

BUXTON-FRIENDSHIP EXPRESS

PUBLISHED BY BUXTON-FRIENDSHIP HERITAGE GROUP

January 2011

BFE 11-01

Inside this issue:

Martin Stephenson	2
Patriotic Son	3
PNCR Meeting in Buxton	4
Free Laptops	5
Buxton Renaissance	6-7
Community Outreach	8
Obituaries	10
Upcoming Events	12
General Information	12

Top Stories

- “Teacher” Martin Stephenson, loyal and distinguished son of Buxton, dies at age 89.
- PNCR Presidential aspirants pledge to seek justice for 7-year crime spree at Buxton meeting
- Guyana Government launches programme that will provide 90,000 laptops to low-income families
- Rollo Younge recounts the glory days of Tipperary and sees its restoration as a renaissance of the once historic village

REMEMBERING A PATRIOTIC SON MARTIN J. STEPHENSON

The Buxtonian community was plunged into deep sorrow following news of the death of one of its most distinguished and patriotic sons.

Martin J. Stephenson, also called Teacher Martin, not only by his former students, but also by many who benefited from his generous mentorship, died at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, Georgetown on 20th January, 2011, two days after he was admitted to the institution; he was 89 years old.

In his lifetime, he was a brilliant young man and a sports enthusiast. Despite the loss of his mother during his early childhood, he grew up to become an altar boy at St. Anthony’s RC Church, scout, scoutmaster, teacher, community activist and benefactor, distinguished attorney-at-law and successful athletics coach and administrator.

In his youth, he teamed up with Messrs. Eusi Kwayana (known then as

Sidney King) and the late John Abrams to lead a campaign against members of the Village Council, whom they believed were not managing the resources of the village efficiently. They were known as “The small boys” and, according to one of his protégés and long-time friends, Wilfred Lee, their campaign so resonated with villagers that many of the incumbents lost their seats at the subsequent election. Kwayana was voted into the Council and eventually became its Chairman.

Mr. Stephenson was born on 1st June, 1921 in Friendship. His father was the late Albert Adolphus “Seargie” Stephenson, a World War I veteran and an employee of the Public Works depart-



Martin Stephenson

1 June, 1921 — 20 January, 2011

ment. His mother was a member of the Martin family, but she died before he was old enough to know her. He was entrusted to the care of his maternal aunt and grandmother who lived along Friendship Middle Walk front side..

(Continued on page 2)

TEACHER MARTIN STEPHENSON

“On behalf of my family, I send sincere condolences to the Stephenson Family on the passing of Teacher Martin. He was a strong advocate for the poor, a great teacher and mentor to many young people in Guyana.

In the Caribbean Community, Teacher Martin made significant legal contributions in the areas of Trade and Economic Cooperation Agreements and Contract Legislation.

I ask all Buxtonians to honor his passing by naming our 'ball ground' The **Martin J. Stephenson Field**.

May his soul rest in peace and may perpetual light shine upon him. “

....Remington London

“Teacher Martin was an extraordinary individual. His interest in the development of Buxton is almost legendary. He helped to shape and mould the lives of many young Buxtonians including yours truly. Any tribute to him will be an approximation of his life and times. His legacy is more lasting than bronze. A full and proper tribute to him will require the skill of a scholar and many pages of writing.”

....Rampersaud Tiwari

(Continued from page 1)

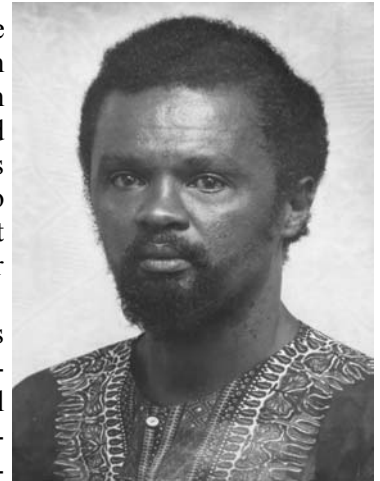
He began school at St. Anthony's RC School, but “he got a little wild.... He liked to play and catch fish along the seashore,” says Mr. Lee. He was therefore transferred to Friendship Methodist School where he came under the supervision of its strict headmaster, Robert Reuben Baird, who was married to young Martin's paternal aunt, Maude (Stephenson). From there, he passed the Junior Cambridge Examination, which was considered a great achievement in those days. He opted to become a teacher, but his application to St. Anthony's RC School was turned down by the priest in charge, because Martin had stopped attending the church regularly. He was, however, accepted as a volunteer teacher at St. Augustine's Anglican School, which at the time was headed by Mr. Frank R. Russell. He was assigned the Scholarship class, and it was there he began to influence the development of many students, such as Wilfred Lee and Pat Nero.

