

PROFILE of the Year

By Dr. DHANPAUL NARINE

Happy 100th Birthday to Louisa Amanda Grimmond!

Louisa Amanda Grimmond is 100 years old. She was born on November 28, 1917. Her memory is sharp and she is witty and charming. Those wise eyes have seen history in the making in her native Guyana and she is able to recount it for the benefit of her children's children and the community as a whole.

Louisa was born at 215 King Street, in Lacytown, Georgetown in the then British Guiana. She had a brother Charles and a sister Marion. Her mom was Rhoda Jupiter and her dad was Andrew Nicholas. Louisa spent some time in Beteravating on the East Coast of Demerara. She was very close to her aunt Eileen Ogle who was a teacher.

When Louisa was seven years old her mother left British Guiana for New York. She arrived through Ellis Island in 1924. It was a brave thing to do at time. She came on the ship 'S.S. Mayaro.' Rhoda never returned to Guyana and this explains why Louisa was close to her aunt Eileen Ogle.

Eileen, a Headmistress, was posted to a school in Warimuru in the Rupununi. Louisa accompanied her and she took a delight in learning from the Amerindians there. This was in the 1930's and the school was on top of a hill surrounded by white sand.

Louisa attended St. Sidwells School in Lodge after which she went to St. Cyril's School in Norton Street where the headmaster was Mr. Jones. Her best subject was English. Louisa remembers her teachers Miss Kendall, Basil Black-

man and Cyril Jodha who were all caring.

Louisa described Georgetown as a rural city with fruit trees, cows grazing and donkey carts competing for space with cars on the road. It was a happy childhood and people

He said that he was interested in the young Louisa and Miss Ogle approved of the relationship. The couple were duly engaged and the wedding was set for August. As fate would have it Miss Ogle became ill and died in July, a sad

was a male nurse at the Mental Hospital and he was also a teacher. The marriage lasted 46 years and produced four wonderful children. They are Eileen, David, Desiree and Eric.

Eileen migrated to the United States and

her job immensely and recalls fondly how her presence made a difference in the lives of many families.

Louisa has made an unforgettable contribution to her family and community. What advice does she have for the

have children. There are times when couples will have a little friction but they must know how to handle it.'

Louisa has returned to Guyana on a number of occasions and has enjoyed her visits. But it was not all vacation. She is a member of an organization called 'Mother's Union' and she is also a member of 'Guyanese Churchwomen United.' She helps to support the Mental Hospital in Berbice, in Guyana, so that the patients there would have good Christmas.

These organizations keep Louisa active and give her a sense of satisfaction. She has nine grandchildren and thirteen great grandchildren. How does she see herself in the future? Louisa smiled and said that everything is in God's hands and He will decide how to shape her days ahead.

Louisa was a good athlete as was her brother Charles. Her favorite songs are 'I did it my way' by Frank Sinatra and 'Pretend' by Nat King Cole. Louisa says that she can't complain. She is happy. God has given her everything. 'I have been given a lot of love and I give love as well. What more can I ask? I am very lucky.'

We thank all of her friends and relatives for their love and support, including Annetha Persaud who made this interview possible.

Best wishes to Louisa for many more years of smiles and happiness. We are pleased that Louisa Amanda Grimmond is our PROFILE OF THE YEAR 2017!



David and Louisa on their wedding day on Dec 27, 1945.



Louisa at 100, and she still looks like a teenager!



Headmistress Eileen Ogle, one of Guyana's finest educators, who cared for Louisa.



Louisa's mother Rhoda Jupiter who arrived in Ellis Island in New York in 1924.

got along well. Miss Ogle looked after Louisa and taught her to bake and to cook, to sew, to keep a house and to play the piano as well. Miss Ogle was an accomplished person that was trained as a teacher in Shortwood, in Jamaica, West Indies. Louisa's relationship with Miss Ogle lasted many years and it helped to shape her life.

At last it came time for Louisa to get married. It happened in Sheet Anchor, in Berbice. Louisa was invited to a wedding and a young man saw her. His name was David Grimmond.

end to one of the finest educators that Guyana has produced.

Louisa wanted to call off the wedding but David was against it. They were married on December 27, 1945. Louisa's mother, Rhoda, sent the wedding outfit from the States. David

the rest of the family joined her in due course. Louisa joined Eileen in New York in November 1978. She felt that she had to make a contribution to the family and Louisa spent the next ten years helping families in the New York area. She enjoyed

younger folks? Louisa says that 'a person should take care of him or herself and must have a positive attitude. The secret to a long and happy life is in God's hands. I thank Him for keeping me well all these years.'

Marriage, she said, is a sacred institution. 'It is two persons joining hands and hearts. They are

usually from different backgrounds and they must show respect for each other and learn to give and take. My husband and I would sit down and communicate. The couples have to make their marriage work. You can't be hasty, especially if you