



Compton De Castro

After expulsion from Saints by Father Hopkinson, the then headmaster, I travelled to the United Kingdom and signed up with the "Official Secrets Act" RAF.

I enjoyed my travels until my final year when I married an English woman in Gibraltar.

I returned to Guyana with wife and UK-born baby daughter. I began working for Banks DIH Ltd and had stints at branches in Essequibo, Bartica, New Amsterdam, Mackenzie and finally at the Georgetown Head Office. My final year was at Demico House on Brickdam Then I returned to the UK with wife and four children - three Guyana-born.

I joined Royal Mail and became an active trade unionist...was fired three times and re-instated before it reached the "TRIBUNAL" stage.

Retired from the post office and moved to Spain, buying a farm in the south Alpujaras (Californicating of Euroland)

Eight years of retirement gave me time to ponder on what my purpose in life really was.



Lost my twin brother, Thomas, my inspiration in life. But he lives on in me.

My lifestyle is tranquil but I do try to travel to all the places I love. I spend most of summer in Cherin, Spain as it is dry and hot and the plants need me. In winter I lock up the farm and take off south. I follow the sun but I am no SUN worshipper.

I have written my first book and await the publishers' decision. HOOKERS is not for the feint-hearted or feminists. And don't worry a copy signed by me will be presented to all my brothers from Saints. It saddens me to have lost so many good mates but I am sure they are happier wherever they are now.

When my time comes the decision to "exit" will be "mine" but I am no alcoholic.

THOMAS was in company of the ones closest to him - his son and two daughters - and we all said our goodbyes. It was a solemn and moving encounter as Rupert described.

Leaders are BORN before their time...not "doctrinated."

THOMAS was such a leader. He was the GOOD. I was the UGLY. The BAD is yet to come.



Thomas De Castro

A Paradoxical life but a GOOD life.

By: A. Rupert De Castro

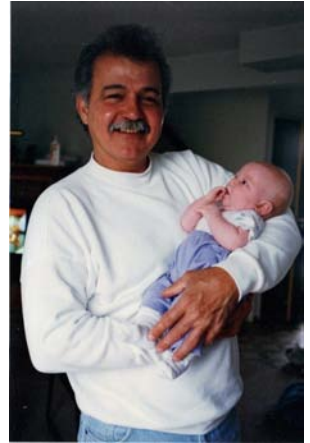
Tom started out being a right winger and ended up moving to the FAR left.

In early 1962, Compton, our youngest brother Martin, myself, and R.I Pereira (cousin) left British Guiana for London, England. Tom was already there and somewhat established.

He was responsible for keeping a track of the thousands of TV sets that GRANADA TV leased to households in London. Bear in mind, he was only 18 and a foreigner. He wore a suit to work. The SOB (smile) was so right wing that when the 5 of us went out on a Saturday shopping for groceries, we wore jeans. Tom wore a suit, with "collar and tie".

Compton joined the RAF, Tom and Martin stayed on in England and R.I and I returned to Guyana in October 1963.

Tom married an English girl, Madeline and immigrated to Canada. Tom again eventually landed a very good job as an accountant with COCA COLA in the bottling plant in Toronto, and this is where his true "stripes" started to show. He encountered what he viewed as unfairness. Remember that Toronto was a WHITE society in the early 1960's. Hey! In the early sixties if I saw a black guy on the street, I would do a "double take" thinking maybe he is from back home (smile).



On with the story of Tom showing his true stripes:

If a worker in the plant wanted to telephone his wife to say that he would be working late, he would come up to Tom's office to ask Tom to use his phone and Tom would allow it. Tom's boss warned him, "Tom you cannot do that. He is a plant worker, you are in the office." Of course his defiance on this and other issues led to his being fired. He then took up truck driving.

Let me give you one example of how far he would go to "right the inequities" (as he saw them) of the world. In 1968, during the Democratic Convention in Chicago where there was rioting he was in the "thick of it" protesting. Tom and Madeline had driven the 500+ miles in a car he paid \$150.00 for with Georgine (their eldest child) who was only a few months old at the time.



Laurie Cecil Patrick Dyal

In Memoriam of a "Saints" class mate
Laurie Cecil Patrick Dyal

Born in Guyana, South America January 22nd 1945
Died in Kingston, Ontario Canada May 2nd 2006

Laurie moved to Toronto, Canada and started his career working for an accounting firm in downtown Toronto.

He married Pat and they had 2 children; Duane born 1973 and Randy born 1978. Laurie and Pat separated in 1979.

He then moved out west to Vancouver, British Columbia for a few years and then returned to Toronto.

Laurie finally made Kingston, Ontario his home and lived there with his companion Betty-anne for the last 15 years of his life. Laurie's last job was working at the Kingston General Hospital organizing the connection of televisions in the patients' rooms.



At his death, Laurie was the proud grandfather of Trinity, a girl born in March 2004. He did not get to see Xavier, a boy born in November 2006.

Laurie passed away in May 2006.

Rest in peace our friend. You left us too soon.



Oliver Farnum

I graduated from St. Stanislaus College in 1961 and for the next two years did 'A' Levels at Queen's College.

I then went abroad for studies and returned to teach Geography at Queen's College.

In 1976 I went to Rome to the Collegio Beda to begin seminary studies for the priesthood.

On January 10, 1982, I was ordained and from then until now I have served in several parishes. Meadow Bank was the first parish, then Mahaica. Next was Hague on the West Demerara, then onto Holy Spirit.

After spending one and a half years at Holy Spirit, I went abroad to do a three-month course of studies in clinical pastoral education.

Upon my return I began a new Ministry, Visitation of the Sick in hospital. I have trained a team of Lay persons to assist me in this Ministry.

I have been doing this Ministry for at least seven years.





Chris Fernandes

The high point for me in 1961 was being selected as a member of the Saints Sports team which travelled to Mt. St. Benedict in Trinidad to engage them in Football, Cricket, Basketball and Athletics.

We travelled on the deck of a small coastal vessel and spent two weeks at Mt. St. Benedict College dorm up on the mountain. It was an extremely successful tour having drawn the football series and convincingly beat them at cricket, basketball and athletics. I had the distinction of being the only person to play on all four teams. Gordon Harry and I received the award jointly for being the MVPs on the football team.

It was always my dream to compete at the highest level in football. After leaving school, I went on to play for the Georgetown Football Club where I became the team captain in 1967, a position I held for six years with much pride and unrivaled in its history of the club. During my tenure as captain, I spearheaded two overseas tours, the first in 1967 to Trinidad, Grenada and Barbados and again in 1973 to Trinidad and Grenada. This unfortunately has never been repeated.

I was a late starter in the game of hockey but benefited from my knowledge of football strategy and in 1970 made my international debut against the USA team at Bourda in a goodwill series. That year I accepted the position as secretary of the Hockey Board and was instrumental in raising the funds necessary to get our team to the Pan American Games in Cali Columbia in 1971. Needless to say, it was an unforgettable experience, but that exposure



matured us and we won the Caribbean Championships in Guyana in 1972. As captain and coach of the Guyana team at the 1973 Caribbean Championships in Jamaica, the team rallied through and suffered a disappointing loss in the finals to Jamaica by a score of 1-0. Besides coaching, I was a member of the team at the Pan American Games in Mexico after which I retired to concentrate strictly on coaching. I have coached both football and hockey at Saints from time to time through the years, with my hockey success at Saints being legendary.

On September 3rd 1966 I married my best friend Desiree Yhip and 46 years later we can reflect on what has been a good life. We have 4 of the best sons anyone could ask for, and 9 grandchildren only one being a boy. My sons David, Alan, Philip and Stephen are all sports fanatics having represented Guyana at hockey and at the peak of their careers were well known as feared players in the Caribbean game. Philip is now the President of the Board and also the coach of the Guyana ladies national team. They all benefited from education overseas, live in Guyana and work within our Group. I have given and continue to give my all back to St Stanislaus. I have served on every position on the executive of the Alumni Association. Have been the Chairman of the Farm Committee for over



25 years and am presently the Chairman of the School Board appointed by the Government in October 2005. The challenges are many and at times seem insurmountable but, what is the alternative in trying to make a difference.

When you guys graduated in 1961, I repeated Fifth Form to do physics, chemistry and biology as separate subjects as it was my intention to study Agriculture. In 1962 I went to work at "Geddes Grant" in the Agriculture department to get some exposure to the subject. However, in 1966 I made a career changing decision. I got married to my girlfriend of several years and turned my back on University. My father offered me a job in a small Insurance Agency he had which consisted of a staff of three, a Secretary, an Office Assistant and myself. I was thrown in at the deep end having to learn fast being the Manager, Accountant, Underwriter, Claim Adjuster etc. it proved to be a tremendous experience which helped in preparing me to deal with what was to come.