Mr. Stephenson next succeeded in obtaining a teaching position at Ann's Grove RC School, under the headship of Mr. Stanley Thierens. While there, he studied for the Teachers' Training College entrance examination and succeeded

in gaining admission to the college. Its principal then was one Fred Case. Martin graduated as a trained Class I teacher and was immediately assigned to Broad Street Government School where he served for a few years.

Through teaching, he was able to intervene in the development of several youths in the village, mentoring many to very successful careers. He held night classes at his home and would round up errant boys to tutor them and support their educational needs. But, according to Mr. Lee, “he [Martin] did not want to be praised for doing these things or his kindness to be repaid because the impact of the deed would be lost.” Wilfred Lee went on to major in Accounting, while another of Teacher Martin's protégés, Winslow Edgehill, who won the Buxton Scholarship (1942) and attended Queens College in Georgetown, went on to graduate from New York's City College (1958) and later from Heidelberg University in Germany (1963). He became a cardiac surgeon. Dr. Edgehill retired from practice in 2001 and still resides in Germany.

Despite Martin's love for teaching, his real passion was Medicine. He wanted to become a medical doctor. After a few years



teaching at the Broad Street School, he successfully applied to attend Howard University in Washington, DC of the United States. Shortly after he enrolled for classes, he learnt that the undergraduate programme entailed three years Liberal Arts courses. But university officials were reluctant to assure him admission into the medical programme, even if he were to top the class, since priority was being given to American students who served in World War II. The realization that, despite his best performance he may not be able to pursue his dream, did not sit well with Martin. So, after just one month at Howard University, he decided to withdraw from the school and returned to Guyana.

After a brief impasse, Mr. Stephenson was allowed to resume his teaching career.

(Continued on page 3)

MARTIN STEPHENSON-BUXTONIAN PATRIOT

(Continued from page 2)

Determined to further his education, Mr. Stephenson again left Guyana, but for London to attend Law school. On the completion of his study, he graduated as an LLM (*legume magister*)-Master of Laws, joining a handful of such qualified Guyanese attorneys at the time. He specialized in Corporation law. Remington London, a former Caricom employee recalls: "In the Caribbean Community, Teacher Martin made significant legal contributions in the areas of Trade and Economic Cooperation Agreements and Contract Legislation."

While studying Law in the United Kingdom, Teacher Martin also taught children with special education needs and learning challenges.

Growing up in Buxton, Stephenson always showed a deep passion for Sports. He was a good swimmer and cricketer. He also took time to train the youths of the village to play cricket and football. While in the United Kingdom, he took an Athletics Coaching course at Loughborough

University and, upon his return to Guyana, he started to coach young athletes in Buxton at the seaside Ball Ground.

One of his early protégés was June Griffith-Collison, a dynamic daughter of the village, who went on to represent Guyana at several international track & field competitions, including the 1979 Pan American Games, 1982 Central American & Caribbean Games, and the 1984 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles, California.

June's success boosted Stephenson's coaching reputation and other athletes sought his assistance. This led him to establish the Atoms Athletic Club in Georgetown. He also rose to become president of the Amateur Athletics Association of Guyana.

Also while in London, Mr. Stephenson married Nathalie Agard, daughter of the late Charles Agard, a former headmaster of Buxton Secondary School. Mrs. Stephenson also earned her qualification as a lawyer in the UK. Their union produced three children-Dara, Dinggaan and Wilfred "Shaka" (deceased).



Mr. Stephenson was also the father of Ralph "Alfie" (Chung), who is his first-born child.

Numerous persons have benefited from the fatherly counsel and generous deeds of Martin J. Stephenson. His contributions to Buxton and beyond will forever be a lasting tribute to his eminent character.

