

recalled Sir Florizel. "Employers thought it a bit of impertinence that employees should want to have a say in setting terms of employment. We had a battle royal against long working hours."

"I remember when we waged war in Luke Lane for store clerks" said Sir Florizel. "These persons had to work from 7 a.m. to 9/10 p.m. on Saturdays. One Saturday, we went from store to store, calling out the clerks at 6 p.m. The stores just had to close. By 1937-38 these things were rectified by law, thank God."

Lady Glasspole said her husband's work in the trade union was demanding but not as demanding as those later years when the PNP was formed. "It was an exacting time but I knew he was committed. I accepted it in good faith as I have accepted everything to which he has a commitment."

THE Governor General could scarcely hide his admiration for his lady when he recounted the first time he ran for election as a PNP candidate in East Kingston in 1944. "She actually helped in canvassing support during the entire progress of the campaign. She sympathised with the philosophy of the Party and gave me tremendous support. He won the election."

"She has been a tremendous mother to our daughter Sara Lou and has helped her to develop the finest qualities. They are now almost like sisters and of course, Sara Lou is instilling the same qualities in our granddaughter, little Kristina."

When asked whether Sara Lou was protected from or deliberately exposed to politics as a child, Sir Florizel answered, "Neither. We went about our daily activities naturally. Many of my political colleagues, including N.W. Manley

and N.N. Nethersole, came to the house. They all liked her very much and she was a favourite of N.W. Manley. No, she was not made to feel conscious either way, but we know that she grew up with her nostrils well trained to look seriously at politics. Sara Lou is quite serious about her country."

Sara Lou Mena and young Kristina joined us during the interview. Sara Lou, looking more beautiful than ever was wearing a fresh linen dress and a silk scarf and led a timid Kristina by the hand. Kristina nestled between her grandparents, her long lashes lowered shyly as we complimented her on her beautiful dress.

Asked how it felt to be grandparents, both Sir Florizel and Lady Glasspole answered in unison, "Great!"

"Tina has brought new spirit into Kings House," said Her Excellency. "Everybody loves her. We have to be on our Ps and Qs to make sure she isn't spoilt."

KRISTINA, who will be three years old in January, has a "birthday" every day since she insists on blowing out a candle every time she has a piece of cake. She enjoys imitating entertainers, particularly Tina Turner and uses hair-brushes and anything else at hand as a microphone for her "act".

Kristina obviously takes after her grandparents, both of whom love singing and dancing. Lady Glasspole unhesitatingly cited Nat "King" Cole as her favourite singer — "he has such a beautiful calm way of singing." A current favourite is Carlene Davis — "she's as pretty as she's talented," said Lady Glasspole.

Lady Glasspole enjoyed dancing until "up to two years ago when I developed a leg problem," she said. "I used to do all sorts of dances,



Young Kristina nestles against her grandmother as the family smiles for the camera. From left, Lady Glasspole, Sir Florizel, and daughter Sara Lou Mena.

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"There I was reading my book quietly, when in came these two noisy young men..."

you better let me tell the story"

waltz, fox-trot, jazz. That's how I used to keep slim."

a young woman, she enjoyed fashion designing. "I used to observe the trends, then design from them. I didn't follow every fashion because not all of them suited me. I think it's important to wear what is flattering, not necessarily what is in fashion."

Her favourite designer? "I tend to like Frances Keane's work," she said, "because her clothes feature a good deal of embroidery. My favourite fabrics are georgette, silk and uncrushable linen."

And her favourite food? "Jamaican and Chinese — I do enjoy Chinese food", she said.

We learned that Sir Florizel's favourite food was none other than the National Dish — ackee and saltfish "especially with fried dumplings," he confessed. Asked about other "favourites", Sir Florizel said he loved the singing and dancing of Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers. He is a keen admirer of the late Bob Marley — "when he started out, I wasn't very keen but his later music made a tremendous impression on me,"

said Sir Florizel. He is also fond of Jamaican singers Myrna Hague and A.J. Brown. "I like him too," said Lady Glasspole. "He is such a nice young man."

"My favourite columnist is Carl Stone," state Sir Florizel. "He has a penetrating mind and he doesn't seek to hide the truth nor cover up facts."

Asked which was the trip overseas he enjoyed most, Sir Florizel said — "Probably when I went to England for the first time in 1946 on a scholarship (British T.U.C.) to Oxford. We spent a year. It was a hard winter but it was great going."

ASKED about the person or persons who had the greatest impact on his life, Sir Florizel cited his late headmasters at Central Branch and Walmers the late Fred Myers and Reginald Myrie Murray, and Norman W. Manley. "What impressed me was the quality of NW's mind, his commitment to the things he believed in, the brilliance of his advocacy, his honesty, integrity and unflinching service to Jamaica and her people. He helped to create in me this same pattern of service to Jamaica."

What about sports? It turned out that he has many favourites — cricket, track athletics, football, tennis and boxing.

The conversation turned to more serious matters when we asked Sir Florizel what he thought was Jamaica's greatest problem. "The economic



"He said I looked fine the way I was"

problem," he asserted. "We must have faith and determination and we need a special message to carry us along that road of faith and encouragement. The way is strewn with a lot of difficulties. We will need united efforts. I don't think it is possible for the two parties to unite but, subject to the restoration of the two parties in the House, there are a number of areas where there could be consultation."

An indication of the economic problems is the tremendous number of "begging" letters which go to Kings House. "I wish I could help them all but it is well nigh impossible," says the Governor General. He also receives some unusual requests. One recently came from a lady in the country (a Jamaican) who begged to be deported because she was annoyed as she had been having problems with the police and her three sons and no longer wished to remain in Jamaica! Many letters acknowledged the Governor General as a father figure, calling him "Papa Glasspole" or some such endearing name.

Sir Florizel replies to every letter he receives and he prepares all his speeches with only a few exceptions.

SIR Florizel, a veteran politician, went through "six months of mental torture" when he first became Governor General in 1973 because he realised that he could no longer take part in the political debates around him. "From the day

I became Governor General, I ended my political bias," he stated. "When I see something which is not in the best interest of the country, I speak out, even if some politics is involved. I have tried to maintain an even keel."

Sir Florizel is at present writing his memoirs, spanning nearly half a century of trade union and political history. This, he will "put into someone's expert hands" to render into what we are sure will be a most remarkable account of the contribution made by an exceptional son of Jamaica to his country. "I can assure you of one thing," said Sir Florizel, "It will be the truth." Lady Glasspole nodded her conviction — "That it will be," she asserted.

Looking at these two gentlefolk, immaculately turned out, charming and gracious in the elegant surroundings of Kings House, it was hard to believe that their way was paved not with luxurious legacies but with years of "making do" on small salaries, confronting the establishment in trade union activities and campaigning in the hard pioneer years of Jamaica's two-party system.

The studious young lady and the rambunctious young man had come a long way since that train ride to Annotto Bay.