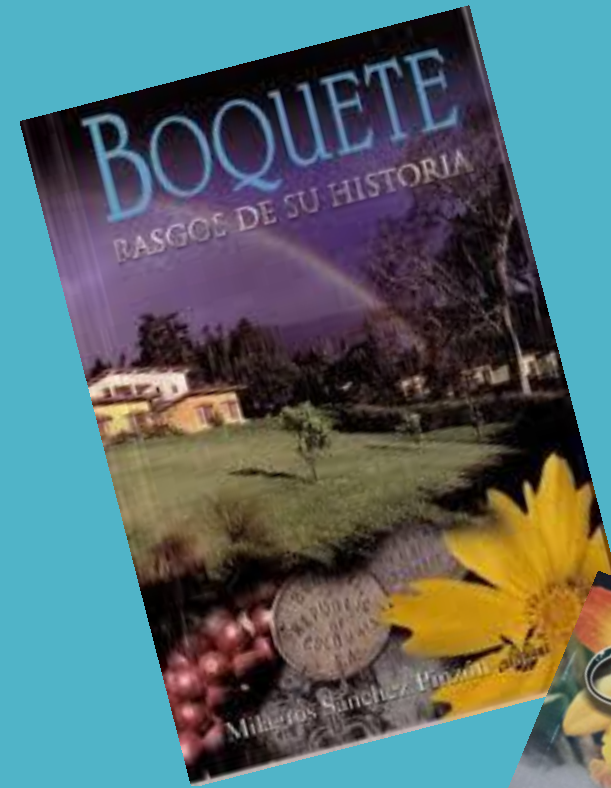




# Boquete, rasgos de su historia

**Por: Milagros Sánchez Pinzón**





Petroglyph, Los Naranjos



Piedra Pintada, Caldera

The territory of Boquete was inhabited by pre-Columbian groups, proof of which are the petroglyphs discovered in different parts of the district: Caldera, El Guacal, Los Naranjos ...

Some studies indicate that the area was populated from the year 300 A. C.

In more recent times, Boquete began to be populated by people of Dolega and David, since the mid-nineteenth century. Some foreigners also arrived...

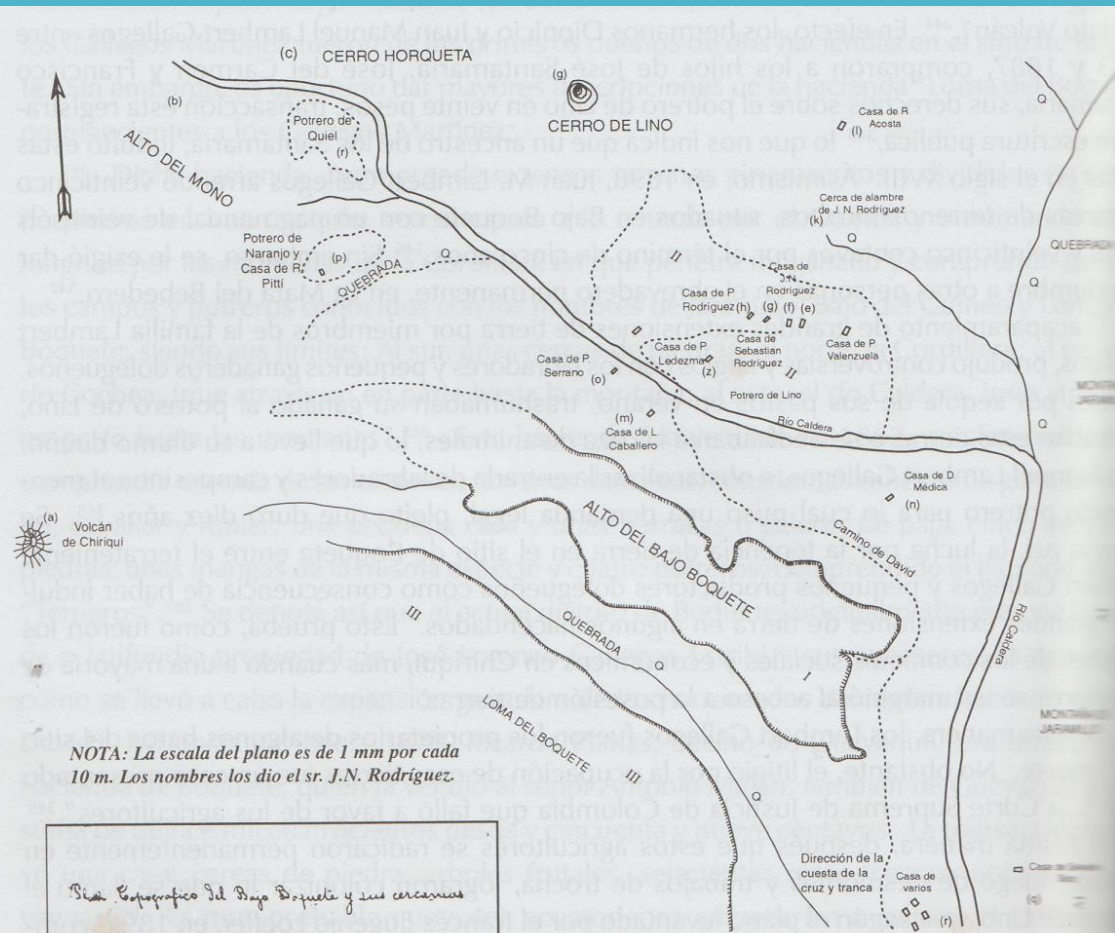
Farmers penetrated through a "hole" in the jungle. They came to work the land.



Men and women from different regions of Chiriquí and other countries made their way through the jungle to establish their homes.



Photos: Ciro Galan and Leopoldo Castillo.



NOTA: La escala del plano es de 1 mm por cada 10 m. Los nombres los dio el sr. J.N. Rodríguez.

Plan Topográfico del Bajo Boquete y sus cercanías  
 Levantado con el grafómetro por los  
 ingenieros que firman:  
*Philippe Neveu*  
*Chas. A. Campy*  
 Nota. Este plano va adjunto  
 un índice de los nombres indicados  
 por letras en el plano.

INDICE DEL PLANO DE BAJO BOQUETE

I	Alto del Bajo Boquete
II	Potrero de Lino
III	Lomas del Boquete
IV	Montañas de Jaramillo
a	Volcán de Chiriquí
b	Alto del Mono
c	Cerro Horqueta
d	Cerro de Lino
e	Casa de P. Valenzuela
f	2 Casas de J.N. Rodríguez
g	Casa de Sebastian Rodríguez
h	Casa de P. Rodríguez
i	Casa de P. Ledezma
j	Potrero de Quiel
k	Cerca de alambre de S.N. Rodríguez



Map of Boquete valley, 1887. Same of these settlers are: Rodríguez, Pittí, Quiel, Ledesma, Médica, Acosta, Turner, Taylor, Valenzuela

Source: David, historia y sociedad, of Mario Molina Castillo. 2002.

In 1907, the Secretary of the Government of Panama, Eusebio A. Morales, counted the coffee growers of Boquete:

J.R. Thomas (USA)

Aurelio Rovira (Panama)

James F. Denham (USA)

Elías González (Panama)

James Lawler (Ireland)

Luis Landero (Colombia)

J.M. Lastra (Panama)

Frank Tedman (Canada)

Felipe González (Panama)

Arturo Bradley (England)

Emilio Kant (Germany)

Source: El diario de Panamá. 1907

J.R. Thomas was hired in 1894 by a Chicago firm: BOQUETE COFFEE & COMMERCIAL CO., to travel to Boquete to run the Santa Maria farm, dedicated to growing coffee.



In 1907 the farm had 75,000 coffee trees.

