

ORISSA SOCIETY OF AMERICAS

Newsletter ----> Vol 3,1981

Editor - **Jnana Ranjan Dash**
2785 Hayloft Way,
Morgan Hill
California 95037
408-778-0225

EDITOR'S NOTE

We are a little late bringing out this issue. However, better late than never. Many friends actively kept me posted. I thank Haralal Chowdhury (Ohio), Satya Brata Shaw (Memphis), Pratap Patnaik (Toronto) and many other friends from New York and Washington area. Greatest of all, thanks to our small number that carries the jungle telegraph around, without which the assimilation of all this news won't happen. Due to a proposed overseas trip, I may not bring another issue out before year-end. Let me wish all of you a happy December and new-year.

ANNUAL OSA CONVENTION - 1981

The convention started with a devotional song by Surya Misra and Ashok Misra. Then Surya babu presented an expenditure statement that included: \$100 for liability, \$150 for dormitory rent, \$175 for tour bus, and \$200 for mailing. In future, he will mail a detailed statement of expenses to the OSA Treasurer.

The general meeting was kicked off by Ladukesh Patnaik thanking the Chicago families for organizing this year's convention. Next the budget was presented by the secretary-treasurer. Further subjects for discussion included getting Oriya movie, funds for Oriya scholars, emergency fund for relief and disaster in Orissa, donations and membership drive.

Sukanta Panda wanted to know the details of movie budget and OSA membership privileges. Ladu Patnaik explained that movie will be purchased from time to time and will be rented to various chapters. The rental income can be used for purchasing more movies. Membership privileges are defined in the constitution.

Subhendu Mohanty discussed the membership drive and Udaya Nath Dash wanted to know about bulk rate mailing. Satya Brata Shaw replied that attempt is being made to obtain non-profit mailing status and the IRS number for tax-exempt status.

G. Tripathy, Ohio commented that \$10.00 membership is inadequate to meet the current need of OSA and proposed family membership fee to be raised to \$15 and single rate to \$8.00. Amiya Mohanty and Sukanta Panda emphasized that attempts should be made to collect dues from more members rather than increasing the dues to meet expenses. Satya Brata Shaw informed that attempt has been made to collect from more members without much success. Sabyasachi Mohapatra (Detroit) suggested that regional chapters should be more active in collecting membership and he volunteered to participate in membership drive in his area. The proposal to increase membership was passed by a margin of 36-21.

Udaya Dash (St Louis), Sanjit Panda(New York) and Ghanasyam Tripathy (Ohio) discussed the criteria for selection of Oriya scholars and the mode of money distribution. Ladu Patnaik said that one student from each district will be selected according to recommendation from the Board of Secondary Education and the scholarship will be awarded during the first year of college education. This proposal was accepted unopposed.

There were many elders in attendance, many of whom addressed the audience. Mr. Banabasi Patnaik, Mr. Nanda Kishore Rath, Mr. Satyen Singh , Mr. Braja Mishra, Mr. Gour Das spoke on various aspects of Oriya culture and on the direction, Oriyas in America should move to maintain the culture.

Siti Kantha Dash made formal invitation for hosting 13th. annual convention at Minneapolis and promised to bring a movie 'Ulka' in the not too distant future.

Haralal Chowdhury informed that Ohio chapter is arranging a Youth Summer Camp. Pramode Patnaik invited everyone to the south to taste the southern hospitality. A new OSA directory was distributed to everyone attending.

Finally, there was food and entertainment. Bhabesh Dash was the master of ceremonies. Vocal solo and duets were presented by Ashok Misra, Sarat Mohanty and Surya Misra. Young talents included Sahana Misra on violin, Rama Dash on cello and Rajesh Dash on trumpet. Several "Odissi" performances were presented by newcomer Prajesh Nandini Dash, grand daughter of Nanda Kishore Rath of Cuttack.

PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

- **Bailochan Behera** is moving to Wayne State University, Detroit from Mississippi to continue his post grad studies in Electrical Engineering.

