

THE ORISSA SOCIETY OF AMERICAS

LADUKESH PATNAIK, PRESIDENT (313) 675-9545
HEMANT SENAPATI, VICE-PRESIDENT (313) 649-5239

SATYA B. SHAW, SECY-TREASURER (901) 365-8655
JNANA R. DASH, EDITOR ~~(415) 470-8152~~
408-778-0225

NEWSLETTER

VOL - 1, 1981

EDITOR -- J. R. DASH, CALIFORNIA

EDITOR'S COMMENTS:

Let me wish you all a very happy 1981. The festivities of Christmas and the New year is behind us now and another year has ushered in. The Orissa Society has elected a new group of people to rejuvenate the organization with new activities. This letterhead shows you the new officers. From past years, it has been observed that most of our executive members are sort of passive, mainly due to geographical separation. This time, it was decided that the active group will consist of 4 members as shown at the top. Other regional reps will co-ordinate and communicate regional activities. The communication part is to be done to this editor for timely publication in the newsletter.

We have come to a good start. At least 4 regional reps took their jobs seriously and wrote about their region's activities. Let us see the same from the rest.

This newsletter belongs to all of you. Comments have been made about the irregularity of its publication in the past. We shall try to bring one issue out, every quarter. But your co-operation will make it succeed.

Younger folks must try to contribute something. This issue contains a beautiful poem written by a thirteen year old friend from Ontario. Send something, anything. Here is the address for all of you to write.

J. R. Dash
2785 Hayloft Way,
Morgan Hill, CA 95037 (408-778-0225)

1981 OBJECTIVES, O.S.A.

As per a communication from OSA president Ladukesh Patnaik, here are the main objectives of osa in 1981.

1. Get OSA registered with IRS for tax-exempt status.
2. Print OSA directory with names of spouse and children.
3. Publish quarterly newsletter.
4. Obtain an Oriya typewriter to print Oriya articles.
5. Upgrade the financial position of the association.
6. Encourage regional chapters to collect membership dues & send news for publication at regular intervals.
7. Make the annual convention a superb function with more attendance and more meaningful discussions.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:
SAROJ BEHERA, WESTERN
KRUSHNA M. DAS, NEW YORK
SURYA MISHRA, MIDWEST
RABI PATNAIK, WASHINGTON, DC

SAMAR BHUYAN, DETROIT
SITIKANTH DASH, NORTH CENTRAL
MRUTUNJAY PANI, NEW ORLEANS
PROMODE K. PATNAIK, PAST PRESIDENT

HARLAL CHOUDHURY, OHIO
BISHNU C. JOSHI, SOUTHERN
PRATAP PATNAIK, CANADA

REGIONAL NEWS

1. CANADA: The Utkal Samaj of Canada had a very busy year in 1980. Mr. Ashok Das was the convenor. There was a one-day Kumar Purnima gathering, couple of one-day get-togethers and the grand annual picnic in September. This picnic was very well attended, as usual. Readers must be reminded that the Canadian picnic is one of its kind and it was started in 1972. Since then, the picnic has been the most eventful gathering annually. This year, many U.S. friends had come from far off places such as Ohio, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Illinois. Mr. Pratap Patnaik is the convenor of the current year and Pratap Babu is looking forward to a very active year with the following milestones.
 - a. A three-hour entertainment program with refreshments to celebrate Baisakhi Milan is tentatively scheduled for April 18, 1981.
 - b. The annual picnic is tentatively fixed for the weekend of Sept 5th, 1981. Details will be mailed to friends in July.
 - c. The convenor has approached the Ministry of Recreation and Culture in Ontario for financial assistance. The scheme is being worked out, so that the proper requirements are met by the Utkal Samaj.

Another significant effort in 1980 by the Torontonians and the Quebeckers has been to collect funds for the Flood Relief in Orissa. A sum of Rupees 2500 was collected and was personally carried by Mr. Mana Ranjan Pattanayak to hand deliver to Sj. Radhanath Rath, editor 'Samaj' at Cuttack during December, 1980.

