



CAYMAN THANKSGIVING

CREATIVITY : HERITAGE : EDUCATION

Every year on the **first Sunday in December**, Caymanian families, neighbours and friends come together to express our gratitude to God for our many blessings. The festivities are a weekend-long national celebration which ends with a traditional Caymanian meal on Sunday.

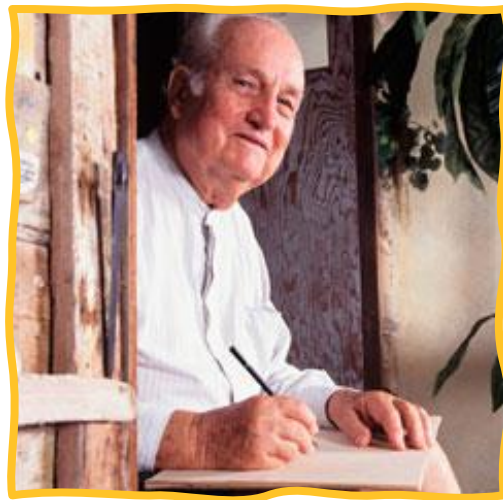
By observing our very own Thanksgiving at the end of the hurricane season on 30 November, this is a good time for all three islands to offer thanks and celebrate a "Caymankind" holiday. This has always been a tradition here in our islands.

Cayman Thanksgiving recognises that our community is made up of Caymanians and non-Caymanians, both young and old. What we all have in common is that the Cayman Islands is our home. This is a time when all Caymanians remember that we are known for always welcoming everyone who lives here.

Did you know that the first Cayman Thanksgiving was the idea of an 8-year-old girl?

One day when Kayci and her mother were picking limes to make 'swanky', she asked her mother why Cayman didn't have its own Thanksgiving like they celebrate in the United States. Her mom thought it was a great idea and so the family planned a special meal and invited their relatives and friends. The next year the entire country thought Kayci's idea was a great one and that is how Cayman Thanksgiving started!