John Fernandes Ltd was destroyed by fire in the riots of February 13th 1962. The "old man", being a person of immense faith, took the decision to rebuild a temporary facility and get back into business immediately, rather than consider the migration option. The company has grown through the years and has diversified into life-stock production, being the largest producers of chicken in the country. We are also into rice farming, milling and export of rice, the distribution trade and have a small supermarket chain known as Bounty Meat Centers. They are all referred to as the Fernandes group of companies of which I am the Chairman.

Hard times were to follow politically but we never questioned his decision. Dad died at the end of 1981 and, in 1982, I accepted an appointment as the Secretary/Director of John Fernandes Limited but still had responsibility for the Insurance Agency, with staffing grown to 8 persons. It was an abrupt career change as Shipping was all new to me. Things were rough in Guyana at the time; foreign exchange was unavailable through the Bank. At that time it was an offence for you to have in your possession a US dollar or a pound of wheat flour. Could you imagine that? No bread!

Mr. Forbes Burnham died in 1985 and when Mr. Desmond Hoyte introduced the economic recovery program in the late eighties the situation began to improve. My brother Bunny took early retirement in 1992 as both Managing Director and Chairman of the Group of Companies. I was appointed to succeed him, a post which I still hold today 20 years later. I am scheduled to retire this year. I can honestly say that I have enjoyed my life in Guyana and consider my dad's decision to stay as being the right one for us as a family.

In 2002, I received a National Award of The Golden Arrow of Achievement (AA) for long and dedicated service in the field of Commerce and Shipping. In 2007, I received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce & Industry for my Outstanding Accomplishments and Significant Contributions to the Business Community and the wider Society.

I look forward to welcoming all of you my friends and hope that you have a wonderful stay in the land of your birth.



Trevor Gomes

After we were unceremoniously kicked out from Saints, my first job was as a dispatch clerk at Swan Laundry and Drycleaners Ltd. I worked there for about a year - from December 1961 to December 1962.

After leaving that job I obtained employment at Manufacturers Life Insurance Company where Bryan Rodrigues also worked, though we were never there at the same time. When the company closed that office in Georgetown (sometime in 1964 I think) I was out of work.

However while working at Swan and Manufacturers, I attended evening classes at Queens college from September 1961 to July 1964 during which time I obtained credits in two GCE 'O' level subjects - English Language and Elementary Mathematics.

I eventually got a job at Demerara Mutual Life Insurance Company where I stayed until sometime in 1965 when I was let go without warning for not responding in a timely manner to policy holders. I was again on the unemployment line.

Next, I got a job at Weiting & Richter Ltd. as an accounts clerk. There I worked from May 1965 until I resigned in February 1968 to go to Canada to take a one-year full-time course in Radio and Electronics at Radio College of Canada.



After graduating in March 1969, I got a job at Canadian Admiral Corporation in Mississauga as a TV technician and worked there for five years. I left for a better paying job at Dehavilland Aircraft of Canada which was bought out by Bombardier Aerospace. I remained there for thirty two and a half years then retired in 2007. My final position there was as a radio and radar technician.

I got married to my wife of 42 years (and counting) in 1970. She keeps kidding me that maybe it's time for a trade in for a newer model (smile). We have two children - one boy age 36 and one girl age 32. We have two wonderful grand-daughters - one from each child. One "grand" is five years old and the other is almost six months.

This guys, is the history of my life after Saints. I hope you enjoy reading it as I enjoyed sharing it with you.



Richard Harford

In 1956 our father was transferred from Trinidad to Guyana, Barclays Bank, Regent Street. I started in Form Two B in 1956. Mr. Stanley Marcs was our Form Teacher. A gentleman that I owe my success in Business and everything else that I have accomplished in life to. I only have good memories of my stay at St. Stanislaus 1956 - 1962.

Our father got transferred to St. Vincent in 1962. I went to Trinidad to stay with an uncle and I had many jobs.

- a. With an advertising company
- b. With a terrazzo flooring company
- c. Motor car salesman

About 1966 I migrated to Canada, I passed into St. Vincent for three (3) months to stay with my parents and in April, 1966 after the spring started I left for Canada.

While there in St. Vincent I worked on the construction of a new warehouse shed at the port.

I painted the roof. From here I went to Canada and my first job was a Gardener cutting lawns.

A couple of my clients did not pay me so I moved on to a Rubber Tyre company. This did not work out too well so I moved to Montreal where I had some St. Stanislaus school friends. My first job was at Simson Departmental store front decorator.

I then took up a position at Sun Life Insurance Company in the Computer Department as a Librarian. This was a happy employment until one of my colleagues encouraged me to travel around the world. I pulled up stakes, came to Trinidad to tell the family goodbye. Here I was encouraged by friends to partner with them in establishing the First Pizza shop in a mall in the suburbs. The early history was an unhappy one. The other partners did not pull their weight, besides the business was losing money. The other partners sold out to me and a new colleague I brought in as a partner. Things looked a little brighter, but the other partner had different ideas and I bought him out. At this time, I was about to open the second Mario's Pizzeria... The company struggled for a period and eventually prospered. Mario's has grown to twenty restaurants across Trinidad with Sales of over \$80 million. We currently have three Restaurants in Guyana - all franchised. At present we are in a large expansion mode. We also have a sandwich business - Boomers with six (6) restaurants similar to SUBWAY and there are many possibilities. The profits from Mario's have financed a number of commercial and residential buildings in Trinidad. One of these is a country home which gives me much enjoyment pursuing agricultural endeavours on a small scale. I bear produce for the family and friends each weekend. I am married, have a daughter and three sons who work in the business. Recently I gave up the reins as CEO and taken the post of Chairman leaving the boys considerable autonomy. There is one granddaughter and a grandson on whom I dote.

I have always loved hunting and fishing and have been back to Guyana a number of times to hunt in the Rupununi.





Ronald F deC Harford

I left in 6th form and went to St Vincent to complete the second year of his sixth form program. The curriculum was different and efforts to complete a two year program in one year failed . Unable to work in St Vincent (too small an economy) I went to Trinidad and applied for a job at Barclays Bank. After a month or two waiting was employed and thus began a 50 year career. I worked my way up the hard way, post boy, clearings clerk, cashier.

I studied the bank exams and qualified early with an AIB. Was transferred to country branches before being sent abroad to Barbados. There I married my first wife and had two daughters. I was sent to London on a number of training courses then given my own branch at the age of 24 in Grenville Grenada. From here moved on to Dominica for a further two years then returned to Trinidad.

Worked in a number of country branches then sent to Cranfield Inst. of Technology to study Organization and Methods and lived in the UK for a couple of months.

Returned to Trinidad and after a while made Computer manager after further related studies. From there at the age of 40 yrs was made General manager and held a number of GM post for a dozen years then made a Director of the BANK (Republic Bank).

In 1997 was made CEO and a few years later was Chairman and CEO. I retired in 2005 but have stayed on as non executive Chairman of the group which under my stint had grown to include operations in Guyana, Grenada, Barbados, Cayman and Cuba.

I remarried in 1999 to Allison. She has two girls and one boy. We therefore have five children and at the last count eleven grandchildren.

I am Deputy Chairman of Arthur Lok Jack Graduate School of Business, Chairman of UWI endowment Fund, and I am on a few other minor boards one of which is undertaking a large scale farming project in Rupununi. I have traveled considerably over the years on business and pleasure and continue to do so.





Desmond Hill

Not a doctor, not a lawyer, not a priest, not a Real Estate mogul - where did 50 years go!! Riding a bike to the Base to go camping at the creek, going up to the big ground to play cricket, football or just fool around. The bike is replaced with the 'motobike' which is then replaced with the 'motoca'.

First job was with Barclays Bank and then in quick succession Bookers moving through various subsidiaries - Ful-o-Pep, PanAm, Guyana Insurance. Then off to London for two years with an Insurance company there - hanging out with other 'displaced' Guyanese.

A highlight of these two years was a trip thru' Europe with Glasford and McTurk (QC boys). We still re-live this trip whenever we are all together and our wives can tell the 'stories' better than us.

Back to Guyana in 1966 for a short-lived ongoing relationship with Bookers. Next job with Esso and then in 1968 joining NCR in sales. Still on the move, emigrating to Canada in 1971, settled in Mississauga, the roots are down.

