

ORISSA SOCIETY OF AMERICAS

Newsletter ----> Vol 1, 1984

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EDITOR'S NOTE

OSA - 15 YEARS OLD

A belated happy new year to all of you! OSA is 15 years old in 1984. As a fifteen year old adolescent, it seeks everyone's love and care. Some of you have been taking a keen interest in the wellbeing of OSA. For the rest, it is high time to feel part of this organization and invest little more time and interest. At the least, get on our mailing list by sending us your (or your friend's) address. Get involved!

A year-beginning ritual - let us briefly reminisce the past year which was very significant!

- At the beginning of 1983, we had just sent over 50,000 rupees to Orissa's flood relief. Interestingly, during a visit to Orissa last November, many people in various towns spoke highly of our philanthropy.
- A new group took over the management of OSA: Rabi Patnaik (Baltimore) - President, Saradindu Misra (New York) - Vice President, Pratap Das (Washington) - Secretary/Treasurer and myself as editor of the newsletter.
- The annual convention in July attained unprecedented interest from members and its grandness reached a new magnitude!
- In August and September, a series of musical concerts by Sikandar Alam in various cities around the USA and Canada. Every single program became a big success.
- Two Oriya movies arrived in USA for the first time and subsequently got circulated all over the country. Our apologies to the Canadians for not being able to see the movies. It was a bureaucratic snag between the Indian Embassy and the Canadian customs. We will try harder next time.

Other than these unique events, various chapters continued their local activities in greater frequency and greater enthusiasm. 1983 was an excellent year for OSA. It was sort of an eye-opener-year for exposing our potential to achieve bigger goals in the future.

CHIT-CHAT

- A name for the newsletter - I have got a suggestion that we should give our newsletter a name. I think it is a good idea. Instead of me fabricating a name on my own, why not you send me some suggestions? The name should be short, easily pronounceable, an Oriya word with some meaning plus pizzazz!
- How about narrating your recent experiences and observations in Orissa? In this issue, I have included some of my impressions of Orissa during a recent trip. You could write on any thing: places, festivals you attended, industrial ventures by people you know, Oriya movies you saw, cultural programs you attended, general economic situation as you saw it, behavioral changes. No set format, use your natural style. Doing some writing is goodness; at the same time we can share your views. Get that pen and pad and start scribbling, specially you youngsters after that recent trip of yours!
- Surya Mishra of Chicago can send you a cassette of Sikandar Alam's songs (Oriya as well as Hindi ghazals) if you send him \$10.00. The profits from this will be handed over to Sikandar Alam in Orissa. There were two programs in the Chicago area; one was for the Oriya group from Illinois, Wisconsin and Minnesota and the other was an exclusive Hindi program for north Indian audience. Surya Babu will combine songs from both programs and mail it to you after receiving a request plus \$10.00. Please call him at (312) 355-5193 or write to 465 Menominee

Lane, Naperville, IL 60540.

- Our OSA president Rabi Patnaik recently told me that in spite of the appeal for membership from non-paying members (in the last newsletter), not a single response has come back. So what is new? This kind of apathy by our friends towards the OSA is a well known fact. I have belabored this point time and again in this newsletter. At group discussions, many of us are very vocal about academic aspects of OSA such as: the constitution, the election, our goals and what have you. In practice, we can not even carry out a simple responsibility of sending our annual membership dues. I am sure the amount of membership dollars can not be the issue. Then what else is it other than our classic procrastinating mentality coupled with a lack of commitment?

Many members continue to ask the same question: what do we get for our membership dollars? First let us create a sizable fund, then many things can be carried out including getting artists from Orissa, publishing Oriya classics in English in this country, creating a library of Oriya movies for OSA, etc. No organization survives without funds. Our status after 15 years is remarkably pitiable!

15TH. ANNUAL CONVENTION OF OSA - 1984 JULY

The 15th. annual convention of OSA is scheduled for June 30th. Saturday and July 1st., Sunday at Glasboro State College, New Jersey. Accommodation for Friday night can be arranged upon request. Glassboro State College is 20 miles southeast of Philadelphia and Camden (towards Atlantic City). It's location is the exact midpoint between New York and Washington, thus making it ideal for everyone from those two major centers. Of course, a record number of attendees are expected this year, well over 500.

Please plan ahead. In the near future details of the convention, location, events, request forms, etc. (like last year) will be mailed out to you. July 4th. this year falls on a Wednesday. If you can arrange 2 day's vacation, July 2nd and 3rd., then you can get a 5-day break for the convention and aftermath. Our Canadian friends have Monday, July 2nd. a holiday (Victoria Day), making it ideal for attending the convention.

