



Writers' Clubs March -June 2005

Khotso,

Welcome to **Volume I: Bokoro Writers Club Stories** by the students of Bokoro High School, Butha Buthe, Lesotho. The Writer's Club is part of our HL Literacy Program and will draw you into the history and lives of the Basotho people up in the mountains in the north of Lesotho. They are quite wonderful and worthy of your time in reading them. All original spelling and phraseology has been preserved.

Bokoro High School – Twinned with Ridgemont High School, Ottawa

Location: Khukhune, Butha Buthe

Principal: 'M'e Mary Grace Mokefane

Number of Students: 223

Background: Bokoro is located in the village area of Khukhune. It is the only high school in the area and is somewhat isolated. Mary Grace Mokefane was made principal of Bokoro High School in 2000-2001. The school had only 65 students enrolled at the time and Mary Grace was transferred from Pitseng to improve the school and draw back all those students from the area that had been sitting at home. Bokoro is unique in that many of the students are older and have subsequently developed strong characters.

Writer's Clubs in each Help Lesotho Twinned school develop and foster literacy skills. Lesotho has a rich oral tradition, as do most African countries.

Congratulations to the Authors and Happy Reading!

Sal hantle

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1. A Business Man, Author Matsoso Mamakhola

I started my business on the 30 January 1998. There were some things which made me choose myself to be a business man. Things like starving, lacking clothes and failing to pay for my children's education.

When I started my business I had only R50.00 that I got from my neighbour whom I used to look at his cattle. So I decided to make a business because I realised the money was not enough for me to buy food, clothes and to pay school fees.

I bought some items like a bag of cabbage, biscuits, a packet of matches and candles, a bag of oranges and 5 litres of paraffin. Two donkeys was used as a means of transport from town to my place. The cars were there but I used donkeys because of shortage of money.

As I was selling I met a problem that the customers need some goods that were not there in the business. It happened that the donkeys died and I used my back to carry the goods. For me it was hard work because the distance from town to home was too long. My children also stole some goods while I was absent.

As time went on I gained some profit and managed to increase my goods and bought my own car. Finally I paid my children's education, bought them clothes and their stealing of goods ended there because they spent most of their time times at school. I earned then thousand rand and save into the bank.

Interview business man

- when did you start your business?
- why did you choose yourself to be a business man?
- how much capital did you use when starting a business?
- where did you get that money?
- which items did you bought?
- that kind of transport did you use?
- tell me the problems that you met when dealing with your business?
- how much profit did you earn?

2. Family Story, Author Lenyepa 'Mahlomo

Here I have asked my granny about what has happened to my grandpa. What caused his death and when.

Child- "Granny I know that u once have a husband, so where is he now?"

Granny- "My child your grandfather has been killed in the second world war which too place many years ago. 1966"

Child- "Why did he go there yet he knew very well it was a war?"

Granny- "It is because they were chosen by our government to go out and help so that they can defeat. So it is unfortunately that he was killed"

Child- “How did you feel when you hear that he is killed?”

Granny- “ I nearly die my child, because he was the one who use to console me when I was depressed and I cried a lot. By there was no use because God has taken his child to go and be with him”

Child- “so granny what happened after my grandpa’s death in my family?”

Granny- “It was by the time me and your parents started living a difficult life”

Child- “How do you manage to overcome those problems?”

Granny- “Your father started to go out to the mines and work and he was the one who helped us a lot, until today.”

3. My Grandfather, Author Fisang Shokopa

Last time the life was easy because the people were using animals in many things. The people of that time said that there was no one who was living without the animals. Even the poors had the animals because the people who were rich they gave the poor the animals to help them.

The food that they were eating was “Lehola”. This is the pap of the milk, we boil the milk when it is boiling we add with the meat to make pap but it has to be soft like porridge, bread of wheat, meat, “Lihoapa” the fried meat.

They were using animals as their transport, horses and donkeys. Because there was no cars on that time and the money was not there. They knew nothing about the money. They were making the clothes for themselves they used the animals’ skins and the containers they made them by themselves, like basin, basket, this two made by the clay soil and burned and a container which we call “seroto”. It made up of the grass, it is used to contain the things like pumpkin, maize and all the vegetables.