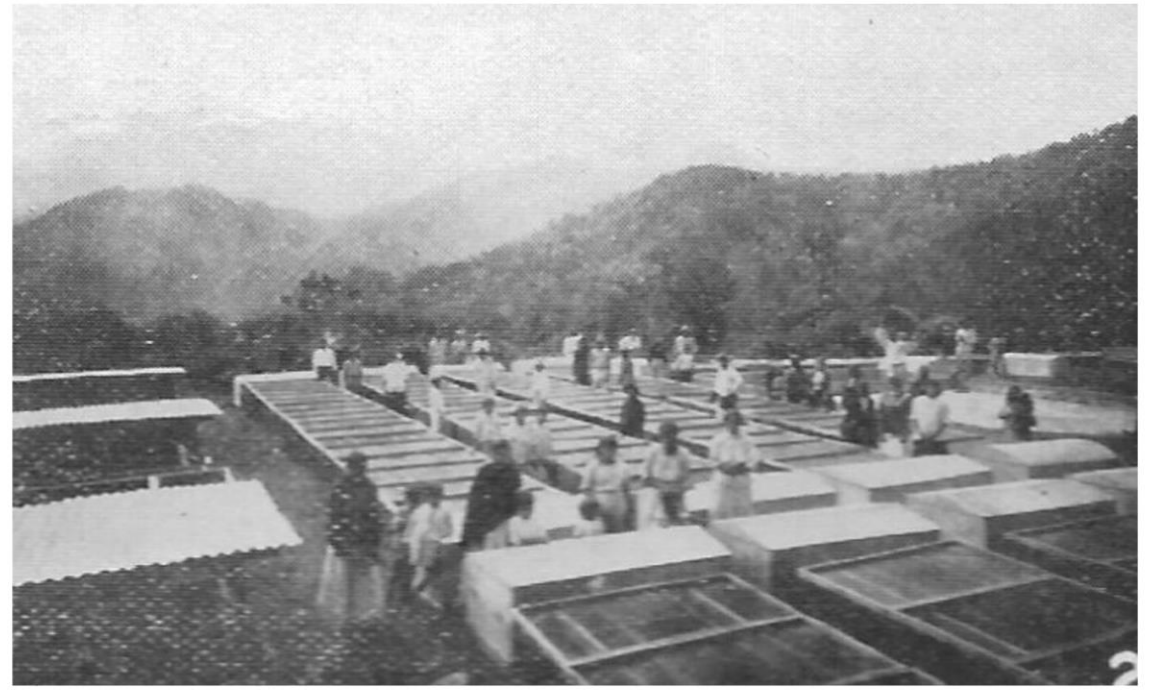
J.R. Thomas was also responsible for introducing the grafted orange in Panama



James Fleming Denham (c. 1918). He was born in Palo Alto, California and arrived in Panama in 1898. He called Palo Alto the place where he settled in Boquete. Maintained cattle farms, coffee processing plant (*beneficios*) and commissary.



Denham built five buildings to house 250 workers. He had stills (*alambiques*) and sawmills (*aserraderos*).



Mr. Denham's house.

Source: El libro Azul, 1916.



## Mr. Denham's Commissary

The Panama Canal Commission bought it in 1914, for gold \$20,000 in coffee.

Source: El libro Azul, 1916.



Emilio C. Kant (1864-1927). nephew grandson of the German philosopher Immanuel Kant. He arrived in Panama in 1890 and settled in Alto Lino, Boquete. Besides being a coffee grower, he was an apothecary (*boticario*) and an explorer.

In the picture appears at the top of the Baru volcano with other explorers and holding the German flag.

This happened in the early twentieth century.



Explorers led by Fernando Ledesma. Emilio Kant appears at the far right.

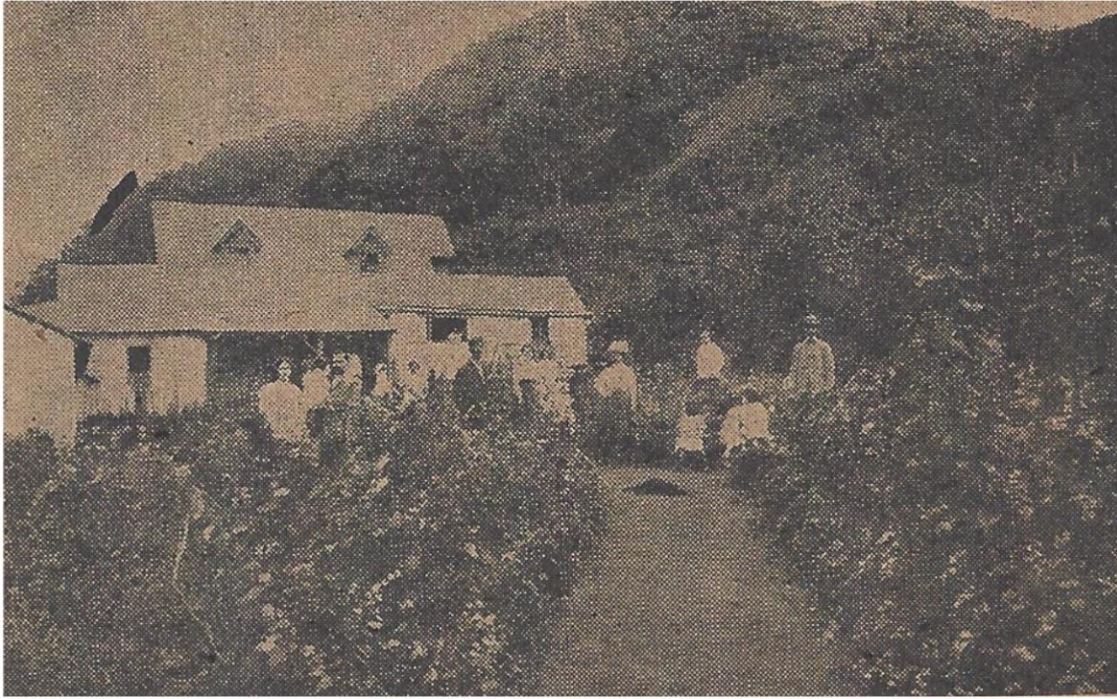
Kant had 11 children with two local women from Boquete.



Henry John Watson (1870-1919) was born in England. He worked with the Pacific Steam Navigation Co. He married with Manuelita Rodríguez and settled in Boquete. They had eight children.



Watson owned numerous gold objects extracted from the native graves. These artifacts were discovered while the land was being prepared to plant the coffee trees.



Hotel Lino, 1905

Hotel Lino, property of Henry and Manuelita Watson.



Source: Ecos del Valle, 1949

Between 1900 and 1904, Watson received Wilmont Brown Jr., at his hotel. In 1911, the Swiss naturalist Henri Pittier.

National political figures also stayed at Hotel Lino.



Source: El Libro Azul, 1916.

Among the properties of Henry Watson was a coffee processing plant that used an electric plant (installed in 1914), the first in the country outside the Canal Zone, which also served the sawmills and Hotel facilities.

Blasina Samudio, of *doraz* genes, is one of the pioneers of Boquete. He married the Italian Domingo Medica. She was a farmer until the end of her days.







Petra Quiros, better known as Mamita Petra, as well as Boquete pioneer, was the most popular midwife for several decades.



Basilio Quiel, of the town of Guacá, in the district of David, was the colonizer of the lands that today are known as Quiel.

His wife was Andrea Atencio, with whom he had ten children.