The convention site is excellent as reported by a group who visited it at the request of Mana Ranjan Pattanayak,

the host of the convention (OSA, NY president). Situated among trees and winding drives, the college spans over 200 acres. The college is famous for being the site for summit talks between President Lyndon Johnson and Premier Alexei Kosygin of the Soviet Union on June 23-24, 1967. There are individual condominium style housings with two bedrooms, living room and kitchen facilities. There are excellent facilities for stage programs and outdoor activities.

There are plans to bring two Oriya movies for screening at the convention (Anurag and Mahabharata). The managing director of IPICOL is likely to come for discussions about investment opportunities in Orissa. A book exhibition of books on Orissa is also being planned.

For inquiries, please call Mana Ranjan Pattanayak at 215-493-8770.

A POEM

Woman

BY

Rabindra Nath Tagore
Translated from Bengali
by
Jagannath P. Das
Alberta, Canada

You are not the creation of God alone
Man has made you too,
Bestowing on you beauty
From his heart.
Sitting down
The poet has woven
Your dress in threads of metaphor,
Has made your image immortal.
Myriads of colors,
Your myriad fragrances,
Oh! how very ornamental!
Ocean yields your pearls
The mines gold,
The gardens of spring
Your flowers bring,
The red-bug gives its life
To paint your walk.
Making you coy and gay
Hiding you in veils,
In a hard-to-get play,
Man casts on you his fiery passion.
You're partly human, and part
Imagination.

PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

- Mohammed B. Alam has joined Cornell University, Ithaca for doing Ph.D. in International Politics. He completed his M.A. from Utkal Univer-

- sity and M.Phil. from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.
- **Jaya Krushna Baral**, reader in Political Science at Berhampur Univ., has started his sabbatical year at the School of Advanced Studies, Johns Hopkins University in Maryland.
 - **Saroj Behera** and family moved from San Diego to San Jose, California. He joined Modern Electrosystems Inc. (MEI), a silicon chip manufacturing company.
 - **Laxmi Narayan Bhuyan** moved from Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada to Lafayette, Louisiana as Assistant Professor in the department of Electrical and Computer Engineering. He completed his Ph.D. from Wayne State University, Detroit in 1982.
 - **Jyotirmoy Das** has joined the World Bank at Washington D.C.. He formerly worked for Tata Burroughs Limited in Bombay and in Detroit.
 - **Rangadhar Dash** is moving to Los Angeles with family to start on a new job with Hughes Aircraft. They lived in Mountainview before.
 - **Sachi Dash** has started his post graduate work in Chemical Engineering at Purdue University, Lafayette, Indiana.
 - **Santanu Dash**, a graduate of Birla Inst. of Technology, Pilani has joined University of Alberta, Edmonton for graduate studies in Electrical Engineering.
 - **Prafulla Padhi** and family moved from Danbury, Connecticut to Agoura, near Los Angeles. He left General Datacom to join Novation Inc., a manufacturer of communication hardware.
 - **Aparajeeta Misra** joined City Univ. of New York in the Physics department for graduate studies.
 - **Banamber Misra** joined University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa for graduate studies in Economics. He is from Jawaharlal Nehru Univ. New Delhi.
 - **Durga Misra** has joined University of Waterloo, Ontario in the Electrical Engineering department. His background is in Physics.
 - **Deepak Misra** has arrived in Kingston, Jamaica to join his assignment at the Indian Embassy. In the past, Deepak babu had lived in Ottawa, Dacca and Kampala on similar assignments.
 - **Santosh Misra** is doing Ph.D. in Physics at SUNY, Albany. He was at the Institute of Physics, Bhubaneswar.
 - **Sradhananda Mishra** and family moved from Mississauga, Ontario to Ottawa on a job transfer with Bell Systems International.
 - **Srikanta Mishra** joined Stanford University for a Ph.D. program in Petroleum Engineering instead of Mining Engineering as published before.
 - **Subrata Misra** and family arrived in the USA from Cuttack for permanent residence. He is a metallurgy engineer and his brother Santosh Misra lives in Los Angeles. Currently Subrata is staying in Topoka, Kansas with his brother-in-law Dilip Satpathy.
 - **Prabir Mohanty** joined Burroughs Corporation at Los Angeles after graduating from SUNY at Stonybrook in Computer Science. He is a graduate of I.I.T. Kharagpur (1982 Computer Science).
 - **Prakash Mohanty** moved from Greenville, South Carolina to Winston-Salem, North Carolina. He is a civil engineer.
 - **Prasanna Mohanty** returned to New Delhi after spending a year at Stanford University, Palo Alto in Biochemistry. He teaches at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.
 - **Priya Ranjan Mohanty** joined University of New Foundland, St. John in Canada for graduate studies in Geophysics. He graduated from Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad in Geophysics in 1978.
 - **Sitakanta Mohanty** joined U. of Alabama, Tuscaloosa for post graduate studies in Petroleum Engineering. He is graduate of Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad (class of 1982).
 - **Subhendu Mohanty** joined U. of Texas at Arlington for graduate studies in Material Science. He is a graduate of Regional Eng. College, Rourkela (1983 Metallurgy).
 - **Sambit Mukherjee** joined U. of Texas at Arlington for graduate studies in Systems Engineering. He is a graduate of Regional Eng. College, Rourkela (1982 Mechanical).
 - **Mitu Nayak** joined University of Ottawa in the faculty of Computer Engineering. He is the son of Antaryami Nayak of Cambridge, Ontario.

