



Outing to Linden

by Sylvia Barrow

On a recent visit to Guyana, I was invited to join the BHSOSA Seniors' outing to Linden. What a treat!

We set out on the morning of Saturday, March 31, leaving by three buses from outside BHS. Incidentally, the school looks quite presentable from the outside. At least 45 of us were "ready to roll" by 09.00, after making sure that "the lady with the ice-cream" was on board!!! It was the day after the tabling of the budget, and our bus driver offered us newspapers whose headlines, of course, were all budget. Holly asked, "Well ladies, how do you plan to spend the extra \$600 we will be receiving on our pension per month?" Of course, there were guffaws as G\$600 does not go far. Someone suggested that it would allow her to take two extra taxis per month; perhaps using the taxis for one way fares after some shopping. A young Canadian volunteer in Georgetown later remarked to me that such a taxi fare is really quite reasonable as it is the same she would pay for a latte!! Everything is relative.

Driving out of Georgetown, we were soon on the busy East Bank road which is being widened, so slow traffic was encountered in a couple of places. Vehicle traffic in Georgetown and environs is quite heavy; where did all these cars, mini-buses and trucks come from? Leaving the East Bank road at Soesdyke, we turned onto the Linden Highway. This highway is in remarkably good shape. We passed Splashmins, Marudi Resort, Pandana Resort, Kuru Kururu and various farm holdings as well as the sand pits. Incidentally, the young man who owns Pandana Resort is the son of Dolores MacFarlane, a deceased BHS Alumna. He and his wife also make wines and honey. Later, I was told that at Dora on this highway, there is a large farm using Israeli expertise, and producing cauliflower, broccoli, cherry tomatoes and other non-traditional vegetables. So, it's possible that when one sees such items at Boyo's place, they are not imported, but locally grown.

Eventually, Linden came onto view. But it's not the view I remember. No smoking chimneys, and in addition, no sense of bustle. In fact, Linden is not as I remember it. We drove in to the grounds of the Watooka club house and got off the bus, stretching our stiff knees after the two-hour drive. This club house with its swimming pool, is located on the banks of the Demerara river, in grounds with large mango trees offering much appreciated shade. The river is really quite tranquilizing; indeed it does seem to "flow softly", and the area lent itself to the forming of small groups for chatting and "catching up". But Linden is not on the coast, so there is no constant breeze to offer relief from the sun. So, very soon, we all trooped upstairs to the cool interior.

The Watooka club house has definitely lost its glamour. There is not much in the furnishings that would remind one of its past. In fact, so much of Linden is like that. I drove along the road on which the senior staff houses are built, those houses with riverfronts and which used to have well kept gardens and lawns. All of this is a thing of the past. I suppose I would be reminded that those senior staff most likely benefited from gardeners who were on the company payroll, but I'm still of the opinion that one should make efforts to keep one's "house and yard" in good condition. Why let it all go to bush with an air of neglect?

In the club-house we were graciously served a lovely buffet lunch accompanied by fruit drink, wine, and of course the precious ice-cream for dessert by the junior alumni. Lots of chat accompanied lunch as many of us had not seen each other for a long time, and this was an opportunity to catch up on the news of each other's lives - news of grandchildren, activities, and of course events in Guyana. So many alumni are actively involved in various aspects of Guyanese community life. I feel such a layabout in my own retiree lifestyle!!!

Soon however, it was time to start on the homeward journey, and this return trip was much quieter as most of us snoozed for much of the two-hour trip back to Georgetown!!

So, congratulations and a heartfelt "thank you" to the less senior alumni who organized a delightful outing. For those alumni who were not on this trip, I hope you will take advantage of the next one, and keep those ties of friendship going strong.



Do you have the answer?

- * Can you cry under water?
- * How important does a person have to be before he is considered assassinated instead of just murdered?
- * Why do you have to 'put your two cents in'... but it's only a 'penny for your thoughts'? Where's that extra penny going to?
- * Once you're in heaven, do you get stuck wearing the clothes you were buried in for eternity?
- * What disease did cured ham actually have?
- * How is it that we put man on the moon before we figured out it would be a good idea to put wheels on luggage?
- * Why is it that people say they 'slept like a baby' when babies wake up like every two hours?
- * If a deaf person has to go to court, is it still called a hearing?
- * Why are you IN a movie, but you're ON TV?
- * Why do people pay to go up tall buildings and then put money in binoculars to look at things on the ground?
- * Why do doctors leave the room while you change? They're going to see you naked anyway.
- * Why is 'bra' singular and 'panties' plural?
- * Why do toasters always have a setting that burns the toast to a horrible crisp, which no decent human being would eat?
- * If Jimmy cracks corn and no one cares, why is there a stupid song about him?

Let's Celebrate

2012 is a special for several seniors. We offer sincere congratulations to those achieving significant milestones this year:

75th birthday - Greta Pereira Fletcher, Jannice Niles Simmons, Urma Rose Fordyce

80th birthday - Megan Anderson, Megan Charles Bender, Marlene Kwok Crawford, Joyce Vasconcellos
Joao, Florizel Matthews, Audrey Field Odle, Megan Richmond, Anita Shepherd Whitehead

85th birthday - Jessie McRuvie Isaacs

90th birthday - Margarita Harewood

Have a Laugh!

