

Dr. Daya Perera or Daya as he was known to us, who were with him at Wesley at the same time, is one of the schoolmates who made an indelible impression on all those who knew him.

Daya was a year senior to me in school and captained the 1st XV Rugby team and was Senior Prefect when in the sixth form. I was a second year player in that team and a newly appointed prefect, however we “juniors” were treated as equals by Daya who was a born leader and inspiration to us all. I still remember the encouragement and kindness with which he treated us. A captain who taught you to lose with dignity and win graciously, this was Daya.

He was a thorough gentleman and represented one of the finest and best products of Wesley.

May he Rest in Peace.



Trevor Collette

Leader Newspaper Sunday 16th November 2003

Wesleyites whom I will not see again at annual celebrations.....by. Edmund Dissanayake

Wilfred Barnes

A bank executive was a cricket crazy man. He used to travel all the way from Ampara, regularly to watch Wesley cricket. Once he came from Bandarawela, and I went from Colombo to watch the Trinity—Wesley match at Asgiriya. On the second day, there was a slight drizzle, which had ceased about half an hour earlier, but the umpires were in no mood to walk out. It was in Wesley's interest to continue play. The two of us walked to the middle and mischievously indicated by signs that there was no drizzle! Soon after the umpires did the needful. The night the two of us stayed in a hotel. I did not have a wink of sleep. Barnes was a champion snorer!

A railway accident at a rail gate crossing ended his life. The boys of Wesley were in full attendance at his funeral. Dustan Fernando, a former Principal, delivered the funeral oration, at my request. I was too distraught to comply.

C. B. Casinader

He never failed to be present at the annual celebrations, coming all the way from the land of the "singing fish". Until recently, I had carefully kept a letter he wrote to me in 1948, stating that the best speech that the Head Prefect had ever made was in that year. For some unaccountable reason the letter was typed in red. What happened to that letter, I do not know. His son Noble was with me in the Hostel in 1948, and another son Prince, (later MP) was with me in the Teachers' College at Maharagama, in 1950. I believe it was he who introduced me to the benefits of the essence of the coconut flower! Prince was a tower of strength when Rev James Cartman re-visited Batticaloa. Prince lived in a lovely place called "Lovers" lane, or Lovely Lane.

Stanley Chinivasagam

The absence of about 5 senior cricketers, including my brothers Chandra and Donald (no strike) found the Wesley cricket team in deep trouble at Randles Hill in the match against Kingswood. Our last batsman was Stanley. M. Satha took him towards the bathroom (Stanley told me) pulled out a flask, and asked him to take two swigs, and swipe at the ball... come what may. Stanley went in...7 to win or lose and Kingswood's star bowler operating. The first ball went crashing to the pavilion, and the next to the paddy field. Wesley were victorious. Stanley was the Hony. Secy. when Hon. M. H. Mohamed was president.

Harris de Kretser

He was the Hony. Secy. of the OBU who was fearful of "fireworks" at the AGM. I had to reassure him that there would be no trouble. Harris is the donor of the Pinto Memorial Shield for Inter House Activities. He also donated a cricket bat for batsmanship, to be awarded at the prize giving.

Terence de Zylva

He was better known for his 'Suriya Mal' campaign. During the Second World War, he was incarcerated with other leaders in the Bogambara prison for political reasons. We visited him there in the company of cricket coach F. J. Senaratne, when our match with Trinity was at Asgiriya. He was the OBU Hony. Secy. when Sir Oliver was G. G. Nobody could refuse Terence when he asked for donations. His portrait was unveiled in the High Field Memorial Building.