There was no church but the schools were there. The school was like the place where the children who had no work to do went. They did not understand what meant by school. My grandfather said that on that time he was 15 years old. His work was looking after the sheep and goat.

The wedding was a that everybody will get the nice food and the shepherds will rest and they will sing, dance and do many things, they were doing the things like “Mohobelo”. “Mokhibo” etc. The happiest time in his life was during the wedding and Christmas because there were the time that they not going to look after the animals.

4. Grandmother, Author Florihah Nlhee

In last time the life was easy for those who were living in that time because they were using animals in order to ploughing the field but nowadays we are using tractor for ploughing field this method is an expensive because it need more money.

In the last, there were few schools and there were few people who were educated those who were educated were working in government offices while uneducated were working in mine in neighbour country South Africa. The life was so easy for them but today life needs educated people because if without educated there is no job.

Improvement in medical care at last there was lack of health care or hospital because there was lack of skilled training for that and many people were die because of lack of medical care but today there is improvement in health care and there is improvement in birth which mean when a person is already to get her baby the doctor who is helping her but last time we have few doctor/nurse for that work.

Improvement in clothing and food last time our grandparents were using animals skin for making the clothes, nowadays there is improvement when making clothes. In the last year grandparents were eating wild vegetable and wild animals but nowadays we are eating difference food and this food cooked in different way/method.

Christianity our grandparents were not going to the churches because there is no churches at that time but today we are having many churches.

Sesotho

Mehleng ea khoile bophelp bo ne bonolo ho bahto ba wako eeo hobane frobane ba ne ba sebelis liphatolp ho lema empa mehleng ena ho sebelisoa liferekere ho lema masimo eleng moloa o turang hobane o bafla cleelefe e ugasa.

Mehleng ea khale ho ne ho ena le thokahalo ea likolo likolo line hi jokola. Bathos baneng bas a mutehand ba ue ba sebefsa metafong woheag ea boallance. Afrika Boroa bephelo bo ne bo le bonolo ho bona ema kajeno ha howa bophelo kante ho thuto hobane mothoba a jumane mosebetsi ha bobebe ha a sa ruteha.

Bophelo bo bottle mehleng ea khale basebelefsi ba bophelo bo bothle bane ba fokola habane batho ban eng ba koefloke se bakeng sa mosebetsi ona bane ba fokola empa melileng ena phefoho e teng hobane ho na le batho ba baagafa ba koetletseng mosebetsi ona ho pakahatsa sena ho se ho ena le baoki le ligaka tse peisang batho ha wakong e fifile ba ne ba fokola hao batho ba ne ba hlokahala ka bangafa.

Moaparo le lijo mehleng ea khale hone ho efoa liaporo ka mattalo a lippoalo empa mehleng ena re se re reka liphahlo tsa mefifa e fapaneng le lijo tseo baneng ba lija isfapane le tsa mehleng en mehleng ea khala ba ne baja limela tsa naha le liphofolo tse haha empa mehleng en re ja ijo tse tapaneng le ka mao I pheluloeng ka owa.

Bohalalehi bastho ba khale bane bane sa ken kereke hobane lene hi lesion empa kajeno balumeni ba banga le likereke lingasa.

5. Friends for Life, Author Jane Tsepang

I am thrilled to bits about my friends because when I am down I always know I have my friends to cheer me on to the finish line. I think friends can drive one on a more fulfilled and successful life.

We looked so tiny! Niro and Jaxx are just two of my many friends. We went to a charity fair. It became a day I will never forget. We had so much fun meeting new people and we even got sick on the ride! I competed in a quiz and won a medal and a hamper. I could never have done it without my friends' support and motivation. I found that loving life is best when one is with friends.

I am sure I am not going to miss my friends and their special trademarks like Niro's sarcasm and Jaxx's ability to turn every situation into a joke. Thanks guys! Nurture your amazing talents and live life to the fullest: and give it the best shot!!

