

Past Births/Birthdays/Graduations

Martin Family Launch Foundation & Matriarch's 90th Birthday

By Jessel Aquing

jessel_aquing@hotmail.com

14 years pass and I spend 3 weeks camped out at my grandmother's house while Martina stays at Mount Hope Women's Centre. Another 10 years pass and I have the trip of a lifetime with my 2 oldest children and my first Trini Carnival EVER!

How do you follow up a trip of a lifetime? How about a 2 week stay 6 months later?

This was supposed to be a nice quiet trip to attend my cousin's wedding. In no time flat, this trip has picked up steam and is only 4 days old. I come to find out that my uncle is also in Trinidad to host the Martin Family Foundation Launch, so I FINALLY get to attend a Martin Family Reunion function! Of course he recruited me to do the "Technological" services for the evening (setting up the projector and clicking through the Power Point).

Uncle Max and his wife also attended the launch (preceded by his "elegant but casually" dressed security contingent). It was a little uncomfortable being the only person under 40 in the room. Not really because of the age difference, but more so because I stood out like a smashed thumb and the security was watching me and whispering about me. Luckily, the lone female agent recognized me from the Salybia all-inclusive fete that Their Excellencies and I attended back in February.

I'm sure she only recognized me because she stopped me back then too and had to clear me as family. The presentation of the foundation went well, aside from the Family Matriarch Floris Walrond, heckling Uncle Wilbur from the front row making the VIPs laugh during the speech. After the speech, Matriarch Floris blessed the Foundation and His Excellency Cousin Max gave full praise to Uncle Wilbur for his determined hard work in realizing the 16 year old dream of creating a Foundation in our forefather's name.

As soon as Uncle Max started speaking I suddenly realized that I was listening to a true international Diplomat. Let me recite a small portion of his speech.

Speaking on the socio-economical implications of starting our new Foundation, "I always like to think that the Martin Family Clan is a microcosm of the wider society. And one of the implications of this, of course, is there are people of different socio-economical levels within the Clan itself. So at the apex of the pyramid is, of course, Cousin Michael!" (Pointing to Michael Headley)

This was of course received with great laughter, as Uncle Max Richards is "only" the President of Trinidad and Tobago and Michael Headley known for hosting the Salybia and D'Sanctuary All-Inclusive Fetes (and the former Poison Band of course).

The next day I was off with Damian and Crystal to a beach house in Mayaro. Damian's good friend from Boston, who also came down for the wedding, was present as well as Damian's other good friends "Chigga", "Beef" and "Pie". On the way out to Mayaro (way way way out), we stopped and loaded up with groceries for the weekend. We were also in strong supply of cold beverages (see photo of fridge). That night, Beef cooked up a storm; Geera Pork, Chicken pelau, pork pelau, salt pork cutters...

We also picked up a nice King Fish off a man on the beach for \$100TT for breakfast. Along with complete kitchen, pool table, Hammock and full beach access. Where we stayed had no windows (only tarpaulin curtains). This effectively turned the entire living room into a giant veranda/balcony overlooking the beach.

It has been extremely hot (high 30's to 40C) and let me tell you it was absolutely stunning to wake up at 5:45 and feel the warm sea breeze rolling through the house and watch the sun come up. The whole scene was back dropped by 4 off shore oil rigs purging natural gas, looking like far off candles glowing in the wind.

To top it off, the Pan American Female Boxing Championships are going on in Trinidad right now. I happened to fly in from Houston with both the Canadian and American teams. I'll be catching some of that!

<http://picasaweb.google.com/TriniJessel/TrinidadOctober2008#> (Check back at this link for more photos)

<http://picasaweb.google.com/TriniJessel/MartinFamilyFoundationLaunch#>

When I was here in February, they were building a fly over at the main North-South-East-West highway intersection. This fly over is supposed to relieve the busiest intersection in all of Trinidad. Over the 6 weeks I was previously here, all they had was the first steel girders in place and accomplished zero (0) while I was here. So naturally 6 months times 0 should be 0! But in the 6 months I was away, they have completed the entire span and were putting the concrete slabs down on the steel. I guess outside of Carnival real work gets done in Trinidad.



Owen Walrond (5th) - 50th Birthday

L to R: Wife Arva, Vanessa & Kevin Happy 50th to Owen Walrond (5th)

On the 11th day of the 11th month 1999, Owen celebrated his 50th (armistice) birthday with his immediate family and friends at his home in Ladner, British Columbia Canada.



Gabriel Headley (7th Generation) son of Krisitina Headley (6th Generation)

Gabriel last week in NY. He is doing GREAT turned 5 months on July 4th. He has been rolling over both ways is now sitting up on his own, has started eating baby food (Veggies and Fruit) and has added laughing to his adorable smile and sweet personality.