## MAP OF DISTRICT OF BOQUETE

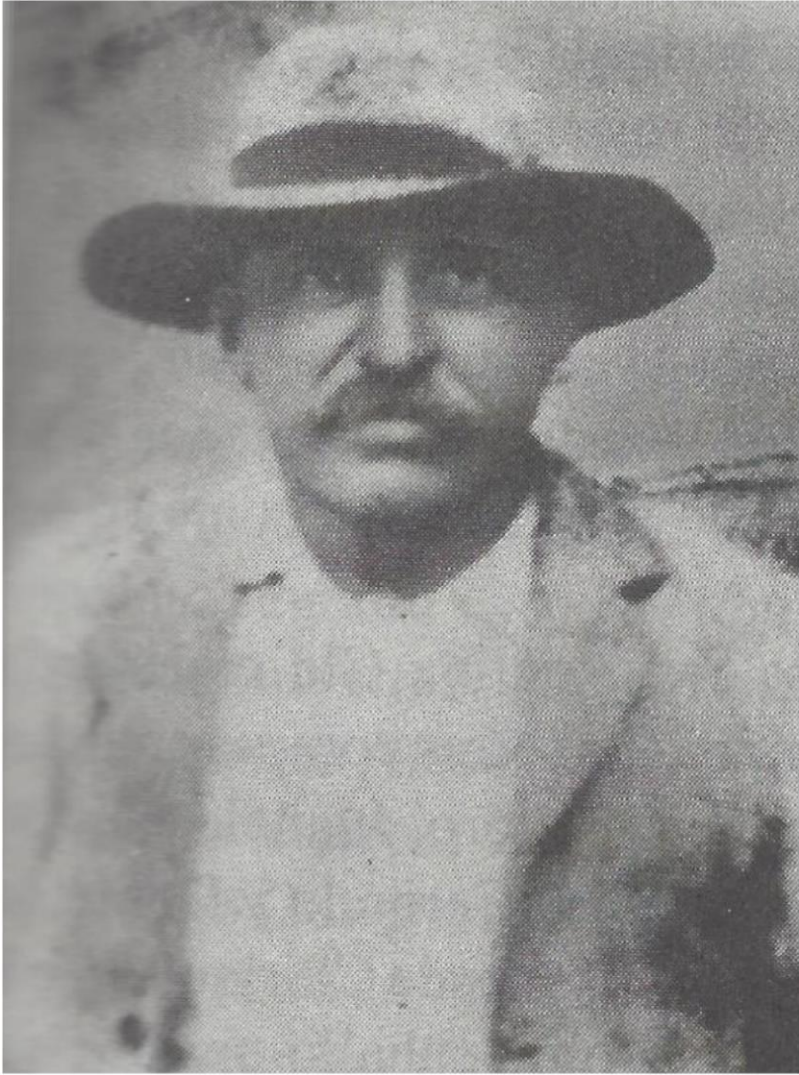


The district of Boquete was born on April 17, 1911, with a headboard in Alto Lino, where the church was, a stocks (for punishment) (*cepo*) and a small post office.



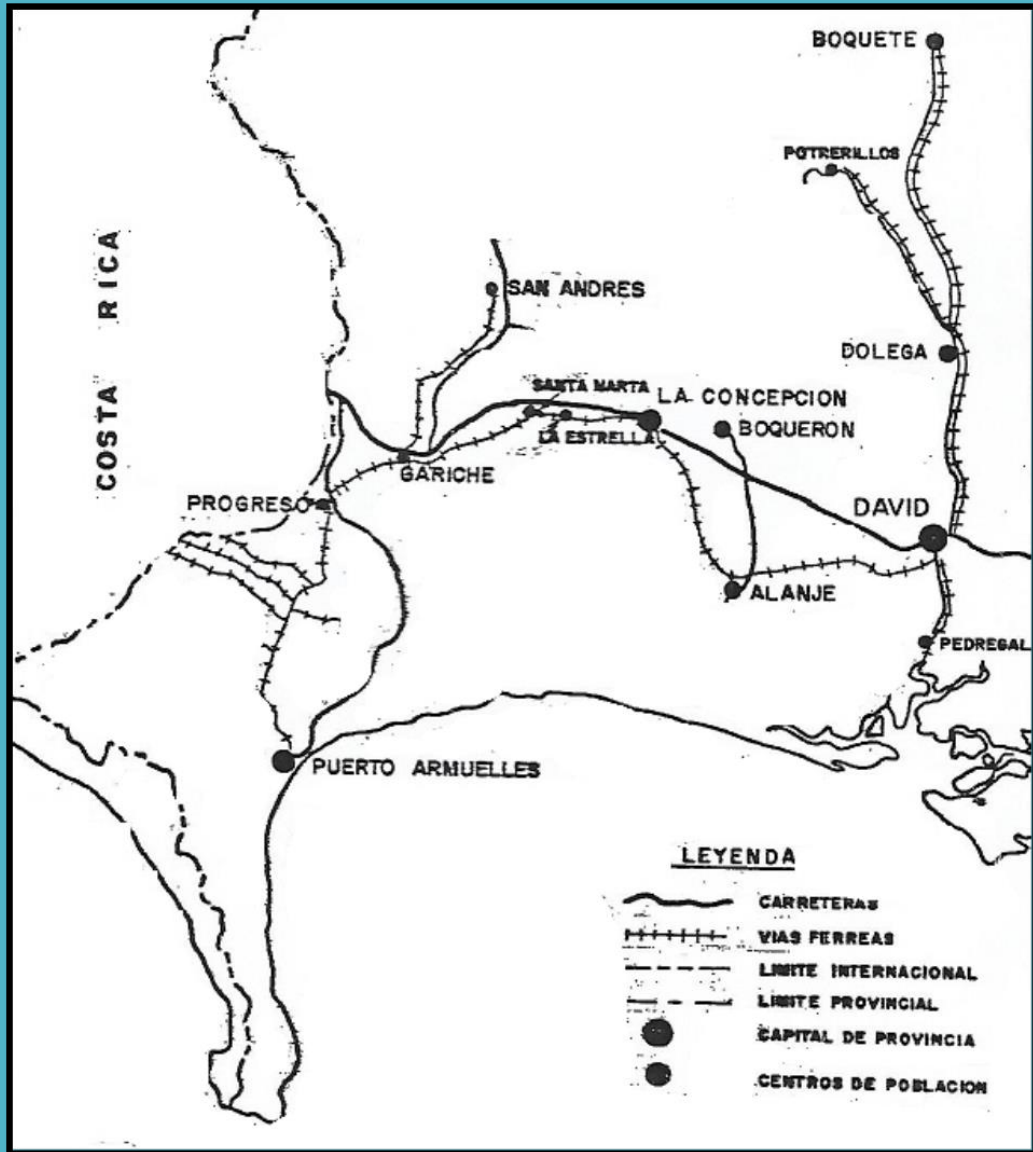
Photo: Milvia Sandberg

Thanksgiving Day in Alto Quiel, 1918. From left to right: Wrigth, Griffen, Sandberg, Sheaffer families.

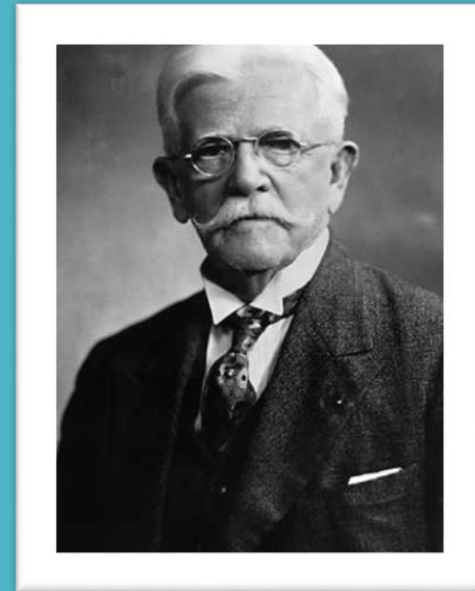


## “The Pioneer”

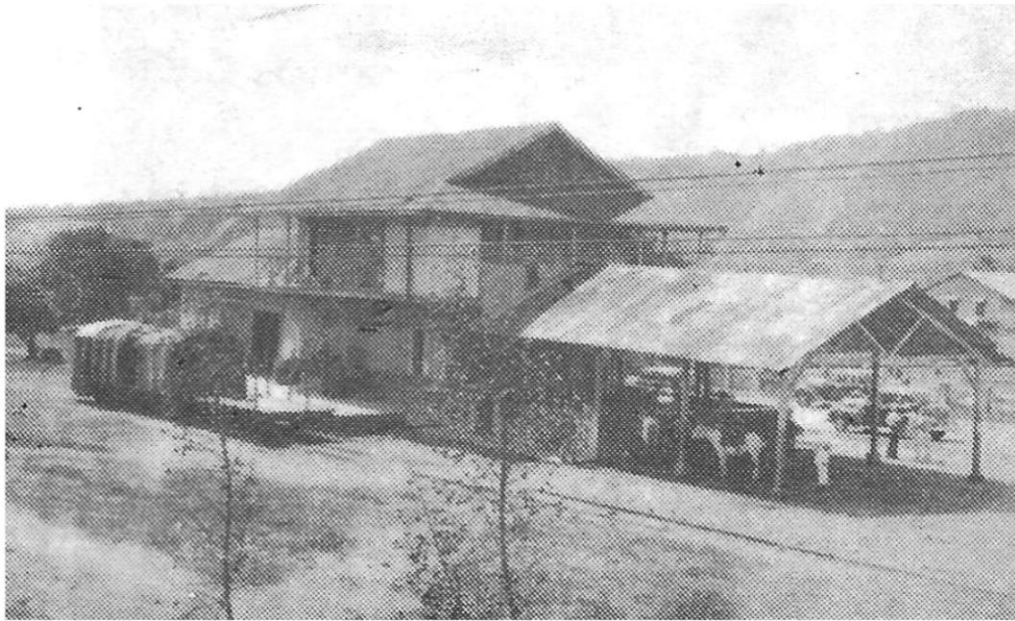
Juan Landau, German, began to grow bananas in Bocas del Toro. He made the Chiriquí-Bocas del Toro crossings along the *Tres de Noviembre* route. Landau bought land in Boquete; and he was bitten by a snake trying a way between Boquete and Bocas del Toro, in 1919.