6. Social History : Interview: Grandparents, Author Halifele

- When did you first learn to read and write?
- Who taught you?
- Which books did you use?
- How old were you then?
- What problems did you face?
- Which transport did you use?
- Were there people with AIDS ?
- Why were you forced to marry?
- Which things did you learn first?
- Which things did you learn last?

In 1950, I learn how to read and write. Mr. Tsepo was one of our teachers. We use Seotho books, English and some math books. I was eight years old. The problem that we face were that we were using the stone the boards were not there on that time and we were not attending classes. We were just going to the side of the village. Also the chalk was not there. We were just using sticks for whittling.

The donkeys and horses were the most transport. When taking long journey the horses were the ones used and when going to buy meal or harvesting the donkey were used then.

In past the marriage was forced because we dislike to see many orphans. This means we do not want the girls to carry babies which have no fathers and when the girls were 15-21-25 they were allowed to be married.

There were no with this killing disease. We start to see this sort of disease yet now we are old and this is one of things which are still happening.

Now the thing which I learned first are this circumcision was forced to males and females.

There were no shops, cars and buses. We were eating wild vegetables without adding oil, just only water and said there were no hospital. There were no big houses which were made up of bricks and sand and cement. Electricity and gases were not there. Just now I have learned that children are not respecting their parents. They are just producing babies and then left them. Now phones are there if I have problems I just phone and letters are no more using. Students are taught in classes. The pens, books, rulers are there for students.

7. My grandmother is 'Mampine Poka, Author Jane Thopelo

My grandmother is 'Mampine Poka and she is eighty seven year old. She is the one whom I interviewed and she told me that in her times she had no special job to do where she was hired but she hoed at the fields and harvested. She sewed mats and brooms with grass at her home.

She told me that she was married at the age of sixteen. She said she was taken by three men on horseback at the fields where she was hoeing with her mother. At first her uncle came and begged her mother to have a talk aside with the mother and at once the three men took her. She also told me that she does not think she had the happiest time in her life because at their times they only got glad when parents congratulated them when they did something good. All these are her background information.

She told me that in early times, they lived good and interesting life because there was peace among the people. She said if one did not have a certain thing, say cow, others assisted that somebody in all activities which needed a cow like when burying someone and working at the fields ploughing. The hatred which is among people these years was something not there last years.

The number of people who are murdered this year is far high. She said in her times, it was a surprise to hear that there was someone killed even cannibals at our ancestors' times did not always eat people they ate them when they suffered a very long time without food. There was no theft like it is now. These years stealing is like a play but at her time the rate of theft was very low. All this proves that our ancestors lived peacefully with each other. This is what she said.

Coming to clothing, she said boys and men wore Litsea. These are trouser like and are made of animals' skin while girls were "lithetana" which are a bit like short skirt and they are made from plants which have fiber stems and these plants are called "Tsikitlane" Women wore long skirts made from cow's skin and for boys and girls, women and men, a sheep's skin was used as a blanket and also of a cow.

As she went on, she said even in last year the church was still existing because the priests came to Lesotho in the eighteenth century. They church itself did not disturb the Basotho culture and people attended church. Also schools started at the same time as the church started its work. She said the only thing different with school was that school was attended by kids of chiefs and officials because the Basotho had insufficient money and they did not consider it valuable. She said one thing to prove is when a chief's son was called upon to war that was in France to go and explain to Basotho soldiers of what to do. Lerotholi Mojela was the son of Mojela, the chief was the one who knew English.

Top add on, she said Basotho respected marriages greatly. When a Masotho boy wanted to marry, first he had to be circumcised so that he would be a real man. Then he was showed by parents where they wanted him to marry from. It was not like in these years whereby boys choose themselves whom to marry. Lobola which is paying of r6-20 cattle to the girl's family as a thank for their child. When Lobola was complete that is when twenty cattle were paid, the feast of two cows slaughtered was held at the girl's family over a Friday night. But if less then twenty cattle were paid only a cow was slaughtered for this feast which is called "Bohali". Early the Saturday morning, a girl was taken to the boy's family and would have been fully married. Before a Masotho boy or girl could be married, they sleep in a big house together called "Thakane" This is where boys and girls of the village sleep.

