



Finding Purpose at Christmas By Santa's Helpers

The Christmas season now has special meaning for a group of boys. In the recent past, four of Wendel Roberts' grandsons have joined the members of the Seniors Committee to provide Christmas Cheer to seniors. They have helped to pack hampers, fetch bags to the car and delivery goodies to seniors who are always ready to interact with the young. Here they share their perspectives on the experience.

My experience giving hampers was exciting. It was fun giving hampers to elders of schools and taking photos.

Kenmar Roberts, 9 years

I think it was nice to help the elders and I am hoping it helps them in some way.

Kofi Roberts, 10 years



For me, it is quite nice to give hampers to the elders. I enjoyed taking photos with the elderly. It was exciting.

Omari Roberts, 12 years



Although my journey was short, I enjoyed the time spent with the elders. Giving out the hampers and helping in the process gave me a sense of purposefulness which made me feel good.

Adesima Roberts, 14 years



Things Discovered

Now that I'm older here's what I've discovered:

1. I started out with nothing, and I still have most of it.
2. My wild oats are mostly enjoyed with prunes and all-bran.
3. I finally got my head together, and now my body is falling apart.
4. Funny, I don't remember being absent-minded.
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6. If all is not lost, then where the heck is it?
7. It was a whole lot easier to get older, than to get wiser.
8. Some days, you're the top dog; some days you're the hydrant.
9. I wish the buck really did stop here; I sure could use a few of them.
10. Kids in the back seat cause accidents.
11. Accidents in the back seat cause kids.
12. It's hard to make a comeback when you haven't been anywhere.
13. The world only beats a path to your door when you're in the bathroom.
14. If God wanted me to touch my toes, he'd have put them on my knees.
15. When I'm finally holding all the right cards, everyone wants to play chess.
16. It's not hard to meet expenses . . . They're everywhere.
17. The only difference between a rut and a grave is the depth.
18. These days, I spend a lot of time thinking about the hereafter . . . I go somewhere to get something, and then wonder what I'm "here after".
19. Funny, I don't remember being absent-minded.
20. HAVE I SENT THIS MESSAGE TO YOU BEFORE.....??????

53 There are some things that money just cannot buy, like manners, morals and intelligence.

The nicest thing about the future is that it always starts tomorrow.

DID YOU KNOW?

- ◆ February 1865 is the only month in recorded history not to have a full moon.
- ◆ In the last 4,000 years, no new animals have been domesticated.
- ◆ If the population of China walked past you, 8 abreast, the line would never end because of the rate of reproduction.
- ◆ Peanuts are one of the ingredients of dynamite!
- ◆ Rubber bands last longer when refrigerated.
- ◆ The average person's left hand does 56% of the typing.
- ◆ The microwave was invented after a researcher walked by a radar tube and a chocolate bar melted in his pocket.
- ◆ There are more chickens than people in the world.
- ◆ There are only four words in the English language which end in "dous": tremendous, horrendous, stupendous, and hazardous.
- ◆ There are two words in the English language that have all five vowels in order: "abstemious" and "facetious."
- ◆ Winston Churchill was born in a ladies' room during a dance.
- ◆ Women blink nearly twice as much as men.
- ◆ A "jiffy" is an actual unit of time for 1/100th of a second.
- ◆ An ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain. (Know anyone like that?)



Meet the Seniors

Nella Dorsett-Sutherland

Nella Dorsett-Sutherland was born to Angelina Grimes, housewife, and Cecil Dorsett, Chief Bookkeeper at Rose Hall Estate in 1933. She grew up Cumberland, Canje, Berbice. There she had lots of fun, playing with other children. The road was the playground for those children since traffic was quite light.

Nella completed her primary education at Cumberland Methodist School. Always the youngest in her class, she enjoyed the attention of the teachers as she sat in the front row. She came first each year from Prep A through to Primary 4. A “fidgety” child, Nella kept herself busy doing tasks such as running errands for the Headmaster and teachers and fixing the teachers’ books. She attended Berbice High School where she completed the Senior Cambridge in four years.

In 1949, Nella entered Lower 6th at the Bishops’ High School and was placed in Mary House. She was one year younger than the students in her class. She spent one year in Lower 6th and two in Upper 6th since she opted to write additional subjects. Her experience at BHS was enjoyable, including the time spent on the field playing netball and rounders. Nella had to be on her best behaviour since she did not want to let Berbice High School down. She had been told that she was representing New Amsterdam as well. Her classmates included Irma King, Thelma Lawrence Pyne, Velma Rhodius Abrahams and Joyce Vasconcellos Joao.

