



Bishops' High School Old Students' Association

Senior Class Notes

Vol. 4 No. 3 OCT. 2010

September Rolls Around by Yvonne Harewood Benn

Saturday, 18th September was the day of our annual September Affair. It was a pleasant afternoon of animated chatter, delicious snacks and drinks, meeting old school friends once again and reliving our experiences. All this was punctuated with regular bursts of laughter as one amusing episode after another was related.

All the "regulars" were there and this time we were also graced with the presence of visiting old girls, Elsa Harper, Waveney (Jackson) Lee and Gertrude (O'Jon) Sampson. It was good to see them and to see how effortlessly they again became old girls enjoying themselves. I had not seen Elsa for many, many years, so it was a special pleasure for me to have her remind me of our Art class with Miss Seymour.

Along with our drinks, we had an interesting demonstration on nail and skin care done by Isha Urlin and Aloma Fredericks, two former students of Committee Member, Geraldine Maison Halls. The demonstration was well received. Elizabeth (Coltress) Wells readily volunteered to be the model and that she did once her nails were done! We convey our thanks to Isha and Aloma.

After eating and drinking, our afternoon continued with what may be described as the tour de force - a PowerPoint presentation incorporating all the messages we had sent to one of our dearest patrons, Gwen (Stephenson) Mitchell, on the occasion of her 79th Birthday. This really was the high point of our afternoon - those messages heartfelt, lovingly relayed then put together for posterity. But the best was yet to come. Gwen's response - it was not just a letter but beautifully crafted words and phrases, descriptive, compelling, warm, evoking so many fond and nostalgic moments in our school lives. Gwen, many thanks! We were all very moved and touched. Your memory is phenomenal!!!!

It really was a September Affair to remember and we once again owe our gratitude to Derry for accommodating us. Our thanks, too, to the Committee ladies for their hard work, care and attention - this ensured its success.



Test Your Perception

Below are three questions to test your perception, reasoning and the quickness of your logical processing. They are stated simply, so you should try to answer them instantly. To assure the accuracy of the results, you should not take your time but, instead, answer each of them immediately. Let's find out just how clever you really are.

First Question: You are a participant in a race. You overtake the second person. What position are you in?

Answer: If you answered that you are first, then you are absolutely WRONG! If you overtake the second person and you take his place, YOU are in second place!

Second Question: If you overtake the last person, then you are...?

Answer: If you answered that you are second to last, then you are WRONG again. Tell me, Sunshine, how can you overtake the LAST person?

Third Question: Mary's father has five daughters: 1. Nana, 2. Nene, 3. Nini, 4. Nono. What is the name of the fifth daughter?

Did you answer Nunu? *NO!* Of course it isn't. Her name is *Mary*. Read the question again!

Let's Celebrate

Nov 6 Derry Harry
Nov 12 Christobel Hughes
Nov 12 Carmen Jarvis
Dec 11 Vilma Lynch



Jan 9 Jessie Isaacs
Jan 19 Eileen Cox
Jan 21 Elise Arno

Save the Dates

- The Annual General Meeting of BHSOSA will be held on Saturday, October 23 at 3.00 pm in the Oswald Parry Hall.
- The BHS Inter-House Drama Competition will be held on December 15 and 16 in the Oswald Parry Hall.
- The BHSOSA Carol Singing will held on Friday, December 17 at Derry Harry's residence, Lamaha Gardens. Stay tuned for further details.

THE GOLDEN AGE OF GEORGETOWN CHARACTERS 1930-1960 Part 4 by Bernard Heydorn

One character I had some fear of as a schoolboy was 'Cato', a somewhat deranged black man who wore short pants and rags and often exposed himself to bystanders for money, saying, "Ah want a penny tuh buy a panty fuh me sister". 'Cato' also had a weakness for rubber, devouring pencil erasers and chewing on the rubber seals of bottles. Once on an indecency exposure charge in court, he saw Forbes Burnham and shouted "Uncle Forbes, get up an' talk fuh me maan. Yuh gun leh dis coolie magistrate do dis tuh meh?" Apparently, this was one of the rare occasions when Burnham was at a loss for words.

And who can ever forget 'Law and Order' who staged an execution in his push cart everyday, every hour on the hour. During the executions of his rag doll, he gave an address on the evils of crime and the benefits of the British Empire, of laws and order. He was always sole judge, jury and executioner. Curious crowds always gathered around 'Law and Order' at Bourda Market and the Public Buildings where he was a regular show stopper. 'Law and Order' and his push cart also marched proudly in the Armistice Day parade on November 11, each year, getting loud applause and holding his own with the veterans of many campaigns.

One of my favourite characters was 'Bicycle Jack' a museum on wheels. 'Bicycle Jack' rode a bicycle all day long in the Georgetown sun, with every object imaginable attached to the bike - clips, wires, bells, horns, lights, decorations, flags, the most prominent being the Union Jack, homemade toys, and spinning windmills, to name a few. The wheels were also gaily decorated, all in all, a sight to behold. His only problem was when rain fell, when he had to peddle fast to find shelter.

There were other characters too, like 'Bubble Up', the white woman with 'big foot', who cursed like hell; and 'Mary Bruck Iron', a prostitute, who had established a reputation for 'brucking iron' in Tiger Bay.

Be it 'Monkey', 'Sharkey', 'Live Wire', 'Dribbly Joe' or the legendary 'bag men' used by parents to develop fear in children, street characters were always around. Some times in retrospect, I wonder if the colonial powers allowed these characters to roam free in order to provide distraction for the local people, while they exploited the country.