She also told me that Basotho lived luxurious lives. They ate meat every time because they reared animals and milk was what was always there. They missed eating crops like Lithukiy'ane, Petselheme and Leshoabe because they were found far away from villages and very few of them. At the fields they grew maize, sorghum, beans and pumpkin and they were their food throughout the year. They also hunted wild animals.

The mentioned things are some of the things my granny told me and she said she has forgotten some other things because of being old. She said if she was still fresh she would have told me much than these.

8. One day, Author Joel Monyalotso

One day I interviewed my role model who is one of my teachers about how he managed to get degree in the university. She told me that she was a hard worker and was reliable to her assignments. Furthermore she said she was determined, dedicated and disciplined. She told me that in her high school level she had a problem of paying school fees because her family was poor. She asked for the sponsorship from the government.

She advised me to work very hard in order to succeed in life and she encouraged me to do my assignments in time. She said that a student should be delicate, determine and discipline on everything they do.

All the advices that she gave me, made me a strong and reliable man to his work. I will not let any advice to slip out of my mind because I want to use her advices for the rest of my life.
Ite a nkeletsa hore ke hlomplie batsoali ba ka moho le matichere ka ho tsoana.

9. History, Author Kamohelo 'Mamosisi

She has born in 1925 meaning that she has 80 years. She lives at Linakeng village in Botha Bothe district in Lesotho country and is Mosotho by nationality.

In their early life, she said they were living somehow nicely because they were the farmers and hunters. So they were eating meat from animals and vegetables from their gardens even pap from the fields. There were no robbers or thieves who take people's properties unlawfully because children at that time were listening to their parents meaning that they were given orders for everything they wanted to do.

They were eating many different kinds of food like nyekoe, when preparing it they prepared beans, sorghum and pumpkin and cook them together to make that nice nyekoe. By meat sometimes they were making lihoapa. To make lihoapa they were cutting meat in pieces, removing it form the bones pouting it with salt and maize meal to prevent the worms on that meat and put it where the sun is shining heavily in order for that meat to be dried up and be lihoapa.

They were using their horses and donkeys for taking their journeys or for taking their luggages from place to place like from town to home because there were no transports to deliver their properties, that's why they were rearing these animals at that time of their early lives.

For making clothes they were using animals skins like the one for cow to make blankets and for making skirts for girls because there were no clothes like now. This is why they were rearing these animals.

They didn't attend school because there were no schools at the time and they didn't attend the church because even them were not there. They were just going into their houses if they wish. They were

behaving well because they were loving each other and helping one if has a problem meaning that they were feeling pity for each other.

The happiest day or time was when they went to thakaneng which is the place where girls and boys were spending some night together. This place was far from home where they enjoyed happiness or swam in a bliss, controlling themselves freely. Thakaneng was where they were given time to rest together.

For her wedding laws were working strictly than now, her parents and the boys parents met together talking about their children's wedding yet that man didn't say a word to her and when he mother told her about being married by that man, she refused and then they decided to tie her finger by threat hardly until she decided to agree and then can became this man's wife.

She said life for today is better because a person does everything he/she wants like a person can't be married by the person she don't love because of the word. Democracy which allows a person not to be ruled overtime because a person had the right to do everything she/he wants.

10. Independent, Author Khabisi Ralisle

Lesotho takes independent on 1966. The parties were formed, they were BCP(Basotho Congress Party) MFP (Marema-tlou Freedom Party) BNP (Basotho National Party). The leader of BNP was Leabua Jonothan

The election starts and the MFP won them but Mr. Leabua say: give me some votes. The emergency started. BNP ruled Lesotho 23 years without election. After 23 years, Dr. Lekhanya Metsing killed Mr. Leabua and election started and BNP won all the constituents of Lesotho in 1993.

In 1998 elections start and LCD won them. BNP in 1995 to 1996 there was disagrees and Dr.Ntsu Mokhehle starts his party called LCD and put Mr. Pakalitha Mosisili as a prime minister.

