

L-1 FEB 1979

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Move for Sir Harold Allan's memorial in Portland

The people of Portland, have been asked through their Parish Council by the Association of Local Government Officers (ALGA); to support a move to erect a commemorative structure in honour of one of their native sons, the late Sir Harold Allan, the founder of ALGA.

Sir Harold Allan, Jamaica's first Minister of Finance died in 1953 after 26 years of public service.

He served as schoolmaster, Parochial Board member (now Parish Council), and then as Member of the House of Representatives (MHR) for Portland before it was divided in two constituencies. He then represented East Portland and died unseated.

As a public servant, Sir Harold whose widow Lady Allan is an outstanding social worker — served his country in many fields, including agriculture and sports — mainly cricket. He was awarded the OBE before the Knighthood.

On the international scene, he represented Jamaica at the

Geneva world trade talks, General Agreement on Trade and Tariff (GATT), and was accompanied by Lady Allan who performed free for Jamaica, his secretarial work at the conference.

The Portland PC early this month (January), was asked by Councillor Hayden McCarthy (PNP), to take note of the decision by ALGA to commemorate Sir Harold. The proposal is to find a site for a structure to be used for cultural purposes, and be named after the late Knight.

There had been talk that his widow, Lady Allan might be willing to donate her old Capitol Theatre site for the purpose. The Capitol was destroyed by fire many years after Sir Harold's death.

Lady Allan, who receives no pension from the Jamaica Government, said however that she could not afford to donate the Capitol site, as it was her only remaining asset. However, she would be willing to let the council have it at a

reasonable price, so long as it would be used for cultural purposes. She had offered it to the council which had been pressuring her to demolish the ruins. And in addition, the taxation assessed on the site had been termed by some as "repressive."

Meanwhile, she had been patiently waiting on the council — against private would-be purchasers in Pt. Antonio — to state definitely whether it would acquire the site. She had given verbally, also, permission to a Works Ministry officer to demolish the Capitol's ruins.

The council on the other hand, has been hard put finding land room for proposed extension of its public market. It has been working on an approved resolution, also moved by Councillor McCarthy, for the erection of an office complex which would accommodate some 15 government offices for which government now pays considerably high rental.

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