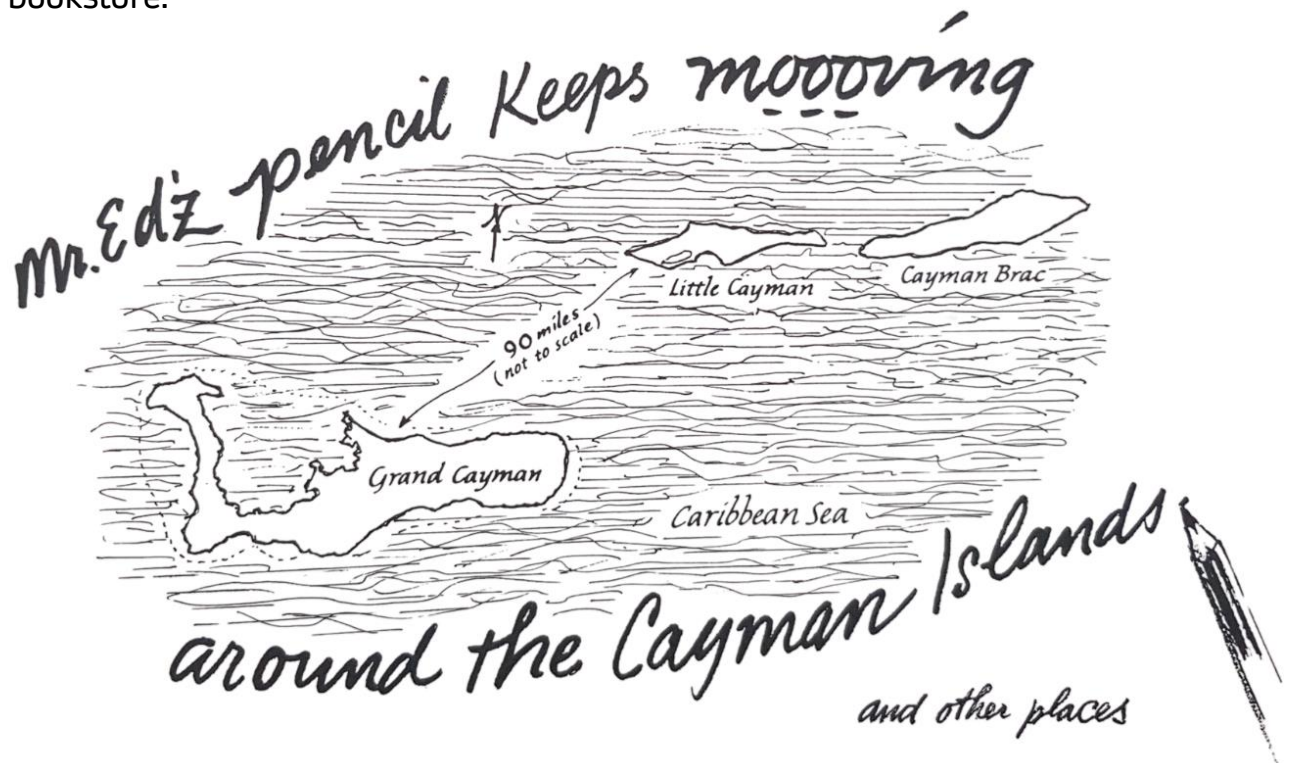




MR. ED

Art was not taught in Cayman schools when American artist, Mr. Ed Oliver and his wife, Barbara, arrived in 1986 so he taught art to everyone who wanted to learn how to draw with a pencil.

In celebration of Cayman Thanksgiving, here are some of Mr. Ed's pencil drawings that you can use to make a **DIORAMA**. These drawings are taken from his book which you can borrow from a Public Library near you. If you want your own copy of the book, you can purchase one (see below) from the CNCF Office or from a bookstore.



WHAT IS A DIORAMA?

- A tiny scene inside a box showing tiny objects in front of a painting, photograph, or nature setting on the back and sides of the box.
- A miniature scene, wholly or partially three-dimensional, depicting figures in a naturalistic setting.

HOW TO BUILD A DIORAMA

Select a container. Because dioramas have layers of background, they should be made in a box or frame that is several inches deep. The container must have an open-faced front so that viewers can see the scene. A shoe box or shipping box turned on its side works incredibly well for creating a basic diorama. Larger dioramas can be created out of a large wooden crate or frame attached to a box.

There are three scenes:

- a) A silver thatch ground basket with provisions for an old-fashioned Caymanian Thanksgiving feast.
- b) An outdoor caboose with pots to cook the meal in
- c) A kitchen table with a pitcher of sorrel and four enamel cups to pour the drink into.

If you only have a small shoe box , you'll have to choose one of these three scenes. If you have a larger box you may be able to use all three scenes but remember that the caboose is an outside scene.

Create your background first. Begin at the back of the container and work your way forward, adding layers of details and images to create depth in your scene. Make the background first against the farthest and inside walls of your box. Consider painting a basic scene or printing an image and gluing it on. You could also create a collage out of magazine cutouts to act as the background for your diorama.

Build up the ground or landscape. A realistic diorama should include details on the bottom of the box as well. You can use pictures, paint, or modeling clay to create a realistic ground or floor for the diorama.