Martin J. Stephenson was a true patriot of Buxton. He loved the village of his birth with all his heart, was always ready to serve its every need, and willing to defend its citizens whenever called upon.

As Buxtonians, we will forever be proud of Mr.

Stephenson's achievements. We held him in high esteem and trusted his guidance. And we are grateful for the legacy he has left us. His ambition, generosity and humility are indeed worthy of imitation. May his memory inspire those who remain behind to emulate his fine qualities and sterling contributions!

To his bereaved family and close friends, the Buxton-Friendship Express offers its sincere sympathy on your loss.

Rest in peace, Teacher Martin!

2011—International Year for People of African Descent

The Year aims at strengthening national actions and regional and international cooperation for the benefit of people of African descent in relation to their full enjoyment of economic, cultural, social, civil and political rights, their participation and integration in all political, economic, social and cultural aspects of society, and the promotion of a greater knowledge of and respect for their diverse heritage and culture.

This declaration was made by the United Nations. Celebrate your African heritage with pride and understanding!

PNCR PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY CAMPAIGN VISITS BUXTON

DEMERARA WAVES Sunday, 23 January, 2011



This Demerara Waves photo shows a section of the estimated 160 persons who attended the PNCR Primary campaign meeting at Buxton Community High School

Woing party members to vote for them at the February 26 special congress to become the Peoples National Congress Reform's (PNCR) presidential candidate, several of the nominees promised Buxtonians a probe into the seven-year crime-spree.

Retired Brigadier, David Granger told the estimated 160 attendees at a PNCR-organised town-hall meeting at the Buxton Community High School that there would be a commission of inquiry into what occurred in Buxton, Agricola and the country during 2002 to 2009.

"These people are going to be punished for what they

do," said Granger. He noted that there were many fatherless children living in the Buxton backlands.

Holding up recent newspaper editions, he noted that Buxton could not alone be blamed by government for escalating crime because reports show that other parts of the country were being affected by violent crimes including homicides.

Granger, a former Commander of the Guyana Defence Force, said it would be important to settle the security situation that saw several people being killed and tortured.

Former Public Service Minister, Dr. Faith Harding

told attendees that "your pain is my pain and I feel it," in response to a question on what Buxtonians could expect to make the current administration accountable.

Harding, who has worked with the United Nations in strife-torn countries like East Timor and Liberia, also promised that probes would be held.

"There will be enquiries into each and every unanswered crime and murder in this country and those enquiries will bring forth those whether they are in this country or otherwise," she said.

Harding told the audience that several United Nations Human Rights and other human organisations were ready and on standby for a government that would be serious about fighting crime.

"I know the ropes, I have the experience, I know the process to bring them to justice; the rule of law will be the greatest engagement in this country," she said.

She promised to end fear and hopelessness by making Guyana a safer place.

Former Finance Minister, Carl Greenidge added that the "trauma and nightmare" that Guyana has suffered during the past 10 years "need to be brought to a close" by among other

things, probes.

"It's necessary to establish the necessary legal framework whether it is by commissions or special investigations to look into these crimes that are being committed," said the former Deputy Director General of the African Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) group.

Attorney-at-Law, James Bond, whose clients include Buxtonians, pledged that former ministers, police force members and others "will be held accountable for the death and war that they have waged against this community."

President Bharrat Jagdeo has repeatedly said that he has video-evidence of senior PNCR members consorting with heavily armed gunmen in Buxton.

PNCR Robert Corbin has, on the other hand, called on Jagdeo to produce the evidence.

Several Buxtonians themselves died at the hands of the gunmen as were sugar workers, residents of neighbouring villages like Annandale, Enterprise, Coldingen and Lusignan. An American diplomat, Steven Lesniak, as well as several Trinidadian water utility workers were also kidnapped and later released.

The opposition has also

(Continued on page 5)

FREE LAPTOPS FOR THE POOR

By Johann Earle
Guyana Chronicle

23rd January, 2011

PRESIDENT Bharrat Jagdeo said Friday at the launch of the 'One Laptop per Family' initiative that the project is not a pilot, and that it will be rolled out countrywide to the benefit of the poorest families. "This is not a pilot... Sometimes we focus so long on the pilot, that we forget to execute it at large scale, and that's where it matters," the President said. He also urged those young people with computer skills to help tutor laptop recipients on a volunteer basis.

