

James  
p. 8.

E.F.  
ab. 10.5.48

INTERVAL WITH ERCELINE ROCHESTER.

Erceline was 26 in April last. Born in Shaddock Hill, Bull Savannah, she married Cecil Rochester ~~in~~ 3 years ago. She set up house and house-keeping about a year before she married him.  
with Cecil

Family History

Her mother is Mrs. Alma Rochester of Shaddock Hill. Her father Panton Rochester. He has premised shared with his wife in Shaddock Hill.

Children of Alma with Panton are:

1. Isaac Rochester. He is about 28. He is farm-working in America.
2. Erceline Rochester 26 (i.e.-herself)
3. Lucille Rochester 24; she is in U.S.A. for which she left 4 years ago. She was sent for for by her mother's Nicola Samuda.
4. Dexter Clayton Rochester 22; he shares house with his parents.
5. George Headly Rochester, 16; He is also sharing house with his parents.
6. Erol Rochester, 12; he shares house with parents; he is attending the B.S. ~~school~~ school.
7. Ciscyln Rochester, 10. She lives with her parents
8. Edwin Roches ter, 8, He lives with his parents.
9. Bobsie Rochester, 7. She livss with her ~~pa~~ parents.

Geprge, Erol, Ciscyln and Bobsie are frequent visitors to Erceline's. Frequently they share meals with her.

Her Household is as follows:

- Cecil Rochester, head.
- Erceline Rochester, wife.
- Norma Jean Rochester, dau. 5.
- Reuben Reynon Rochester, son, 4.
- Alwin Kern Rochester, son 10/12 year old. ~~5~~ <sup>5</sup>

Erceline nicknamed and generally called "Coolie Gal," is a woman of large proportions and jovial disposition. Seen on the occasion of the interview given in her kitchen were Delis Neil, a sisters child, (She did not say which sister) and her sister Cisclyn Rochester.

Coolie Gal lives with the above household in a 2 apartment house built by her husband who is an active carpenter. At present she shares the bedroom with her husband and the children.

The other room "the hall" has been rented to me. The arrangement for rental was made by Miss Jude (F. R. 1.) with whom I am boarded.

### Career

#### School

She attended the Bull Savannah Elementary school from she was 7 till she was 15. She left school in the 5th book. (It is doubtful whether she really reached 5th standard. She 'stumbled' when asked how she spells her name. She did not spell it phonetically even.)

#### At Sewing

After school she "went to <sup>sewing</sup> ~~school~~ with Miss Zillah Simpson" of Shaddock Hill. Her mother an' father -"both of them" paid ~~her~~ 10/- per quarter for her sewing tuition.

She remained at Mrs. Simpson for about one year. She left after the year because she did not feel inclined to go any longer, besides "the lady (Mrs. Simpson) did fall sick."

She did not feel inclined to go back "because a never love it." She had wanted instead to "do home domestic -stay in the home." She had only been going to Mrs. Simpson's because her parents had sent her. She had not dared to tell them she did not want to learn to do sewing, "or them woulda beat me kill me; them give me plenty of that."

After spending a the year with Mrs. Simpson, she became firmly resolved not to go back. Her parents would have beaten her then -"but mi hide." They find a didn't love it, an' them don't bother to sen mi back."

#### At home

She stayed at home for a number of years after leaving the sewing. She stayed "doin' the yard work -cook and wash an' such such things." She was about 17 when she ceased to do the sewing.

#### At Kellets: She works

She went to Kellets "to work with some people. When a go there a fine (find) out that it was a man an' wi couldn' get along." She had been told about this job by a "a white man name' Fordeer an' by Miss Jude." She had thought she would be working with a wife and husband, but found that her job was "with a ~~king~~ man alone."

Relations with her employer

She did not like ~~XXXX~~ "the man because/ben (ben=~~XXXX~~) was - had been) <sup>him</sup> fresh; him was a fasty chap." She would not say why she thought him "fresh, fasty." -"Him some with him fastiness an' a run him away." She said "away" with proud emphasis.

She was in Kelltes altogether for 4 months. Her employer waited till he had got used to her before "him some with him fastiness. Him was a hard man. (A hard man = a full grown -middle aged man) Him go a America an' all that; was a rich man, a rich brute, but him was not my companion; a one ol' tough ~~XXXXXX~~ neaga (negro).

With this man she was supplied with quarters ~~and~~ was fed and paid 10/- per week.

Correspondence: savings.

She used to write home frequently, but sent no monies. She had gone to the Kellets job with £6 she had saved from wrapping tomatoes during the tomato crpp after which she had ~~gone~~ left B.S. During the 4 months stay in Kellets she saved £2. 10/-

She buys and sells

She did not use any of the savings she took from B.S. while she was in Kellets. She added the £2. 10/- saved at Kellets ~~to~~ to the £6 previously saved. This made a total of £8. 10/-

She returned home with this amount and began to "go back and forth between Kingston and Bull Savannah" She bought ~~with her~~ in Bull Savannah with her savings "fowls, eggs, empty bottles, tomatoes an' fruit like paw-paw, watermelon and naseberries." She sold these in Kingston.