- Prabeen Panda joined U. of Texas at Arlington for graduate studies in Computer Science. He is a graduate of Regional Eng. College, Rourkela (1982 Mechanical).
- Pinaki Panigrahi joined U. of Maryland for graduate work in Biochemistry. He graduated from SKCG Medical College, Berhampur.
- Manas Patnaik has joined San Diego State Univ. for post graduate studies in Computer Science. He is a graduate of Burla engineering College in Electronics Eng.
- Swarup Patnaik completed his Masters in Systems Engineering from SUNY at Buffalo.
- Dev Narayan Pattanayk moved from Los Angeles to Schenectady, New York to join the Research and Development group of General Electric.
- Aseema Pradhan joined City Univ. of New York on a Ph.D. program in Physics. Her brother Ashok Pradhan joined the same school in Computer Science. Both are children of Trilochan Pradhan, a known physicist of Orissa.
- Mihir Rath moved from Rogersville, TN to the Boston area on a new job. He is a mechanical engineer.

ORISSA NEWS

- The new aluminum company NALCO is being set up in two locations: the alumina/bauxite ore facilities in Koraput and the smelters (to extract the metal from the ore) near Angul. A captive power plant is being constructed to provide back-up power. Current management for the plant is located at Bhubaneswar and major foreign negotiation and purchases (French collaboration) are being handled at Delhi.
- Sanjit Panda, who used to live in the New York area, started a dental clinic in Ranihat, Cuttack. He has taken advanced equipments from the US. Radhanath Rath, editor 'Samaj', inaugurated his clinic and wished him all the best luck for success.
- Loss of forests in Orissa has reached an alarming stage. Public awareness about the benefits of having forests is non-existent. Greed to make quick money by stealing forest logs and selling has shortsighted many. Towards year-end 1983, the government

stepped up its vigilance at such destruction. If the deterioration of forests at the current rate continues, then Orissa will have vast deserts in a very short time.

- There was mass uproar against something called 'Banner scheme' for public transportation. The Orissa government chartered all private bus lines at a fixed price to carry people. As a result, private buses found that they did not have to carry any passengers to make their money. Hence the incentive to pick up roadside passengers disappeared. As a result, passengers got stranded and there was violence and overall disenchantment.
- Some well known personalities passed away recently: Baidya Nath Rath, ex-principal of Radha Nath Training College, Cuttack, Sadasiv Tripathy, ex-chief minister of Orissa, Narayan Pati, ex-head master at Ravenshaw Collegiate School and author of math books.

REGIONAL NEWS

CANADA

- Publishing well known Oriya writings in the U.S.A. and Canada (after translation) was discussed in this newsletter. Further discussions and suggestions should be directed to professor Gopal Mohanty of Hamilton, Ontario at (416) 627-5786.
- Jagannath Das, professor of psychology at Edmonton, Alberta wrote a series of travelogs in the Oriya monthly 'Jhankar' about his trip to Moscow. He plans to publish the series as an Oriya book.

His wife Geeta Das has published a child psychology book for general reading in Oriya two years ago. Recently their son Satya (Silu), who is a journalist at the Edmonton Journal, got married in Bhubaneswar.