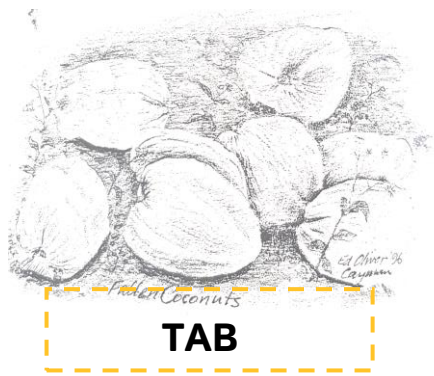
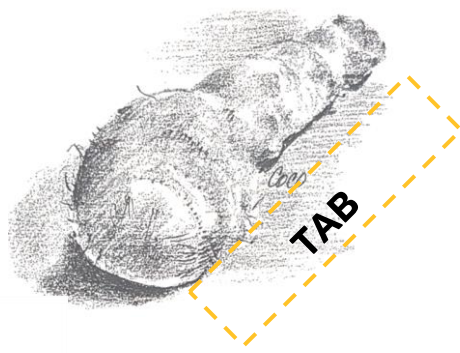
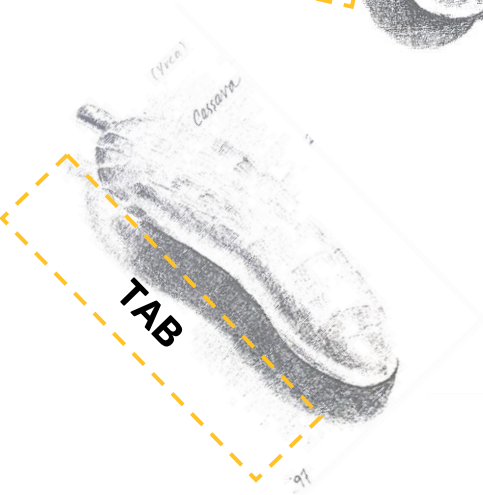
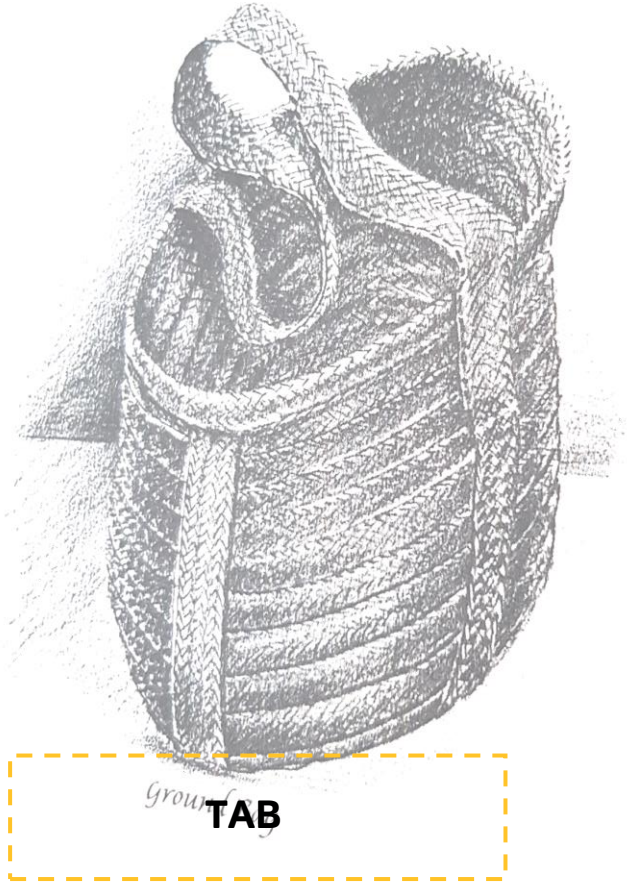
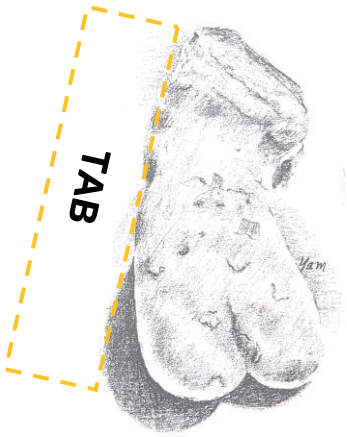
Set up the miniatures, if applicable. Complete your scene with the addition of the miniature drawings from Mr. Ed's book below, glued to heavy card, cut out and then glued inside the box.

You may want to display your diorama on a small table at your family's Cayman Thanksgiving festivity for all your guests to admire!