In 1998 Mr. Qhobela Molapo, Metsing Lekhanya and Mr. Sekhonyana said that the election did not vote correctly and they burn the capital city of Lesotho. Mr. Pakalitha Mosisili called SADS(Southern African Development Community) to come to Lesotho and give peace.

From 1998 to 2005, LCD still rule Lesotho.

11. The Story About the old Life of Our Grandparents, Author Lehata Tebello

The parent is living at Makhoaloeng. She is about one hundred and one. She is a grandmother and her name is called Matsietso.

My grandmother told me that the old life was better to them because at that time there was no many sickness that appear now to the young children. Also there was the large space for fields so that we could plough and plant anything we want to plant so that we could feed ourselves.

There was no thieves who stole some others things because we just go and hunt for ourselves because by that time there was many animals which we could hunt for, like hares and some animals to use for many purpose like when we celebrate our culture. But now I had realized that there is many thieves who steal some others things like cattle yet they are important to their owners. By the time someone is dead they use cattle to bury such person.

Therefore if the thieves stole their animals such person had to buy the cow to bury the dead one and if there is no money it became a problem to bury the dead person. Also had to buy food that will be eaten by the people who will be there when bury the dead one.

When she came to the transport, she just told me that at that time they were using donkeys, mules and horses to visit some places. By that time there was no taxi transport.

There was no places where we could say that is the place we were used to pray at. We usually made something like celebration. We cooked many food and went out in the village to sing our cultural songs. Hence there was no church at that time. By so doing was the time we said we were praying.

Also we were having no schools because we were not in need of schools. There was no purpose for schools because we were having everything we want. Now the purpose of schools is to be educated so that you will get employed so as to get money to continue with the life or the life be possible to you. If you want to go anywhere nowadays you have to use money.

When we were coming to the wedding, we just had the game where we will sing there by the guys and girls who they were at the age of married of about 15 years old because no one married at above 20 years old, hence they had long chance. The parents must be there to watch us as to know who was going to marry and married whom so that the parents will be prepared. But now they take each other without telling their parents and at night yet the crime is high like that. Unfortunately now the major thing which rule the life of nowadays is money. If someone does not have money or not educated the life became difficult to them at this days.

12. Two Interviews, Author Lineo Mothibedi

Interview with the pedestrian

Reporter: Tell me how you got injured.
Pedestrian: I was crossing the road near the beer hall going to the bus terminus
Reporter: What time was it ?
Pedestrian: It was some time after eight, I think.
Reporter: Had you been drinking ?
Pedestrian: Oh no.
Reporter: But you were coming out of the beer hall, weren't you ?
Pedestrian: Well---um---um--- I had gone into the beer hall to look for a friend who was there. I didn't drink.
Reporter: Anyway, let's get back to accident itself. How did it happen ?
Pedestrian: As I was crossing the road, just as I was in the middle, I saw the very bright lights of a car approaching me, fast as lightning.
Reporter: Did you try to escape ?

Pedestrian: I can't remember. I was confused. Everything happened so fast ! I heard a very loud noise and something hit me. The next thing I found myself in this hospital with broken leg.

Interview with the driver

Reporter: Tell how you hit the man.

Driver: I was driving through the town when outside the beer hall, I saw a man standing in the middle of the road.

Reporter: What time was it

Driver: It was about five past seven, I think.

Reporter: Are you sure?

Driver: Yes, I had just checked my watch.

Reporter: What did you do when you saw the man?

Driver: I tried to stop. I also blew the hooter. But the man remained standing there staring at me in a strange way. Inevitably, my car hit him. He was thrown onto the side of the road.

Reporter: Then what did you do?

Driver: I jumped out of my car to see he was badly hurt. Somebody else help me is assisting the injured man.

Reporter: Was the pedestrian drunk?

Driver: From the way he stood in the middle of the road in front of approaching right to, I'd say so. Anyway at that time I was too shaken to make up my mind if the man was to blame.

Reporter: Were you traveling fast when the accident occurred?

Driver: Oh no, I had slowed down some distance from the beer hall. I thought the man was crossing the road but he didn't.