The work of greatest impact to increase the population of Boquete was the National Railroad of Chiriqui, work of Dr. Belisario Porras that was inaugurated in 1916.



# Itinerary of trains



## Ferrocarril Nacional de Chiriquí 1939

Itinerario de trenes que regirá en los días 19 y 20 de Marzo con motivo de las fiestas patronales de la ciudad.

DIA 19

### SALIDAS

David - Boquete

7.30 a. m. 10.30 a. m.  
4.00 p. m. 11.00 p. m.

David - Armuelles

7.30 a. m.  
3.00 p. m. 11.00 p. m.

### SALIDAS

Boquete - David

7.00 a. m. 1.30 p. m.  
3.00 p. m. 7.00 p. m.

Armuelles - David.

6.45 a. m. 9.00 a. m.  
2.00 p. m.

DIA 20

David - Boquete.

9.30 a. m.  
4.30 p. m. 11.00 p. m.

David - Armuelles.

7.30 a. m.  
2.00 p. m. 11.00 p. m.

Boquete - David.

7.00 a. m. 7. p. m.  
2.30 p. m.

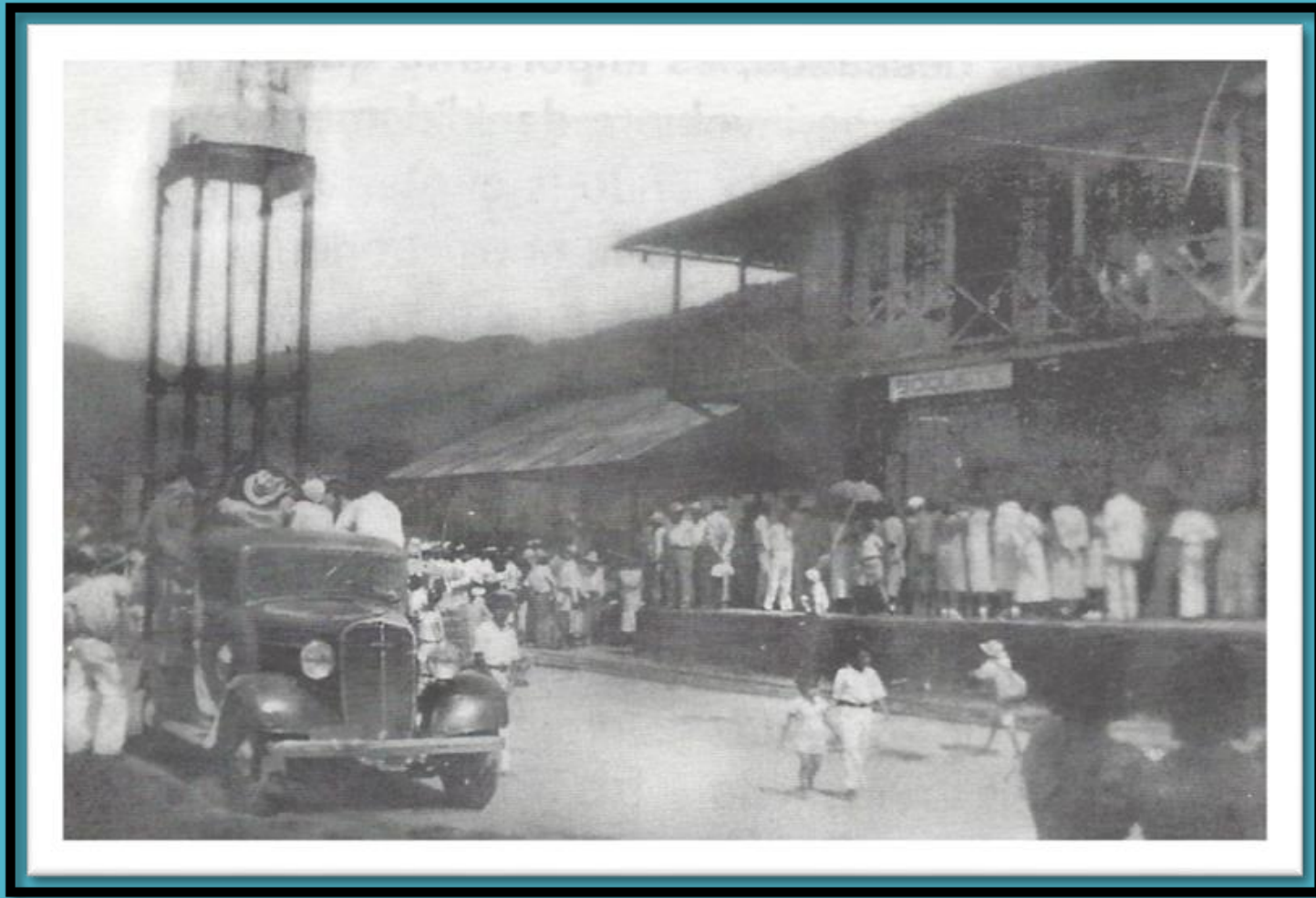
Armuelles - David

6.45 a. m. 9.00 a. m.  
2.00 p. m.

Los pasajes de cualquier punto de la línea a David o vice-versa tendrán un descuento del 25 por ciento.  
No habrá pasajes de ida y regreso.

Ing. MANUEL V. PATIÑO

Superintendente General

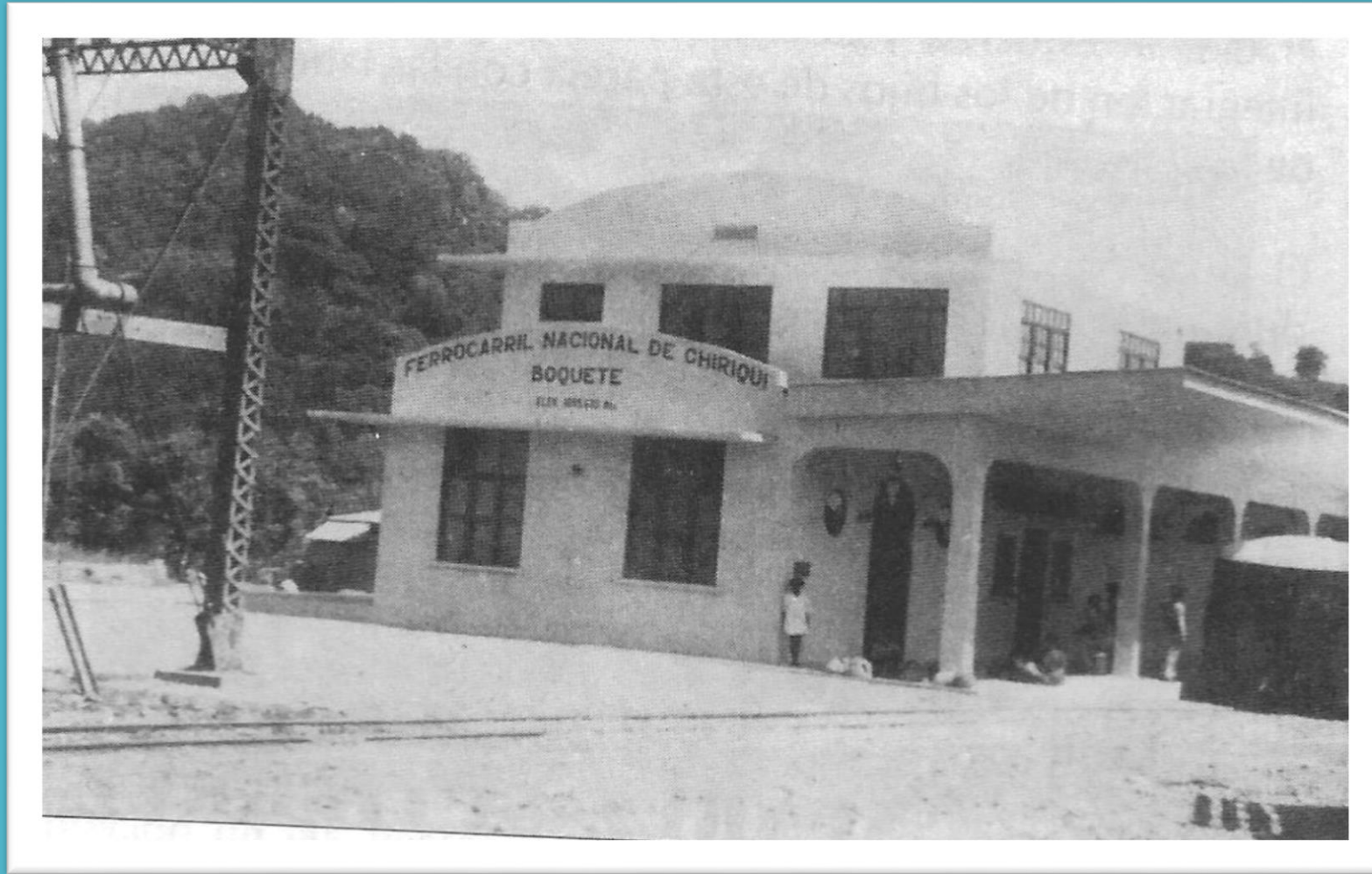


The Railroad allowed the transfer of people, products, and merchandise from and to Boquete. The influx of foreigners who came for a walk allowed some to settle in Boquete.