This year Jackie and I will celebrate our 40th Wedding Anniversary. Where did the time go? Spacemaker was my second job in Canada, starting there in May 1972 and retiring after 39 years on April 1, 2011.



Canada is our home - it has 'done good' by us and our family. We have two children, Samantha and James, who visited Guyana for the first time in October 2010.

Not sure that they will be back but nonetheless the Guyanese heritage is there - pepperpot anyone, pine tarts yes please!!

These days I try to spend as much time as possible at our cottage in the Muskokas.



Dickson Augustus Hooper

After leaving 'Saints' I joined the Central Medical Laboratory of the then Public Hospital Georgetown, Ministry of Health in January 1964. There began a long and interesting career in the Medical (Para Medical) profession as a Medical Technologist.

I spent fourteen years based at the Central Medical Laboratory (CML) during which time I worked at Branch Laboratories in Bartica, Suddie and New Amsterdam. I specialized in Histopathology/Histotechnology having completed training at the University of the West Indies, Jamaica in 1969. By 1978, I had achieved the position of Senior Medical Technologist in charge of the Histotechnology Department.

Between 1970 and 1978, I served as Part-time Lecturer and Laboratory Tutor at the University of Guyana in the Medical Technology Programme. In 1978, I went on to the University of Guyana on secondment as a Full-time Lecturer and Laboratory Tutor in Histotechnology. By the time I retired after thirty-three (33) years of full time service, I had served as Head of Department, Department of Medical Technology in the Faculty of Health Science for twenty (20) years, and had served as Dean of the Faculty for 2x5 years and 1x1 year period. During that time, I still continued to teach my specialty and Laboratory Management full time, and later taught the Management for Health Services course in the Faculty of Health Science.



I participated in a number of training programmes in Britain, USA and the Caribbean sponsored by the British Council, PAHO/WHO and CAREC respectively. I was able to improve not only my academic qualifications but also my technical skills in my area of specialty. These experiences afforded the necessary skills for my part-time attachment as Technical Assessor for the Medical Laboratory Certification programme conducted by the Guyana National Bureau of Standards (GNBS).

Socially, I am involved in Church activities (I am now an Anglican) and Fraternity (English and Scottish Free Mason, and Ancient Order of Foresters, and a Past President of the Lions Club of Ruimveldt).

Since 1971 I have been married to Sandra. That union has produced two (2) boys and one (1) girl who are now adults. Incidentally, both sons are in the employ of John Fernandes Ltd. (I had nothing to do with that!) and both are 'Old Boys' of Saints (that I had to do with!!); my daughter is married and lives overseas (she went to the rival school Queens College - remember the old school battles!)

As part of the 'Local Planning Team', I welcome this coming together of the old team. WELCOME HOME GUYS!!!

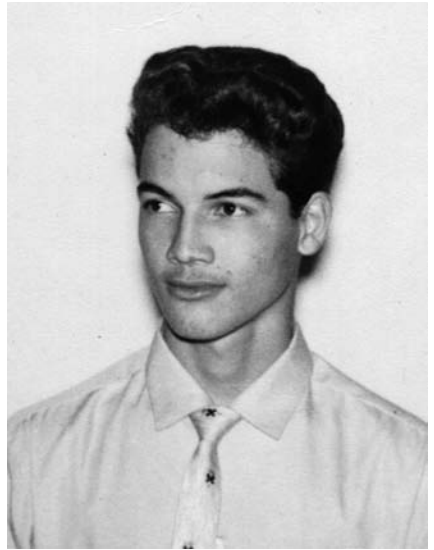


Dennis Ray LaBorde

As most of you know, my dad was a Senior Superintendent of Police, Dennis Ray "Dick" LaBorde. Sadly, he died 17 June 2007 (aged 90 and 16 days). My mom - Peggy Rita (88 years old and still going strong) is living in England with my sisters Toni, Philippa and Hilda while Peggy-Anna May resides in Germany. My brothers Patrick and David live in Canada.

I dropped the "Dickie" tag many years ago and now prefer to be called by my second name "Ray". My problem is, there seems to be so much with which to catch up - it will be 49 years, come 4th October this year, since I left home - and, as I knew it then, it was "BG" to me, and, since so much water has passed under the bridge, I shall have to genuinely make this passage of time for me, an absolute synopsis of nearly half a century of my life. That's some tall order! Not an easy task, because I have so much to tell and so many exciting things to share with you all that, for once, I shall find myself almost 'tongue-tied' with frustration.

Never mind; here goes: During those 49 years, I've travelled to many parts of the world, (each journey was both an adventure and an amazing experience and, a story in its own right) - places like: Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Austria, France, Gibraltar, Cyprus, and Saudi Arabia; then there was China, Hong Kong, Thailand, Malaysia, Dubai, Maldives, Vietnam, Japan. Then, India (Jaipur, Delhi and Agra), Africa (Sierra Leon, Libya), Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Brazil (Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo), St Lucia, Trinidad, Jamaica, Florida and finally, of course, to my beautiful Guiana -



"...Land of the rivers and far stretching sea; so like the mountains, the sea and the rivers, great wide and deep in our hearts shall we be! Onwards, upwards 'Mary had a Goat' (may we ever go), day by day 'she grabbed it by the throat' (in strength and beauty grow), till at length, we each of us may share, what Guiana's sons and daughters can be."

I married twice (lost my first wife in a car accident), two children from my first marriage (boy and a girl); plus one biological daughter and two step sons, from my second marriage; became a grandfather three times - one boy from first daughter and two boys from my eldest step-son. My youngest daughter, India Sophie, (21 years of age), has just been awarded a BSc (Hons) Degree in Biological Anthropology. As some of you will be aware, I joined the British Army back in 1962 and left after serving 12 years. During that time, I formed a band/group called "RED C", (Roy, Eddie, Dick and



Charlie) where I honed my singing skills; on many occasions, I competed as a soloist or with my band in singing/group competitions, winning nearly every time (particularly the solo sections) and one day, my call to Show Business rang loudly in my ears and heart.

I appeared a number of times on British TV in minor acting roles as well as a singer (soloist) in a number of Variety Shows - sometimes 'Topping the Bill' and other times 'supporting' a famous TV personality, Act/Comedian, etc;

I sang for Royalty (the late Princess Margaret - by special request at a concert held in her honour in Germany in 1966) and also for Princess Anne (The Princess Royal), again by special request, at her wedding reception at Rheindalen, Germany - on the occasion of her first marriage to Captain Mark Phillips in November 1973;

I appeared at the London Palladium Theatre in 1979 (for 6 months) in the stage production of "The King & I" with Yul Brynner and Virginia McKenna - playing the part of "Lun Tha" the tragic lover of "Tup Tim"; I then sang professionally (for my supper of course!), both nationally (UK) and internationally (Germany, Sweden, Denmark, Italy, Saudi Arabia) for many years thereafter, both with my own band and as a solo artiste (I once boasted a three and a half Octave range - using falsetto of course -but most of it was as a tenor).

My first wife (Rhianne, from whom I was separated at the time) died tragically in a car accident in 1982. Sadly I was singing at a concert that night in South Wales many miles away, and heard the devastating news immediately after I came off the stage. After that, everything became a blur! My life seemed to be spinning out of orbit and I was merely an 'onlooker' from the sidelines. I can say categorically, however, that I never used drugs, drank more than one glass of beer or a shot of whiskey (Single Malt) per week or needed any stimulants, even at my lowest ebb. Guess I simply had (and still have) a natural ability to stay on top of things.

Nevertheless, I took some time out to look after my two children, to focus my thoughts and then I realised that I needed to have a more settled and secure lifestyle, especially for my children, so, I applied for and successfully became an Editor of a small newspaper in our town (Trowbridge, Wiltshire). I was 'head hunted' by a local publishing company (for my skills??) where I met, was hired by and (in due course, as one does :-)) married the Managing Director, Barbara.

I edited Life Style magazines, Business to Business Manuals, In-Flight Magazines, Police Crime Prevention Manuals, etc and was appointed Production Director of the company. During this period as a publisher, I was lucky enough to have the flexibility and renewed passion to follow my dream and primary career - singing and entertaining. I performed all over the UK and nearly always, I was accompanied by my mentor and rock, my wife. I still found the time to dedicate myself to our publishing business and to my family. I was happy again.