The Canadian organization has completed 8 years of significant activities & is all geared up for pioneering activities in the future.

2. OHIO: The OHIO chapter celebrated Kumar Utsab on November 1st, 1980 at Hudson. Puja was conducted followed by Prasad and snacks, arranged by families from Cincinnati, Columbus and Toledo. Local talents performed an entertainment program.

Future plans include more children participation in chapter's activities with provisions for awarding children's prizes on sporting activities and music & cultural events to encourage children participation. A children's picnic is scheduled for June 13, 1981 and Mr. Mangaraj, Haralal Choudhuri, will organize this.

Collections for Orissa Flood Relief are being made locally and Duryodhan Mangaraj is taking the responsibility. Natabar Khuntia is the chapter President and Nag Bhusan Senapati is the secretary-Treasurer.

3. SOUTH: There has been significant additions to the Southern Oriya population in 1980. Ashok Patnaik, Rabindra Jethi and Devanand Khadanga have arrived from Orissa to do their MBA at the University of Alabama at Huntsville. Lalendu Patnaik, brother-in-law of our ex-president Pramode Patnaik has also arrived to do his higher studies at Huntsville.

The labour-day weekend in 1980 saw a big gathering at Pramode Babu's place. Pratap Das and family had driven from Washington D.C. to attend the fun. Many Oriyas from Michigan, Ohio, Tennessee and Alabama came there.

Mrs Pratibha Mohanty has been elected as the Vice President of the Satya Sai Center of Memphis. Her daughter Lisa has been performing great Tabla play at various functions.

Mahendra Mishra of Mexia, Alabama is moving to Oregon on a new job. Kiron Senapati has finished his MS in Chemical Engineering. His wife Lekha is a graduate student at Univ. of Alabama.

The son of Mr. Debendra Mishra of Greece (Athens, Specialist in Paper Technology) is a student at the University of Alabama.

4. NORTH CENTRAL: Sitikantha Dash writes from South Dakota the following.
Plans are underway for holding the Annual Oriya Convention at Minneapolis in 1982. The Oriya families of South Dakota, Iowa and Minnesota have discussed the possibility of holding the Annual Meeting in Minneapolis. A formal request will be made at the 1981 meeting at Chicago.

Siti Kantha Dash has plans to move to Minneapolis around July, 81 to join a firm called United AgriServices. Rasik Tripathy, formerly of College Park, Maryland moved to Minneapolis in late 1979 to work for the same firm.

The Oriya population in Minneapolis - St Paul area has grown in the past couple of years. There are about 10 families there now.

5. CALIFORNIA: Migration of Oriyas to sunny California has significantly added to the population. During the memorial weekend in 1980, all Oriyas had the annual picnic in Pismo Beach, on the Pacific coast midway between Los Angeles and San Francisco. About 65 people, including children attended. The families of Indu Bhushan Mishra (Phoenix, 600 miles) and Jogeswar Rath (Morenci, 800 miles) drove great distances to attend the gala picnic. Houses on the beach were taken for two days and as usual, extravagant eating continued together with various sports and entertainment programs.

This years convenors are Saroj Behera (south) & Jnana Ranjan Dash (North). The southern Californians collected 1000 dollars for the flood Relief in Orissa and Dev Narayan Pattanaik carried the money personally to Orissa in November, 1980. This is a tremendous example of not wasting time on various kinds of discussions, and getting to real action !

Plans are underway to organize local outings in the Bay area. Lake Tahoe sites present attractive venues for such activities. Visitors in 1980 included Parents of Deba Ranjan Mohanty and mother of Bijayalaxmi Misro. For the 1981 picnic, plans include the invitation to the Oriyas in Oregon, Arizona (2nd. time) and other nearby states.

1981 ANNUAL ORIYA CONVENTION, CHICAGO

The Chicago group are planning the convention of 1981 with a couple of changes. Firstly, they would like to hold the meeting during July 10, 11, 12 instead of the July 4th. weekend.

Secondly, they would like to hold the gathering at a college campus with accomodations arranged in dormitories.