13. An Interview with Shepherd, Author Manyooko Ke

Shepherd is someone who is looking after the goat and the sheep at home even at the good pasture in the far away on the "meraka" where they will get the green grass.

I have interview with Teboho who looks after 20 sheep and 30 goats and his purpose of rearing them is to get meat and mohair wool and milk. Sheep and goats are mainly kept for meat and milk.

He said that sheep and goats are kept together as one flock and they normally go out to graze during the day and they are kept in a kraal at night. He also dais that they are hardy animals and they can survive during dry weather on quite poor grazing ground.

He also said such parasites should be killed by regulat dipping or spraying of animals with chemicals. Dipping is effective because all animals go under water and parasites of the body are covered.

Tefo had decided to be a shepherd because at his home there were many sheep and goats so he was looking after them since he was young that why he decided.

14. Interview, Author Maphalla Victoria Mamoshoeshoe

I interviewed my parents: Heading & Hunter

A hunter is a person who looks for the wild animals for certain uses.

A hunter can go for his work during night for some animals look for food at night of during a day as some wild animals search for food in broad daylight.

Many wild animals take a forest as their habitat while other animals live in holes for a hunter to catch a wild animal he has to know at what time does a certain animal feed. There are many ways of catching a wild animal. It can be through the dogs, by using the bows and arrows or by killing a favorite animal for that you want to kill, for instance, if a jackal eats or lives to eat the sheep a hunter can kill that animal and make a trap with it near a habitat of that which he wants to kill so that when it comes it will be his turn to kill it.

The hunter can hunt for many reasons as stated earlier. He can hunt to get a Sesotho herb from an animal or to make the cultural ambitions for the new born kids.

Also to get the skin and the horns to use them specially.

For a traditional doctor that is a customly because they often use wild animals in missing of their medicines apart from this a wild animal can be used for meat production. Almost others can be reared for security control and needs some treatments to accept living with people.

A hunter can turn to be an important person especially to the manufacturing business because the skins are used daily. Even for the tourists if a hunter can try to find the different animals skins and forge as if it is a living animal and that will be a big deal to get money. Also he can be a photographer for people will like to take the photos near those skins pretending to be alive.

Moreover a hunter can use the skins in wearing to remind Basotho about the Late Basotho who wore the skins and that would be taken as to go back to our culture.

This is all of what I had about the hunter.

15. Marriage for Traditional Milestone, Author Mapitso Hlongwane

The interview my grandparent. Questions:

1. How many years old did the person be when he want to marry?
2. What did he suppose to do when he want to marry?
3. What did the parents do for him?
4. Should the parent choose for their son or the son should choose for himself?
5. Why should the parent choose for their son or why the son should choose for himself?
6. What did the parents do for the choice of their son or their choice?
7. What did they do for the girl whom they want their son to marry or their son want to marry?
8. How much loubola did they pay?
9. What did they suppose to pay that?
10. What did the wife suppose to have the children?

1. The person should be at least 29 when he want to get in the marriage.
2. In our culture he suppose to wake up so early and take cattle in the veld even the calf. This will show his parents that he wants to marry.
3. The parents should choose the wife for their son.
4. Because the parents will choose a girl whose parents are good and the parents believe that the parents who are respect they will teach their children good manners.
5. The parents will go there where they have choose the wife for their son and ask for the girl to be their daughter in law.
6. The both parents from a boy and girl make the agreement of their children to get into the marriage and the boy's parents should pay the girl's parents for loubola. They should pay twenty cattle and ten flock of sheep. Apart from twenty cattle there are also two cattle, a dairy cattle and a beef cattle. Dairy cattle is for mother because the mother has suckled the child and beef belongs to the father for working hard to his child.
- 7.

16. An Interview of Shepherd, Author Mary 'Mabeng Seabata

A shepherd is a person who looks after goats and sheep at home even at the good pastures on the mountains and that place is called "meraka"

I have interviewed Tefo who looks after 10 sheep and 12 goats and his purpose of rearing them is to get meat, mohair and milk goats and sheep are mainly kept for meat and milk. The hides are also used to make leather goods.

