



Reading Comprehension

WORLD'S OLDEST PERSON TURNS 128

Dominicans yesterday celebrated the birthday of the World's oldest living person Elizabeth (Ma Pampo) Israel who turned 128.

Unfortunately, the Guinness Book of World Records has not officially recognized Ma Pampo since they are still checking the facts. A certificate has been issued by the Roman Catholic Church with her birth date stated as January 27, 1875, but since it is not an official record, it cannot be used to confirm the claim.

The claim was further thrown into doubt when it was learned that at some point in her life she was called Minetta George. Guinness officials have said that it is important to clarify these issues before Ma Pampo can be given the title of the oldest person on earth.

Born in Portsmouth, Dominica, and the daughter of slaves, she started working on a plantation at the age of 25 and retired 79 years later. Ma Pampo says the reason for her long life is her diet - including lots of dumplings (cooked food made from flour and water) and bush tea. She has survived her husband and two children.

Dominica's largely untouched and unspoilt environment, which is still unpolluted, has been given as the main reason for longevity on the Island. Editor's Note Since the publication of this article in January 2003 Ma Pampo died in October of that year without ever being recognised as the World's Oldest Person by the Guinness Book of World

Records. Unfortunately, her death came before the scientific community could confirm her age.



Reading Comprehension

Read the text again and choose the best answer (A, B, or C) for items 1-6.

1. The text is about someone who

- A. was the world's oldest person.
- B. will be the world's oldest person.
- C. may have been the world's oldest person.

2. Who says Ma Pampo is the oldest person on earth?

- A. The Church.
- B. People in her country.
- C. The Guinness Book of Records.

3. What is the position of the Guinness Book of Records?

- A. They refuse to give Ma Pampo the title.
- B. They want to check the facts.
- C. They will give Ma Pampo the title.

4. What is Ma Pampo's explanation for her long life?

- A. She worked hard all her life.
- B. She ate lots of cooked food.
- C. She ate the right kind of food.

5. Ma Pampo's husband is

- A. still alive.
- B. younger than her.
- C. dead.

6. Why do people in Dominica live a long time? Because

- A. of the clean atmosphere.
- B. the country has a small population.
- C. the people live in a happy society.