The project is intended to provide 90,000 laptops over a two-year period to the most vulnerable groups across the country. The launch took place at the Guyana International Conference Centre, at Liliendaal on the lower East Coast.

Noting that feedback is an important aspect of the project, and that there will be hurdles as with any project

of this magnitude, President Jagdeo said: "Of course we want feedback; we will be learning too as we implement this project, and make it as useful as possible. We will have teething problems as with any project of this scale.

Volunteerism

On the subject of volunteerism and the vision he has to make it practicable, President Jagdeo said: "We are working at taking on tons of young volunteers in the ICT sector. They will get a stipend to go to the communities... Every village, every ward; work with families; in the home, and at community centres. This would really bring our people together, and get them more involved in this bigger purpose of building our country," he said. "Don't be stingy with your skills, try to help others. This is bigger than individuals and it is good for our country," he said.

Meanwhile, Senior Project Manager of the initiative,

Mr. Sesh Sukhdeo, said Friday at the launch that the laptops were just the enabling tool, and that it was up to the recipients to make the project work. "...you have to take control, and the families have to take control. So when it goes back to the families, it makes a difference."

The first to admit that not everyone would have ICT skills, Sukhdeo said: "...so what we are doing is asking what other programmes can go on the laptops, so that when they go back to the families, they can help the families with developing." He said that in discussing ideas for the usage of the laptops, the Ministry of Health thought it a fantastic idea to look into articulating how to prevent diabetes. "Can I now send over a slightly different message, using the laptops?" he asked, to which he replied: "But obviously, you need to know how to switch the laptop on; you have to know how to navi-

gate; and you have to know how to go on the Internet."

At this point, many in the audience sniggered at what they believed were useless points. But as President Jagdeo hastened to point out, there are still people in society that are so disadvantaged that they have not had a chance to turn on a computer, something that is obviously taken for granted as overly elementary by those more familiar with computers and the Internet.

Noting that to be able to communicate, one needs to know to read and write and how to send emails, Sukhdeo said: "We will make sure that the laptops come with a range of training programmes, to support that process."

"The laptop is going to enable the development of our communities, and the underlying theme is to connect children with parents and other family members, using ICT," he added.

PNCR Presidential Primary Campaign

(Continued from page 4)

counter-charged that members of an alleged state-sponsored death squad with links to drug lord, Shaheed 'Roger' Khan who was convicted by the United States for narco-trafficking, have also killed several Buxtonians.

The spate of crime dated back to 2002 when five prisoners had escaped from the Georgetown Prison and sought refuge in Buxton. Although most of them were killed by the security forces, new gang members had been recruited until several of them were caught and oth-

ers killed by unknown gunmen and the security forces.

The political opposition and allied groups have charged that at least 400 predominantly African Guyanese were killed during that period, with many of them unaccounted for.

The Guyana Defence

Force (GDF) was at one stage encamped in the village and thick vegetation, fruit trees, coconut trees and farms were mowed down because it was felt that the criminals had been hiding out there.

TIPPERARY: BUXTON RENAISSANCE

His Excellency, President Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo, Guests & Fellow Buxtonians, Good Afternoon! My assignment today is to give you a brief but succinct history of Tipperary Hall, Buxton's famed edifice.

Tipperary Hall was built in 1909 on this same site. The architect is unknown since the archives yield no information (Phyllis Bacchus—Architect/Consultant). The building which was erected in the colonial architectural style consisted of one storey, and timber was used for its construction. The Hall was once the headquarters of the Buxton-Friendship Benevolent Burial Society. The descendants of the former slaves were fussy about the way their loved ones were buried. I cannot overemphasize the important role this Burial Society played in ensuring a proper funeral for the “dearly departed”. I must also mention that coffins for the dead were made in this building. This made it cost effective for relatives who could not afford the high prices charged by the Funeral Homes in Georgetown.

In 1911, the Society was registered as a Burial Society. The initial use of the building was expanded to include social, cultural, educational and

political activities, not only for the people of Buxton-Friendship, but also the country at large. The building was inaugurated by the Chairman and Councilors of Buxton-Friendship local authority. Many of the Community's essential social services were pioneered by the Benevolent Society.