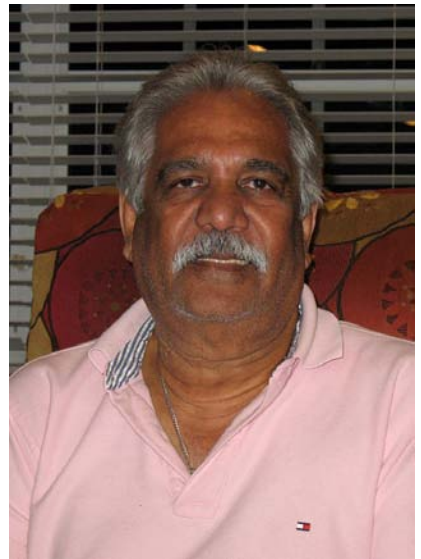
Frank Mandal

After I left school in 1961, I was at a loss as to what to do with myself. I was 16 years old and I could not find a job until I turned 17 in January of 1962. So, I spent the several months hanging out with Bongo Baby, Cecil Wolfe and Malcolm Abdool. We spent time learning to smoke Lighthouse, Clipper and Broadway cigarettes. We also spent time drinking Banks Beer, which at the time was 25 cents apiece. I still remember "AXE the TAX" when the Government wanted to increase the taxes on beer.

During that period, I studied for the O levels and, surprisingly, I passed five subjects in total. This gave me a shot at working for the Civil Service when I turned 17. And since I was doing very little in those days, my mother, may she rest in peace, started bugging me to find a job.

I applied to the Civil Service though I did not want to work as I was having such a good time. My very knowledgeable friends told me not to worry, as the application process for the Civil Service took at least six months before they would call back. So in order to get my mother off my back, I went into the Public Service Commission (PSC) and filled out a form and decided to relax and enjoy myself.

But I couldn't believe it when I got a letter the next week saying that the PSC wanted me to come in for an interview. So again my very knowledgeable friends told me not to worry. I would go in for an interview but it would still take about six months for them to offer me a job. Then, I went in for the interview and after less than an hour the guy interviewing me said, "Can you start tomorrow?" I looked at him in amazement and said, "But my friend told me it would take six months for you to offer me a job". He smiled and said, "Do you want to start tomorrow?" So what could I do? I told him that tomorrow was too soon. I had to at least celebrate this with my friends and so I would start at the beginning of the next week, which was February 2, 1962. I was all of 17 years and 12 days old.



I worked for the Civil Service for 13 years and eventually was promoted to Assistant Manager, Manager and another position that I don't remember the name of. During this period I worked in the Post Office and the Guyana Audit Department. Most of my school friends were already in England, USA or Canada.

My life was very entertaining and filled with drinking and partying. I got married and had a daughter, Cindy. But eventually I decided I had had enough after I was a choke and rob victim on my way home one night. So I left for Caracas, Venezuela, to start over in 1975.



Boy, what a difference. It was a very organized Caracas and the people were friendly. I had a blast! I was in a Spanish speaking country but did not speak Spanish since; you might remember, we learnt Latin and French but no Spanish at Saints. So I decided to learn Spanish, and since my older brother Rayman, who was in a form higher than us, taught Spanish at Central in those days, I asked him to send me the books for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th forms so I could learn the language. So this is where my 5 years of Latin came in handy. I quickly went through the books and spent time listening to the radio and watching TV, all in Spanish. Amazingly, I picked up the language and still speak it to this day.

In 1975, 6 months after I arrived in Caracas, I applied for two jobs: one at the English speaking newspaper and one at Citibank. I got both and decided on the Citibank job since my Guyanese friends in Caracas told me that a career in Citibank had a more prosperous future. Even after all that time, I was still listening to my friends.

I started at the bottom again and worked my way up the ladder, with my Spanish improved as I went along. I was a big hit at Citibank Venezuela as I had a lot of auditing and accounting experience. After one year, I was offered a job with the Citibank Audit Department. I did very well there and while participating in an audit with the Head Office Travelling team working out of New York, they offered me a job within the team.

I spent four years travelling to all the Caribbean countries and became the Team Captain in two years. During those four years I lived out of a suitcase, as we had no home. I travelled to Aruba, Puerto Rico, Bahamas, Mexico, Venezuela, Panama, Ecuador, Peru, Santo Domingo, Colombia and St. Thomas V.I. This was continuous travelling and the only time I went home was when I was on vacation. Looking back on it, it was really awesome. I saw these countries free, having my expenses paid for by the bank. Eventually, I was promoted to Assistant Vice President and after four years from 1980-1984, I was requested to take up residency as Auditor in charge of the Citibank Bahamas, which had an enormous offshore portfolio of Trust and Banking activities.

Still, even with all that time and distance, I met up with some of our friends. I was just going to a restaurant close to the bank to eat some curry chicken, and I see these two people having lunch, and recognize them instantly. I found Lennox 'Bulla' Williams and John 'Pops' Seeram. Lennox was teaching at the Technical Institute, and John was a former auditor with me back in Guyana. I have to say, I was shocked to come across them.

Eventually, my drinking caught up with me and I became very very sick. I recovered, but it took me about six months. Actually, do you know who looked after me in Nassau? Dr. Williams, Bulla's brother, who was a surgeon at the hospital. You may remember, he was one or two forms ahead of us and was a high jumper. Anyway he took very good care of me and I have never had a drink since. It is now 26 years.

I spent 1984 and 1985 in the Bahamas, but eventually I moved on and went to San Juan, Puerto Rico where I met my wife, Alina. In Puerto Rico I was responsible for the set up of a Latin American



Regional Treasury. But there was just too much politics going on in San Juan and so the Audit team folded within a year and I moved on to Mexico. This was in 1986, about a year after the Earthquake in Mexico City. I was sent to run this Audit Team for a year.

Life was good, and after another year I decided to leave audit and found a job in New York City with Citibank. This was 1987 and I was right on Park Avenue. But I soon learned that New York is a place to visit, not a place for me to live. It's just too damn cold!

I got married for a second time to my beautiful Cuba/Rican wife in June 1987 and my son, Rafiq, was born in October 1988. Funny thing about the name Rafiq, I named him after the radio announcer Rafiq Khan. He had a deep booming voice and I always remember him saying 'this is Rafiq Khan, signing off'. Anyhow, I stayed in New York until the end of 1988 and then was transferred to Caracas, Venezuela with a promotion to Vice-President in 1989.

After that I went through a phase in my work life in Citibank I call the clean up phase. I started cleaning up failed audits, and I did it for two years in Caracas. When they passed the audit at the end of 1990, I moved back to San Juan, Puerto Rico where I spent the next 2 years in the brokerage business of Citibank, fixing a failed audit, acquiring my US brokerage licenses and another 3 years fixing the Credit Card department. My second son, Rahim, was born in 1991 in San Juan, Puerto Rico. When he was born we thought of naming him Pedro but can you imagine one son with the name Rafiq and the second with the name Pedro? So my wife decided she would name him after my father, whose name was Rahim.

Come to think of it, even though my nine brothers and sisters and my mom were born and baptized catholic, my father was Muslim. Can you imagine the love of a Muslim man for his catholic wife that he allowed his children to be born and raised as Catholics? As I write this I am impressed and had never thought about this before.

But that is another completely different story. I eventually left Puerto Rico after finishing my assignment there of five years. I was eventually promoted to a more senior vice president position in Tampa Florida where I worked for five more years. It was very nice, quiet and very south. In 1999, I was transferred to Mexico and lived there until 2009. I spent 11 years in Mexico and really enjoyed myself there. I retired in 2006 and bought a house on a golf course. I had every intention in living my retirement there. However, my children had other ideas and would not go back to live in Mexico, so we decided to move. We at least stayed until 2009 so that my kids could graduate with a full bilingual high school education and at the end of 2009, I sold my house and returned to Florida where I make my home today.

I now live close, a few minutes, to my daughter, Cindy Ann, and grandkids, Colin and Cameron who are 8 and 6 respectively. Life is different now. I am more relaxed and take joy in volunteering at the Catholic Church. I spend one to two days a week taking care of my grandchildren. They are another joy for me. Otherwise, my wife finds work for me to do around the house. I guess you guys don't



know about that, eh? I also volunteer on a daily basis with the St Vincent de Paul after my daily 8.00 a.m. Mass and have recently been elected President of the St. Vincent de Paul at my Church at St. Bonaventure.

As for my children, Cindy Ann is an industrial engineer and is happy fixing broken processes and other such things. And my son Rafiq just graduated about a year ago and is an aspiring writer/publisher. He has his work cut out for him in today's depressed environment. It's funny how life is though; he runs a radio show through the Internet and has been doing this for about three years. Remember whom I named him after? See how life can bite you in the ass? He is also a drummer and plays in a Hip Hop band and is also a participating writer in an aspiring TV show.