Edwin T. Fernando

His explosive speeches at the Annual lunch were looked forward to. He liked the Wesley staff very much. Once he invited the staff to his home at Horana, and there he realized the capacity of certain members for 'liquid refreshment! Frank Jayasinghe (later Principal of certain prestigious schools) was a very keen traveler. E. T. joined us on one of our 3 day excursions together with his second son Anil. Whenever a tavern was sighted Anil would look in Frank's direction and say "Sir". Anil was a hosteller then. He took to hoteliering in later life. The OBU spent a wonderful day out at the Uswatakeiya Hotel where Anil was the General Manager. It was here that D. S. Wijemanne was in his element. The various games he organized in the pool attracted foreign guests, too. I was pushed into the water by a person, so that he could pinch the whisky that my bag contained! The buffet provided by Anil was fantastic. A person seated close to me ate only lobsters.

Willet Gomes

Willet and his wife were always present at OBU lunches. In his capacity as a Naval Officer, he will be remembered for his indomitable courage in volunteering to proceed to Kegalle at the height of the insurrection. With very little ammunition, he was able to restore order.

Halim Ishak

Halim passed away recently. Probably one of his last acts was to write an Appreciation of D. W. Abaykoon, which was published in "The Island" two days after his death. A hallmark of Halim was his humility. He was humble to a fault. The OBU paid him the highest honour by electing him as President. In his capacity as an MP he treated rich and poor alike. MPs of his stature are a rare commodity today.

M. H. Jainudeen

He never missed an OBU lunch. He used to carry a small flask in his hip pocket. You can easily guess the contents thereof.

Walter Jayasooriya

His name is synonymous with hockey. He bestrode the hockey arena like a colossus. The wonderful dance he performed with his son Rajah drew applause all over. He never failed to bring the sweetest ripe jack to the pavilion. Rajah continued this practice.

B. J. Karunatileke

He was the energetic OBU Hony. Secy. during the centenary year 1974. His efforts brought in more than 400 for lunch. As there was no room in the Hall, the stage too was utilised. He was a wizard at crossword puzzles. The "hundred diners night" which was a forerunner to the lunch will be remembered for the excellent speeches... Kingsley Wickramaratne (now Governor) in particular, was in his element.

P. Harold Nonis

It was during his principalship that the College pavilion was purchased from the Tamil Union for Rs. 10,000/-. He was asked to lead the Past Captains XI against the rest skippered by M. Sathasivam in the centenary year. He had a sense of humour that endeared him to everybody. He passed away in 1980. I was greatly privileged when the family invited me to address the congregation from the Pulpit at the Methodist Church, Colpetty, shortly after.

D. S. Wijemanne

He was one of the most popular old boys that Wesley has produced. He had a canteen at Wesley where boys ran up big bills. Whether these bills were honoured, one does not know. His popularity extended to other schools like Royal and St. Thomas'. Wije was a family friend for close upon 60 years. He played for Wesley as a pace bowler. The best in him was revealed whenever any person fell ill.

Once the Wesley ground boy Vincent Perera found him sleeping on the cricket matting in the middle of the ground, late at night. When he inquired as to the reason, he said that I had an argument with him and that he was at fault. Vincent came home to tell me about this problem. I assured him that there was nothing that transpired. I remember when I was hospitalized for a month; Wije was very helpful to my wife. He was there when help was sorely needed. He was a man for all seasons. At Wije's funeral, not only Wesley, but the students of many other schools were present. Wesley gave him the highest honour.

When will we be able to see the likes of him? He was a man in a million.

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A Profile of Lorenz Stork "The Quiet Achiever"

Lorenz, a member of the Wesley Old Boys' Union in Melbourne was a student at Wesley College from 1950 to 1961. At that time the Principals were Mr. C J Oorlof (1950-1957) and Mr. P H Nonis (1957-1961). Lorenz migrated to Australia (In January 1962).

Quiet spoken and reluctant to talk about himself, Lorenz lists as his hobbies reading, gardening, bush-walking, photography and listening to good music, all of which he enjoys in the tranquil atmosphere of his home in Mt. Evelyn, in the foothills of the Dandenong Ranges.

His abiding interest in music has led him to the world of choral music and male voice choirs, with whom he has sung on numerous occasions at concerts, charity events and social engagements. He has sung as a member of the combined schools' choir alongside several other members of the Wesley OBU at the annual Combined Colleges of Sri Lanka Carol Service since its inception.