Thirdly, they would like to organize a group tour of Chicago. The second point is based upon the difficulty of hosting more than 100 families by about 10 families. Also, these 10 families are spread over large areas as far as 30 to 40 miles. The dormitory concept will provide close proximity for all friends to spend the time together. Of course, the Chicago families will also stay in the dormitories with the guests.

The major problem in arranging the meeting at a college campus is the cost and approximately, it comes to \$55.00 per couple with \$10.00 per child above 12. This includes two nights lodging, breakfast & lunch Saturday & breakfast on Sunday, catered Indian dinner Saturday night, rental of hall and extra miscellaneous costs.

For Friday night, Chicago Oriyas will host the guests and they also are extending their hospitality for those wishing to stay longer. A tour of Chicago sites will be arranged if enough show interest.

Finalization of the plans depend upon response of members. Please contact Surya Mishra immediately of your plans. You can also call Ladu Patnaik at 313-575-9545.

PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

- Dilip Satpathy of Washington D.C. has gone to Spain on an assignment with the Bechtel Corporation's Power Division.
- Sradhananda Mishra of Toronto has returned from Riyadh, Saudi Arabia after a two year assignment with Bell Canada.
- Om Prakash Mohapatra of Toronto, has gone to Dhahran, Saudi Arabia on a job assignment with Aaramco in their Systems Department, with wife Jaya & daughter Sheila.
- Parikhita Nayak of Miami, Florida has extended his stay in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia for one more year.
- Arup Gupta of Cuttack has been posted to Mexico City to work on an assignment for American Express of Mexico. He is with the Tata Consulting Services of Bombay, responsible for computer software and application related consulting.
- Prafulla Nayak has been posted to Detroit on behalf of TBL (Tata Burroughs Ltd) of Bombay. TBL is a joint venture of Tata & Sons and Burroughs Business Corpn.
- Satyabrata Mohapatra, medical doctor from Detroit has moved to start practice in Los Angeles.
- Sukanta Panda and family have moved from Dallas to Cincinnati, Ohio.
- Migration to Sunny California continued strongly in 1979 - 80. Following were the victims.
 - a. Gouri Charan Das & family from Connecticut to San Jose
 - b. Inana Ranjan Dash & family from Toronto to San Rafael, Sept-79
Moved to Morgan Hill, Dec -80 on a new assignment with IBM.
 - c. Om Prakash Agarwal from North Carolina to San Jose, Dec - 80
 - d. Prafulla Padhi & Family from Teheran to San Jose, Jan - 1979
 - e. Cheta Charan Patel & wife, from Sambalpur to San Jose. Sept-79.
 - f. Sandip Dasverma & wife Leela, from Cuttack to Alameda. Dec-80
 - g. Santosh K. Mishra & family, from Calcutta to Los Angeles.
Santosh is with EEPC (Engineering Promotion Council of India), responsible for a new branch office in Los Angeles. The mandate of this organization is to feed back needs for exportable engineering products from India to the U.S. and to organize forums such as trade shows to display the Indian products here.
 - h. Tikam Behera joined his brother Kirttan Behera in Los Angeles.
- Kintala Mohan Rao moved from Los Angeles to New Jersey to work for Bell Labs.
- Rajendra Mohanty moved from Atlanta to Los Angeles on a job transfer with Burroughs.
- Jatindra Kanungo & family have moved from Montreal to Sept-Iles, Quebec on a job with the Iron Ore Company of Canada.
- Arun Kanti Mishra & family moved from Vancouver to Montreal. Arun is in the faculty of Engineering at McGill University.
- Baishnab Singh has returned to Ravenshaw College after completing his PH.D. in Chemistry at Univ. of British Columbia at Vancouver.
- Shanti Patnaik has joined McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario in the Math. Faculty for a Ph. D. program.
- Prakash Patnaik & family have moved from Baltimore to Miami, Florida in May, 1980.

ACROSS THE CONTINENT: TRAVELOGUE

This editor had opportunities to travel to all 3 countries in the continent, namely Canada, Mexico and of course the US. Here are some impressions.