Now my other son Rahim is in his third year at college and studying to become an Opera singer. Apparently, according to his voice coach, he has a lot of talent. He has participated in very small parts in different school operas and also sings in the St. Louis Cathedral choir at church. He will start participating in the New Orleans Opera this year with some bigger parts. This will be his 3rd year of college starting from August.

My wife Alina is very Latin. Ask Bongo and David who have had the 'privilege' of meeting her recently in Toronto. I, myself, have become very Latin in many ways. After living more than 20 years in Latin American countries, maybe I have become more Latin than Guyanese. I love the music and enjoy dancing the Salsa and Merengue and eating my wife's Cuban and Puerto Rican food. As you can see, my sons have inherited the Latin flair and are artistically inclined. Diversity, you know? I have enjoyed my life immensely and would not change it for the world.

But what can I say? Life has been very good to me. I spent 17 years as an expatriate living in and travelling to these exotic places that in the past we could only read about and imagine what it would be like to go there. However, I have never forgotten my Guyana, as it is what made me who I am today, with all the schooling and heartaches and Roraima. This will always be mine.

Saludos amigos
Frank



Winston D. Quail

Having graduated from St. Stanislaus College in July 1961, my parents almost immediately shipped me off to London in September 1961. Most of my siblings had already migrated to London, therefore the issue of being home sick did not surface. The purpose of my journey to London was to emulate my father professionally.

My father was an Optometrist and was practising in Guyana at the time. Therefore, enrolled into the appropriate educational institutions in London in order to achieve my goal. I eventually succeeded in my quest to emulate my father through the Examinations of 'The British Optical Association' which I passed.

Thereafter, I got married in London, raised a family and worked for ten years in London in my new profession. As my father was now a very old man, I found it incumbent upon myself to return to Guyana to take over my father's practice.



I arrived in Guyana in August 1978 and immediately became registered with 'The Medical Council of Guyana' thus becoming entitled to practise as an Optometrist in Guyana under the Provisions of the Colonial Medical Service Optometrist Ordinance No. 25 of 1956.

I have been in practice in Guyana from August 1978 to the present, and hope to continue in this capacity as long as circumstances permit.



Bryan Rodrigues

I worked for a brief period at my father's store Rodrigues Limited, just long enough to cover the cost of my Lighthouse Cigarettes and Banks beer. My real first time job was of a clerical nature at Manufacturers Life Insurance Company on the ground floor of the Park Hotel on Main Street. Then came the riots with political turmoil and my father decided to move the family to Canada.

I am sure it was a tough decision for him as he was about to lose financially let alone part with his many friends and business associates. To this day I thank him (deceased 28 years).

Upon leaving Guyana my wish was to study to become a Criminal Investigator AKA a Cop :) so upon my arrival in Toronto I applied at the Metropolitan Toronto Police Association. Unfortunately I was declined because I did not meet the required criteria at that time - A/ Minimum height 6 feet - B/ Minimum height 165 pounds. My height is 5 ft 7 in and I weighed 145 pounds.

My next stop was the Head Office of Manufacturers Life Insurance. Success. I was hired and worked in the policy Issue and Underwriting Dept for 7 years. During that period I met my first wife and was married in Spring 1968.

In 1970, I worked for Allstate Ins as a casualty underwriter handling Quebec and the Maritime Provinces, however after 5 years it was time for a career change.

My Real Estate sales career was launched in June 1975. I worked with a local Real Estate broker for 8 years. In 1983 I joined the fastest growing Real estate Brokerage "Re/Max" and enjoyed their company until 1997.

I am currently working as a Realtor with an all Canadian Organization "Sutton Group" which was founded in British Columbia some 20 years ago. My good fortune as a Realtor has given me and my family the opportunity to travel extensively to see and appreciate a lot of our beautiful world.

PERSONAL CORNER

My first marriage was 23 years. We have a son John 39 and a daughter Jennifer 36. Between them we have 4 beautiful grand children, Carter 8 William 7 Andrew 6 and Rachel 2 1/2.

My wife Valerie of 16 years married, has 2 sons Shayne 37 and Aaron 33 and 2 grand children Melissa





15 and Jacob 10. We are very fortunate.

I live in Pickering Ontario a suburb east of Toronto. I have been involved with my parish St. Isaac Jogues Catholic Church from the building plans to the current time.

I am an Usher/Minister of Hospitality and I head up the financial/counting team.

I miss Guyana and I think about the country, and my years there attending Main Street School and of course Saints.

Our correspondence over the past year has brought back a lot of memories of both schools (some good, some not so good and some funny). I have never been back since I left in 1962 so I am really excited about this reunion.

Looking forward to meeting you all again and making this reunion a memorable occasion.

Bryan AKA Bongo Rodrigues



J. Dennis Rodrigues

1963 - 2011

Before leaving BG in 1963, I first had to get there. I was born on the island of Aruba in the Netherlands Antilles on Feb 8, 1944. My parents were Guyanese and my dad went to Aruba to work in the oil refinery during the Second World War. That was the war that took place soon after the 'war-to-end-all-wars' was over. My parents planned to move to the U.S. at some point and as such they wanted us children to have an English education instead of a Dutch education we were getting in Aruba. In Aruba the schools are Dutch and English is a foreign language. So my brother Anthony and I went to BG in 1955 and lived with our aunt and uncle and cousins during our school years. Anthony was too old (13 years) to be accepted at Saints. I was 11, so they figured I was ok. They probably regretted it soon after I got there. My two sisters (Marlene and Adele) were a good deal younger and they subsequently went to school in Jamaica for a couple of years. Eventually my parents returned to BG and took my sisters along where they then finished school.

Here is a time-line of my whereabouts and doings over the years after leaving BG in May 1963:

1963 - 1967

I went to Catholic University of America in Washington DC. I flew from Aruba to NYC. The temperature in NY was about 67F. That was the coldest I ever felt! I spent the first year thinking what I could do to talk my parents into letting me transfer to a school in Florida or Texas. I didn't have the guts to ask. I survived anyway. Graduated in 1967 with a Bachelor's degree in engineering, and was recruited by The Boeing Company in Seattle. I liked the idea of moving the Northwest and would actually have liked to go to Alaska.

1967 - 1970

These years were boom times in the aerospace industry. I worked in the Commercial Airplane group (about 70% of Boeing's business at the time). Boeing was also in the military and space business. In 1970 the bottom fell out in the industry, economy went into recession, Viet Nam war was ending, space program was winding down and the Supersonic Transport airplane was cancelled. Of the 101,000 Boeing employees in Seattle, Boeing laid off 62,000. Seattle was a one-company town and the company was going broke. Last in first out. Lots of Brits and other engineers from all over the globe and all over the U.S. got laid off. Two people put up a big billboard just outside the city. It showed a picture of a light bulb with a pull chain and read 'Will the last person leaving Seattle turn





out the lights'. In Jan 1970 I got a pay raise, got my U.S. citizenship and got laid off, all in the space of one month.

1971 - 1972

I Moved to St Louis, Missouri to work for McDonnell Douglas Aircraft on the F-15 fighter aircraft. I didn't like it so much. Too hot and humid in summer and too cold in winter, and I didn't like working on a military program. Politicians in Washington vote each year on whether to provide funds for military programs. I didn't care for that. End of 1972 Boeing rehired me. While in St Louis I met my wife Anne. She has put up with me to this day.

1972 - 1973

I moved to Seattle with Anne, one rabbit and two birds and worked in Seattle until Nov 1973.

1973 - 1977

Boeing transferred us to Hamburg, West Germany in Nov 1973. I was the Boeing Technical Representative at Lufthansa. We stayed in Hamburg until Nov 1975. While there our first son, Ian, was born. While in Hamburg we were sent to Lagos, Nigeria at Nigeria Airways for one month in 1974. We were later transferred to Stavanger, Norway in Nov 1975. I was stationed at Braathens Airlines as the Boeing Technical Representative. We stayed there until June 1977. While there our second son, Brian, was born. I requested a transfer back to Seattle. I didn't want to keep moving all over the world while raising a family.

1977 - 1989

Back in Seattle I worked in a technical support group, providing technical support to airlines. Bought 10 acres on an island and had a house built. It was in commuting distance to work but have to use a ferry to get on and off the island. Plan was to be as self-sufficient as possible. We have our own water system (a deep well), septic system, generator if we lose power and a wood stove with our own firewood as a heat supplement. Over the years we raised our own beef, sheep, chickens for eggs, pigs and vegetables and some fruit. Also had horses, ducks, geese, goats, cats, dogs, birds and rabbits. The place was like a zoo.

