

MILTON *Avonlode* NEWS

Wednesday 29 November 1978

No. 263

Notes from the Headmaster

1. Internal examinations have now been completed and reports will soon be issued. On this occasion it is unnecessary for parents to return the reports to the school. We have duplicate copies of the reports therefore parents should now keep the reports which reflect work and games for the whole year.
2. First Term 1979 commences on Tuesday 16 January and the O and A Level, and presumably M-Level, results will only be posted in London on Tuesday 23 January. Therefore it is unlikely that we will receive them before 25 or 26 January. Please do NOT phone the school office asking for results. No matter what time of day we receive them, we always make them immediately available to pupils. As you know the flag always flies from the top of the pole at the rose garden. On the day we receive the results, we will remove the flag as an indication to all who pass along Selborne Avenue that the results have arrived.
3. Messrs Bullivant and Felgate are presently away on police duty and over the next weekend Messrs Andrews, Car, Harlen, Holt, Thomas and Thomson will also commence their police duty. We wish them all a safe return home.

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Boarders' Xmas Dinner (continued from last week)

Dr Baron recalled some episodes from his long association with Milton, starting in fact when he went as a KG pupil to Eveline, as did all Old Miltonians of a certain vintage.

He recalled the painful occasion when he spilt ink over the book of the daughter of Mr de Beer, first headmaster of Milton. He recalled with greater pleasure the companionship he enjoyed, the academic success he had despite gloomy predictions of his masters; he remembered particularly an understanding English master, A D Campbell, who was killed in World War II; he remembered days of rugby when the fields had more stones on them than the present fields have blades of grass. He recalled the first Milton rugby tour of South Africa (it was also the first such tour of any Rhodesian school). Then followed his days as parent and member of PTA - his wife had helped run the tuck shop for many years. Finally, Dr Baron became school doctor and did service as such for 13 years. In his speech he was strangely silent about those years!

He was followed by Mr Dry who said that when people thought of Milton they thought of its traditions; he had come to realize that in fact it was largely the boarders who were the guardians of those traditions. From there he went on to recount stories concerned with traditions that were perhaps best not publicised, like stories of prefects' strange and terrible treatment of difficult boarders, and unsuspected disadvantages of fagging. Be he referred also to the proud record of loyalty to the House: this he demonstrated by recalling how once nine boys played in an inter-house rugby match against a full strength day house team, and how although of those nine, one had his arm in plaster and the other his back in a brace, the boarders had won the game 59-0.

The wonderful old Charter House spirit was also demonstrated by the tremendous support of their traditionally bottom-of-the-league swimming team in the inter-house games as one of the things Mr Dry said he would always remember with pleasure.

The boarders were told the story of the library ghost, but as that appeared in a slightly different form in the Milton News a year ago we need not repeat it now.

Suffice it to say that those who started up the ghost as a joke to frighten one of the hostel masters were as terrified themselves and ran as fast as he did.

Finally, there was the episode witnessed years ago by the headmaster as he drove along Selborne Avenue late one night when he saw a group of seniors chasing across the road another senior - stark naked. Mr Dry thought that this episode could explain why Mr Gracie was particular about how boarders dressed when they left the school grounds.

After the traditionally excellent Xmas dinner, made more festive by crackers and paper hats, coffee was taken on the lawn, and staff and seniors mingled for some time before the very successful evening came to an end.

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Now is the time to watch the press for advertisements about scholarships and cadetships. Recently advertised are medical and dental cadetships worth over \$3000 a year and scholarships for civil engineering and the Malvern Scholarship.

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Driving home in thick fog, a motorist took the easy way out and followed the rear lights of the car in front. After about an hour, the front car pulled up abruptly, causing the following car to hit it. Both drivers got out and confronted each other. "You should have signalled that you were stopping," argued the second driver.

"In my own driveway?" countered the other.

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These are the winners of the "100" Club Draws which took place on Monday 20 November:

'A' Club

Mr R Andrews
Mrs G N Lutz
Mrs E Simpson

'B' Club

Mrs A Levin
Mrs J Leech
Mr J Morgan

There have been nine Draws this year so the PTA Funds have been swelled by \$900. Thank you very much for your support. It is greatly appreciated.

Your PTA Committee has decided that from 1979 there will be only ONE "100" Club. This will consist of 100 members contributing \$2,00 for each of the nine draws. The prizes have been considerably increased. They will be:

1st - \$50; 2nd - \$30; 3rd - \$20

Please will you continue to support the Milton High School "100" Club?

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The New Scientists

One pair of boys from Form 3 have set out to make an electric motorbike. Previous efforts by companies such as Exide have proved only half successful, as the batteries have been expended too quickly. It will be interesting to see how our Form III boys get on and if they can improve on it in any way.

Another group of Form III scientists is attempting to manufacture alcohol from rotten oranges - not as a challenge to Castle Breweries, however, but as an engine fuel. If the fuel proves not to be usable, it has the advantage of being orally disposable.

Last year Nicholas Herbst designed and made a single shot target pistol which he had registered by his local district commissioner. Since then he has designed an automatic pistol and is half way through making it. He hopes to have it ready for next year's Young Scientists Exhibition. * * * * *

The Thrift Shop will be closed from the 1 December 1978 to the 14 January 1979. It will be open from 3.30pm - 5.00pm on the 15 January 1979.