FLORIDA: Travelling through Miami, one has to stop at Prakash Patnaik's house. Prakash Babu lives there with his wife Babuli and their two children. The Washingtonians know Prakash Babu's family very well for his long stay in Maryland. Another Oriya friend from the greater Miami area, Parikhit Nayak was visiting Riyadh, Saudi Arabia on a temporary assignment.

Travelling north, one must visit the family of Santosh and Sulekha Das who live with their two loving children in a small but picturesque place called Tequesta near Palm Beach. Santosh Babu's brother, a medical doctor recently came from Jamshedpur.

MONTREAL: This lovely city with its French culture and architecture is the home of some of our friends. Travelling through the Dollard Des Ormeaux (try pronouncing it ?), one has to stop at Rabi Kanungo's residence. Rabi Babu and Montreal are kind of synonymous to us Oriyas. He went to McGill for his Ph. D. in the sixties. Then after some years of teaching in Cuttack, Calcutta, Bombay, and Halifax, he was back to the School of Management at his alma mater. Rabi Babu's wife Minati will endear you with her tremendous hospitality. They have two sons Lunik (Sidhartha) and Mik (Nachiketa). Rabi Babu's younger brother Jatindra Kanungo lives in a northern township called Sept-Iles (Seven Islands) with his wife Dolly and daughter.

While in Montreal, one must visit Arun and Sikha Mishra at Nun's Island. Arun was a Vancouverite until 1979 when he moved to teach Mechanical Engineering at McGill University. They have a daughter Saumya.

Nalini Hota and wife Charu live 30 miles away in St. Jean, where Nalini Babu teaches at the Royal Military College. They have three lovely daughters, Shiela, Sonia and Sushi.

Do not forget to drop in at the residence of Dilip Harichandan and his wife Ashoka. They are a nice couple and live close to the downtown. Another bachelor friend Bijoy Nanda, mechanical engineer also lives in Montreal and he is sure to give you a good time by showing you around the city. He could improve his French though?

Another good friend, a geologist by profession MR Bibhu Mohanty lives there with his wife and two children.

MEXICO CITY: Now this can not be possible. An Oriya in the city of the Aztecs. But wait a minute! During a trip last December, this editor meets this guy named Arup Gupta who in 5 minutes announced his home to be in Orissa. This is heavy, since finding an Indian in Mexico City is a rare occurrence, much less an Oriya. Arup comes from Raghunathpur in Cuttack district, but went to school in Ravenshaw, I.I.Sc, Bangalore and IIT, Madras. He works for Tata Consulting Services in Bombay in Data Processing consulting. Tata gets a contract from American Express Co. of Mexico and Arup finds himself in Mexico city, next. He was ecstatic and a lot of Oriya started hitting the air waves of Mexico city. Arup is married recently, but he was force-bacheloring then, expecting his wife any time.

***** More travelogue will be covered next time....

Orissi Dancer in Canada

Miss Opalee Operajita, daughter of ex-DPI Bidhu Bhushan Das, is currently studying at Halifax, Nova Scotia in Canada. She is a good Orissi dancer. Any one who would like to organize some programs for her can contact her at this address. International House, Apartment #9, 6033 South St., Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3H 1S8 Canada or call her at 902-429-4356.

A POEM

By Miss Lina Pattanayak
Burlington, Ontario

MY VISION

Must many people in wars die,
'Till universal peace is made,
How long must the wounded cry ?
Until their cries begin to fade.

In my dreams there are no wars,
No battles, clashes or bloodshed,
Unlike the men who lived before,
Who shot each other in the head.

Lina is 13 years old. *
She is the daughter *
of Manoranjan Pattanayak *
senior engineer at *
STELCO and Minati *
Pattanayak, doctor. *
Lina's other hobbies *
include playing *
accordion, badminton *
and extensive reading. *

In this world I dream about
Where all people trust each other,
When truth is said there is no doubt,
For one does not lie to another.

Throughout that world is love and peace,
No violence, crime nor jealousy,
Hate and evil has forever ceased,
They live together in harmony.

Why in this world that we all live in,
So few people care for another,
The towns and cities are full of sin,
And hate exists between sisters & brothers.

