

Alan said living in the Canal Zone was like living in small town America. He could walk to his friends' houses and he rode the bus to school

In Los Rios they lived less than a mile from my grandfather's veterinary clinic. He got weekends off and could come home for lunch, which was a big change from the stress of his private clinic in Texas

Everyone rented their homes at a low cost from the Panama Canal Company. Living in the townsites was contingent on being employed by the Canal Company. Alan recalls their efforts to maintain a high standard of living, including mowing everyone's lawn for them

When they first moved back they lived in Ancon, near the slums outside the Zone. Alan said Ancon was known for many Zonians being robbed by Panamanians

Alan was born in Gorgas Hospital in 1956

Los Rios was the most sought after townsite on the Pacific side. Next best was Balboa and finally Ancon. This was partially due to the sense of security provided by the nearby military bases. Los Rios was surrounded on all sides by bases and was essentially gated as a result, whereas Ancon was bordered by the Republic of Panama and more accessible to people outside the Zone

Alan went to Balboa High School, where he got a high quality education and all of his teachers had masters degrees

Los Rios had a high percent of residents from the US, whereas Ancon and Balboa had more Panamanian residents. People who worked on the Canal typically lived in the townsites, whereas those in the military and their families lived on the military bases

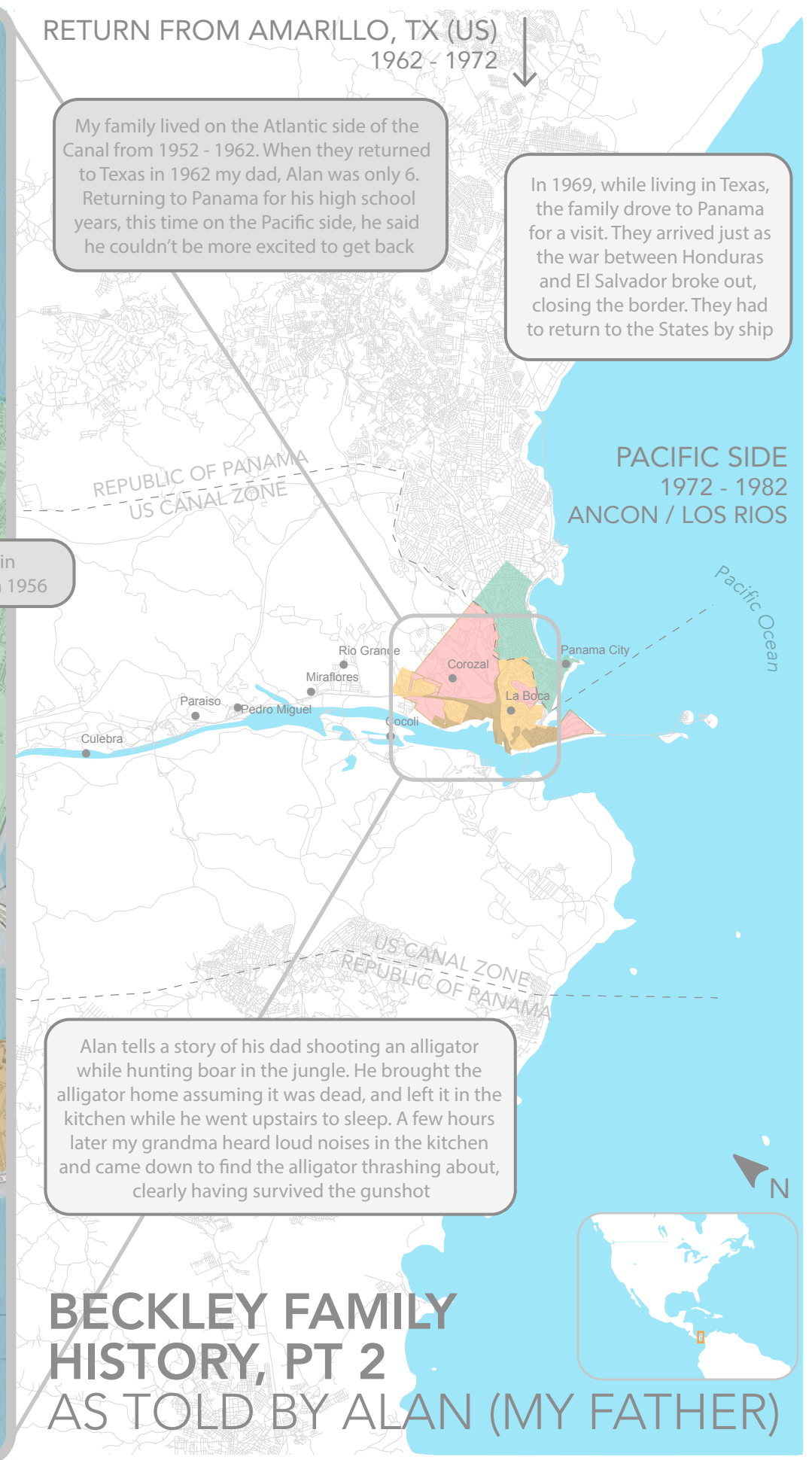
- TOWNSITE
- MILITARY BASE
- REPUBLIC OF PANAMA
- MISCELLANEOUS



RETURN FROM AMARILLO, TX (US) 1962 - 1972

My family lived on the Atlantic side of the Canal from 1952 - 1962. When they returned to Texas in 1962 my dad, Alan was only 6. Returning to Panama for his high school years, this time on the Pacific side, he said he couldn't be more excited to get back

In 1969, while living in Texas, the family drove to Panama for a visit. They arrived just as the war between Honduras and El Salvador broke out, closing the border. They had to return to the States by ship



Alan tells a story of his dad shooting an alligator while hunting boar in the jungle. He brought the alligator home assuming it was dead, and left it in the kitchen while he went upstairs to sleep. A few hours later my grandma heard loud noises in the kitchen and came down to find the alligator thrashing about, clearly having survived the gunshot

BECKLEY FAMILY HISTORY, PT 2 AS TOLD BY ALAN (MY FATHER)

