

# A TRIBUTE TO LLOYD LEWIS

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By Frank 'Monty' Clarke

THE VINCENTIAN PEOPLE AND IN PARTICULAR THE RESIDENCE OF THE SION HILL COMMUNITY MOURNS THE PASSING OF **LLOYD ELI LEWIS**, BARBER, CUSTOM GUARD, AND PLAYING FIELD DEVELOPER/CURATOR.

I FIRST CAME IN CONTACT WITH LLOYD, aka - 'MANAGER', OR 'BARBER LLOYD' ONE SEPTEMBER, SATURDAY MORNING, WHEN MY MOM TOOK ME TO THE LATE VINCENT 'Killer' HADAWAY BARBER SHOP, AT UPPER MIDDLE STREET, OPPOSITE INTERMEDIATE HIGH SCHOOL AND IT WAS A MEMORABLE ONE. I WAS ABOUT SIX (6) YEARS OF AGE, AND 'KILLER' ASKED LLOYD TO CUT MY HAIR, BECAUSE HE HAD AN APPOINTMENT CONFLICT. IN TRANSFERRING ME TO 'MANAGER' HE REMINDED ME, NOT TO SLEEP IN THE BARBER'S CHAIR. BUT SLEEP I DID SHORTLY AFTER CLIMBING INTO THE CHAIR. HE PROMPTLY POKED ME IN MY SIDE AND PROCEEDED TO LECTURE ME ABOUT NOT SLEEPING IN THE BARBER'S CHAIR. HE CONTINUED BY ADVISING ME HOW LUCKY I WAS, SINCE ONLY ADULTS GOT THEIR HAIR CUT ON SATURDAYS. MY INTRODUCTION TO MANAGER WAS INTIMIDATING, SCAREY, BUT MEMORABLE. FROM THAT INITIAL ENCOUNTER OUR RELATIONSHIP EVOLVED FOR THE BETTER, BECAUSE AFTER 'KILLER' MIGRATED TO THE USA, MANAGER WAS MY MAIN BARBER UNTIL I MIGRATED TO THE USA. AFTER GRADUATING FROM THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL, I JOINED THE SION HILL CRICKET CLUB AND HE TOOK ME UNDER HIS WING LIKE A BIG BROTHER.

MANAGER LIVED A SIMPLE LIFE FOR FAMILY, WORK, SPORTS, AND CHURCH. HOWEVER, HE WAS ENERGETIC, TENACIOUS, AND VISIONARY. TO QUOTE THE PARLIAMENTARY REPRESENTATIVE FOR EAST KINGSTOWN, THE HON. ARNIM

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EUSTACE, SPEAKING IN PARLIAMENT ON FRIDAY, 29th JANUARY; LLOYD EXHIBITED GREAT "DEVOTION TO HIS PEOPLE".

HIS ENERGETIC BEHAVIOR WAS REPEATEDLY EXHIBITED IN THE MANNER HE DEVOUTED A SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF HIS TIME TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SION HILL PLAYING FIELD. EVERY YEAR FROM THE TIME HE BEGAN TAKING CARE OF THE MATTIN WICKET TO THE INTRODUCTION OF TURF WICKETS, HE WOULD PRESENT HIS PLANS TO THE MANAGEMENT TEAM OF THE SION HILL UNITED CULTURAL AND SPORTS CLUB FOR CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL. AFTER APPROVAL HE WOULD RELENTLESSLY PROCEED TO IMPLEMENT AND EXECUTE THESE DEVELOPMENT PLANS WITH DEVOTION, GREAT SACRIFICE, AND JOYFUL VIGOR. MANAGER MUST BE COMMENDED FOR THE LEADERSHIP HE DISPLAYED IN TRANSFORMING THE GROUND, BY THE ADDITION OF TURF WICKETS AND INCREASING THE ACREAGE, FROM THE TIME HE TOOK THE BATON FROM THOSE WHO CAME BEFORE HIM, TO WHEN HE PASSED IT ON TO THE CURRENT GENERATION.