1989 - 2004

I changed jobs at Boeing, transferring to the Aircraft Accident Investigation group in Jan 1989. This is a small group of five accident investigators whose job it is to immediately launch to the accident site whenever a Boeing airplane crashes. Only one investigator in the group launches on an accident but takes with him some other engineering specialists in the company depending on the nature of the accident. I was sent to University of Southern California (USC) for several weeks of Aircraft Accident Investigation training.

In 1991

I got my pilot's license, single engine land. Nearly crashed a couple of times; engine stopped one time but restarted, second time I was practicing stalls and almost did not recover (recovered at 800ft



above the ground). My heart, however, was working just fine. I could feel it pounding in my chest! In 2002 I was made an Associate Technical Fellow of The Boeing Company. This is kind of a big deal. Our two sons grew up and went out on their own.

I spent these last 15 years of my working career travelling to all manner of places around the world on very short notice in response to aircraft accidents. A few of the places include Argentina, Brazil, China, India (5 times), Taiwan, Korea, Japan, Russia, Azerbaijan and a bunch more. Some of the more challenging investigations include:

- TWA flight 800 - 747 took off from JFK NY and exploded in flight, crashing in the Atlantic on July 17, 1996. Longest and most intense investigation, took four years before the final report was released. I worked about 14 hours a day, 7 days a week for the first four months. Spent lots of time on Long Island, NY while all the pieces of wreckage were recovered from 125 feet of water. We rebuilt a large part of the airplane using the pieces of wreckage.
- COPA 737 crash into the jungle of Panama, June 6, 1992. Very difficult environment, hot humid and treacherous jungle. It took two days just to find the wreckage site. Had to fly in and out by helicopter and climb up and down hilly terrain to search for airplane pieces. Airplane broke up in flight and rained down in the densest jungle in the world. Took 1-1/2 weeks to find all the pieces. NOVA made a documentary 'Mysterious Crash of Flight 201'. Documentary shown on PBS stations in the U.S. or a number of years. BBC bought the rights to it and showed it in the U.K. Amazon still carries it.
- Space Shuttle Columbia accident, Feb 2003. Went to Houston to help with this. The Orbiter started breaking up over the Pacific off California and most of the wreckage was found in Texas. Travelling at over 17,000 MPH gets you a long distance quickly! I suggested to NASA that we assemble the pieces in a 2D reconstruction and go from there. They agreed. I went to the Kennedy Space Center to help with the reconstruction. Later that year I was presented with the Astronauts Silver Snoopy Award, to my great surprise. It's a prestigious award. Years ago NASA astronauts had asked the Peanuts cartoonist Charles Shulz to design a lapel pin of the dog Snoopy, the Red Baron. He did a one-of-a-kind design. The astronauts take a few of these pins up in each Shuttle flight and bring them back. Each pin is individually numbered and is presented to people who contribute something significant in the space program. Here is a link to the NASA database listing my award. The name Rex Walheim in this link is the name of the astronaut who came to Seattle to present the award.

2004 - 2011

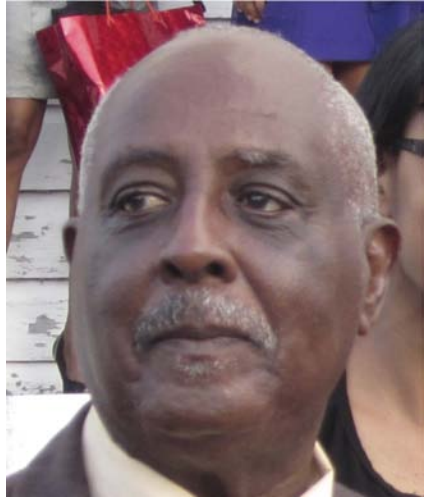
I retired on Apr 1, 2004. Started doing all the things I had not been able to do because of work and travel. Top of the list was to get things done around the house. Seems like no end to this. We do more boating and local travel. The zoo is down to a cat and dog and they are as old as the hills. Come to think of it, we (and that includes you) are so old, you will notice a lot of countries changed their names during our lives! Our younger son Brian got married in 2009 and now we have a four month old grandson, Jack.



Ernest Siebs

After leaving St. Stanislaus College unceremoniously (compliments of Fr. Hopkinson) I began my working life as a laboratory assistant at the Government Analyst Department for a princely salary of Guy\$ 42.00 per month. I spent four years thereafter which I proceeded to Puerto Rico and entered Universidad Inter-Americana where I obtained a B.A in Economics and Business Administration. Apart from the usual ups and downs of university life, my most memorable occasion was when in 1966 I was asked to sing the Guyana's national anthem.

Of course being independent for only a matter of months I did not know the words. I was then asked to sing God Save the Queen! Which I did. Needless to say, I received a thumping from the West Indian students. I returned home in December 1970. Got married and being the recipient of a government scholarship I had to work for the state. I started at the Guyana Development Corp. as a management trainee and was paid Guy \$350.00 monthly. My training stint took me to several private and public institutions. Finally in 1972 I was asked to establish the Guyana Government's first venture into commercial fishing - Guyana Marine Foods Ltd.



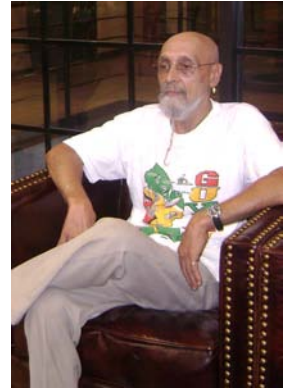
When the Government decided to nationalize the Booker Group of Companies in Guyana I was appointed Manager Director of the Guyana Fisheries Ltd. where I stayed until it was privatized. After that I spent a few years doing my thing with three second hand fishing trawlers but eventually had to give it up because the ages of the vessels made the operation unprofitable. I then spent about one year as Administrative Manager (Port Kaituma operations) of the Barama Co. Ltd. (Ply board conglomerate) On leaving there I managed the Livestock Development Co. (Lidco), then Sales Manager of Amazon Tractor & Equipment Co. and finally in a partnership which operated two TEXACO service stations.

I am retired, the father of four children (two daughters and two sons) and grandfather of seven. I am separated from my wife and have since been involved in two other relationships. In the 70's I was very much involved in motor racing. I had my own racing car, a mini named PARKSPEED (beat everyone in its class). It is still working, but not competitive.



Francis Van Sluytman

For a while I did nothing, just hanging out in the Pomeroun, working on my parents' coconut plantation. When I felt like it, I made trips with my uncle's boat taking plantains to Trinidad and Barbados. That lasted for a year then it was back to square one. After that I worked in my uncle's lumber yard in De Roy Street. After a failed attempt of walking to North America, I sought employment in the Interior. I started working with Sir William Halcrow & Partners in the early 60s on the Tapakuma Drainage and Irrigation Project. When the project was finished, I worked with the Ministry of Works and Hydraulics in Kingston, near the Light-house. I enjoyed being so close to the Seawall. I soon got tired of that job so I wrote myself a letter of invitation and left for Miami in 1968. Moved to New York where most of my relatives resided and was soon employed as a Supervisor in a Duplication Factory. I married my pen pal in Ohio. Worked in a couple of factories there then moved to Los Angeles. By this time I had developed a passion for song writing, singing and playing the guitar.



It was now the Early '70s. In LA I tried to make it into the music business doing odd jobs, just living, enjoying the hippie thing - you know - peace and love, meeting all kinds of nice folks while trying to make it in the music business.

1972 -1975. I spent those three years in the US Army. Volunteered for Germany and Korea but ended up in Washington State - Fort Lewis Tacoma. Did not mind the disappointment because Washington State was beautiful and filled with genuine country folks - kind and loving. Married again and had another son. Then I moved to Las Vegas to work with my brother-in-law in a Production Company, pioneering vision movies. Quit that job in 1977.

Hopscotched with my buddy Richard Walcott around the Caribbean and made it home for the Christmas of '77. Partied for nearly a year, fell in love with a Fraulein and ended up in Hamburg, Germany. I spent the next three years in Europe with my rucksack and guitar, visiting many different countries. I settled in Holland for a while, then Norway, England - lots of inspiration. It was like living in a dream world.

Everything was flowing back to the US in 1980. It seemed so cold after being in Europe for three years. Returned to Europe, spent one more year then moved back to Florida, U.S.A. In 1983 it was back to the Pomeroun with my other half, trying to re-open the coconut estate that was badly in need of TLC. However I had to leave shortly after I settled, due to complications with the birthing of my daughter.

