
Summary of Maria Ruiz's Interview with Milagros Sánchez Pinzón:

Milagros Sánchez Pinzón, a Chiriquí historian, has researched Boquete's history since 1999, collecting oral histories and 300 photographs while connecting with pioneering families. She views history as a way to honor past sacrifices that shaped today's world, citing David McCullough and Winston Churchill. Sánchez Pinzón highlights Boquete's cultural diversity, natural beauty, and historical allure, noting figures like Norwegian engineer Toileff Monique, who settled there and was linked to the Panama Canal. She urges preserving Boquete's unique heritage, reflecting on its 150-year legacy of resilience.

Key Points:

1. **History's Value:** History reveals past struggles behind modern benefits like health and education, which are vital for youth to appreciate.
2. **Milagros' Work:** Since 1999, she documented elders' stories and family photos, forming bonds across Boquete's social spectrum.
3. **Research Highlights:**
 - Interviews with diverse elders (Indigenous, mestizo, settlers).
 - A photographic archive of Boquete's past.
 - Lasting ties with families like the Sandbergs and Ruizes.
4. **Boquete's Heritage:** A blend of Indigenous, Spanish, and foreign influences (less African due to its mid-19th-century founding), enriched by figures like Monique, known for coffee and horticulture.
5. **Call to Action:** New generations should use tools like the internet to explore Boquete's coffee, traditions, and nature, preserving its landscapes and warmth.
6. **Enduring Charm:** Boquete's natural and human appeal, rooted in the 19th century, must be sustained.

The interview emphasizes Boquete's multicultural past and the duty to protect its legacy.