Lorenz has sung on six occasions at the Melbourne Concert Hall with the Melbourne Praise Choir and has produced a compact disc with an "acapella" choir he conducted for six years.

He has worked for the AMP Society for most of the time since his arrival in Australia and recently completed thirty-six years of service.

I chatted to Lorenz when we met at the Wesley Dance last October and was intrigued to learn about some of the projects he and his wife Sandra have undertaken. They are active in Pastoral Ministry and support the work of Parent-Controlled Christian Schools.

They are foster parents to a 20-year old child who requires special care and they, along with others, have volunteered their time and facilities at home to care for this child.

Lorenz will be one of a group who will tour Sri Lanka sometime early next year, combining a schedule of concerts with a sight-seeing trip around the Island.

He says his future plan is to return someday to Sri Lanka after he retires, and to stay with relatives for as long as it takes to complete an undertaking to assist with leadership training and to participate in the Ministry of his former parish church.

This could be the most ambitious project of all, and we wish Lorenz and Sandra every success.

It is the striving of each of us, in realizing our dreams, ideals, ambitions, whatever – that results finally in making our lives more meaningful and in the process perhaps also makes life a little less difficulty for some one else.

That's not a bad achievement. Just quietly.....

The Wesleyites had a Ball

The annual Wesley College OBU "Double Blue" Ball was held on Saturday 18 October at The Grand Cretan Village Receptions in Melbourne.

As in previous years, everyone who was there came to have a great evening and they were not disappointed.

Music was provided by two bands, which catered for all tastes, with current "Top of the Chart" hits and "Golden Oldies".

Melbourne's balmy spring weather added a touch of warmth to the early evening as guests gathered for pre-dinner drinks and eats.

The elaborate décor and lighting contributed to the glamour of the night as old friends were re-united and new friends met for the first time.

A rousing rendition of the College Song followed by the "War Cry" by all Old Boys brought the evening to a close.

A good time was had by all, and the Committee can rest after another great effort, well done.

Until next year.....



Aoccdnig to a rscheearch at an Elingsh uinervtisy, it deosn't mtttaer in waht oredr the lttteersin a wrod are, the olny iprmoetnt tihng is taht the frist and lsat ltteer is at the rghit pclae. The rset can be a toatl mses and you can sitll raed it wouthit a porbelm. Tihs is bcuseae we do not raed ervey lteter by it slef but the word as a wlohe.

FROM THE ARCHIVES.....

REMINISCENCES OF WESLEY IN THE PETTAH

By Henry Highfield

I was one of four young Missionaries who left London in the British India ‘Golconda’ for the East in September 1895. Two went on further for India. R.C. Oliver and I were for Ceylon and so left the ship at Colombo in the early hours of a mid-October day, being met by Rev. T. Moscrop and Mr. S. Passmore.

Mr. Passmore was to initiate me into the work of Wesley College and Mr. Moscrop was Chairman of the Colombo District and a former Principal of Wesley. I lived with him and Mrs. Moscrop until they left to return into the work at home. I was thus exceptionally fortunate in having two such fine and experienced men to guide me at the start. Besides, this, when Mr. Passmore took me the next day to Wesley I quickly found that I had two other unusually fine and experienced men on the Staff.

Charles Peter Dias joined Wesley in its second year (1876) and continued as Head Master until after my departure in 1925. So too did W.E. Mack, the first assistant; and both, but especially Mr. Dias were of the very greatest help, not at the start only but all along and the School should never forget what it owes to them. Of the premises I had a very different opinion and I think from the very first I was resolved that the School must have a better habitation.

It was good for Wesley that she had in Dias a genuine Church of England Christian and in Mack a good representative of the Dutch Reformed Faith. I quickly realised that the school believed in itself and was on its toes to spring forward towards the front and in Redlich and Honter we had two who would give any other school a hard tussle for the first place in scholarship.