It is now such a long time ago that she was engaged in these transactions that she does not remember what was the profit made from the transactions. She used to make "a good profit."

She continued ~~at~~ buying ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ things in Bull Savannah and selling them in Kingston for about 3 years. She stopped then because "a didn't feel to worry with it any longer." Asked why she was uninclined to continue the business she added -"the Mr. Cecil wouldn't let mi keep it up any longer." It was while she was engaged in this business that she became attached to Cecil.

Friday,  
May 14, 1948.

Ed.F.

Nov -4-

Fam. Rec. 27

INTERVIEW WITH ERCELINE ROCHESTER.

Career.

"A work in de factory ecery year and not in the family way. A guarantee to work there every year after now, because a not getting that way again."

Asked how she could be so sure she laughed and said, "a sure! a sure! A have to keep meself from it."

She is not practicing any method of birth control, she is just hoping she wont have anymore children although her husband would like to have as many as he can.

Her Children.

Norma was born in the Mandeville Hospital. Ercelyne had beensent there by Doctors Henriques and Mais who had advised her to have her baby in the hospital because she had kidney and heart trouble. She went to live in Mandeville with Mrs. Jacques, a sister of her husband. She was with Mrs. Jacques about 6 weeks before Norma was born. Mrs. Jacques had heard about her difficulty and had invited her up to Mandeville.

Expenses during illness. The illness cost a lot of money. "a no me it really cost, is her daddy. Yes that little nigger deh cost a lot of money," she added affectionately motioning towards Norma meantime. Norma was then playing about the kitchen doorway. (The interview was given in the kitchen.)

At Mrs. Jacques' home "it never cost me no money but it cost me four guineas to stay in the hospital". She was frequently visited by her husband, her mother, Mrs. J. and by a friend in Mandeville named Daisy Powell. Daisy is from Bull Savannah. These visitors brought her "eggs and plenty plenty fruits." She remained in hospital for nine days. Her husband visited her 4 times during this period. He came in Mrs. Claston Rochester's car, which cost him 7/- for each trip. Other passengers were always taken in the car.

The other children are born in the two roomed house. A nana attended her---The Nana, Mrs. Cella Simpson of Shaddock hill--- Mrs. Simpson was a good Nana.. "she know her work good." There is no Government nurse in the area but Erceline feels that they did not need one. Mrs. Simpson is now dead. The Government had always tried to turn her down and could not make anything out of it fo r she have her certificate from a doctor.

There is a Govt. nurse in Southfield but she never attnds anybody in Bull Savannah.

Food preferences.

"The chief food we have down here right now is bammy and gungu ( congo peas). Every week end you get a piece of beef. Sometimes during the week ~~xxx~~ too we get a fish. Sometime we have to get little salf fish but me no love it."

She also gets corn, yam and sweet potatoes but that is only during season. ~~xxxxxxx~~ In August we get corn. In September yam and sweet cassava. Me no like one food. Me mix up the food. We have the bammy all the time for some people say them cant do without it. We have gungu from January to October. It always finish that time (Oct.) we eat more fish and cabbage and things like that after the gungu finish.

For dinner today she will cook rice and beef-- brown stew beef-- tomorrow she will have fish and bammy. Yesterday she had gungu and bammy. The day before yesterday she had fish and bammy.

She offers "all me brother them, me brother in law and mother in law when mealtime come and them is here." She sends a portion of every meal to her mother in law Mrs. Anne Neil. When Miss Anne cooks the same kind of dinner Erceline does not send her anything however.

Expenditure.

She spends varying sums per week. She does not know how much. She buys whatever she needs as often as she has need. She never buys all her groceries at the beginning of the week.

Courtship. & Marriage.

Of her courtship and marriage with Cecil Rochester, she said, "him se me and me/and him were in love for a few weeks and then him begin to come to me home. He start to visit very often, as him never used to visit the home so often, me daddy ask ~~xxxxxxx~~ him what footing him coming on, him say is my footing."

Her father then asked her "if is me make him coming there anad a tell him yes." Hearing that her father said "it is all right then." Cecil had spoken to her father-- tell him what is him intention-- Asked what was Cecil's intention, she said, "to married!"

Mother's attitude to pregnancy.

Her mother "raised juce," quarrelled when she became pregnant. She told Erceline "you cant stay here at all we will have to find somewhere to put you." Her father said, "just the same thing." both of them agree to one thing. Her brother Isaac said something comforting to her. She does not remember what that was.

see him,

Her mother had sent her to call Cecil when she found out she was pregnant. "She tell him she found that I in de way. Cecil said is him do it and whatever in him power him will try him best. Cecil house was built at that time, him tell me a must come and a go."

She has been sharing house with him eversince. After she began living with him her parents ceased to quarrel. --that was after a settle down-- They began to visit her. Max She believes they quarrelled with her because they felt she should not have had a baby.

Wednesday,  
May 12.1948.  
Ed. F.

INTERVIEW WITH CECIL ROCHESTER.

Cecil Rochester, a e 33 is a carpenter and cultivator. He was born in Green Olive in the home of his parents Mrs. Anne Rochester ( now Mrs. Neil) and Alexander Rochester(d).

