

# DIARY: 1971

## JANUARY

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4 Monday

Price of petrol went up to 10c a gallon.

6 Wednesday

Played Rugby against Police B, winning 20-3. Almost scored a try.

10 Sunday

Yuen Ping-wah (aged 20) was murdered in a gang fight at 6pm. At that time, I was sitting in my car with Raymond, etc. He left behind his wife of six months and a three-week old daughter.

11 Monday

School told about the murder and asked to pay for the funeral – gave nearly \$1700.

12 Tuesday

Felt a cold coming on in the afternoon. Only did a little weight training.

Didn't do any exercise for the rest of the week. Lower 6<sup>th</sup> had their practical exam today [?in Chemistry].

16 Saturday

Jenny and Hammit [Vanessa's relatives] were married today.

18 Monday

School exams started today. Book 2 [of Science books “Integrated Science for HK”] came out.

19 Tuesday

Gave 5S1 their practical Chemistry exam. Went for the first run for a week – felt very good especially the breathing.

23 Saturday

Spent the day with CYF at Shek-O. Quite cool. Had a very long sleep in the evening (11 hours).

27 Wednesday

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Chinese New Year – year of the pig.

## **FEBRUARY**

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6 Saturday

Science teachers' association meeting in the morning. Felt a bit crook [sick] so went to bed in the afternoon and evening. Apollo-14 astronauts end their stay on the moon.

7 Sunday

Had communion at church. Met CYF afterwards. Listened to an address by John Stott on RHK [Radio Hong Kong – no 'TV' in the name then]. Went to the City Hall in the evening to hear him.

8 Monday

Went to HEB to collect my copies of Book 2. Also took pictures to two schools to announce the science association lectures.

13 Saturday

HKSTA lecture at Maryknoll School in the morning. TVB there. CYF met me afterwards.

10 Sunday

Went with the [Ming Yin College] “Old Students” for a hike to Kowloon Peak and down to Shatin. Had a meal there, went boating and eventually got a PLB (Public Light Bus, i.e. minibus) home (\$1).

18 Thursday

The price of petrol went up again by 5c a gallon. The exhaust pipe on my car finally broke. Had to remove it and go to work with a noisy car. Took it to a friend of O.N. Wong [teacher] in Cheung Sha Wan Rd – put in a “new” one for \$90. Much quieter. At 5.15 pm a very large explosion in the YMCA – turned out to be a big “thunderflash”.



19 Friday

Trouble starting the car – the starter motor turns but won't engage with the engine.

21 Sunday

Had the Kowloon Community Chest walk.

22 Monday

Took the car to be fixed – rust in the starter motor.

23 Tuesday

Final proof of Teacher's Guide 1 out today. Keith Walls got the “sack” by the CCC HK Council. [*He is a fellow New Zealander who came to Ming Yin College shortly after me. He became the first principal of a new sister school – Ming Kei College – which operated at Ming Yin for a couple of years then moved to its present premises in 1969.*]

25 Thursday

Good run today – no breathing problems. Cooler today compared with Tuesday which was hot and humid.

26 Friday

Took the last chapter of Textbook 2 (?Book 3) to the publishers. On arriving home at 4.30 pm, heard a noise on the street. A Frenchman had been attacked. Went out and followed four Chinese youths but didn't know whether to grab one or not. Came back and took him and his wife to the TST police station [which is now the “Heritage 1881” building]. Made a statement. I suspected he himself may have known why the attack occurred.

27 Saturday

Went to the police station at 9 am. Had to wait nearly an hour for the French woman [to arrive]. Then went to the Monk Kok police station to look at photos of known criminals. No use though.

29 Monday

First day of Census holidays.

## **MARCH**

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1 Tuesday

Went to Grace Lai's wedding in the morning at St Teresa's church. Worked in the afternoon then saw CYF until 9 pm. Went to the City Hall for the wedding reception. Started at 9.30 pm! Took teachers home in the car afterwards. Something happened to cause the front left-hand brake to lock and get very hot.

2 Wednesday

Played Rugby against Navy losing 8-6. Quite wet. Urban Council elections.