MANAGER DID NOT LIMIT HIMSELF TO THE CURATOR AND INFRASTRUCTURAL WORK AT THE PLAYING FIELD BUT WAS EQUALLY INVOLVED IN THE FUNDRAISING ASPECT OF THE DEVELOPMENT. HE LEAD BY EXAMPLE, BY USUALLY LEADING ONE OF SEVERAL TEAMS OF THE YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN FROM THE COMMUNITY, IN TRAVERSING THE TOWNS AND VILLAGES OF THE

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MAINLAND; FROM CHATEAUBELAIR TO FANCY, AND THE GRENADINES ISLANDS OF BEQUIA AND UNION ISLAND, TO SELL RAFFLE TICKETS TO ASSIST IN GENERATING REVENUE FOR THE CLUB. SPECIAL MENTION MUST BE MADE OF THE DASILVA BROTHERS AT STAR GARAGE. THEY WERE A SIGNIFICANT AND REALIABLE BUSINESS PARTNER DURING THIS PERIOD. ANOTHER SOURCE OF REVENUE GENERATION WHERE HE PROVIDE LEADERSHIP WAS IN THE SELLING OF LOTTERY 'SCRATCHY' TICKETS, WHICH ALSO PROVIDED EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOME YOUNGSTERS OF THE SION HILL COMMUNITY.

MANAGER NOT ONLY "TALK THE TALK" BUT HE Poured HIS MAXIMUM PHYSICAL EFFORT INTO WHATEVER FUNDRAISING PROJECT WAS ON DECK. HE WAS AN INSPIRATION AND A CHEERLEADER TO ALL OF US, YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN COMING OF AGE IN THE SION HILL COMMUNITY, WHO OBSERVED HIS WORK ETHIC AND 'NEVER SAY DIE' ATTITUDE, FROM THE CLOSE PROXIMITY WE ALL SHARED.

MANAGER WAS TENACEOUS AS YOU COULD MAKE THEM. HE WAS NOT ONE TO TAKE NO FOR AN ANSWER. HIS TENACITY WAS ON FULL DISPLAY WHENEVER HIS IDEAS AND PLANS DID NOT RECEIVE INITIAL APPROVAL FROM THE CLUB OR ANYONE ELSE. SUCH OUTCOMES ONLY INCENTIVIZED HIM. HIS TACTIC WAS TO RETREAT, RECALIBRATE HIS EFFORTS, BY ADJUSTING HIS METHODS AND PROCEDURES, TO SATISFY THE NECESSARY REQUIREMENT, TO EVENTUALLY OBTAIN APPROVA. AS TREASURER OF THE SION HILL UNITED CULTURAL AND

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SPORTS CLUB FOR A PERIOD OF TIME, WE HAD MANY CLASHES, LEADING TO HIM ADMITTING TO HIS 'IMPATIENCE AND NOT SUFFERING FOOLS GLADLY.' BUT, CONTRARY TO THE IMPRESSION GIVEN OF HIM IN SOME QUARTERS, HE WAS PREPARED TO LISTEN TO PEOPLE. HE WAS QUITE ASTUTE AND CREATIVE AT RECONFIGURING HIS PROPOSALS TO GAIN PROJECT APPROVAL.

MANAGER WAS A GREAT VISIONARY. THIS TRAIT WAS BOURNE OUT IN THE MANNER IN WHICH HE FOCUSED ON INDIVIDUAL PLAYER DEVELOPMENT IN THE CLUB, PLAYING FIELD DEVELOPMENT, AND LATER ON PLAYING FIELD DEVELOPMENT COUNTRYWIDE. AT TEAM SELECTION MEETINGS HE ALWAYS NUDGE THE CAPTAINS AND SENIOR PLAYERS TO PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE YOUTHS.