Locomotive No. 1 of the *Chiriquí* National Railway



Last building of the National Railroad of Chiriqui, built in 1947. Current Municipal Palace.



Photo:

<http://www.panamaviejaescuela.com/historia-districto-boquete/>

A wagon of the National Railway of Chiriquí, 40 years of the XX century.



Photo: Milvia Sandberg

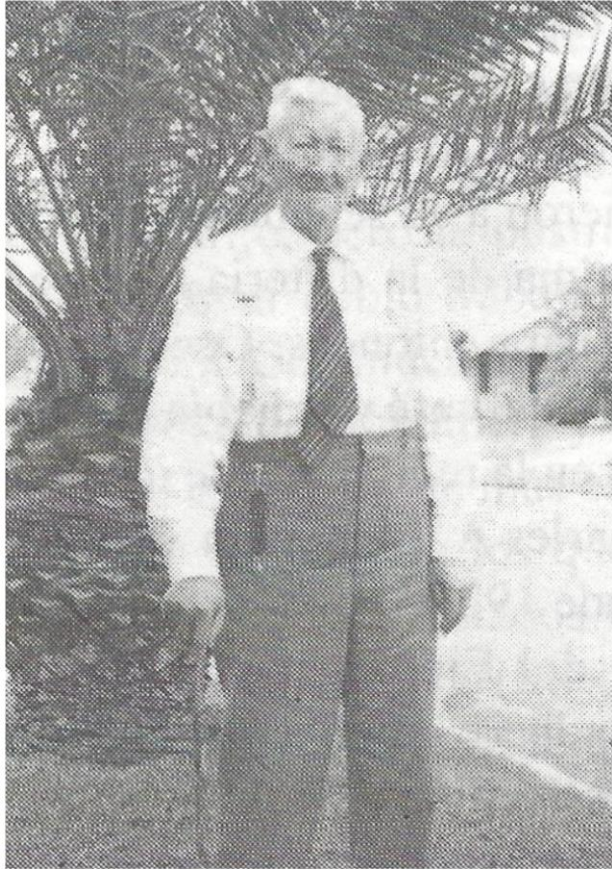
Charles Lindberg, on the railroad, arrived in Boquete on January 28, 1928. Here with some members of the foreign colony: Mr. and Mrs. Wright, Oscar Sandberg, Dr. Talboy.



Lindberg, on a bench at the Wright Hotel (now Panamonte Hotel), enjoys an orange. January, 1928.

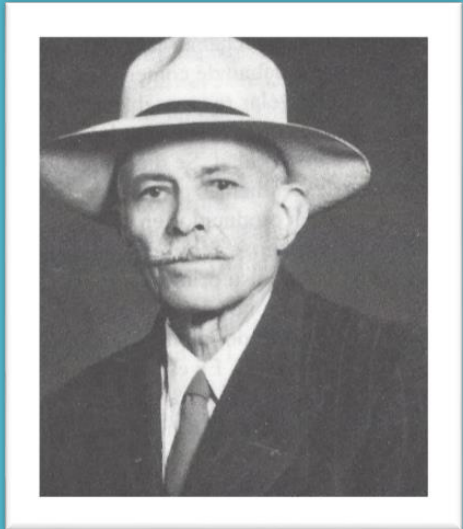
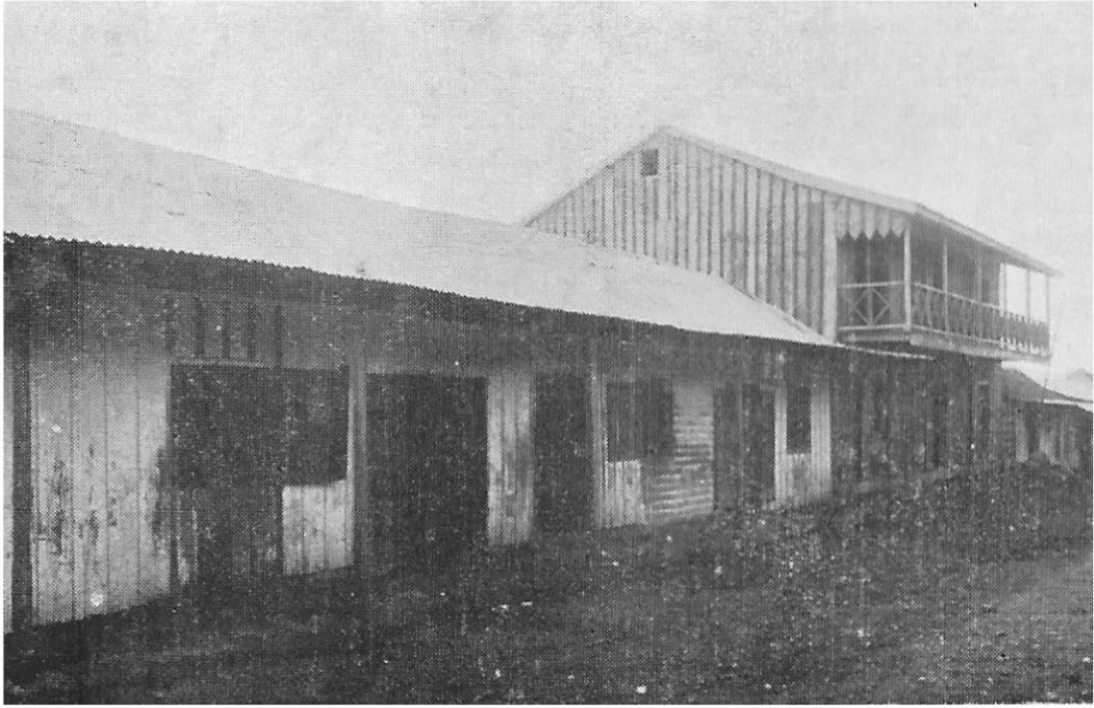
Rear Admiral Richard Byrd dictates to his secretary his memoirs about his expeditions to the poles. Courtyard of the Wright Hotel, 1930.





William Joseph "Pop" Wriqht (1863-1962) Texan. Worked on the Panama Railroad. He arrived in Boquete in 1914. He bought land from Watson and founded the Wriqht Hotel. Wrote the chronicles "The Boquete Bugle" in El Panama America that promoted the arrival of many to these lands.

"Will Rogers of Central America"



Hotel Bolivar, owned by Luis Landero  
(Colombian).

It was located close to the railway station.  
Considered at that time one of the most modern.

The horse was the main means of transportation and of cargo for the *boqueteño* farmers. In the photo the Nicaraguan Pedro Galán, on his horse in one of the first bridges raised in the 30 's.



