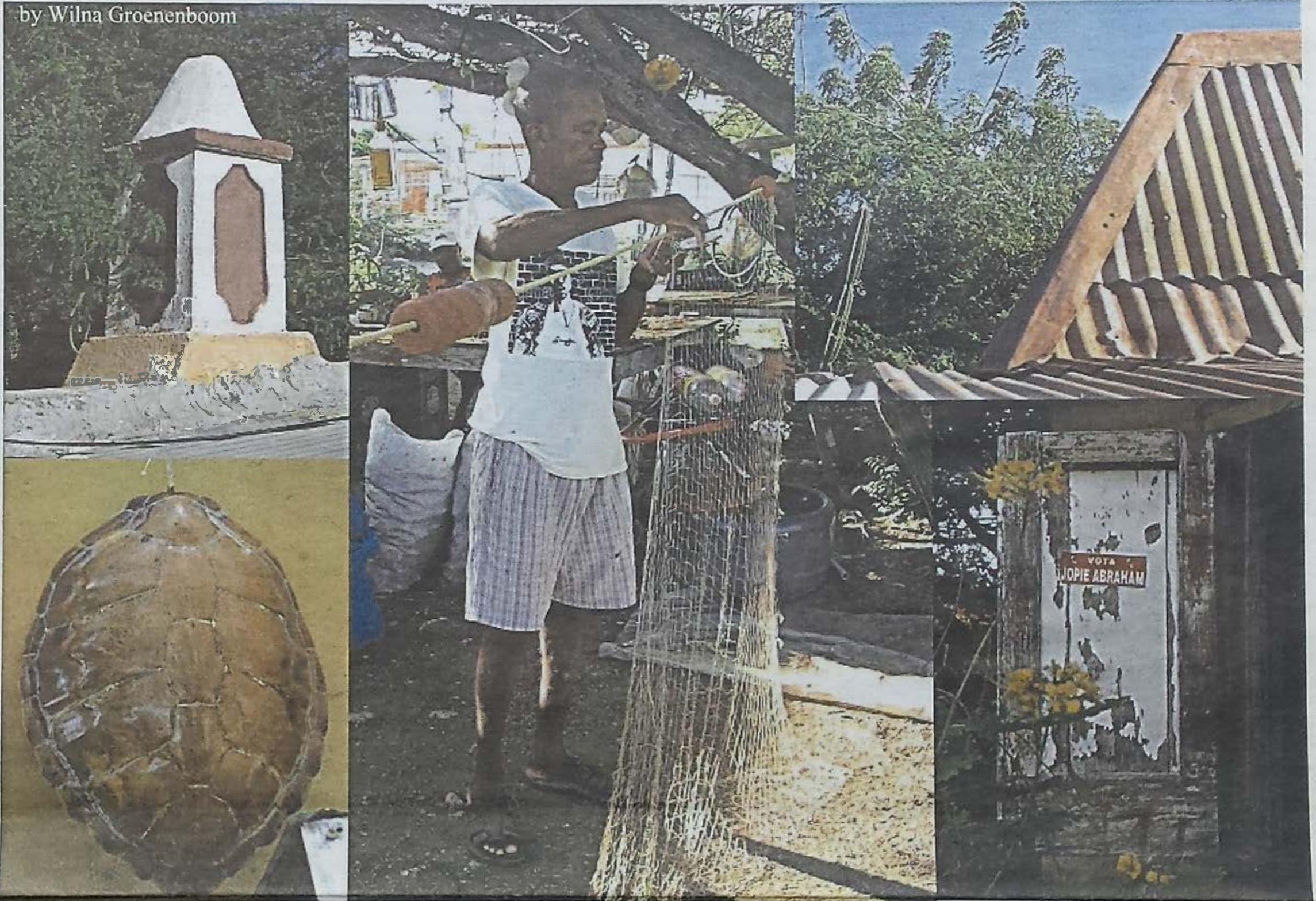


# Antique Living Houses of Bonaire

Kas Dorothea

Preserving Bonaire's Architectural Heritage

by Wilna Groenenboom



It is simple, it is normal, but for those reasons for me it is so very special. Every morning when I pass this house in Niki-boko, Albert Dorothea is working. He is a fisherman so for that reason he gutting and cleaning the fish or repairing his net. Mostly there are friends who are talking with him or his wife. It is a very social place.

Many years ago fishing was a lit

tle different from what it is today. He'd go by boat, for example to Venezuela, and catch everything - from fish, conch to turtles. In those days there were two families—German and Meyer - who made jewelry from turtle shells.

Nowadays it is completely different, and the fishing is done only by two men and a net, and they catch only fish.

The house has the same simple,

but beautiful character. Most of the time the family is sitting outside in front of the house, under the shade of the tree. The origin and foundation of the house is perhaps from an 80 to 100-year old *Kas di Bara*, (house made of sticks, *knoekhuis-model*).

The corner of the wall of the house is not straight but slants a little bit. In the front of the house is a nice chimney which reaches

jauntily into the trees. Although the front of the house has been added on more recently, it is still old. □ W.G.

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