IN THE EARLY 1970'S WHEN MANAGER BEGAN HIS CAMPAIGN TO REINVENT SION HILL CRICKET, AFTER THE DAYS OF VETERANS LIKE IRVIN MILLINGTON AND THE LATE, KERWIN WEBB, HE WAS ABLE TO PLACE TWO (2) TEAMS TO COMPETE IN THE NARVO SHIELD (2nd DIVISION). WITHIN A FEW YEARS THE STRONGER OF THESE TEAMS, INCLUDING THE LIKES OF WINSTON DAVIS, JEROME SAMUEL AND CARLOS & MONTY SEALEY, GAINED PROMOTION TO COMPETE IN THE FRAZER NECKLES CUP (1st DIVISION). THIS STRATEGIC DECISION TO EXPOSE MORE YOUNG MEN TO DOMESTIC CRICKET WAS VINDICATED BY A STEADY STREAM OF TALENTED CRICKETERS FROM THE CLUB REPRESENTING THE NATIONAL TEAM DURING THE 1980's AND 90's.

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MANAGER'S PROUDEST MOMENT CAME ON THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 1983, AT THE RECREATION GROUND, ST. JOHN'S, ANTIGUA, WHEN **WINSTON DAVIS** MADE HIS WEST INDIES CRICKET, TEST DEBUT. IT WAS ONE OF THE FEW TIMES I SAW HIM SHED A TEAR. IT WAS QUITE EMOTIONAL AND SATISFYING FOR HIM TO WITNESS ONE OF HIS ORIGINALMENTEES ASCENDS TO PLAY TEST CRICKET.

THEN YOU HAD THE EXCEPTIONAL CASE OF YOUNG **WILLIAM 'BILL' EDWARDS**, A SION HILL RESIDENT, WHO BEGAN HIS CRICKET IN THE SECOND DIVISION, PROGRESSED TO PLAYING FOR THE NATIONAL YOUTH TEAM. THEN WITH MANAGER'S PUSUASION, BILL' WAS CO-OPTED TO BE ONE OF HIS GROUNDSMAN APPRENTICES IN THE 1980's. OVER TIME BILL HAS ASCENDED TO BECOME THE HEAD GROUNDSMAN OF THE NATIONAL SPORTS COUNCIL.....

MANAGER WAS INDEED PROUD OF BILL'S SUCCESS.

MANAGER DEDICATED MOST OF HIS ADULT LIFE TO THE SION HILL COMMUNITY, FOCUSING ON CRICKET, AND PLAYING FIELD DEVELOPMENT. THE HIGH POINT OF THIS JOURNEY, ANOTHER PROUD MOMENT, CAME ON MARCH 09, 2007, AFTER THE WARM-UP 50 OVERS MATCH, ENGLAND v AUSTRALIA, AT THE SION HILL PLAYING FIELD, IN PREPARATION FOR THE ICC-CRICKET WORLD CUP. HE INFORMED ME BY TELEPHONE HOW CONTENTED AND GRATIFIED HE FELT TO BE TOLD BY MICHAEL VAUGHAN, THE ENGLISH CAPTAIN, OF HIS SATISFACTION WITH THE MATCH WICKET, AND FOR THE ENCOURAGING WORDS HE RECEIVED FROM RICKY PONTING, THE AUSTRALIAN SKIPPER.

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SUBSEQUENT TO HIS ACHIEVEMENTS AT THE SION HILL FACILITIES, MANAGER BEGAN SHARING HIS KNOWLEDGE OF WICKET PREPARATION WITH GROUNDSMEN ISLANDWIDE. HE ALWAYS UTTERED TO ME, AND ANYONE WHO CARED TO LISTEN, THAT HE WAS WILLING TO PASS ON HIS KNOWLEDGE TO THE NEXT GENERATION OF GROUNDSMEN SINCE "IT WAS NOT RIGHT TO DIE WITHOUT SHARING THE BIT THAT HE KNOW".

