



Joy at Christmas Time

The annual Carol Singing to pan accompaniment has become a fixture of the calendar of the seniors. This was evident as many of them enjoyed the camaraderie, entertainment, singing and refreshments at the home of Derry Harry on December 18. Little did they know that others in the neighbourhood were enjoying the music. So much so that one of them asked Derry about hiring the steelband! Way to go!

But that was not the only Christmas time treat! Not at all!

As the class grows in number, so do the donors who assist in the provision of Christmas Cheer. This time around, the donors included alumnae Angelique de Groot of Bounty Farms who so willingly solicited items from firms including her own, Susan Panday of Pan Global, Ruth Lindner, Janice Maison and staff of the CARICOM Secretariat.

The members of the Seniors' Committee do appreciate the assistance they receive as they seek to make this time of year special for class members. They know that the attention they receive is important to the seniors who express their appreciation in so many ways.

The reactions of the seniors are a delight in themselves. These range from Thank You cards, to that bottle of "special fly," from an invitation to sit and chat to taking time for a cup of tea. While expressing her thanks, one senior asked, "have you ever had cake and cheese?" That indicated an "ummm moment!" A first-timer's delight led to the remark that "we've arrived at that age! We used to do this for Ms. Campbell!!!"

As time rolls by, more and more seniors will join the ranks and have the opportunity to enjoy a hamper, a bottle of wine or a floral arrangement along with the delicious black cake.

This is certainly something to which to look forward.



A Bit of Humour - The \$2.99 Special

We went to breakfast at a restaurant where the seniors' special was two eggs, bacon, hash browns and toast for \$2.99.

'Sounds good,' my wife said. 'But I don't want the eggs.'

'Then, I'll have to charge you three dollars and forty-nine cents because you're ordering a la carte,' the waitress warned her.

'You mean I'd have to pay for not taking the eggs?' my wife asked incredulously.

'YES!!' stated the waitress.

'I'll take the special then,' my wife said.

'How do you want your eggs?' the waitress asked.

'Raw and in the shell,' my wife replied. She took the two eggs home and baked a cake.

Let's Celebrate

Feb 19 Elaine Murray
Feb 27 Megan Anderson
Mar 13 Dawn Mc Turk
Mar 29 Magda Pollard



Apr 4 Phyllis Thompson
Apr 7 Jeane Skeete
Apr 8 Joyce Sinclair
Apr 17 Jannice Simmons

THE GOLDEN AGE OF GEORGETOWN CHARACTERS 1930-1960 Part 1 by Bernard Heydorn

The Caribbean is known not only for its sunny climate, but also its street people: Colourful characters who paraded daily through town and country, providing spontaneous street theatre.

Whether driven to the streets by mental, emotional or social derailment, or "dropping out and turning on" by free choice, they remain indelible in memory, symbolic of the life and times. Like the politicians of the day, street characters had the ability to attract attention.

In Georgetown, Guyana, names like Bertie Vaughn, Law And Order, Cato, Pussy In The Moonlight, Pele, Mad John, Saul, Walker The British, Cow Manure, Oscar The Paper Man, Tunus, Daddy Ben, Mary Bruk Iron, Bicycle Jack, and others, were standouts during that golden age of theatre of the absurd (1930 - -1960), providing year round side shows, a character for every reason and season.

It is interesting to note that many of these characters found a place to rest at night, be it the Palms, Dharm Shala, a Mental Home, a back room, or underneath a shop bridge. However, back then, as now, their illnesses, be they mental or physical, their idiosyncrasies and eccentricities, were crying out for healing hands.

Mad John was a man who walked up and down Regent Street in Georgetown, beating up on himself, complaining, "a woman tek all meh money!" Mad John seemed to possess a split personality which I shall call "He" and "Himself" for clarity sake.

Now, "He" and "Himself" were always fighting each other but never producing a clear winner. One day "He" would be on top and "Himself" would retreat from the blows; and on another day, the tide would turn and "Himself" would be top dog.

The state of affairs continued for a while until one morning, "Himself" caught "He" half-asleep on Camp Street by the Blue Light Store, and like a dog chasing its own tail, gave chase and delivered a solid knockout punch! From that day on, people said that Mad John never slept properly, being constantly on guard against another sneak attack by the other side of himself. (To be continued)

New Senior Class Members

A warm welcome is extended to alumnae who are joining the Senior Class in 2010. They are in for a treat and, hopefully, will participate in the activities planned. The new members identified so far are Audrey Cameron, Esme Curtis, Farida Fraser and Ann Morgan.

In December 2009, we welcomed Joan Fields, Dawn Mc Turk and Irma Yhap who slipped through our net for a year or two. We are happy that they have been duly inducted to the class.

So Long, Farewell!

Doreen Barrington and Waveney Lee said farewell as they prepared to begin a new phase of their life in a different country. We wish them well and want to assure them that the sun and the rain await them whenever they choose to visit Guyana.