- **Bhanu Pratap Das** has joined University of California at Riverside in the faculty after completing his Ph.D. in Physics at SUNY, Albany under the guidance of professor Tara Pada Das.
- **Ashok Das** has moved to Rutgers University, New Jersey after spending two years at Univ. of Maryland at College Park.
- **Jagannath Das**, professor of Psychology in Edmonton, Canada, recently made a six-month trip to India, Australia & South Korea on research work on child psychology.
- **Indu Bhusan Misra** moved to Carbondale, Illinois from Baltimore to join Olin Corporation as Manager, Advanced Systems.
- **Surya Misra**, of Chicago made a trip to Caracas, Venezuela to present a paper in his field of Material Science.
- **Digambar Mishra**, is moving to Miles College, Birmingham, Alabama, not to Tuscaloosa as reported before.
- **Sri Gopal Mohanty** has moved to Stanford University, Palo Alto on one-year sabbatical leave from McMaster University, Hamilton, Canada.
- **Sujit Mohanty** has joined State Univ. of New York at Buffalo to do post graduate studies in English.
- **Prabhas Mohapatra** has come to Norman, Oklahoma on a NRC International Scholarship for one year since October, 1980. He teaches at the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore in the department of Aeronautics and Space Sciences.
- **Prafulla Kumar Padhi** moved from San Jose, California to Danbury, Connecticut on a new job with General Data Communications Inc.
- **Jogesh Pati** returned from India after spending a year at the Institute of Physics at Bhubaneswar. During his stay, Jogesh Babu invited the nobel laureate, Professor Abdul Salam of Pakistan to visit him at the Institute. It should be noted that Jogesh Babu has done outstanding theoretical work on subatomic particles and his work is being experimented in many leading institutions around the world. Professor Salam's work is in the same area. Jogesh Babu is a professor at University of Maryland, College Park.
- **Mihir Pradhan** came to Santa Rosa, California for 9 months starting May, 1981. He works for Hindustan Aeronautics Limited at Hyderabad.
- **Pradeep Patnaik** has joined State Univ. of New York at Buffalo to do post graduate studies in Immunology.
- **Srideep Patnaik** and his younger brother have arrived in Silver Spring, Maryland as permanent residents. They join their 3 brothers Pradeep (North Carolina), Dilip (Washington) and Sudip (Silver Spring).

- **Abani Patra** has joined University of Mississippi to do post graduate studies in engineering.
- **Mana Ranjan Pattanayak** has moved to Philadelphia from Burlington, Ontario, Canada on a new job with U.S. Steel as Process Engineer.
- **Babru Bahan Samal** has moved from Princeton, N.J. to Los Angeles on a new job with a genetic engineering firm.
- **Fakir Sahu** has returned to Utkal University, Vani Vihar after completing his Ph. D. in Psychology from Queens University, Kingston, Canada.
- **Chintamani Sahu** has joined Univ. of Arizona, Phoenix to do post graduate work on Sociology.

YOUNG ONES

In this section, we present an essay by 12 year-old Mike Pati, son of Prasanna and Norma Pati of Salem, Oregon. This article was awarded the second prize in a contest by India West newspaper.

MY IMPRESSIONS OF A RECENT VISIT TO INDIA

Mike Pati - Age 12

On our recent visit to India, my family and I had some good times and bad ones.

We arrived in Delhi at 11.00 a.m. on October 18, 1980 to begin our five week stay in India. We left for Orissa Bhavan, our hotel for the few days in Delhi. After the first day, which we used settling in, we went out to explore the city. I found Delhi a very interesting city. The historic features were absolutely overwhelming. But, as they say, for every good thing there was a bad thing. I found Delhi to be fairly rude city. However, not everyone was rude.

Moving on, we visited Srinagar. I enjoyed my stay there. It was very pleasant retreat. We visited the Moghul gardens. They were breathtaking. All the work to keep them up would boggle anyone's mind. We also did some shopping.

After Srinagar, we went back to Delhi. We didn't stay long because we visited Agra. The bus ride there was long and tiring. Upon reaching the Taj Mahal, we were all too tired and hot to really enjoy it. When I walked up to and on the Taj, I was very disgusted to see beetle nut juice stains all over the Taj. You'd think the people would have more respect for such a monument.

The next city we visited was Bombay. Our first bad experience there was a band of hooligans demanding that we pay more money to our taxi driver. After that incident was over we went to our friend's house. We explored the Hanging Gardens which I found interesting. We also took a boat out to Elephanta. It was another thing that succeeded in astonishing me.

Madras was next on the agenda. I discovered the slower pace was to my liking, as was the food. We went to the temple by the sea at Mahabalipuram. We also visited Kanchipuram, a temple town. Then, we had to go on a 25 hour train ride from Madras to Cuttack. That was the start of our tour of Orissa. You see, we have relatives in Orissa, so we stayed at their house. A few days later, I underwent a thread ceremony, an event that I will not soon forget.

After our tour of Orissa, we visited Calcutta. It was a superb city, and I believe that all of us had a great time. It was a much nicer city than I thought it would be.

That summed up our trip to India except for one more thing. As we flew out of Calcutta, I think we all had the same thing on our minds. It was sadness, for we were leaving one of the greatest countries of the world, possibly for ever.

REGIONAL NEWS

WASHINGTON

Friends from Washington and Baltimore area celebrated Ganesh Puja on September 19th, saturday. A hall was rented. Puja was performed with distribution of 'Prasada'. Food, prepared by families were shared by all. Everyone enjoyed this summer-ending rendezvous !

TORONTO

The annual picnic of the Toronto & Quebec Oriyas was held during the labour day weekend in September, near the picturesque Rice lake. Pratap Patnaik organized the event which had large participation of friends from U.S.A.. Video movies (english and hindi) were presented. Children enjoyed movies such as Superman II. Indoor music programs were presented by Pramod Patnaik and Sujit Mohanty (Buffalo). For next year, Sradhananda Mishra was unanimously elected as the convenor.