Photos: Ciro Galán

Photo:

<http://www.panamaviejaescuela.com/historia-distrito-boquete/>





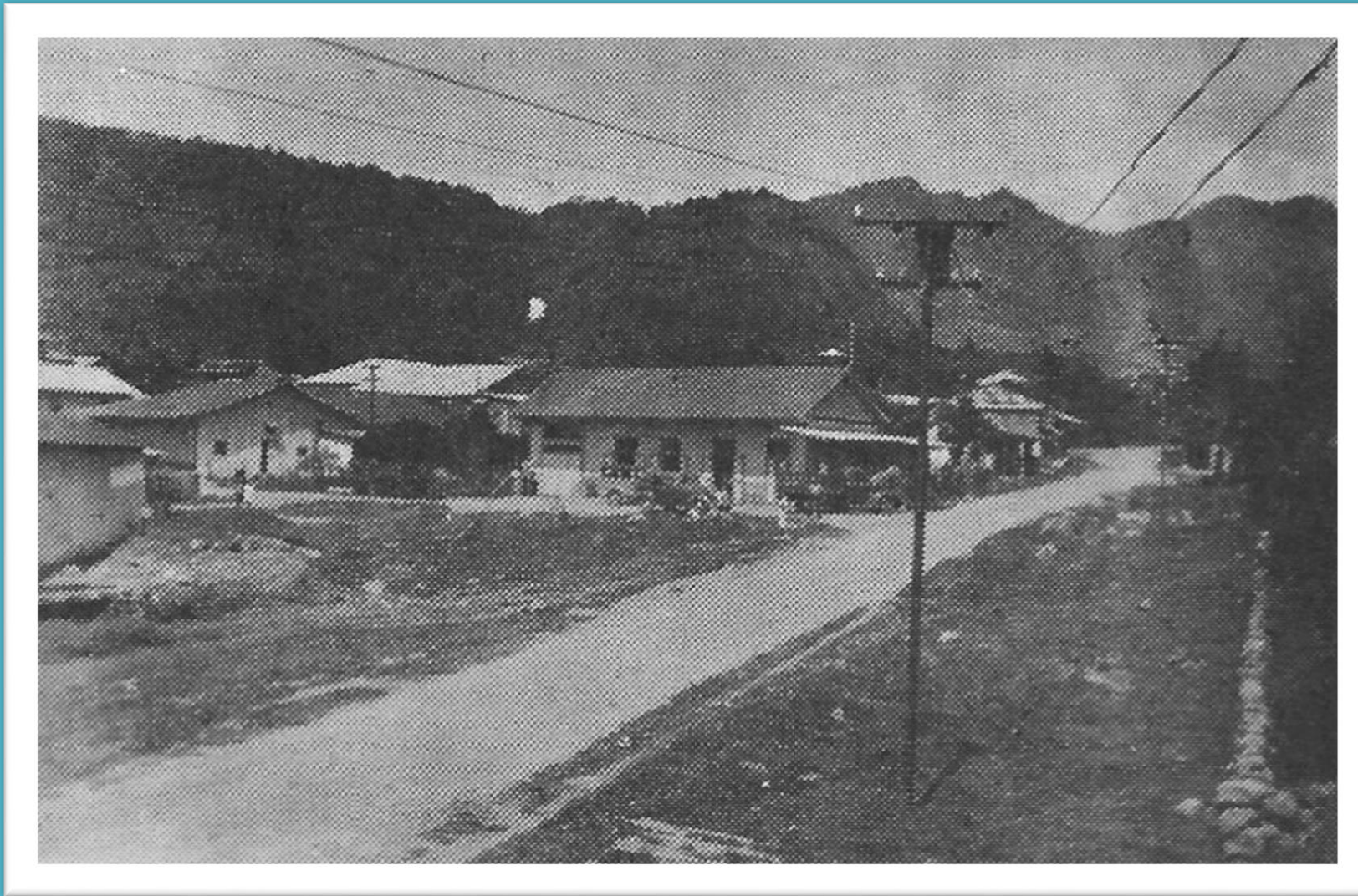
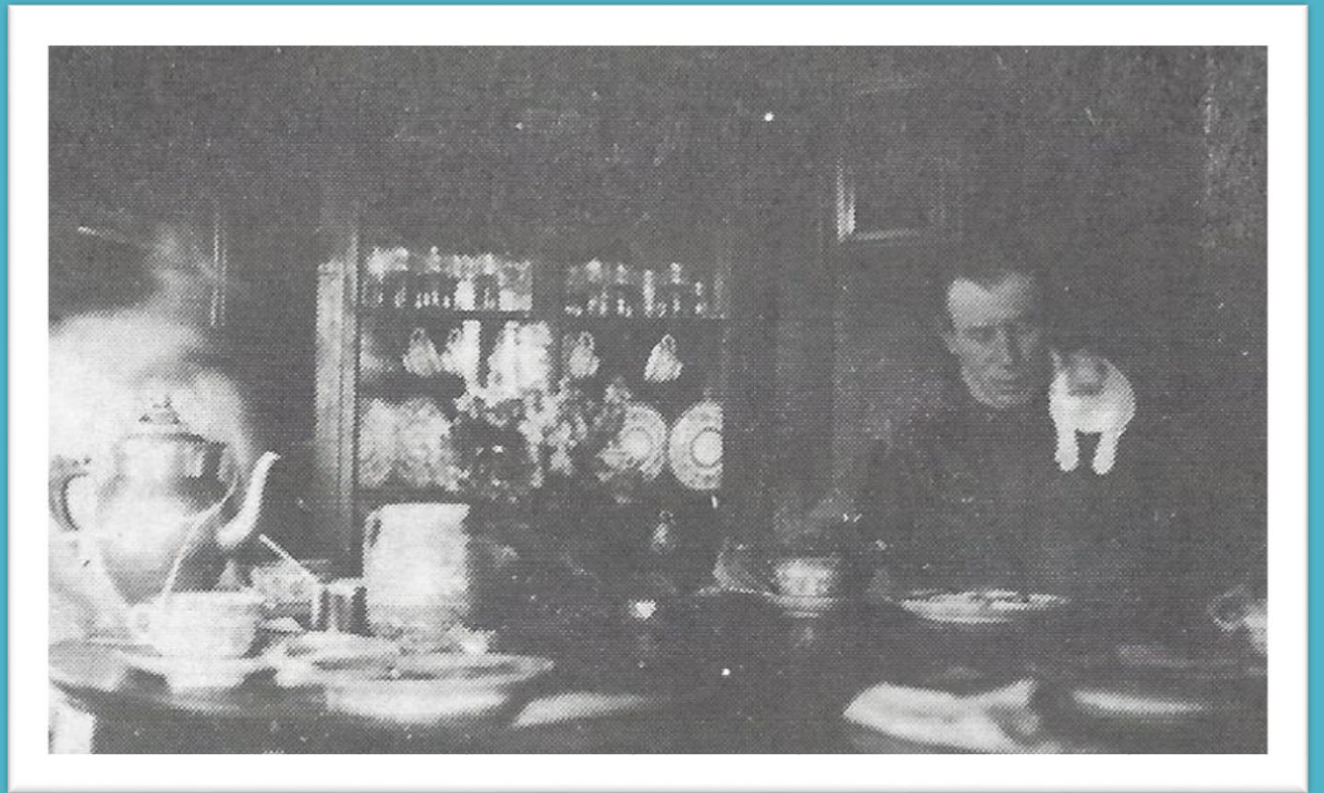
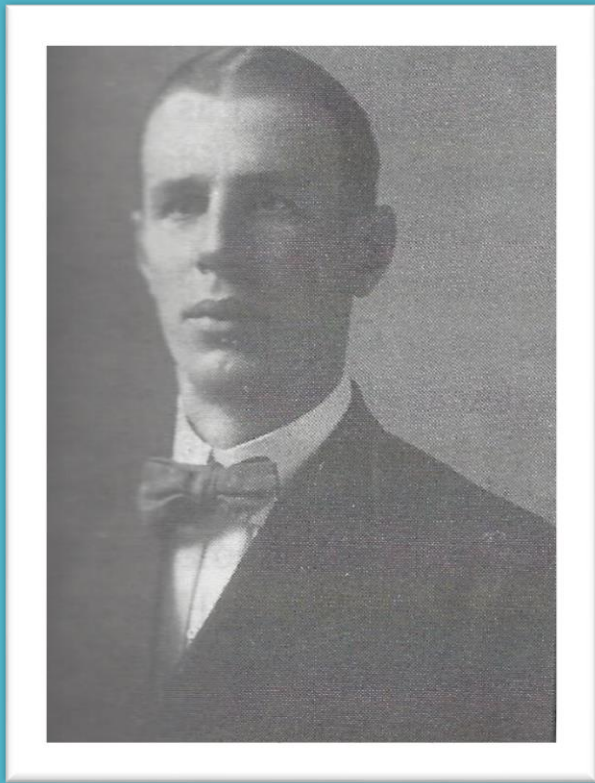


Photo: Inga Collins

Gasoline pump of the Spanish Luciano Bruña, one of the first businesses dedicated to this service. End of years 30.



Tollef Bache Monniche (1874-1958), Norwegian engineer hired by Theodore Roosevelt to work on the Panama Canal.