In 1947, when Dr. Cheddi Jagan won his first seat in Central Demerara, Tipperary was a central meeting place. Supporters such as Byron Lewis, Doodnauth Tiwari, Edmund Jack (an elder), Balam Singh Rai (BV), Benjamin Profit (Plaisance), Bertha Harry, Veta Griffith and Rampersaud Sawh & his wife Jasmat (all Buxtonians), frequented this building.

In 1950, when the PPP was formed with LFS Burnham as Chairman and Cheddi Jagan as Leader, many decisions were made here.

In 1953, when the PPP won its first general elections under adult suffrage, Cheddi Jagan, Aston Chase, LFS Burnham, Dr. J.P. Latchmansingh, Jainarine Singh, Sidney King (now Eusi Kwayana) and Janet Jagan, the original first Government Ministers congregated here. It was also here that when Burn-

This presentation was made by Rollo Younge at the Sod-turning ceremony for the new Tipperary Hall on 20th December, 2010.

ham attempted to seize the leadership from the pioneer, Cheddi Jagan, he met with strong resistance from the so-called ultra-left, Sidney King, Rory Westmaas, Martin Carter and others.

Tipperary was also notorious as the venue for Boxing Day Dances hosted by Teacher George Younge (my uncle). All classes of people come to Buxton on that day to show off their fine clothing. Orchestras such as Syncopators (Tom Charles), Washboards (Al Seals), Luckies and Hot Shots found this venue to be the best in the country. Of the revelers, Malcolm Parris said, “They were enchanted throngs of distinctly innervated but orderly revelers.”

In 1980, the building started to deteriorate due to lack of maintenance, age and the fact that people gained access to com-



Fitzroy Younge (Rollo)

mercial banks; a factor that led to the downsizing of the Society which was responsible for the upkeep of Tipperary Hall. The last part of the building fell in 1998. In May 2009, a meeting was held by Mr. Charles Booker, coordinator, where 60 persons attended. The purpose was to make his mother's (Aunt Jess) dream a reality that Tipperary Hall to be restored to its former glory.

We are gathered here this afternoon to take the most significant step in “The restoration of a modern Tipperary Hall” with the turning of the sod for the new building by His Excellency President Jagdeo. In welcoming the

(Continued on page 7)

TIPPERARY: BUXTON RENAISSANCE

(Continued from page 6)

President, and in acknowledging the preparedness of his Government's support to this important civic activity, I feel it necessary to attempt to deal with the unanswered conundrum, "Why Tipperary?" How was it possible that Buxtonians, 100 years ago could have chosen the name of an Iris Town for this important civic center? You see, Tipperary Town, as distinct from the County, was "The center of a rich agricultural region and an important farm market. 100 years ago, Buxton was the same. Buxtonians, we can again become the agricultural bread basket of this country. This is something that Agricultural Minister, Robert Persaud & Edgar Simon are tirelessly working on. Mr. President, during your historic visit to Buxton on August 18, 2010, the rebuilding of a new Tipperary was among the many priorities that emanated from a needs analysis of the village. Today, the turning of the sod is happening. We, the people of Buxton are extremely grateful, not only for this proposed edifice, but for the steel band, the 20 computers, the School Feeding Program and the WOW loans which you

had promised and have since delivered. We need more computers.

In closing, I must mention that there are people, some not even Buxtonians, who are whining saying that we should not accept government funds to restore Tipperary. Some are mortified that, against all predictions, the people of Buxton welcomed the President and his team with open arms. Fellow Buxtonians, **these are the people who want to go backward rather than forward.** We must continue to forcefully reject these demands. I want each of you to realize that as citizens of Guyana, it is our fundamental right, not a privilege, to access government resources to aid our community. We are not beggars of "Massa". \$M60 [60 million dollars] are not "a few pieces of dirty coins", as they say. I see it as aid for Economic and Social development that should have been addressed a long time ago. This historic village and villagers have taken a bold step forward, and the few manufacturers of discord have been left behind.

What is happening today is deeper and more enduring. We are witnessing nothing less than the renaissance of this historic Village. **Something**

great has begun today.