MANAGER WAS A SELF-MADE CRICKET GROUND CURATOR. HE HAD NO FORMAL TRAINING BUT HE PICKED UP 'BITS AND PIECES' FROM THE LIKES OF THE LATE FRANKIE THOMAS, MIKE FINDLEY, AND LENNOX JOHN. ALSO, WHEN BOTH OF US ATTENDED TEST CRICKET MATCHES AT QUEEN'S PARK OVAL AND KENSINGTON OVAL; TRINIDAD & BARBADOS RESPECTIVELY. HE WOULD HAVE US ARRIVE AT LEAST TWO (2) DAYS BEFORE THE TEST AND BY 7:00 A.M., ON MATCH DAY'S. HIS OBJECTIVE WAS TO SPEND QUALITY TIME WITH THE GROUNDSMEN, ENABLING HIM TO ASK A WIDE VARIETY OF QUESTIONS, AND TO OBSERVE THE PROCESS. HIS GOAL WAS TO IMPROVE HIS KNOWLEDGE OF WICKET PREPARATION AND PLAYING FIELD DEVELOPMENT. MANAGER WAS A VORACIOUS CONSUMER OF KNOWLEDGE, WHICH SERVED HIM QUITE WELL IN HIS OCCUPATION AS A BARBER.

'LLOYD THE BARBER' SHOULD NOT BE OVERLOOKED. AFTER ARRIVING FROM SANDY BAY AS A YOUNG MAN HE SET UP RESIDENCE IN SION HILL, VIA BARROUALLIE. HIS PARTNERSHIP WITH 'KILLER' HADAWAY ENDURED UNTIL THE LATTER MIGRATED TO THE USA. THIS ESTABLISHMENT BUILT UP A REPUTITION, BEFORE AND AFTER KILLER'S DEPARTURE, AS A

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VENUE TO EXPERIENCE DEBATES OF THE HIGHEST ORDER, ON A MULTIPLICITY OF TOPICAL ISSUES AND MORE. 'LLOYD THE BARBER' USED HIS CHAIR TO GAIN KNOWLEDGE AND AS A PULPET TO PREACH TO HIS LOYAL CUSTOMERS. THE SHOP WAS A ROUTE CENTER FOR VINCENTIANS FROM ALL STRATA OF SOCIETY TO VOICE THEIR OPINION(S).

LET ME PAUSE AND EXTEND MY DEEPEST CONDOLENCES TO MRS. ETHEL 'CHEMIST' LEWIS; HIS SPOUSE, AND ALL THE CHILDREN AND FAMILY. FURTERMORE, LET ME THANK YOU, MRS. LEWIS, FOR SHARING SUCH A KINDHEARTED HUSBAND AND FATHER WITH ALL OF US, THE VINCENTIAN PEOPLE.

**LLOYD 'MANGER' LEWIS THE YOUNG MAN FROM SANDY BAY, EVOLVED INTO AN ICONIC VINCENTIAN FOR HIS MULTIFACETED CONTRIBUTION TO HIS COUNTRY AND HIS FELLOW VINCNTIAN.**

I CAN IMAGINE HIM IN A PLACE ON HIGH SHOUTING WITH GREAT BLUSTER, "MISSER. MONTY..... WHAT IS ALL THIS FUSS ABOUT?" AND ANOTHER FAVORITE REJOINDER WHEN HE DISAGRES WITH YOU "AH AYE HEAR YO"

HUMAN RESOURCES LIKE HIM, A UNIQUE VINCENTIAN SON, PASSES OUR WAY ONCE IN A LIFETIME. THEREFORE, LIKE THE ENTIRE SION HILL COMMUNITY, AND OTHER VINCENTIANS, I CAN SAY IT WAS A PLEASURE EXPERIENCING HIS COMPANY AND GOING ALONG FOR THE RIDE.

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MANAGER TOLD ME ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS THAT HE DID NOT WANT ANYTHING  
NAME AFTER HIM WHEN HE PASSES. HE WOULD FOLLOW IT UP WITH

"I AM DOING WHAT AM DOING FOR THEM YOUNG PEOPLE".

I AM CONFIDENT HE CANNOT AFFECT ANY COMMUNITY AND NATIONAL CONCENCUS  
DECIDING OTHERWISE. HOWEVER, HIS TANGIBLE LEGACY LIVES ON THROUGH THE SION  
HILL PLAYING FIELD, IN GROUNDSMEN LIKE 'BILL' EDWARDS, AND THE THOUSANDS OF  
LIFES THAT HE INFLUENCED, FINANCIALLY OR OTHERWISE,  
WHILE BATTING FOR 81 YEARS.....

**REST ETERNAL BIG BROTHER.....MAY HIS SOUL REST IN PEACE!!**

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