In 1917 he arrived in Boquete and bought Finca Lerida.  
Horticulturist, naturalist, coffee grower.

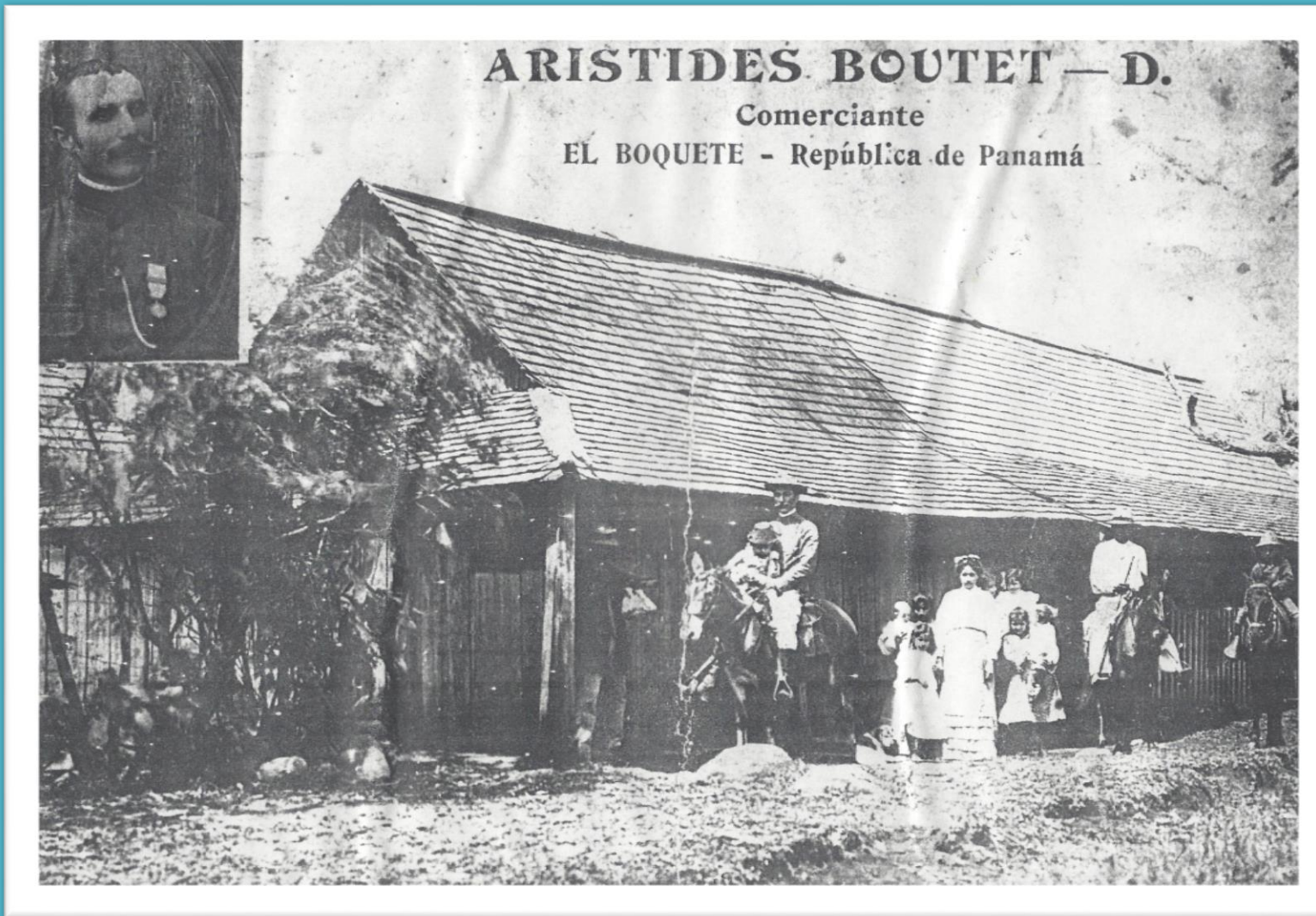
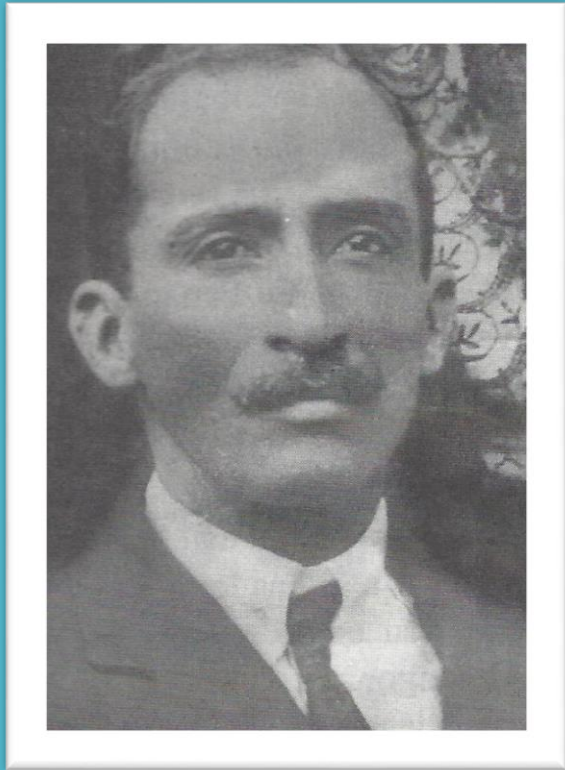


Photo Postcard, 1901

Aristides Boutet, military and French pharmacist. He held a commissary in Boquete. He had 14 descendants with local women.



Enrique Vásquez (1880-1940), born in Cocle, but settled in Boquete for health reasons. Farmer, politician, cattleman, and merchant. Established the first aqueduct in the community.

## CHAVETAS



Tokens issued by coffee farms as a counting method. They were called *chavetas*.

Most of these pieces were made of aluminum, copper, tin, and brass.



They were equivalent to collecting a quarter, a half, and a can of coffee.

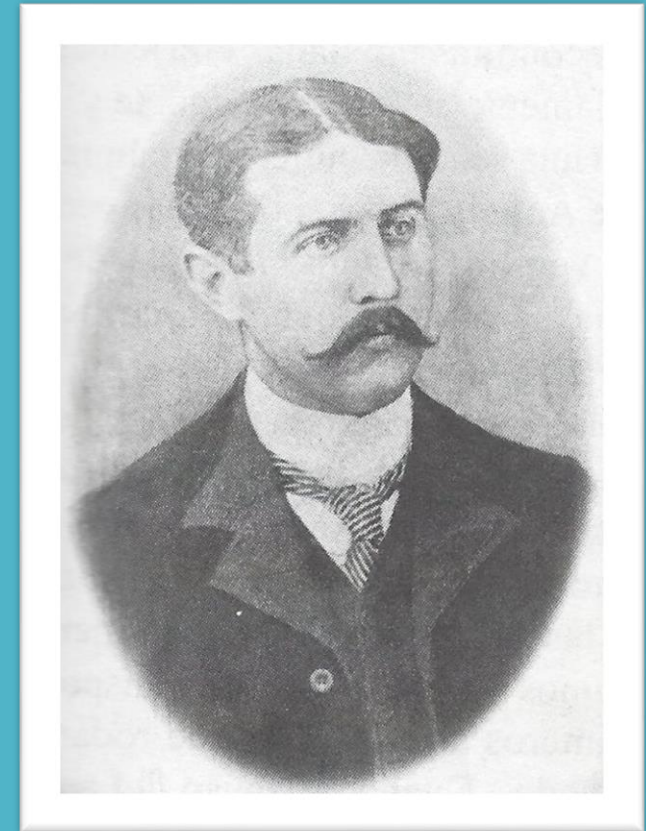


Only the most recent tokens, were those used in the Finca Arco Iris of Arnulfo Arias (today Mireya Moscoso, expresident of Panama). They were made of color plastic.



The Canadian Alexander D. McIntyre coined coins comparable to those of legal circulation. All were made of aluminum.

McIntyre (1875-1947), member of the Canadian Parliament. He arrived in Boquete in 1925 and married Angela Rosas (of *doraz* genes). He exported coffee in small quantities. He had his own coffee processing plant in Palo Alto. (Today: Kotowa Coffee)







Boquete in the first decades of the 20th century. The electric line already appears, but the streets without asphalt.