Parents children.

1. Mrs. Zala Gordon--Bottom Bull Savannah.
2. Rebecca Rochester-Kingston.
3. Mrs. Kerdel Plummer- Kingston, 75 East street.
4. Arthur Rochester, age 38--on premises.of parents.
5. Sydney Rochester, 36-- New Forest and Bull Savannah.
6. Cecil Rochester, 33 --informant.
7. Charlie Rochester, 31--"a dont know where to say him live. Him her today, tomorrow him in Savlamar." Shares room adjoining the kitchen on mother's premises, with Arthur.
8. Ishmael Rochester, 28--Kingston.
9. Bradley Rochester, 26--shares house with mother.
10. Mrs. Esther Jacques', 24-- Kingston.

Mrs. Jacques.

Left Bull Svannah during sheool age. She finished up schooling in Kingston where she stayed with her sisters Kerdel Plummer and Rebecca Rochester. That was in 1934. He dates her going by remembering that there was a storm in 1933, the year before she went. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~  
~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

Neither mother nor father had any children by another union.

Until about two weeks ago, Mrs. ~~XXXXXXXX~~ Zala Gordon's daughter Elsa LEE shared house with Mrs. Neil. Elsa left because "according to her condition ( pregnant) she wsonly there till she get a place where she dqn confine." She is now sharing housw with Jane Brown, a blind woman in premises adjoining Eustace Senior's.

Cecil's career.

School.

Cecil attended the Bull Savannah school from he was ~~15~~ ~~xxxxxxx~~ 7 till he was 15. After school he did " a little cultivating on a very poor scale. It happen that I get along with a carpenter named Joshua Neil" ( his mother's husband) Cecil was about 20 then.

--- I was at trade till it come that a can do something; a could handle the tools and made things like scrubbing boards and trays--- He left off learning with Mr. Neil then. He had not had to pay any money for learning the trade. He left off when he was abut 25. He had stayed with Neil for 4 or 5 years.

Work in the factory.

After leaving Mr. Neil, he went to work in the factory at 3/- per day; he described this work as a cheap business. His ~~xxxxxxx~~ duties were various, He did not ~~xxxxxxx~~ enumerate. Among the things he did was to build tables and a truck body. While at the factory he used to do a little cultivating. He did that to enable him to acquire some money to purchase tools. He planted about 3 squares of tobacco on his mother's land. This he sold to local buyers at 3d. to 4d. per lb. The first part of the crop sold was 83 lbs. to a man in Ballerds valley. He got £1. for it. Lat r he sold more of the corp.

He spent this <sup>money</sup> ~~£1~~ as follows:

- 1. One # 5 $\frac{1}{2}$  stanley plane -£ 1
- 2. One hadge 6/6-6
- 3. One saw 12/6
- 4. 2 chisels 9/6
- 5 one brace and 4 bitts 17/-
- 6. One tenon saw 6/-
- 7.

Have bought the above tools, " a go out working on a little house. The hpuse belongs to Nicholas Rochester of Green Olive, Bull Savannah. Nicholas is his ~~xxxxxx~~ wife's father's brother. Cecil did all the carpentry work required on the building. He got either 25/- or 28/- fer the work. That was about 1930.

He build a number of houses for various people after that. He charged various sums. He did the carpentry only. "All the houses about here are Spanish Walling." He charged frim £5 to £25 for the jobs done. The £5 job was for a thatched room. The other jobs ranging in price from £18 to £25. ~~xx~~ were 2 apartment houses.

24.8 -

Information from Leo Powell.  
Interv. Cecil and Erseline Rochester.  
14.6.48.  
J.O. 26.8.48.

Present household.

- Rochester Cecil, 50.
- „ Erseline, 27, wife.
- „ Norma, dau., 5.
- „ Rubin, son, 3.
- „ Alvin, son, 11 months.

.....

Rochester Cecil: parents Allie and Anny Rochester.  
 Allie /Alexander/ dead. ~~Ann~~ Brothers and sisters: Bradley,  
 Sydney, Arthur, Eshmale, Charlie, Curdel, Zala, Becky,  
 Stella.

Rochester Erseline, nee Rochester. Daughter of Pantox  
 and Alma Rochester. /See F.R. 149/.  
 Cecil and Erseline met in 1940, married in 1945.  
 Have 3 children.

House: 2 rooms, zinc roof. No tank. Furn.: 3 beds, 2 tables  
 2 chairs.

Land: 5 acres in 3 parcels. 1 acre homelands, given by  
 mother; 4 acres bought for L20. ~~Ann~~

Trees: 5 mangoes, 1 coconut, 1 pear.  
 6000 tomatoes, L30. 60 yam hills. 1/2 acre cassava, 1/2 ac  
 corn. 3/4 ac. congo, 1/4 ac. red peas.  
 1 sheep, 1 pig, 1 hen.  
 Cecil is carpenter. Earned L52 last year.  
 Spendings: 30/- weekly on food etc. L18 on clothes last  
 year. L4 on doctor and dentist.  
 Savings: L50 kept at home.  
 Erseline is 7Day Adv.