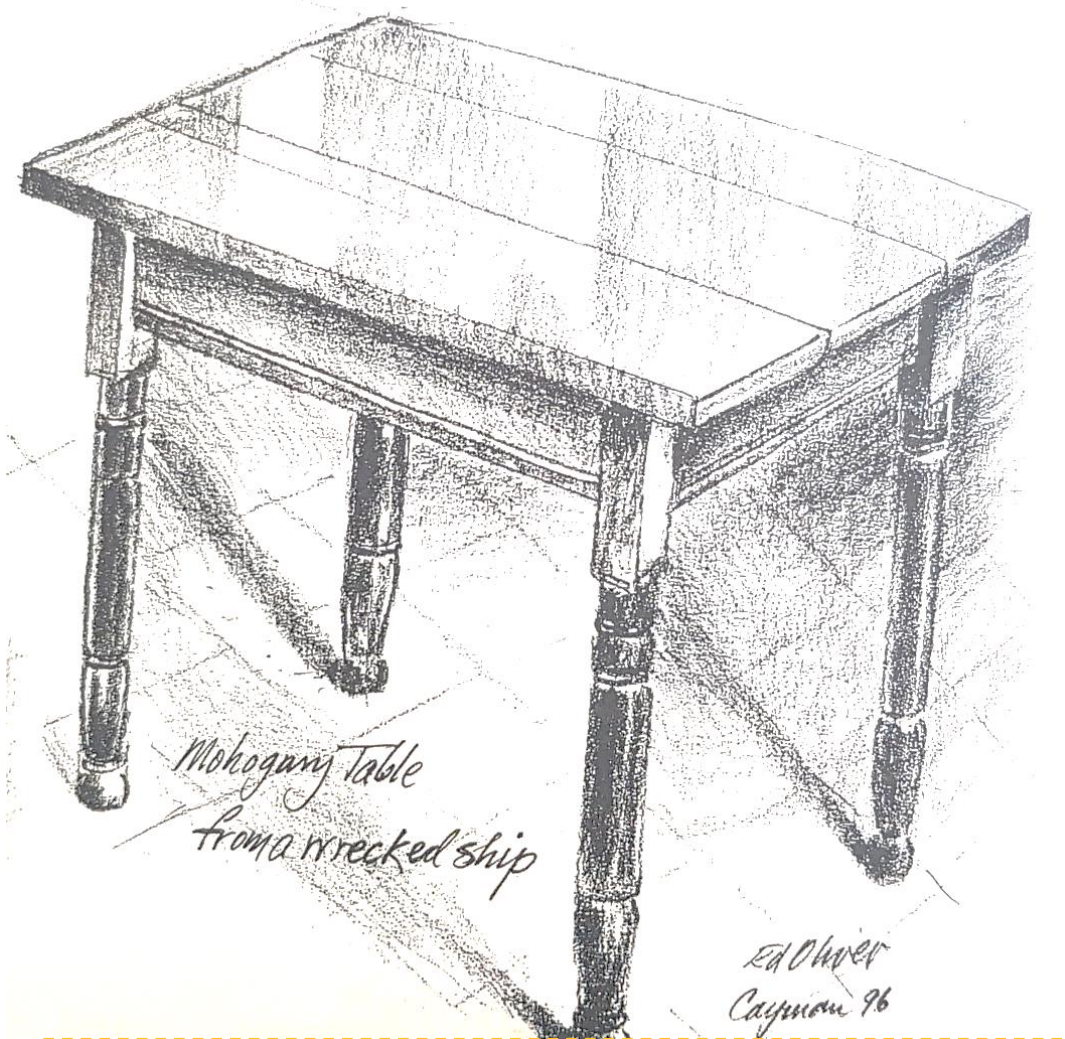


An Example of a Diorama in a Shoebox

Source: Mr. Ed's Pencil Keeps Moving Around the Cayman Islands (and Other Places).
Copies available for purchase at CNCF



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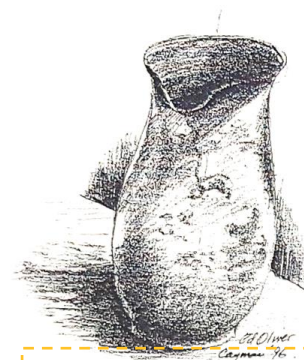
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