7 Sunday

Cleaned the battery and terminals. Motor started OK after that.

8 Monday

Didn't go for a run – helped Irene, CYF's friend.

10 Wednesday

Played Rugby against HK Schools – won 32-9. Stood in the bus queue for 35 minutes. Just got to the ground in time. I got four tries in the first half, all within 10 minutes.

11 Thursday

Chungking Mansions was smoked out due to a fire in the basement, starting at about 6 pm. Went to have a look after dinner, met Jordan [*a Canadian who lived there (I think) and who always had evening dinner with us at the YMCA*] so poked around the darkened building. Jordan stayed the night in Chris's place.

12 Friday

Spent the day at Stanley with some old students. Tired when we returned so didn't go for a run.

13 Saturday

Second of the HK Science Teachers' Association lectures/demonstrations in the morning. In the afternoon, set the Upper 6<sup>th</sup> Chemistry paper.

14 Sunday

Sunbathed in the afternoon, for the first time this year. Watched science films during the YMCA “Armchair Group” in the evening.

15 Monday

Back at school again. Work on books reduced a lot. Residents in Peking Rd given one month's notice to move out as the buildings have been condemned.

16 Tuesday

Has an after-school staff meeting to discuss “Problem boys”.

19 Friday

Form U6 started their mock [public] exams today.

20 Saturday

Spent most of the day with CYF. Quite warm. Had a “NZ” dinner in a Korean restaurant for Alison Bell who returns home next Wednesday. Had a chat with Margaret Mutch re Keith Wall's dismissal and also her upcoming wedding in Taiwan.

21 Sunday

Sunbathed on the roof in the afternoon for a while – very pleasant.

23 Tuesday

Remarkably clear atmospheric day and could see for miles. Had to push the car to get it started. Took Book 3 round to HEB.

24 Wednesday

After school, went to North Point for a walk with CYF. Went for a run at 7 pm – fast too. CYF went to a wedding reception in Wong Tai Sin – met her afterwards. Very tired.

25 Thursday

Pupils' Workbook 1 came out today.

26 Friday

Went for a run of 8-10 miles (??); longer than before. Weather much warmer and more humid. Got a birthday card from Donna [school secretary]. Went to Chung Chi campus in the evening with CYF.

27 Saturday

CYF came here for the morning. Saw “Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid” in the evening with CYF after dinner on the roof with Jordan and Lizza. A bomb placed outside government offices blew the hand off a police ballistics officer who was dismantling it.

29 Monday

Much warmer today and also humid. More suspected bombs.

30 Tuesday

A BAC-111 of Philippine Airlines hijacked to Canton via HK. Jim Muir [minister of Kowloon Union Church] had a serious car accident in Bangkok.



31 Wednesday

Went to play Rugby in a 7's tournament but had been given the wrong time.

## **APRIL**

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1 Thursday

Radio HK had an April fool's item that a prehistoric monster had been found in Plover Cover [reservoir?]; it caused a mild sensation. Charlie (weight room) said that his gym bad had been blown up as being a suspected bomb.

2 Friday

Took CYF to Choi Hung after school – there was a traffic jam nearly all the way. Front disc brake jammed – got home with smoke pouring from it. Also had a nail in the back tyre. Then it rained hard – first time for weeks.

3 Saturday

Took the car to the garage in the afternoon. “Swore” at a police car which cut across my path in Princess Margaret Rd. Got soaked later when returning to collect the car.

5 Monday

Ching Ming festival holiday.

7 Wednesday

Went to the Football Club to have out team photographed. Arrived an hour early.

9 Friday

Listened on RHK to “J.C. Superstar”.

13 Tuesday

A Victor 'V' bomber flew over HK at lunch time. Took my car round to get the brake fixed again.



## **MAY**

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14 Friday

School concert in the afternoon which I listen to from the upstairs [?staff room] while working. At 6 pm, a fire broke out in the vacated buildings in Peking Rd – quite a blaze.

25 Tuesday

Went to Leon Comber's place in the evening. Had an Indonesian dinner.