In 1986 I moved to BC, Canada and lived on an island called Alert Bay where we operated a B&B for whale watchers. Lived there for 16 years - it was the closest thing to heaven. But I just could not take the winters anymore so I returned to Florida.

There I opted for managing an apartment complex for a while. Then I comfortably settled into the role of house husband while I worked on my music, garden and health.

To sum it all up, I am still my greatest mystery. LIFE IS GOOD.



Lennox Williams

This Country boy was booted out of Saints on orders from Hoppy. My father said boy you have to get those 'O' levels so get back into a school.

I enrolled at the Government Technical Institute to do a 3-year Sandwich course(alternate 6 mths school & 6 mths industry) leading to a Certificate in Mechanical Engineering from City & Guilds of London Institute.

I proceeded to Toronto, Canada where I attended Ryerson Polytechnical Institute for Mechanical Engineering and the University of Toronto for teacher training.

Back in Guyana I went to the University of Guyana doing a course known as Diploma in Public Administration. Later I dabbled in a lot of short courses. They all kept me occupied/busy but no long term reward. I was employed at Albion Sugar Estates, Guyana Airways Corporation, Guyana Electricity Corporation and Transport & Harbour Department.

I started teaching at the Government Technical Institute as an instructor/trainee then becoming lecturer. I went to the New Amsterdam Technical Institute as a Senior Lecturer for a short time before returning to Georgetown to work in the Technical Section of the Ministry of Education.

I later made my way to Nassau, Bahamas as a lecturer and leaving as Assistant Dean of Technology all at the College of the Bahamas. My papers came through for permanent residence in the USA hence I bid farewell to Nassau after 10 wonderful years.

I had many jobs in New York City ending at the New York City Fire Department doing Fire Prevention. It was great inspecting, writing violations, testing and giving out those summons. Health wise the Lord above and my saints are taking care of me. I am still alive having survived incidents I cannot remember fully. Blacked out on a flight from Kentucky to California. Blacked out on the New York Subway in Queens. Ambulance ride to the hospitals. Bad as I am -still- I signed myself out of the hospital in both cases. I was operated on for quadruple heart surgery and insertion of stints. The heart was caught before the heart attack. My vascular surgeon did forecast a second insertion of the stint. I was told the second operation lasted 8 hours.

I am married or my wife married me. I have 3 boys alive and 6 grand-children- 2 girls & 4 boys. I am retired and live in Leehigh Acres, Ft Myers, Florida, USA. Big Bulla -Francis- and little Bulla - Bernard- my brothers reside in New York City.

I know you are now bored. When we meet I shall provide details and dates if I could remember.





Godfrey Wray

THE SAINT I NEVER WAS - From Albouystown to Brickdam
I have been lucky and I have been blessed.

Fifty-six years ago, while at Carmel Roman Catholic School in socially-challenged South Georgetown, I was successful at the Government County Scholarship Examination. I earned the right to attend the school of my choice and I chose St. Stanislaus College, not Queen's College. Thus began my odyssey with you guys.

But how can one compress a half-century of wonderful years in a few lines?

Not Possible. That's why this initiative to spend quality time together is such a grand idea.

Over the years we all must have seen how Fate and Irony can co-exist to produce life-changing results. So it was with me and a successful journalistic career.

While in 5B, which turned out to be the last days at Saints for most of us, we were guilty of many infractions and unconscionable acts. Every day we single-handedly flirted with expulsion, but we had to achieve that distinction collectively. Off, Father Hopkinson sent us packing, breathing a gargantuan sigh of relief. Some even suggested that the level of wine in his favourite chalice had diminished significantly the last day he saw our backs as we trudged down Brickdam, as carefree as ever.

Be that as it may, you can imagine my surprise, nay shock, when some days later a young Saints boy turned up at my home in Albouystown with a note demanding my presence in the Principal's office the next day. Consternation turned to suspicion when 'Hoppie' enquired of my health and employment status, then handed me a letter of recommendation to take to the Daily Chronicle on Main Street. He said he was aware of my penchant (see I remember my French) for the written word. I departed on unsteady legs, sure that the fearsome Top Man was playing some cruel joke on hapless me. But let me 'make a long story short.' I had a same-day interview with the Secretary of the company then I was sent over to the Editorial Department where I heard the sweetest one-liner ever. It went like this: 'When can you start?'

I started work the next day and was told my pay would be a priceless \$75.00 a month. From that day to today, I have been on an exciting, labyrinthine journey that has taken me to many parts of the world. I will try to delineate as succinctly as possible. But when we get together I promise to regale 'you guys' with much more salacious details.



1. Started work with the Daily Chronicle as a general reporter. Soon got a summer journalistic



scholarship to the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad.

2. Moved to the Guyana Graphic. Got a US State Department communications scholarship in 1972 to Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana.
3. Rejoined the Chronicle as Sports Editor.
4. With the amalgamation of the Graphic and the Chronicle, became Sunday Editor of the Guyana Chronicle.
5. Attended University of Guyana, re 2-year Communications Course.
6. Resigned at end of 1985 to enter the field of commerce.

Between 1963 and 1985 I travelled extensively covering sports and political assignments, including Olympic Games in Montreal, Canada; Commonwealth Heads of Government Conference in Zambia; Journalists' Conference in North Korea; World Table Tennis Games in Nigeria; United Nations Assembly, New York; President Forbes Burnham's State Visit to Suriname; Caribbean Table Tennis Tournaments in Colombia, Puerto Rico and Barbados; West Indies cricket in Jamaica, Antigua and Montserrat. Other brief visits include Haiti, Cuba, Yugoslavia and dozens of states in the USA.

Raysons Business Enterprises, dealing with computer supplies and high-end stationery, was my first business venture. Did exceptionally well until the advent of the PPP Government, which saw an immediate cessation of orders.

A two-year stint at Banks DIH as Sports Organizer/Sports Club manager was followed by two publications of a bi-monthly sports magazine called SportsXpress.

Migration to the US put matters in a different perspective. With another partner, I (Editor-in-Chief) started the bi-weekly Caribbean Impact newspaper which ran for just over seven years before folding. The harsh economic climes took heavy toll on the acquisition of advertisement. During this period I completed my first novel - Beyond Revenge, which incidentally got rave reviews (one in the Guyana Chronicle's Peppercorn section). However this praise was not translated into over-the-counter purchases. I hope to correct that situation during our visit.

Almost finished my second novel - Phantom Terror.

I am now the Editor-in-Chief of a website called Carib Insight (). But a more Guyana-centric site will soon be completed. It is to be known as Guyaspora (guyanadiaspora.com). Permit me to single out an unnamed classmate for special thanks. It was he who had planted the seeds of business into my head at an early age. This mate had a serious aversion to Latin. It was literally a foreign language to him and he treated it as such. The famous big tree on the northern side of the school ground was witness to many quick copy sessions and the 10 cents I steadfastly demanded was like a mother lode of gold bullion. At lunch time Kester would subtly hint that his services as a look-out should be worth some kind of consideration. He was usually satisfied. Once, a bird showed its disdain for our unscholarly 'cogging' practice by depositing a huge glob of foul-smelling goo into the middle pages of my book. It goes without saying that later the same day I was seriously reprimanded for 'slovenly habits.' Ironically, my partner in crime was lauded for 'cleanliness and penmanship.' Justice was knocking at our doors at an early age. Like it or not, we owe who and what we are to St. Stanislaus. We will be together again for a few days, better men, hearts aglow, our beings alight, intoxicated with bonhomie and camaraderie. Let's do this as often as practicable. We owe it to ourselves.



David Adams

Immediately after such a tumultuous event (the unceremonious departure from Saints), I drifted back to our home on the Pomeroon where relaxation was at its peak, and still is today. It was very difficult to discuss such a disruption with my parents and I am not going to try to remember what happened in terms of getting this resolved, particularly with my dad. Happily it is long past and thankfully so. Enough of this period with the rebels from our very early days. There wasn't much to do on the Pomeroon, except assist my dad who owned and ran a sawmill on our homestead

A brother-in-law of mine was at the time working for Manganese Mines (in the North West District) at Matthews Ridge. He was passing through Port Kaituma to get there and it was unanimously agreed that I would visit my sister for a while. The journey had begun. Of great surprise to one and all, I spent a considerable length of time there. The wages were much higher than those of the City. Only Demba (the Bauxite Company) paid better.



I worked my way up to Administrative Assistant to the Manager of Mines, having welfare responsibilities regarding the Community Centre provided by the Company. Closure of the company in October, 1968 sent me back to the City, where I joined Guyana & Trinidad Mutual Life Insurance Co. in January, 1969.