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A newspaper editor received the following letter from an Irishman (who else?):

"Last Thursday, I lost a gold watch which had been in our family for generations, and I was very upset about it. The following day, a friend told me to advertise the loss in your newspaper, and I thought it was worth a try. The very next day after the advertisement was printed, I went home and found the watch in the pocket of my other suit. God bless your newspaper, sir."

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Interview with Mr Dry

Q. Can you first give us a brief autobiography?

A. I was born and brought up in a small Cape village called Riversdale. Miss Fiveash lived there too for a while but she was too small for me to notice then. The village was, and still is, so un-English that no one ever plays cricket there. The only game is rugby, with tennis for the weaklings. I wrote half my metric subjects in Afrikaans which was the only language I spoke outside my home.

I went to Rhodes at 16, a ridiculously young age for university. Later I joined the SA artillery and landed in Italy on 1 January 1945, just in time to see the tail-end of the war. It was winter, it snowed on us, we were knee deep in mud; and the odd shell whistling overhead did not help endear sunny Italy to me. Luckily the Germans decided they had had enough, retreated and we never really caught up with them.

After teaching for four years in the Transvaal, I was put in charge of both the English and History departments

at Germiston Boys' High and really began to enjoy my teaching which until then had been a bit of a battle. But after another five years we decided that South Africa was becoming less and less worth living in. We found Nationalist politics narrow-minded, intolerant, and immoral and therefore doomed to failure in the end.

On a visit to Rhodesia we thought we saw a country preparing for a much better solution to the problems of race. So in 1957 we came to live in Salisbury.

For years I had wondered where all my Rhodes friends had gone to. At Churchill I found six of them on the staff. After nine happy and busy years there, we moved to Fort Victoria for three years. But Fort Vic is even smaller than Riversdale and village life is not for me or my wife - so we came to Milton.

We like Bulawayo - it is just the right size: it has all the advantages of a big town and none of the disadvantages of a large city.

Q. Do you think that your years at Milton have prepared you for headmastership?

A. In the past ten years I have been able to gain a fairly wide range of experience. I was Charter house-master for three years, in charge of all games for five, have taken part in the development of clubs, put on four plays, run several variety concerts, organised two sponsored walks; I started the inter-house play competition eight years ago and have overseen or stage managed most of them; last year I "coached" a rugby team for the first time in my life; for some years I was chairman of the Colours committee and learned a lot from that, as I did also about money management on the Finance Committee.

But above all, I suppose I have learned a great deal about people and pupils. In my many dealings with boys I have been in turn problem solver, rebel soother, careers adviser, a busy and sometimes successful detective, probation officer, social welfare agent,

kindly father figure (yes I think so), psychologist, psychiatrist, sorter out of family problems. Teenage is a fascinating age of change and trauma and I have come across a pretty fair selection of its million facets.

Yes, I believe I have had a good apprenticeship for headmaster-to-be.

Q. You are known as a strict (but fair) disciplinarian. What are your views on school discipline?

A. If you want high standards anywhere you must have discipline. When the conductor walks onto the platform the whole orchestra stands up as a sign of respect. That is discipline. When the umpire says you are LBW you walk, whatever you feel about his decision. That is discipline. If apprentices miss days at college, they lose pay. That is discipline.

What kind of discipline is successful at school? You can't fine school children or fire them. But you can't expect them to sit still for five hours a day cooped up in classrooms for the fun of it; and you can't expect teachers so to fascinate their classes every period that they listen or do their work without any outside discipline to pressurise them.

For the vast majority of pupils the mere possibility of corporal punishment in the background is enough; and they react well to praise or criticism from their teachers and parents, particularly if they feel they are really interested.

Firm discipline is the foundation of good teaching, but it is only the foundation; it is not a substitute for interested, well prepared up-to-date teaching.

(To be continued)

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FRIEND: A person who has the same enemies as yourself.

Congratulations to the following who have been selected to represent Matabeleland in Water Polo:

U/17 Darren Maughan & Glen Michelson.
Reserve: Calvin Maughan.

U/19 Guy O'Callaghan.
Reserve: Russell Labuschagne.

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For Sale: Pure bred Alsation bitch. 1 year old.
1 Alsation/Labrador male puppy.

Interested persons please contact Mr B Brett or
phone 65553.

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A school-inspector said to the class, "Who knocked down the Walls of Jericho?" and one of the pupils, a lad called Billy Green replied, promptly, "Please, sir, it wasn't me."

The inspector was amazed at this show of ignorance, and brought the matter up in the headmaster's study at the end of his visit. "Do you know," he said; "I asked the class who knocked down the Walls of Jericho and young Billy Green said that it wasn't him!"

The Headmaster said, "Billy Green, eh? Well I must say that I've always found the lad to be honest and trustworthy and, if he says that it wasn't him, then it wasn't him!"

The inspector left the school without further comment, but lost no time in reporting the full sequence of events to the Ministry of Education in a written report. In due course, he received the following reply: Dear Sir, Reference the Walls of Jericho, this is a matter for the Ministry of Works and your letter has been sent to them for their attention.

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