Before Mr. Passmore took charge, Mr. Hillard venturing boldly had built the one building that had given the School an Assembly Hall in which all could gather together twice a day and so get to feel their corporate existence. This hall too served for the teaching of four large classes – not an ideal state of things. It is true that Hillard was unable to get it paid for but he wisely pledged the future to make good.

So when in 1899 Wesleyan Methodism at Home set out to raise a million guineas from a million Methodists and successfully reached the target, as we would call it, the resolve in my heart on the first day of my seeing the school was confirmed. As however none of these guineas was to be spent in canceling debts I had to become a beggar. It was done almost as in a dream during the last six months of 1899 and so eventually the Committee at Home gave me a promise of five times all that we could raise in Ceylon. By the end of 1904 that came to Rs.35,000 and the Committee, though much surprised by the total, stood to their promise and the building facing Base Line Road was erected and opened early in 1907 with the Director of Education, John Harward (previously Principal of Royal College) as chief speaker.



Rev. Henry Highfield –20-4-1949



College Staff

The Double Blue

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THE EDITORIAL

EVERY age in human history has been claimed as an age of transition. But today the life and thought of man are changing on a scale and at a rate that is unprecedented. The whole world is in a state of turmoil. Strife and dissension are gaining ground; more conflicting ideologies have sprung up leaving one at a loss to understand the real trend of affairs. Before time can have dimmed the horrors and atrocities of the last war, another world war looms large. And in this grim and dismal atmosphere mankind is looking forward to an era which will be totally different from the past. We may be sure that the stream of change sweeping over the universe will not leave our island—now full of new hopes and new tasks—untouched.

The gloom of the world is but a shadow behind it yet within our reach is radiant joy. There is bliss and glory in the darkness could we but see. Much of what Lanka's citizens of tomorrow will be is determined by the content of her children of today. During the perilous times that presage an all too bleak and uncomfoting future, this island should be able to steer her course undaunted, amidst all confronting obstacles. Her way lies open—nothing can stem her course. To achieve this most cherished end it is imperative that "men of grit and industry" should be at the helm to direct and control Ceylon's destiny.

Wesley has for the past 75 years maintained the highest ideals of Christian teaching.

Many eminent men of today owe their prestige and honour to no other institution but Wesley—their dear Alma-Mater. The School's noble traditions, the unflagging zeal and labours of past Principals, the strong calibre and imposing personalities of the masters and, above all, the loyalty and support of the scholars have all placed Wesley on a pedestal which is pre-eminently her own.

The College occupies today a conspicuous position in the educational sphere. From dusty and meagre surroundings in the Pettah, Wesley forged her way on; and thanks to all who helped her she endures—a magnificent edifice on a cultured and firm foundation of her own. The elegance of Wesley's traditions has permeated all walks of life. She has not produced men who are mere ultra-nationalists or insignificant "small fry" so to speak; on the other hand she has produced men who with so wide an educational grounding can align themselves with any need, can fit themselves into any environment, whatever their predilections may be.

In the years that lie ahead, momentous years as they may well be, Wesley is called to be a faithful witness to the truest ideals of education. And so at this festive Jubilee year, we greet you, not quite as the world sends greetings, but with profound esteem, and with the prayer that for you, now and for evermore, the long day breaks and the shadows flee, and Wesley marches on triumphant.

EDITORS

A leaf from the PAST
(Follow-up from previous Newsletter)



In the previous issue we requested information about the above photograph that was reproduced from old records.

The picture was taken about 1936, and shows the cast of a play titled “Rory Aforesaid” by Mr. Kenneth de Lanerolle, which featured a Courtroom Scene.

2nd from left (seated) in Christie Seneviratne.

The two seated on either side of Jacob Gogerly are Counsel for the ‘Prosecution’ and for the ‘Defence’ respectively.

This information was provided by senior OBU member, Mr. Anton Blacker, who should know what he is talking about – he was the ‘Accused’.

Thanks. Anton.

