



St. Thomas' Preparatory School Magazine 1975

Ten Years At S.T.P.S

I remember my first day at school. I was a hosteller. There I sat in a corner of the dorm varanda until the dorm matron Miss. Unambuwa introduced me to a crowd of others all as gloomy and lonesome as myself. Once I came to know some others I found that liked it immensely. It was great fun studying and playing together throughout the terms and then years and little did I know that these were to become my best friends in the years to come, even up to today.

Soon we were used to the loud bell that woke us up at six O'clock each morning "When it was still dark" as I complained to my mother. As the bell went we were up and running to the bathroom as we had races to see which one of us would get dressed first. Owing to this we were very often sent back to redress as we had worn our buttons wrong or socks inside out. I also distantly remember an incident which occurred when my parents had come to see me one day. I was talking to them outside the dorm when a bell sounded. It was tea time, and so used had I got to the routing that I just left them there and ran off not saying a word.

The day began with an hour of prep beginning at six thirty, which we usually spend doing our home work. This hour was spent more seriously as we gradually come up by year by year. Breakfast was at seven thirty. School began with assembly at eight on Mondays and a chapel service on other days.

I remember another incident that took place when I was in grade 3 in 1968. The foundation stone was being laid for the Keble Memorial Hall and the building site was strictly out-of-bounds to us. My parents had come for the function but I was not permitted to go with them to the building site. So saying that they would return when it was over, they went out. I who thought they would going home without me, looked around and my mother who was singing a hymn after the stone was laid, found me by her side minus my slippers and panting away. This hall was opened a year later and since then we have had all our school functions in it.

Prize-day has always been a very busy day for everyone in school, and also a day full of excitement. The hall had to be polished for the parents and the stage set for the staff and chief-guests. I have been very lucky to have won at least two prizes every year that I was in school. We have had chief guests from different walks of life among whom I remember the minister of Health Mr. W.P.G. Ariyadasa the bishop of Colombo. Mr. Hardol Marshal the Australian High Commissioner, Mr. Devar Susiyasena and many others. I have always liked the end of these prize-giving's and specially the chief guest's speech and the old boy's vote of thanks. I too have been very lucky to have had the opportunity to second the vote of thank as senior prefect during my last two years at school. Both these years have been very busy ones for me.

Among the other functions at the school I enjoyed at the school are sport meet and the parents meet. The sport meet has always been a colourful one with the gaily decorated huts and flags of the fields. All boys were encouraged to take part and there was keen competition. I was not keen on athletics till Mr. Alahakone suggested that I took part and much to my surprise find myself placed.

Parent's day too has been enjoyable. It started with the service for parents and bodards and then the parents met all the teachers. After this exhibition was opened where thing turned our by the boys at their art, ceramics, metal and wood work classes were on sale. The most interesting part of the days was the match between the fathers and the sons which son's won every year.

The drama festival was another important function in school life where children of almost every class took part in plays and various other items. I too acted in many of these, the final being 'Red carnations' for which I won the Best actors cup.

Among the sports played at S.T.P.S. were Cricket, Soccer Hockey, Table tennis and the indoor games such as Carrom and Draughts. First term was Cricket term and though I didn't play it. During the second term we played Hockey. Third term was Soccer. All these three terms ended with house matches in each sport. The other games were played through out the year. Badminton was my favourite Sport I played a lot of it and also played in the school term from 1970 to 1975. This was also Mr. Rathnayake the headmaster's favourite sport and he joined us play each evening.

So happily we sped our time here that it is really hard to believe that ten years have already passed. The school which had classes only up to grade 5 when I joined has gone up to grade 9, and I was among the first lot to in to the grade 9.this enable me to sit for my N.C.G.E. while I was at S.T.C.P.S. To me this was the happiest and also the most hardworking year. It was nice to have Miss. Unambuwa once again at Keble dorm where I spent my last year. Together with the help with the staff we worked very hard preparing for the N.C.G.E. which I finally sat for in December. We had started class with Mrs. Peris in grade 1 and our final year we spent with her husband Mr. Peris as class master.

After 10 very happy years the time has come for me to leave S.T.P.S. and I'm really glad and proud to have been there and known every one there- 10 unforgettable years at a school that was a home away from home.

Kolitha Gunatilleke.