Nella always wanted to be a teacher although her father preferred her to be a nurse. She said that as a nurse, she would have had to be taken care of as that was certainly not her calling. She spent a short time teaching at St. Swithin’s Anglican School in New Amsterdam. Her next posting was to St. Philip’s Anglican School before moving on to the Government Training College where she spent the period 1954 to 1956. After acquiring the Trained Teacher’s Certificate, Nella taught at St. Cyril’s Anglican School.

Receipt of a scholarship enabled Nella to journey to England to upgrade her qualifications. She gained an Associate in Education from Newcastle upon Tyne in 1964 and a BA (Hons) in Geography from London University in 1968. She achieved this by attending evening classes and teaching at an Infant School which allowed her time to study during the day. At the school, she noticed that no teaching aids were being used and proceeded to make her own. The teachers were surprised that she would do this. They showed her a cupboard full of teaching aids but Nella opted for continuing to make her own. Word got out about this teacher with a different approach and someone from the Head Office wanted her moved. Her Headteacher said that she would not release her.

Her Geography programme included travel around England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland, with costs being met by the university. She remembers the occasion when the group leader joined the coach outside a YMCA where they had stayed and reported that he had to pay for baths; she was the only one who had used that facility and she owned up to it!

Nella was aware that completion of her programme in five years would enable her to have her previous service counted. This served as a motivation to get the job done. Once she returned to Guyana, she took up the position of Lecturer at the Cyril Potter College of Education and was subsequently promoted to Senior Lecturer. She chose not to assume administrative responsibilities since she wanted to continue teaching trainee teachers. She was loath to relinquish any of her classes.

Around 1980, Nella wanted to assist with the Sunday School at Christ Church. After four weeks of involvement, she took charge and is now the Superintendent. She was able to expose the children to structured activities, leading to improvement in their behaviour. Some of the children who attended under her watch are now teaching in the Sunday School programme.

Nella is also the President of the Dorcas Club which provides financial support for the older members of the church and occasionally takes them on trips. Retirement has certainly allowed Nella to devote more time to her church activities.



Nella loves reading, spends time tending her garden and is a cricket fan. Her stepdaughters, Mona and Karen Sutherland, are BHS alumni.



Daphne Lucille (Elsie) McWatt née Shaw

Daphne, or Elsie as she was better known, was the third of five children born to Harry and Lucille Shaw. Her dad, Harry, worked on the Skeldon sugar estate. Elsie grew up in Skeldon where she attended the Skeldon Anglican School from 1930 to 1936. She then went on to Bishops' High School from 1936 to 1941.

Elsie graduated from Bishops at the age of 16. She wanted to work in the Civil Service, but at that time, one had to be 18 years of age to be employed there. She decided to attend the Carnegie School of Home Economics while she waited to "come of age". It was there that she honed her cooking skills which, to this day, are still marvelled at. There is no one that ever goes to Elsie's home without leaving with a full and satisfied belly.

Elsie finally joined the Civil Service in 1943 and worked in the Crown Solicitor's office as a Secretary. In 1951, she married Clifford McWatt. No married women were normally allowed to work in the Civil Service at that time; however, she was retained because she had one of the highest secretarial certificates in the city and could type over 200 wpm.

Elsie was a co-founder and Secretary of the Business and Professional Women Organization in Guyana. She also had a very active church life. She made history at St Andrew's Church in Georgetown as the first woman and also the youngest Elder, serving alongside her father who was the oldest Elder.

Her last job in Guyana was with the Caribbean Conference of Churches where she was the major distributor for the Caribbean Contact newspaper all over Guyana. This position enabled her to travel to Trinidad, Barbados, Jamaica and most of the Caribbean to attend the assemblies which were held in a different country each year.

Elsie migrated to Canada with Cliff in 1986 after her 96-year old father passed away; he was her only relative still living in Guyana at the time. She continued her secretarial career working at the Head Office of the Presbyterian Council in Canada until she retired. She also served as an Elder in the Knox Presbyterian Church in Scarborough, Ontario. Her retirement days were spent looking after her grandchildren and happily catering for her children, Donna, Gillian, Peta and Tony, whenever asked.

Elsie celebrated her 90th birthday last year surrounded by her four children, nine grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, other family members and close friends. She says she is thankful for each year that she lives past her four score and ten.

Elsie's sister, Megan Shaw Allsopp and daughter, Peta McWatt McRae, also attended Bishops' High School.