He said that sheep and goats are kept together as one flock and they normally go out to graze during the day and they are kept in a kraal at night. He also said that they are hardy animals and they can survive during dry weather on quite poor grazing place. They also use more of grass than the cattle by eating it down closer to the ground.

Goats are also browsers that is they like to eat the leaves of trees and bushes and as a result they are sometimes used to control bush growth. He even talks about the types of them that they are the angora goats and merino sheep so the male sheep is called a ram while female is ewe and the young a lamb while male goat is buck and the female goat is called shegoat or nanny and the young is called a kid.

There are some parasites which prevent good health of the goats and sheep and these include tick, lice, scab and maggots. They all reduce the health and production of sheep and goats. Ticks suck blood and can spread diseases. Lice are also blood sucker and cause great discomfort to animals. Sheep scab is caused by a mite which bites the skin causing the scab makes sheep to rub themselves and this spoils wool.

He also said such parasites should be killed by regular dipping or spraying of animals with chemicals. Dipping is effective because all animals go under water and parasites of the body are covered. The strength of the dip must be checked regularly as it soon becomes diluted by rain water or being over used.

Tefo had decided to be a shepherd because at the time there were many sheep and goats so he was looking after them since he was young that's why he decided to become a shepherd.

He said he likes his job because it's a longly job which needs him to take care of them and he is skilled on sheep and goats. He even told me that Basotho people do their cultured work with sheep and goats.

17. Unforgettable Grandfather, Author Masefako Sehopa

On this entire world there are some people whom they had done some things which are very important for my life and I will never forget until I am one hundred and something years.

The only person whom I admire on this heaven is my grandfather. She had taught me how to speak politely when speaking to the people who are older than me and who are younger than me. Moreover she had taught me how to respect my parents by agreeing when they send me to some where by respecting them when they are rescuing me from bad things.

Furthermore, I am now old because of her. She had taught me how to care for myself and she had taught me how to read and write. In addition he know what is bad and what is not bad because of her and she is her mother when she had care for myself at school when my parents are not present.

Then she had taught me about things which had happened before I was born and again she had taught me about things which will happen in my whole life. My grandfather is the only and the first person I admire mostly on this world.

18. I have interviewed my grandmother, Author Maseroai Pheela

IL05.05

Form D

She said she is 93 years old.

AN INTERVIEW IN SESOTHO

- Le ne le phela joang mehleng ea lona?
- Le ne le ja mofuta efe ea lijo?
- Le ne le sebella lepalangoang tsa mofuta ofe?
- Le ne le apara liphalo tsa mafuta ofe?
- Na le ne le kena kereke?
- Na te ne le kena sekolo?
- Le ne le etsa mesebetsi efe?
- Aku njaetse ka lenyolo ta hao?
- Aku njaetse ka nako ea menate nakong ea lona?
- Bophelo ba ka jeno bo betere kapa che?

THE STORY

She said that they were living in peace because there were no thieves and these people who are killing others. They used to lay under trees when they were getting tired during the day and they were not disturbed by anything wrong. There were no dangerous diseases like AIDS.

When they were hungry they were eating wild carrots, wild animals, nyakatatme, mophara-thethana and others. But the girls at those days were not allowed to eat eggs because they were told that if they could eat them they would have bad feelings of having sex.

They were using horses, donkeys and cows as their transport. They were not charged for using them because those animals were theirs and no one could stop them from using them.

They used to wear animal hides as their important clothes. The girl were wearing “lithehama” while boys were wearing “litseea”

They were not attending church because there were no churches and no one knew anything about church. Also there were no schools because no one who could teach them.

She said that they were the farmers while others were the hunters.

They had “Bohali” as their wedding. There were agreements between the girl’s parents and boy’s parents. Boy’s parents had to pay 12 cows to the girl’s parents. The parents of both sides had to arrange their children’s marriage.

As to enjoy, the village girls were going to one house and be together. That place was called “thakaneng”. Those girls were saying everything freely because there would not be any parents who they could fear.

