

# Augusta Military Academy

## Oral History

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### **Burial Grounds During The Snow Season**

Every year after Christmas, we all arrived back after our break - some happy, some sad, some loaded with goodies...

Me, well, I never returned from Nicaragua with less than four or six bottles of rum, and, as you know, hiding the bottles was quite a project. So I decided on "burial spots" out back, and every Friday I went back to the fields and looked for my treasures.

Sometimes it was hard to remember where they were, since the points of references changed due to rain or new snow, etc. It was easy to be in business, charging from 50 cents to a dollar a shot - discount for frequent consumers or officers.

As a good Nicaraguan I knew to whom, when and how to grease the wheels of the world to keep the secret. You only needed a coke and your rum and coke and a can allowed you to walk all over the barracks.

Some later wanted to copy the business, but replacing Flor de Caña, the award-winning rum from Nicaragua, with 20/20 or any cheap tippie never equaled the aroma and flavor of a good rum.

Were you a customer ?

### **Did you change your religion weekly as I did?!**

At AMA, every week was a very routine seven days and everyone looked forward to the weekends. Sundays had a very special meaning to each one of us - in a different way - as if it were the last day of school.

It was church day, and the academy provided the means to take us to church - some walked, others took the bus to the city, etc. The interesting thing is that some of us changed our religion each week.

Maybe you will say it was in search of a change in our life, but not this AMA cadet. Looking to meet more girls, I had to learn the prayers and the songs of every religion. That was when we made plans to go to the movies, bowling with the girls, etc. I guess my problem was that looking at so many guys during the week, the only thing I had on my mind was how to better plan my "girls-meeting" strategy.

It was an effective way to maintain two girl friends and all of those things that you are thinking too.

Those days were really fun. Those of us who were international students had a limited social life and it was up to us as to how we cultivated our social life. Some changed religion weekly.

Tell me: did you?