

**John Stanley Morris**  
**(1935 – 2020)**

John Stanley (Stan) Morris (School Number 737) who died on June 7 2020 in Caracas, Venezuela, was one of Headmaster Sandy Henderson's gilded crop of pupils in the early 1950s. He was a natural ballplayer and topped his contribution to the School's successes on the rugby pitch with a place at Queen's College, Oxford, to study for a B.A. in Modern Languages. (French and Spanish).

He was a fine linguist and his 3<sup>rd</sup> Class degree was no doubt due to the fact that he was very busy on other matters. He played both cricket and rugby for the College, was secretary of the rugby club for a time, and rowed in the College boat in 1958. On leaving College he taught at Bristol Grammar School briefly before working for Barclays Bank in 1959 and for a short time was Head of Modern Languages at Queen Mary's, Walsall.

Stan was at LWC from 1946 to 1954 and did his National Service in the Royal Air Force in an anti-aircraft unit before going to Oxford. In 1959 he met Celia, a young Spanish woman in Oxford to learn English. Their desire to mutually improve their knowledge of each other's language launched a romance that took them to Venezuela where Celia's sister had already settled. There they raised four children, Stan Jr., Alexandra, David and Susana.

Stan quickly established himself in the field of advertising and marketing with the Venezuelan subsidiary of Procter and Gamble, joking at the time that he was 'selling soap to the Indians'. He spent 15 years with P&G including two years at their Head Office in Cincinnati, Ohio, and held senior executive posts in the Company in Mexico and on his return to Caracas. He worked later for Pepsi Cola International and managed the Ford Motor Car account for the leading Venezuelan Advertising Agency CORPA. The last six years or so of his career were spent in Venezuela as a Vice-President of Nabisco, the American biscuit company.

Stan's 'English' sense of humour, as his elder son Stan Jr described it, and his enthusiasm for Venezuela were winning attributes in his adopted country. He enjoyed nothing more than his fishing excursions to the 'llanos', the tropical grassland plains a few hours drive from the capital. On one occasion he got too friendly with the wildlife and came off worse with a badly clawed hand as he picked up an anteater. At one stage of his life he spent a short time in the gold-mining region of the Orinoco in the country's south eastern corner bordering on Brazil and Guyana where he witnessed the appalling conditions of the native Indians lured into the goldfields.

Stan kept in touch with LWC throughout his life. One memorable contact was in 1967 when Sutton House Housemaster and Geography teacher Raymond 'Les' Bacon arrived in Caracas having crossed the Atlantic as a passenger on a banana boat. Stan had prepared a Venezuelan itinerary for him.

As living in Venezuela became more difficult from the mid-1990s due to what Stan described as the 'Colombianisation' of the country, he remarked in a letter in 2004, "Meanwhile we relish the few good moments we have, like getting a letter from you, and knowing that LWC continues to produce stalwart characters of the Wilkinson ilk". On another occasion he wrote " My fishing stories get bigger and bigger as the country dwindles into a second version of Cuba". After an episode with a gang of poachers on a trip to the "llanos" he wrote, "David (his second son) and I returned to the same river of the poachers and pulled out 20 bass in a morning. What a life!". In his later years Stan's love of birds led him to join the National Audubon Society, an RSPB for the Americas. He built an aviary for toucans and macaw parrots, not to mention the monkey.

As well as his sense of humour Stan's kindly nature was seen at its best in his dealings with younger people for whom he always had time to counsel and advise if he felt his intervention might be helpful. He was devoted to his family and on the christening of his grandson Richard Stanley reckoned that with three generations of Stanleys "one of them was bound to end up as President".

He is survived by Celia, Stan Jr, David and Susana, grandchildren, Paul Alexander, Robert Andrew, Richard Stanley, Alvaro Enrique and Eduardo Andres and sisters, Gillian and Margaret.