Life of these days is better then the one of our grandparents because girls are allowed to eat eggs so, from those eggs they get proteins and they become strong.

19. Story About Grandparents, Author Matla Nkhlatamele

Last years the people were living in war but after Moshoeshoe was born, it is when they started to live in peace because he came with peace, so he stopped that war.

Grandparents were using the skins of the animals as their clothes because at that time there were no machines that we have for sewing and their shoes were made up of the skins of animals.

When they were married Basotho people were paying a person whose daughter has been married by giving a parent more than ten cattle and we call that “Lobola”. And because at that time there was lack of money when somebody needed something they were making barter system, they were making an exchange of goods.

They were living in the houses made up of the grass as the roofs because the tiles that we are using now as our roofs were not there, that is why they were using grass. They also used the animals as

their transport because cars were not there and they were using the stones to prepare the mealie meal because the grinding meals were not there.

When somebody was dead they were using the sand soil to put the dead person on so that the person cannot be rotten before being buried because there were no mortuaries where we are keeping the dead people nowadays.

When a Masotho boy wanted to marry, there were some signs that he was to do to show his parents that he wants to marry and then his parents would ask for a wife from any family they liked. It was not like now as the boys are surprising their parents when they are marrying.

Basotho people were also using only the pots which were made up of claysoil. They were not using the Castrol that we are using.

20. I would like to interview a shepherd Matseliso Mokete

Interview 11/05/05

1. Why have you choose to be a shepherd?
2. Who gave an idea of being a shepherd?
3. Why do you use to give your animals iron injection?
4. Are you able to manage your animals alone or your children help you?
5. Are you happy with your work?
6. Are you earning enough money for satisfying your needs?
7. Are your animals providing you with enough product when selling?
8. At what time do you normally go for your work?
9. Do you think it will be possible for you to leave your work?
10. As you use to go up the hills/mountains with your animals, how do you feel about the separation?

A shepherd is someone who takes care of flock of sheep.

Being a shepherd is quite enjoying because at any time when having a meal your diet will include a lot of body building food such as meat and milk. So far, the shepherds are healthy because of their work and it is cheap and easy to be done. Usually, the shepherds went to their work in the morning until in the evenings, the animals are allowed to graze for the whole day and in that way they are able to grow healthy and produce enough products for satisfying human needs during the selling process.

Moreover, the shepherds have grown accustomed to life up in the mountains, so to add more they even take their animals up with them. This happens or takes place during winter seasons where by it will be cold here at rural areas and the grass would still be green.

To hit the nail on the head, being a shepherd is quite interesting.

21. The Story About Grandparent, Author Moliboea Lehaka

My grandfather told me that life was difficult long ago because of many wars. Many people we die by that time. There was no peace by that time. He said by that time food are many here were no hunger. He said that they eat nyeko and drink leting. Leting is made of by sorgum. It is a beer. By that time there were many animals. Among them, some of used as the transport. Animals like horses, donkeys and moles are used as the transport because villages were near mountains.

As he told me life was difficult by that time, he said that no shops where they bought clothes so they killed animals and made clothes with that skins. About church he said they did not went to church because there were no church by that time. They went to Molutsaaneng where they pray. Molutsaaneng is the place where its only gathers to go and pray. He said there were no school by that time so they knew noting about school but they used cercumsation as their school. There boys and girls taught how to voted the family.

About his age he told me he is 85 year old. He said he have 85 year because since he was young, he obeyed his parents not only his parents but everybody who are older then him. And he told me that he think he will be alive until he no longer did everything and no longer walk. Now he is blind. About jobs he told me that he was the farmer because he had many animals so he plough with animals in order to satisfied his family. He told me he had three children both are boys two were dead.

As he told me about this wedding he said because there no freedom by that time, his parents overuled his rights. By the time when he want to marry because they choose the girls which they like without talk with him. But he obeyed his parents and respect them. He married that girl even now he stay with her.

As he told me about the happiest time, he laugh first then he said even today I remember when we play seliculion. Seliculion is the game which played by girls and boys they sing very nice and dance that game is very interesting.