All my dreams are of the future,
What I hope mankind will be,
But first of all we must mature,
What lies ahead so few can see.

FROM ORISSA: ** There was an international Psychology conference at Utkal Univ. campus in Vani Vihar in mid-December, sponsored by the faculty of Psychology under the auspices of professor Radha Nath Rath. A number of psychologists from all disciplines attended. The Canadian Oriya Psychologists were there in full force. Rabi Kanungo of McGill Univ, Montreal, Jagannath Das from the Research centre for mental retardation at the University of Alberta & his wife Geeta Das herself a psychologist and Arjun Purohit from the Ontario Government participated. Beside the academic presentations, there was a gala cultural evening of music and dance by Sanjukta Panigrahi.

** Another international symposium on the Utilization of Metallurgy was organized in Bhubaneswar on behalf of the Indian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy, Jamshedpur and the Regional Research Lab at Bhubaneswar. Chief minister Janaki Patnaik inaugurated this and other distinguished guests included Rusi Modi, managing director of TISCO, and many other scientists from home & abroad.

** In a joint collaboration between India and the French Govt, an aluminum plant is proposed to come up in Orissa. The project cost is estimated at 1500 million dollars.

FROM ORISSA (Contd..)

** Orissa saw one of the worst floods in history last year. A total of 8 districts were badly affected leaving millions of people homeless. Areas such as Gunpur in Koraput district were submerged in water for days. Volunteers and college students plus relief institutions such as the SAMAJ relief group under the leadership of Sj. Radhanath Rath, spent days and nights distributing food and clothings to the affected.

Efforts were made by a few Oriya groups to send some financial help to Orissa. The most significant one was from Los Angeles Oriya group. Only 7 families including one from Arizona collected 1000 dollars in 2 weeks time and the sum was personally carried by Deba Narayan Pattanaik to Orissa, who was making his vacation trip. Deba took personal time off his short trip to go and visit some of the affected areas. This is really commendable and it sets a tremendous example for the rest of us.

Another group in this regard was the Toronto Oriya group who collected 2500 rupees in a short duration. Mana Ranjan Pattanayak carried the money to hand deliver to Sj. Radha Nath Rath, editor SAMAJ for relief work.

Of course timing in this case is a critical factor and prompt help always becomes more meaningful. Some members have expressed their doubts towards the actual disbursement of the money to the needy instead of being absorbed by corrupt officials. Two organizations published donations, received in the regular newspaper while maintaining proper accounting. They were the Samaj Relief Fund and the Chief Minister's Relief Fund.

** Orissa also saw a lot of student unrest in December of 1980. From a small incident in Sambalpur, arose lots of unrest in students in various parts of the state. Eyewitness accounts from North American Oriyas clearly portrayed the severity of the situation. On the day of Cuttack's one-day closing of everything, police fired and two people got killed. The law and order situation is at its lowest point in Orissa.

MEMBERSHIP: *Membership dues are the main source of revenue to carry out OSA activities. Please send your membership dues for 1980-1981 to the following address.*

*Family membership due ---- \$10.00
Single Members ----- \$ 5.00*

Send them to:

<i>Satyabrata Shaw 3356 Dungen, TN 38118</i>
--

Tel--901-365-8655

ORIYA MOVIE: A proposal was made at the annual convention at Detroit last year to import an Oriya movie to this continent this year. There are plenty of movies being made these days and all members, present at Detroit agreed that this was a good idea. To make things practicable, it was proposed to buy a movie at a cost of about 1000 dollars. Five centers namely, California, Detroit, New York, Toronto, and Washington should contribute 200 dollars each to initially acquire the movie. Once the movie gets here, other members will be charged a fee. This way some more funds will be built up for acquiring (rent or purchase) another movie.

Samar Bhuyan of Detroit was given the responsibility. Two centres, namely California and Toronto sent 200 dollars each. But others have not sent theirs. Arguments keep cropping up in some sectors towards the logistics of buying over rehting. A good idea will be to get one, first. Call Bhuyan Babu in this regard.