Every year, during the month of July, Toronto celebrates an international festival called CARAVAN. This is a two-week fiesta of fun and festivities, presented in the form of pavillions by the different countries, where that country's food, art, dances and various cultural specialties are presented. In this year's CARAVAN-81, at the Indian pavillion, a few of our young friends presented some superb dances. The performers were Tani Purohit (daughter of Arjun and Padmini Purohit, currently a student of Computer Science at Queens University, Kingston, Ontario), Niharika (Rini) Mohanty (daughter of Gopal and Shanti Mohanty of Hamilton, Ontario) and Lora Patnaik (daughter of Pramod and Chitra Patnaik of Burlington, Ontario). Both Rini and Lora are school students. Many eye-witnesses claimed that these three offered the best dance per-

performances in the entire two-week program at the Indian pavillion. Our congratulations to these talented friends.

OHIO

Dolly Khuntia, daughter of Natabar and Ballari Khuntia of Hudson, has received the National merit scholarship for four years in college of her choice, the scholarship from Daughter's of American Revolution by virtue of her 2nd-place standing in the state-wide essay competition and admission to the accelerated six-years medical program of the North-eastern Ohio universities college of medicine. The Hudson Hub-Times newspaper gave her a front-page coverage with her picture last summer. There was a gala party at the Khuntia's house to celebrate her graduation, last May where all the Oriyas from nearby cities joined.

CALIFORNIA

Northern Californians are planning to celebrate Kumar Purnima in mid-November in the San Jose area. An entertainment program, to be presented entirely by the young ones, is coming up. Program will consist of dances, small scene from Ramayana, instrumental music and vocal chorus. Our southern californian friends are encouraged to attend. Watch out for the grapevine! The time and place will be duely communicated to all. The motive force behind this one is Gopal Mohanty who is at Stanford University on a one-year leave from Hamilton, Canada.

LETTER TO EDITOR

Dear Editor,

Having just seen a copy of the OSA Newsletter Vol. 2 (1981), I am writing this to express my appreciation of its various features which reflect the many-sided activities of the OSA. As a visitor to this great country, I was very pleased with the high sense of fellowship which your journal expresses, and I wish that spirit to grow from strength to strength in the years to come.

As you have asked for views regarding possible ways of utilising OSA funds, may I make a suggestion? Could the OSA not do something to assist established as well as promising authors of Orissa in getting published in America? It is extremely difficult for our authors to find a publisher in the West, and that is why even the most celebrated ones among them remain unknown in this part of the world. Publishers in America would be happy to publish our authors if they are given a suitable subsidy. Could the OSA grant a subsidy to at least one noted author from Orissa every year, and thus bring well-deserved international recognition to our rich literary tradition?

All of us know that Tagore's universal genius would have remained unknown to the wide world without the help of his friends and admirers in the West; can we therefore do whatever we can to bring some of our distinguished creative writers of Orissa to international light? I have brought with me for purposes of publication in this country three glorious works from Orissa, all of which deserve, by the highest standards,

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

- Sunil Satpathy is a music teacher at the Indian Cultural Center, Georgetown, Guyana until March 1982. He graduated in music from BHU, got his M.A. from Prayag Sangeet Samiti, Allahabad and Ph.D. from Akhil Bharatiya Gandharva Mahavidyalaya, Bombay. He specializes in Hindusthani Classical music (vocal). He would appreciate if anyone can organize via larger Indian groups, some programs for him. He also specializes in Indian temple music. Please write to S.K. Satpathy, C/O Office of Indian High Commission, 10 Avenue of the Republic, P.O. Box 872, Georgetown, Guyana.
- Administrative Sciences Association of Canada has offered the Award of Excellence to Rabi Kanungo for his paper titled 'A cross cultural comparative study of managerial job attitudes' in 1981. The paper was co-authored by Richard Wright. Rabi Babu is a professor in the faculty of management at McGill University, Montreal.
- An international conference titled 'Societies in Transition - Alternatives for the Future' will be held in Cuttack between Dec 12 - 16, 1981. Many international attendees are planning to be there.

STATUS CHANGE

Following friends recently got married.

Prakash Mohanty - South Carolina
Sagarika Mangaraj - Ohio
Hrudayan Mohanty - San Diego
Ajaya Mishra - Berkeley, California

MEMBERSHIP DUES

It is time to send your dues for 1981. If you have not sent yours, please hurry up and mail your check to the following address. Family membership is 15 dollars and single membership is 8 dollars only. In acknowledgement of the receipt, you would be mailed a copy of the newly published OSA Directory.

Satya Brata Shaw 3356 Dungen, Memphis, TN 38118

GIVE A TAX DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTION TO ORISSA SOCIETY OF AMERICAS