Fellow Buxtonians, I am not going back to California until my mission is accomplished. My goal is to work assiduously with all of you to move Buxton forward without inciting punitive rhetoric against each other. **It is time that we, as Buxtonians, began the task of restoring not only Tipperary, but also this great Village.**

In a quotation in the PPP's Thunder News Paper in May, 1952, it says, "As Buxton Goes, So Goes the Country." Mr. President, I would like for you to ponder on this quotation. **You see, this quotation was said in this building during a very successful PPP meeting.** The contemporary press sensed that Buxton, at that juncture, most accurately reflected the political organization and political consciousness in the country, and highlighted the victory as pointing the way forward for the entire country. **The Thunder, perceptively recognized Buxton as the barometer of political opinion in Guyana.** Even the LCP "Sentinel" at the time agreed the country should agree with this statement. This newspaper was an inveterate of the PPP. Take care of Buxton and the rest of the country

"...as citizens of Guyana, it is our fundamental right, not a privilege, to access government resources to aid our community. We are not beggars of "Massa". \$M60 [60 million dollars] are not "a few pieces of dirty coins", as they say. I see it as aid for Economic and Social development that should have been addressed a long time ago."

will follow. As you leave office next year [2011], you have the potential to become the most influential President of Guyana. You can leave an everlasting legacy in Buxton. Again, Mr. President, "***As Buxton Goes, So Goes the Country.***" What happened in Buxton in May, 1952 can happen throughout the country by 2011. Make no mistake about it.

Buxton can inspire this nation! Buxton must inspire this nation! Buxton will inspire this Nation! We can, we must, we will! Thank you.

Rollo Youngie

GROUNDWORK FOR NEW TIPPERARY



This picture taken on 13th January, 2011 shows workers laying the foundation for the two-storey structure

23 July, 2011

thru

1 August, 2011

Celebrate
Heritage Week 2011
in Buxton

COMMUNITY OUTREACH



The community steel band was recently augmented with a gift of a 5-piece drum set, thanks to the US-based Buxton-Friendship Heritage Group. In the picture above, Osafo Hope is seen trying out the set shortly after it was assembled.



A section of the crowd gathered for George Abrams' 7th annual Buxton Feast for the Elderly earlier this month.

Mr. Abrams is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) based in Washington, DC. He is also the Chief Executive Officer of Jaybees International, which initiated and largely funded the rehabilitation of Buxton Health Centre.

Flavors of JaGuya

The Authentic Caribbean Cuisine

7414 Georgia Avenue, Washington, DC 20012

Phone: 202-882-3332

Our dishes are an authentic blend of Guyanese and Jamaican traditional home cooking served in Caribbean ambience and sure to delight anyone's taste buds. Enjoy our renowned Roti and Dhal Puri served with a wide selection of delicious Curry dishes cooked in unique Guyanese style. Savor our delectable cuisine of Chowmein * Cook-up Rice * Oxtail Stew * Brown Stew Chicken served with Rice & Peas or plain White Rice & Steamed Vegetables. Choose from our delectable Seafood Platter: Baked / Stewed Snapper * Jerk Shrimp * Escoveitch (King) Fish * Curry Fish * Curry Shrimp *. Spice up your appetite with Cow-foot / Vegetable Soup * Saltfish Cake * Fried Plantains * Jerk Wings * Patties * Cheese Roll * Pine Tart * Coco Bread * Bake & Saltfish. For your Saturday treat, savor our Blackpudding * Souse * Dhal & Rice with Saltfish * Pepperpot * Ackee & Saltfish * Phulourie * Salara * Buns

Take-out * Dine-in * Special Events Catering

Free Delivery with purchase of \$25 & more * We accept all major Credit Cards

Phone: 202-882-3332

Visit us on the web at www.flavorsofjaguya.com

Quintin & Kathy Bacchus, Proprietors



EDWARD "TERRY" ARTHUR

27th April, 1952 – 27th December, 2010



Edward Alexander Arthur was the second of eight children born to Edward A. Arthur, Sr. and the late Evelyn Hiles Arthur on 27 April, 1952 in Kwakani Park, Berbice River. He attended elementary school in Kwakani and received his secondary education from Cambridge Academy in Georgetown. After graduating from high school, he took up teaching high school Mathematics at the young age of 16 years. He later emigrated to Toronto, Canada, where he remained for five years, then relocated to the United States to reunite with his family in Brooklyn, New York.

