvlugt, Boerasirie, Tuschen, Vergenoegen, Parika etc.

Drum! Drum! Drum!

This exchange did not cover the industrial railway systems of Port Kaituma, Matthews Ridge in North West, Wismar to Rockstone, Mackenzie and Kwakwani, nor the current passenger system used in Lusignan to transport workers to the sugar cane fields. This Lusignan passenger system, at one time, enabled the Buxton and Friendship cattle herdsman and women, in particular, to save time in getting to the Savannah to eye their cattle.

Rhythm! Rhythm! Rhythm!

Navigate the past! Yes! Navigate the past! Drum! Drum! Drum!  
Be awake, and understand possibilities! Rhythm is life and life is rhythm.  
Preserve the foot prints....

The purpose of this document is not to isolate the union of women and men, nor to numerate accidents and deaths, but to note that there was a flourishing railway system, serving communities and revitalizing economies on the East and West Coast of Demerara in Guyana, and its discontinuance on June 30, 1972, shattered the lives of the inhabitants and also promoted a negative effect on infrastructural and environmental development, which remains underdeveloped.

The question can be asked, “Why Post Colonial Leaders, as they amass political power had difficulty analyzing realpolitik as they guided their nations to ruins?”

Drum! Drum! Drum!

Rhythm! Rhythm! Rhythm!

Be awake, and understand possibilities! Rhythm is life and life is rhythm.

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