My career in Insurance commenced in the Cashier's Cage. I did some underwriting thereafter then left briefly to manage a Travel Agency in New Amsterdam. After three months it was back to GTM for a supervisory position in their Liability Department. Then followed a stint at McKenzie (Demba) for seven months as Acting Branch Manager.

I subsequently left in November 1973 for Toronto after visiting the City for a few weeks. By then, my marriage (1967-1971) had ended.

Employment in Toronto commenced with one of the small Insurance Companies. It was critical to get "Canadian experience" to begin one's career. I remained one year in Underwriting, moved to another company for approximately two years then joined Allstate Insurance Co. as an Underwriter in 1977. I remained in Underwriting until 1983 when I became disenchanted with my duties. During this time I discovered the name of Bryan (Bongo) Rodrigues in some files and on enquiry found that I was crossing paths with someone from the old country, much more so, one of the rebels from my days at Saints. Surprise, surprise...but a good one!



By becoming an Associate and thereafter a Fellow of the Insurance Institute of Canada (through one of the local colleges and completed in 1979) I was able to rise to an appreciable level in Underwriting and it also afforded me the opportunity to supplement my income at that time by virtue of marking the papers of current students of the College.

Disillusionment with my duties came to an end when I opted for Sales in preference to Underwriting! For want of an alternative, a new career had opened itself and what a revelation! A passion developed and success followed in this new field. I ran my own office, intermittently with business partners from 1990. My new career brought forth opportunities for many conferences outside of Canada, including Greece, Switzerland, Australia and Hawaii (3 trips.)

I retired in August 2009, after a total of 32 years with Allstate and I remain happily retired with tremendous and fulfilling hobbies.

The immediate family is comprised of five daughters; two from my first marriage and three from my second, with a total of seven grand children (four girls and three boys). I re-married in April, 1985. I am eternally grateful for my days at Saints as I can state that my foundation there was sufficient to provide me with the impetus necessary to evolve and have some success in North America.

My last trip to Guyana was in May, 2011, having visited a fair number of times over the years as the majority of my family continue to reside there.



Kester Alves

Kester Alves (A Tribute To My Best Friend)

Kester Alves, Communications Specialist and journalist, died at the St Joseph Mercy Hospital in June of 2002 after a brief illness.

Kester our friend and class mate was 57 when he died. During his short lifetime he was President of the College Association for the period 1996-1997. He earned his Master's Degree in Political Science at Columbia University and was very active in the media and in the political life of Guyana.

He also served as chairman of the Guyana Public Communications Agency (GPCA), member of the board of directors of the Guyana National Newspapers Ltd., public relations consultant to Courts, the Guyana Football Federation and member of the marketing committee of the Guyana Cricket Board.

His devotion to professionalism was widely respected.

He left to mourn his wife June and a son, Adam.

Those bald statistics on the internet could never present a close enough picture of the lightweight college boy who grew to become a heavyweight in everything he represented. As a speaker his diction was superb; elocution flawless and wit, unmatched. As a raconteur, I saw him hold his own in the company of Kenneth Denny and Forbes Burnham on that expansive Station Street verandah. As a journalist his pen flowed freely in tune with an analytical mind.

Kester's first job after school was at the Ministry of Health. After a few months he followed his heart to become a reporter at the Guyana Graphic and there he shamelessly bothered the editors to recruit me from the opposition. This they did...whether to stop his entreaties or because of my prolific by-lines on the other side, I'll never know.

As a junior reporter with lofty ambitions exclusive stories were like oxygen to him and he drank deeply, easily forging ahead of many of the veterans.

My friend's astronomical rise in the media was not unexpected as was his positions in the PNC's





youth arm - the Young Socialist Movement. Travel to cover overseas assignments followed and many times we criss-crossed at airports.

Kester was the recipient of the prestigious Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship which provided a year of professional enrichment in the United States for experienced professionals from designated countries throughout the world. Fellows are selected based on their potential for leadership and their commitment to public service in either the public or private sector.

Kester successfully completed his stint and came back home to tackle a myriad of jobs in the political and communications arenas before opting to lessen his pace and spend time with his family.

Kester's command of English was astonishing from the first day at Saints when everyone had to stand, state his name and talk about his ambitions. It was axiomatic then as it later became obvious that his confident statement of 'politics' was no idle dream. Years later he became a political advisor to Guyana's President Forbes Burnham.

But back to school days:

With a mother like Eloise it was obvious that the tentacles of Leopold Street in Charlestown would never lay a finger on her favorite son. And they never did. When the family moved to Kitty, Kester McGregor was already a sophisticated man with an uncomplicated political and economic philosophy.

Which 11-year-old could admonish his contemporary for using the word 'vomit' in an essay when there was such an ideal synonym, notably 'regurgitate'.

Which 12-year-old could boast of having read all the volumes in the Hardy Boys series and then proceed to give a synopsis of each. It was Kester - aghast and horrified - who literally dragged me to the National Library one Saturday morning after he discovered that I had never entered that hallowed edifice. I was soon to be introduced to the likes of John Le Carre and Robert Ludlum, among dozens of others.

Kester we will miss you at our reunion but we know you will be with us in spirit smiling down as always.

The school's motto is emblazoned in Latin (a language both of us liked and conquered): Aeterna Non Caduca. It means: Not for this life only, but for eternity.

For all those of us who had the opportunity to meet and mingle with this brilliant son of the soil it is impossible to say those words and not mean them.

Godfrey Wray



Milton Chee-a-Tow

After leaving Saints I joined Royal Bank, worked in GT, Kitty, Springlands and Mackenzie. Had the excitement of working with Laurie Dyal at the Kitty Branch, you would know what I mean if you knew Laurie in those days.

Left Guyana for London England, spent five years there, worked a few clerical jobs, finally worked in a private bank in London.

Returned to Guyana in 1967, once more working with Royal Bank in GT. Got married in 1968 to my first wife Cheryl and was blessed with a daughter. Emigrated to Canada 1970, worked in few jobs to gain Canadian experience, was eventually hired by Royal Bank.

After about three years (1980) I felt bored working in an office and decided to venture into the real estate, bad move... the market plummeted and mortgages was out the roof.



Left Real Estate and got into the retail business , was hired by Radio Shack(Electronic Store) to manage a store in Whithby Ont. eventually managing various locations. Radio Shack was approached by Rogers Wireless(largest cellular net work company in Canada) to take over their retail business and I was asked to open the first flagship store at the Eaton Centre. This venture proved very successful and I received many accolades for running the highest store in sales and dollars in Canada.

Got divorced in 1979, re married in 1987 to Dora, have two beautiful daughters and one granddaughter from my first marriage.

Retired in 2009 and enjoying life.



Elson Da Silva

Joined Singer Sewing Machine Company - Dec. 11th, 1961 as a Sales Representative. In 1966 transferred to Suriname as they needed help in the branch office for a period of six months. Returned to Guyana and was promoted to a Sales Manager for the East Bank, West Bank, Essequibo, Bartica, Leguan, Wakenam and the Pomeroun area.

Met my beautiful and smart wife Anita and had the honor of having Father Earl perform the ceremony in 1968. This marriage brought forth two beautiful and charming daughters, Lisa and Nicole.

In 1972 I was promoted to Branch Manager of Singer in New Amsterdam and 1975 to Credit Administrative Manager for all of Guyana. As the political situation changed drastically I decided to skip town and headed to Canada for better opportunities for my family.

Arrived in Canada August 1975. I took the first job as a clerk with Consumers Distributing retail outlet in order to gain Canadian experience and in 1976 I joined Kem Manufacturing, a chemical company, as a sales representative. In 1977 I joined Wrigley Canada, a chewing gum manufacturer as a Territory Manager. Really a great company to work for and where I stayed and then retired in 2009 after 32 glorious years.



During these 32 years I was able to see both Lisa and Nicole through university where they graduated with a B.A. & MBA in marketing and finance. Lisa has two daughters and lives in Washington, D.C. and works at the World Bank, in the IFC division, as a Principal Investment Officer. Nicole, has one daughter and two sons and currently lives in Chicago. She resigned her job as a Director of General Mills to support her husband and kids when he got transferred from Canada to Dallas and then Chicago.

Now that I am retired from the work force my new job is to bond and enjoy my five grandchildren. Anita and I also enjoy traveling to places we haven't seen before and also visiting our kids who live away from us.

Sorry I can't be with you guys at the reunion and would like to wish each and every one of you a safe journey and a pleasant and enjoyable time.

Have a drink on me.

Cheers!!!

Elson