



Bishops' High School Old Students' Association

Senior Class Notes

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A Visit to Castellani House by Nella Dorset-Sutherland

On the slightly dull morning of Friday, July 23, some former students of the Bishops' High School arrived at Castellani House. Our purpose was to view the pieces of art exhibited there. Some of us were unprepared for the 'feast' that followed.

The visit was off to a good start with a warm welcome by the Curator of the National Gallery of Art, Elfrieda Bissember, a former student of the Bishops' High School. In a short time, we were given a peep into what was ahead—just enough to “whet our appetites.” Then the viewing began.

In the main gallery, an exhibition captioned, “Remembering Guyana, shows the work of George Bowen Forbes. This display was arranged in celebration of Guyana’s 44th Independence Anniversary. It included landscapes—coastal and interior, also mystical, cultural and economic activities, still life, portraits and more.

On the other floors, there is a variety of pieces, including Philip Moore’s ‘Jumbie Wedding’. This is the largest exhibit, occupying a whole panel. Several smaller pieces depict a variety of ideas and talent.

Special mention must be made of George Taneredo’s, “A Dream of My Ancestors and the Past.” George is Amerindian. Working in balata for about three weeks, George modelled the natural environment, the dwelling places, the activities of Amerindians, including hunting, fishing, making cassava bread plus other scenes of daily life e.g., children playing, creeping. This entire display is so real that it demands a second viewing, at least.

Scores of artists have expressed their feelings and dreams in the hundreds of pieces on show. Each work sent a unique message and a special thrill, as we tried to read into the minds of these artists.

They displayed their talents on paper and canvas. The media used include oil, water colour, pen, pencil and acrylic. Sculptured pieces also form part of the exhibition. Materials used include metal, balata and wood, e.g., purple heart, yarela and mahogany. These works date back from 1803 and there is still continuous acquisition of suitable pieces.

A shop in the foyer is well stocked with art pieces, cards and journals dealing with literature and art. Prices are acceptable.

Many of us had never seen such a large and varied collection under one roof. This account is just a ‘sketch’, but hopefully, it has aroused your interest and you are now planning to visit soon. Enjoy!

Guess what? The sun was shining brightly when we exited Castellani House.



Find the Common Factor

See if you can figure out what these words have in common.

1. Banana
2. Dresser
3. Grammar
4. Potato
5. Revive
6. Uneven
7. Assess

Are you peeking or have you already given up? Give it another try....

Look at each word carefully. You'll want to kick yourself when you discover the answer. This is so cool.

Answer: No, it is not that they all have at least 2 double letters.

Answer: If you take the first letter, place it at the end of the word and then spell the word backwards, it will be the same word.

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Let's Celebrate



Aug 16 Florizel Matthews
Aug 18 Elsa Charles
Aug 24 Joy O'Jon
Aug 26 Jean Sankies
Aug 28 Leila Too Kong
Sep 9 Joyce Joao
Sep 13 Audrey Cameron

Sep 26 Irma Yhap
Oct 2 Esme Curtis
Oct 10 Audrey Odle
Oct 12 Margarita Harewood
Oct 15 Ethyl Wilson

Oct 17 Marlene Crawford
Oct 19 Yvonne Benn
Oct 21 Urma Fordyce
Oct 24 Margery Kirkpatrick
Oct 26 Lucille Cholmondeley
Oct 29 Holly Morgan
Oct 30 Eileen Robinson

THE GOLDEN AGE OF GEORGETOWN CHARACTERS 1930-1960 Part 3 by Bernard Heydorn

'Pussy in the Moonlight', alias 'Pussy Foot', was a bearded Portuguese man who wore a jacket and plaid shorts. He sold sweepstake tickets in between drinks, and was reputed to live in Albouystown with many children, some of whom walked around with him. School children were sometimes cruel to Pussy Foot, taunting him with a verse, "Pussy in the moonlight, pussy in the dew, pussy never come home till half past four".

Another Portuguese character was 'Tunus', a strong, hard-drinking man whose favourite haunt was the Red Coconut Tree rum shop at Cummings and Second Street. Tunus apparently went to jail for stabbing a policeman, but he was better known for playing a mouth organ with one hand and doing the unmentionable with the other!

An icon among Guyanese characters would be Bertie Vaughn, a black man. Bertie apparently came from a "good" family, and was himself once a school teacher, and it is said, a candidate for the Guiana Scholarship before "too much studiation sent him off his pins". From then on, his station in life was to sit on a parapet by the main Post Office, shaving his head and other parts of his anatomy clean, clean, with a broken "grass bottle" in a fashion that would make Gillette both envious and anxious about the competition.

In between picking a sore in his scalp and begging, he also drank iodine, miraculously without poisoning himself, having built up a tolerance over the years. If he begged for a six cents piece and you gave him a bit (an eight cents piece), he would return it saying, "ah want six cents". At one time he had a Raleigh bicycle, replacing the bell with a horn, saying "school children gun listen to the horn". Later for no apparent reason, he ran his Raleigh bicycle into the Demerara River.

'Walker the British' was a mixed-race (Mulatto) man, who sold sweepstake tickets around Water Street, armed with two bricks. Apparently, he came from an educated family, and then, like Bertie Vaughn, "went 'round duh bend". He was an ardent supporter of British superiority, shouting "British yuh fool! Highest hair and colour!" People taunted him, calling him "Walker the nigger" and so he retaliated with his two bricks, sometimes drawing blood from his tormentors. He slept at the Palms, letting himself out daily on his rounds.

Another Post Office character was 'Telegraph George', who used to work at the Post Office as a telegraph messenger before he "went off". He could then be found, making signs with his fingers, looking at the heavens saying "ah gun talk to God".

(To be continued)