Having a strong desire to learn, he decided to continue his education and enrolled at the SUNY College of Old Westbury, where he received his undergraduate degree in Business Administration and Accounting, in May 1997. Two years later, he received a diploma in LAN Systems Engineering. Edward married the love of his life, Clara Gourdine, on 17 October, 1987 and they made their home in Queens, New York. Their union produced a daughter, named Teri. Affectionately known as "Terry", "Ed" and "Rill"

by family members and close friends, he was a proud man with a humble soul.

On Monday, 20 December, 2010 Edward entered eternal rest. He leaves to cherish loving memories his wife, Clara; daughter, Teri; father, Edward; brothers, Stannie, Errol, Compton, Trevor, Monty, Tibby, Gasley, Peter and Michael; sisters, Claire Arthur-Alleyne, Bridget Sandiford, Cretel Jones, Edlyn, Patricia and Brenda Arthur; uncle, Thomas Hiles Dublin; and a host of other loving relatives and special friends.

A Befitting Ritual

...Dr. C. Quintin Bacchus

Most surely the poem, "Not Really Mourning" by Haslyn Cadogan is the epitome of healthy denial. The recent passing of his close friend, Edward Arthur a/k/a Rill compels him to unlock the youthful memories they shared together as childhood friends. Obviously, he cannot cope with the passing of his close friend so hiding his true emotional reaction is the answer. His sophisticated use of ironical prose intertwine with colloquialisms and non de plumes inveigles us to believe that mourning should not

be socially obligatory, but remembering the good times they experienced together is a more befitting ritual. This literary piece is moving and therapeutic as it highlights how to handle emotional turmoil when a close friend expires. With healthy memories, Haslyn finds that soothing touch to quell the pain. Cleverly in the most sardonic and nostalgic manner, he celebrates the life of his friend who would always be remembered for his love for life.

NOT REALLY MOURNING

By Haslyn Cadogan

*Not really mourning, only remembering,
Remembering the days when we ran and swam
and skipped and raced around together.
I'm not really mourning, I'm only remembering
the time when we knew no sorrow or pain or grief
When there was sunshine even when it rained
When everything was a joke and nothing came between us.
As friends we were wild and young and free
And even though you lie motionless and speechless
I'm still not mourning
I'm only remembering the days when you and I,
Caba, Brown, Fatboy, Torro, Petax, Black Power,
Stevo, Clinton, and Floyd
Struck together as DD Boys
You see, I'm not really mourning, only remembering
The days when youth ignited our passions and drove
our manhood forward and we vociferously spoke
about it and planned for the future
Believe me, I'm not really mourning
I'm only remembering!*

HOWELL ALPHONSO WOOD

21st September, 1924 – 5th January, 2011

Howell Alphonso Wood, known as “Uncle Fonso”, was born in Buxton Village, on September 21st, 1924 to the late Priscilla English, a homemaker and the late George Henry Wood, a Fisherman, known as “Bertie Wood” (BW), a renown Drafts player.

Howell was the seventh of the twelve children born to Priscilla English. They were: Frank Walker, Waveney & Olga Weatherspoon-twins, Daphney & Rowlings Weatherspoon-twins, Rickford Buckman Weatherspoon, Howell Alphonso Wood, Beullah & Boy Wood-twins, Drena Wood, Burchelline Wood and Maxwell Wood a/k/a Buddy Wood.

Howell, also known as “Merchant,” because he used his savings to build his own home, always told us that he learned to save money from his close friend, Mr. Sadu Nehaul.

Howell attended St. Anthony's Roman Catholic School at Friendship and left school at the early age of 14 years to work full time at Lusignan Sugar Estate with the Creole Gang, picking up sugar cane top. In 1940, he was introduced to Carpentry, and started out by building water tanks. It was during that period that he met the woman who would be come his wife, the late Walterine Alice Joseph of