28 Friday

Public holiday for the dragon boat festival.

30 Sunday

Norman Vincent Peal spoke at Kowloon Union church in the morning.

## **JUNE**

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7 Tuesday

Went to BOAC office to enquire about tickets to NZ.

12 Saturday

Had entrance examinations at school – used the hall for the first time. After that, the staff had a Chinese dinner at a restaurant in Tai Po Rd – almost including the big cockroach crawling over the wall! Gave the final lesson to Ellen and Emma in the afternoon. Very tired!

17 Thursday

Typhoon “Freda”, although not strong, was approaching HK. Number 3 signal raised when I left for school. No 7 later. Schools cancelled for the afternoon [because of the approaching typhoon].

18 Friday

Schools cancelled for the whole day because of the typhoon. By late afternoon all signals had been lowered.

19 Saturday

“Red tide”, a tiny plankton, invaded a number of HK beaches making swimming uncomfortable.

23 Wednesday

All lady teachers [?in our school] told that they had to wear knee-length dresses starting in September. They did not like the idea!

26 Saturday

Had an official farewell for the NZers who are leaving HK for good. Held at Walls' place. [*I think these were ladies who had been in China before coming to HK to teach after 1949.*]

30 Wednesday

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Marion Bird's [editor] last day at HEB.

## **JULY**

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1 Thursday

Public holiday. 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the party Mao belongs to [?Chinese Communist party]. Finished Forms 4 and 5 experiment notes.

2 Friday

Went to the Immigration Department to get a re-entry visa – got a permanent one. First [Rugby] test between NZ and Lions broadcast on TV in the evening.

3 Saturday

Did weight training in the morning. Went to HKU Chemistry lecture theatre in the afternoon for HKSTA AGM. I was elected the honorary treasurer. Watch “Years of Lightning, Days of Drums” - a film about JF Kennedy.

[Summer holidays. Went to Melbourne to stay with Bruce and Heather and baby Timothy. Then to NZ.]

## **SEPTEMBER**

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1 Wednesday

Arrived back from Sydney on [a BOAC] VC-10 at 9pm – Raymond and Chu Siu Kuen were waiting. Really felt the humidity. Yuen Fong at home. One of my ears was blocked.

2 Thursday

Back at school – did very little actual teaching. Unpacked in the evening.

4 Saturday

Met CYF in the evening.

6 Monday

Called in at HEB after school. Played water polo for a while [?in the YMCA pool]. Saw doctor but ear cleared later.

7 Tuesday

Call from Education Department re Guinness award cheque. Did first weight training. After dinner, saw Ron and Alison O'Grady at the YMCA. Went to Playboy Club [??really] then to



buy a tape-recorder, then to “The Fair Lady” with Nancy Smith. Only in old shorts and jandals [flip flops]. Had cashew nuts with rice.

9 Thursday

Went to the printers after school for checking Teachers' Guide 2. There until nearly 7 pm.

11 Saturday

HKSTA meeting at HKU followed by an A-Level Chemistry meeting.

14 Tuesday

Met Mr Tsoi in the evening to receive HKSTA stationery.

16 Thursday

Professor Endacott [resident at YMCA] died today – cancer of the throat – aged 70. Weather much drier – down to about 50% humidity. Philippine YMCA swimming [team] here for several meetings.

18 Saturday

Spent much of the day paining the weights in the weight gym. First chapel service for me since my return.

19 Sunday

Sunbathed on the roof for just over an hour. Dry weather.

28 Tuesday

Had to get our own lunches as Mrs Lee's mother was seriously ill. Continued like this for the rest of the week. [*Mrs Lee was the mother of a student who lived in a public housing block across the road. She would cook Chinese dishes for lunch for the staff and carry it over to the staffroom every day. This continued for the whole time I was at Ming Yin, I think.*]

29 Wednesday

In the afternoon, ready for the first meeting of “Tri-Hi-Y” but not one boy came.

30 Thursday

YMCA car park fees put up to \$120 per month for residents – disgusting!