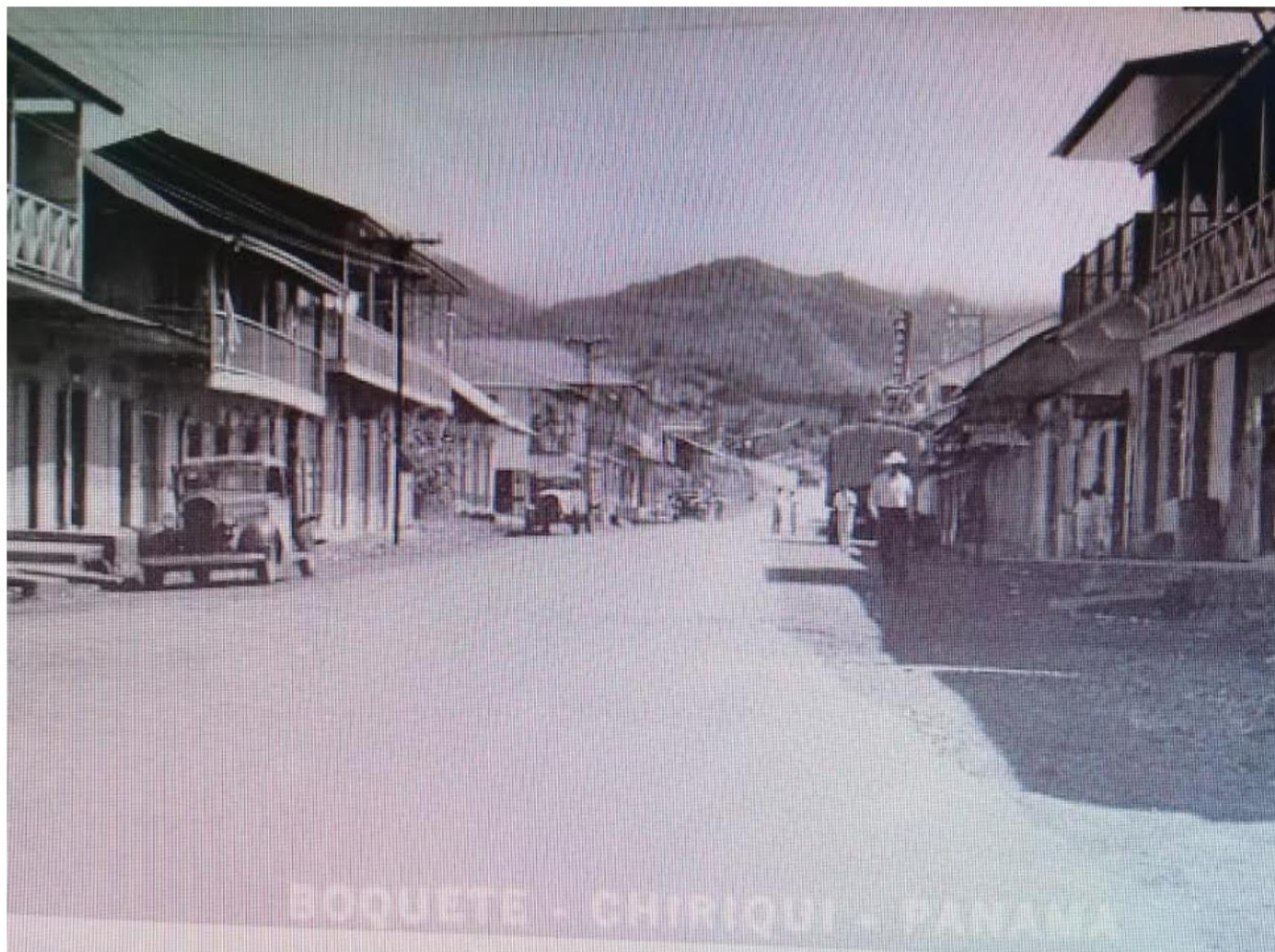


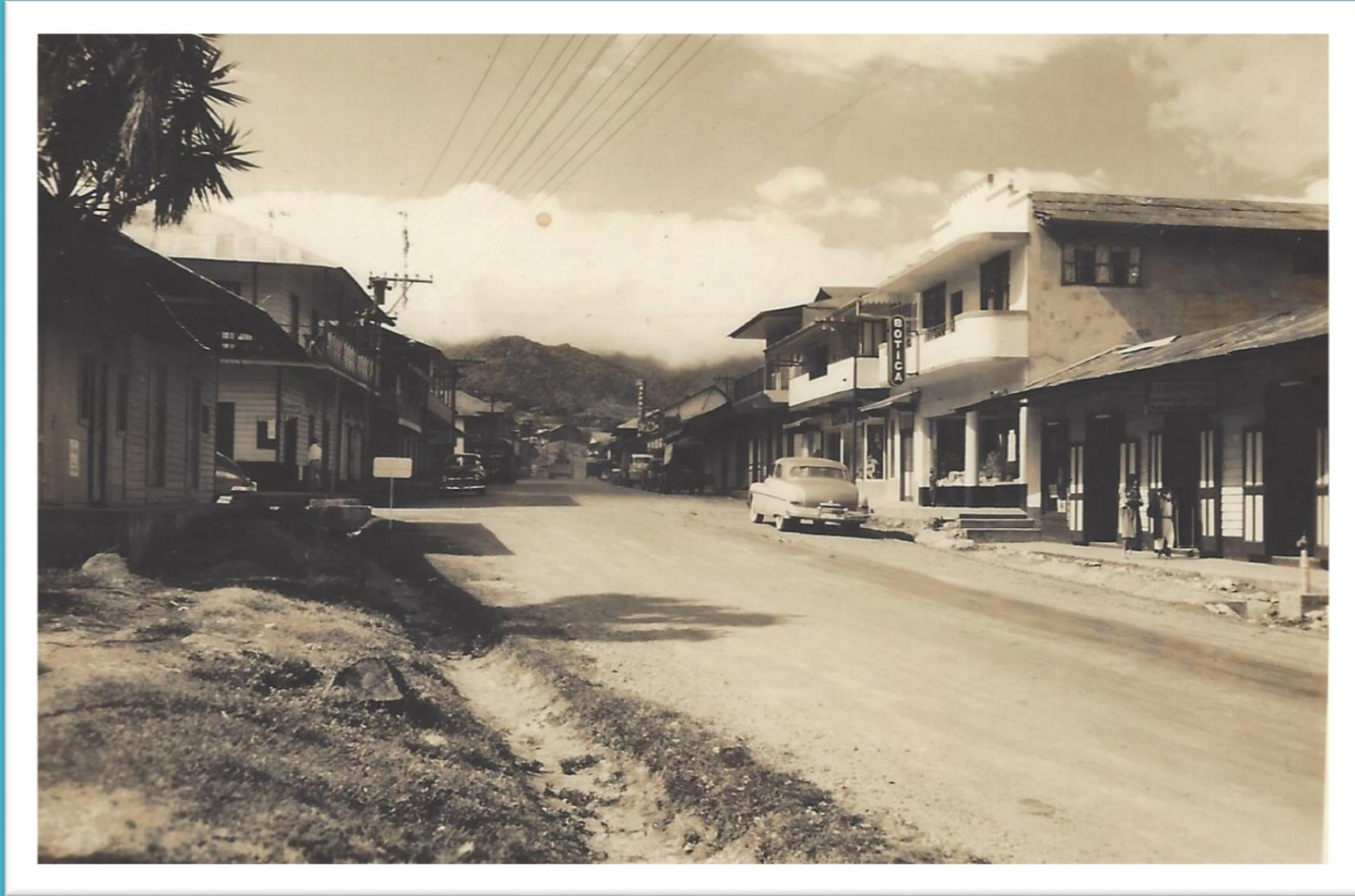
Photo:

<http://www.panamaviejaescuela.com/historia-distrito-boquete/>

Central Street of Boquete in the 1940s.



The David-Boquete highway was inaugurated in 1949, with this the use of the railroad declined and socio-economic changes were achieved in Boquete and its towns.



Central Avenue of Boquete, in the late 1950s



Photo:

<http://www.panamaviejaescuela.com/historia-distrito-boquete/>

Bajo Boquete, in the 1970s

## Population of Boquete 1911-2010.

Año	Habitantes
1911	1,589
1920	2,669
1930	4,035
1940	4,995
1950	6,901
1960	10,260
1970	9,914
1980	11,643
1990	14,126
2000	16,943
2010	21,370



*Thanks you..*