Friendship Village. In 1951, they gave birth to their first son, Lennox Shakespeare Wood, known as Mboya. Howell went on to use his carpentry skills to help build the then, Atkinson International Airport, which was renamed TIMEHRI International Airport which will then be changed to become Cheddie Jagan International Airport. Other notable projects that he worked on were the Sea Defense Project in Leguan, at Fort Island in the Essequibo Region. He also worked on the Kitty Sea Defense for a number of years, and built several bridges and important government and private structures in the Georgetown area. Meanwhile, his family grew. His second son, Osllyn Rudolph Wood known as “Kokadee” (car), was born in 1954. Two years later, in 1956, his third son, Dana Elroy Fitzpatrick Wood, known as ‘Pickie’, was born. The following year, in December of 1957, his first daughter, Ingrid Pamela Wood Springer was born. It was during his job with the Ministry of Works and Hydraulics, that he married Walterine Joseph, on December 26, 1959, at the St. Augustine's Anglican Church, in Buxton. In June, 1960, June Caryl Arona Wood Agamah was born while Howell worked

at Fort Island, Essequibo. Ten years later, in October, 1970, his last born daughter, Nola (Shondell) Lujendra Wood was born while he worked at the Kitty Sea Defense project. Howell was a member of the Freemason Lodge but remained a staunch member of the Methodist Church at Friendship Middle Walk for over 35 years. Howell loved to recite poems. One of his favorite poems is entitled, ‘The Brook’. Another is ‘When You Invite Company to Dinner’. His memory was so sharp, that he could remember the dates of his 10 siblings births, marriages and deaths.

He continued to do carpentry work with a private contractor, John Abrams (deceased), from 1971-1974, building offices for the Guyana Government. In 1975, he returned to work with the Sea Defense project, near Pegasus Hotel in Georgetown, for three years. After this he work with the National Guard in Georgetown for two years. In April of 1983, Howell his wife Walterine and his youngest child Nola known as Shundel immigrated to the United States. Unfortunately, in June of 1983, he lost his beloved wife, Walterine, and she was laid to rest in Slidell, Lou-



isiana. In 1985 Howell started working as a maintenance worker with Loyola University in New Orleans, LA. Howell worked for seven years with Loyola University until his retirement in 1991. He then returned to Guyana and in 1998, Howell met and married Ms. Daphney Butts. They lived happily at their Friendship residence until her death in December of 2005. Ms. Daphney Butts was laid to rest at the Anglican Church Cemetery in Friendship.

Howell, is survived by his six children, his sisters; Olga Schultz, Beullah Adams, Burchelline Wood; and brother, Maxwell Wood; and many in-laws, nieces, nephews, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, cousins and other relatives and friends.

BUXTON-FRIENDSHIP EXPRESS JANUARY 2011

454 Vermont Street
Brooklyn, NY 11207
USA

E-mail

buxtonexpress@aol.com

Website

www.buxtonguyana.net

Facebook

www.facebook.com/

Buxton Village Guyana

Writers / Editors

Lorna Campbell

lorna@buxtonguyana.net

Dr. C. Quintin Bacchus

quintin@buxtonguyana.net

Dr. Owen Ifill

owen@buxtonguyana.net

Buxton-Friendship Express is published monthly by the Buxton-Friendship Heritage Group based in the United States of America.

Some articles represent the opinions of the authors and do not necessarily represent or reflect the views of the Editorial Committee or the publisher.

We invite villagers, friends and other readers to submit articles/commentaries for publication. We, however, reserve the right to edit or reject any submissions we deem necessary.

Celebrate Heritage Week 2011 in Buxton

23rd July — 1st August

**A Cultural Journey from Slavery to Emancipation & Beyond
Special Celebration of**

170th Anniversary of the Acquisition of Friendship

173rd Anniversary of Our Ancestors' Emancipation from Slavery

UN International Year for People of African Descent

UN International Year of Youth

Focusing on Education, Agriculture and Healthcare Enhancements; Economic and Social Growth; Preservation of our History & Culture; Continuing Pride in Our Heritage; Women's Empowerment; Youth Initiatives; Elderly Outreach....

Festivities will also include Libation, Drumming & Folklore, Music, Dance, Drama, Poetry, Sports & Games, Cultural Wear Pageant & Talent Show & more....

Buxton Mash 2011

Showcasing Our Culture Sustaining Our Pride!

Sunday 27 February, 2011

Annandale-Buxton-Friendship-Vigilance

Mash Jam at Ball Ground

A promotion of Buxton Spice Mango International

For more info, contact

Imogene Williams (New York): 718-941-3657

Simone Hatton (Buxton): 688-3879 Sharon John (Buxton): 626-7248

Published by Buxton-Friendship Heritage Group