## **OCTOBER**

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1 Friday

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Met CYF after work.

2 Saturday

In the morning, the HKSTA held its first workshop for the year at the Methodist College in Gasgoigne Rd. Very successful; the topic were indicators and a wormery. In the afternoon, the Conservancy Society held a field trip to Shiu Hau beach on Lantau Island – my first visit to the island. The trip itself was a dead loss. Temperature hot again – 31<sup>0</sup>C. Spent the evening doing the HKSTA [financial] books.

3 Sunday

Mid-autumn festival. Crowds on the Peak watching the moon at midnight.

4 Monday

Public holiday for the day after the mid-autumn festival. (31<sup>0</sup>C temperature.) Late evening, I met a chap from Dumaguete [southern Philippines] – a friend of Ralph and Cora. A small world!

6 Wednesday

Has a HKSTA meeting from at 6.30 pm here [YMCA] then at the Imperial Hotel to discuss Saturday's meeting at the E.D [with Science inspectorate]. Again, no boys turned up for the Tri Hi-Y.

9 Saturday

Went to the E.D. in the morning to discuss the HKSTA “Nuffield” adaptation. Their answer was “No” though we did discuss a lot about science in HK.

10 Sunday

Good for sunbathing – 1½ hours. Went to Leon's new flat for a house-warming party.

11 Monday

Had our first Senior Science club practical meeting [at school].

13 Wednesday

Again, no tri-hi-Y club. After my swim, I went on the back of a motor bike to Bowen Rd to look at a carpet for the weight room. Burnt my leg when getting off. [*Question: Why a motor bike? The first cross-harbour tunnel was not opened until 1972. Did we cross on a vehicular ferry?*]

14 Thursday

Got Teachers' Book 2 to proof-read – many mistakes! Sport's day all day. Fine, dry day. Went to Jessie Tam's [teacher] place for lunch.

16 Saturday

Finals of Sport's day. A Form 3 girl [Tse Po Fan] hit her head on a concrete border around the sand pit during the high jump. Rex King [principal] and I took her to hospital where she was admitted with apparently serious head injuries. Ran in the teachers' relay team; came second to the old boys. I got left at the start as I didn't hear the starter.

Tse Po Fan died at 10 pm, not having regained consciousness. [*The second loss of a student and, unfortunately, not to be the last.*]

Put our clocks back one hour for the change to standard time.

17 Sunday

Governor's farewell this afternoon. [Sir David Trench.] Heard the last part of the radio – quite sad really. Cross harbour race today.

18 Monday

Had a staff meeting after school re last Saturday's tragedy.

19 Tuesday

School collected \$4 300 for funeral expenses. Governor left HK today at 5.45 pm from Queen's Pier. Had a Rugby meeting at YMCA early evening. [*This was to set up a new Rugby club on Kowloon side. Later, I joined it and left the HK Football Club, which was very expensive to belong to.*]

22 Friday

Tse Po Fun's funeral. Finished school at 11.40 am. Visited the Hunghom funeral parlour from 12.15 till 1.00 pm.

24 Sunday

More trouble with the car – battery (only three months old) appears to be flat.

25 Monday

Had to get the car pushed [again!].

26 Tuesday

Got the car fixed – battery recharged though I'm not too sure about it. Started weight training (remainder of floor covered with old carpet) then CYF and I went to HK Island to see “Giant”. Came back and had something to eat at “La Banba”. Princess Anne arrived in HK during the afternoon.

27 Wednesday

Chung Yuen public holiday. Had a “spring-clean” of my room during the day. Sunbathed in the afternoon.

28 Thursday

Rained during the day. In the evening, had our school “speech day”. Dr Ray Simpson gave the talk. Supper after. Didn't get to bed till about 11.45 pm.

29 Friday

Cool (~20<sup>0</sup>C) and overcast. Felt tired all day though 4S2 Chemistry practical in the afternoon was almost 'perfect'. No [construction] drills going outside. Did some target training [YMCA gym – covered-over swimming pool]; rather slow too! Started preparing Christmas cards.

30 Saturday

Helped a Malaysian chap to put on his tie – realised how difficult it was myself. In the afternoon, went to Rugby practice at Boundary St sport's ground. Really ;running; unfit. The new \$14 million “Jumbo” floating restaurant at Aberdeen caught fire and burnt killing 33 and injuring about 50.

## **NOVEMBER**

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4 Thursday

CCC sport's day today. Forms 5 and 6 stayed at school for ordinary lessons. “Free” in the afternoon.

6 Saturday

Up early and off to the HKSTA Workshop 3 at Island School in buses from the Star Ferry. After that we had our association meeting. Got back here at 2.10 pm. Had a quick lunch then off to Rugby practice. After that, CYF came around. After dinner, watched most of “The Blue Max”.

8 Monday

Went for the first run of the season – only 15 minutes but it felt good and easy. Went swimming after this.

12 Friday

School holiday because of Sun Sat Sen's birthday (?).

15 Monday

Went for a run with Chris. [YMCA Youth director from New Zealand].

17 Wednesday

Humidity fell to 17% - lowest ever for November.

18 Thursday

New governor [Murray MacLehose] arrived today. Started taking penicillin antibiotics again for the chest 'bug'.

21 Sunday

Went to Leon Comber's place in the evening to meet HMI from Scotland – a Mr Jeffrey. Got to bed about 12.30 am.

23 Tuesday

HKSTA had a meeting with Jeffrey at HKU. Arrived back at about 6.30 pm. Took CYF home – car caused trouble, stopping all the time.

24 Wednesday

Took the car to the garage. Got a bus home – got in the “exit” door. Couldn't finish the run properly because of breathing trouble.

25 Thursday

Got the car back. In the evening on the way home, passed a radar trap in which the bloke in front of me was photographed – flash included.

26 Friday

Breathing quite hard and uncomfortable today. Governor opened the Festival of HK. Didn't go for a run.

## **DECEMBER**

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4 Saturday

Won 12 – 11 against a French Navy team.

6 Monday

Holiday for “white collar” workers because of the festival procession which was held in the evening.

10 Friday

Spent the whole day at school getting ready for Open Day.

11 Saturday

Morning spent getting ready for Open Day. In the afternoon, played Rugby, beating Police 21-8. Got my first try [for the new club]. Breathing felt much better.

12 Sunday

Went for a short run after getting up. Felt quite good after that.

13 Monday

Went for another early morning run. Open Day at school for the whole day and evening. Finished at 9 pm.

14 Tuesday

Cleaned up in Period 2, not having had to arrive at school till 9 am. After school, went to the airport to meet Adele. In the evening, mapped out a schedule for her.

15 Wednesday

Third early morning run. Went with Chris and went further than the previous two times. Adele went to St Stephen's Girls school. Early evening, visited the Ocean Terminal and Madam Vivian's wax museum.

16 Thursday

Red Cross came to school and got blood from 100 donors. Started raining.

18 Saturday

Rained hard all day. Turned up for Rugby only to find they had cancelled it because of the weather. Adele did the New Territories do-it-yourself tour. On the way back, called in at Bernie and Linda's wedding. Had a good chat with Alice Ho.

19 Sunday

Took Adele to the airport in the evening then came back and saw the YMCA activity film. Then met CYF when we decided to break up.

22 Wednesday

Watched a YMCA carol presentation in the evening. Showed the effects of a bad cold in the evening. Went for a shorter run by myself in the morning.

23 Thursday

Didn't do any weight training but went to bed instead.

24 Friday

Short Christmas service [at school] in the afternoon followed by a fencing demonstration by Mansfield College. Then there were class parties – visited my classes.

25 Saturday

Listened to the Christmas service on the radio. Went to Walls' place for the afternoon and evening for Christmas lunch and dinner.

27 Monday

Fine day at last. Played Rugby against HMAS Swan, losing 10-4. Chris broke a rib. Had to bring back the van. Didn't go to Yvonne's house-warming party as I was too tired and because of my cold.

30 Thursday

Miss Au married in the afternoon. Went to the dinner at 9 pm.