CALIFORNIA

- A recent count revealed that there are a total of 116 Oriyas in California. This consists of about 30 families and 18 bachelors.
- A 'Bishuba Milan' festival is planned for April 21st. in the San Fransisco Bay area. The intent is

to invite about 300 non-Oriya Indians and Americans and educate them about Orissa. The plan includes exhibitions of Orissan artifacts such as Pattachitra, Pipli handwork products, jewellery from Orissa, etc. There will be a slide show of important places of Orissa followed by a 2 hour entertainment program consisting of dances, songs and children's drama. Prominent members of the Indian community will be invited in addition to non-oriya friends of local Oriyas. Admission will be free and snacks will be provided at the end. Any visitor to the Bay area is cordially welcome to attend. Please call this editor for details.

- For most of us residents of North America, it is difficult to write and publish an Oriya book back in Orissa. Many of us don't even think about this. Not true for Sneha Prabha Mohanty (Dolly) of Huntington Beach, California. She has published a book titled 'Amrutayana' (Publisher: Books and Books, Binod Behari, Cuttack, Price: Rs.10), a collection of short stories for children. These stories are written in light of story-ideas of E.B.White. The book is written in a lucid style using simple and spoken Oriya sentences.

- Prasanna Mohanty (Babu) is a high school senior who lives in Newark, California with his parents Deba Ranjan and Mamata Mohanty and sister Meera. This summer starting July 11th until August 5th, Babu will spend in Europe performing musical concerts. He is one of 100 musicians selected from all over the U.S. (2 per state) to represent "United States Collegiate Wind Band". The selection is an All America Hall of Fame Honors and is based on previous years' musical records.

Babu will spend 3 weeks in Europe, appearing in many cities in 8 countries (U.K., Belgium, France, Italy, Germany, Switzerland, Netherlands and Austria). His plan is to attend the OSA convention first and then proceed to Europe. He plays saxophone.

- New year's eve was celebrated in various locations. The largest gathering was at Purna Patnaik's house in San Diego. Out-of-towners included Saroj Behera (Cupertino), Jnana Dash (Morgan Hill), Sanjib Mohanty (Sunnyvale), Srikanta Misra (Stanford), Deba Mohanty (Newark), Saradindu Misra (New York), Kalyani Dash (Camphill, Pennsylvania). All total there were about 50 people. Music and fun continued until the wee hours. On

new year's day, the balmy weather forced the men to play a game of cricket.

MINNEAPOLIS

- Minnesota Oriyas joined the Oriya group from Chicago to start their Annual Regional function in Green Lake, Wisconsin on August 20, 1983. Musician Sikandar Alam was the highlight of the program.
- Sakti Mohanty and Julie got married on October 8, 1984. All Minneapolis Oriyas attended the ceremony.
- Siti Kantha Das and Madan Biswal became life members of OSA.

NEW YORK

- In a competitive folk dance program held on the auspices of the Republic day, the Oriya folk dance (to the tune of Akhyaya Mohanty's popular folk song) was awarded the first prize, thanks to the efforts of Sulekha Das of New Jersey. The award was worth \$250.00. The event was covered in the New York Times the following day. This competition was tough, with members from Padmini's dance school and other such heavies competing.

- Sadananda Barik of New Jersey was selected over nominees from throughout the nation to serve in an executive development assignment at the Pentagon in Washington.

He is an industrial engineer and works at U.S. Military Command in the Industrial Preparedness Branch, Production Division. In his one year assignment at the Pentagon, he will do a variety of duties including the preparation of posture statements and responses to Congress. Sadananda Babu did his engineering from R.E.College, Rourkela and M.S. from City College of New York.

- Kumar Utsab was celebrated on October 22nd. at the Church of Hanover in New Jersey. About 150 people attended. This was treated similar to the OSA annual convention for the New York Chapter. Various discussions included: raising the annual membership to \$25.00 from \$15.00, the upcoming OSA convention in July, 1984, collection of \$50.00 per family in advance for the initial expenses of the annual convention, etc. The annual financial report was presented. OSA New

York chapter is in very good financial shape. There was constructive criticism regarding organizational efforts. Everyone agreed however that the current OSANY management has brought a rejuvenation to the local activities, never seen before. There was a 3 hour entertainment program. Pratap Das from Washington and Sujit Mohanty from Buffalo participated.

- New Year's Eve - Big gathering in a rented hall in Westchester county. Bijoy Misra from Chicago, Surendra Ray from Washington joined. Young ones presented a mock-up rock program (simulation of instrument playing).

Mana Ranjan Pattanayak, president of New York chapter worked hard to make these gatherings very enjoyable.

OHIO

The annual meeting of the chapter and the Kumar Utchab were held on October 29, 1983 at the Indian Community Center, Cleveland. Many families including students from Case Western Reserve University attended. The traditional Laxmi Puja and 'Anjali' by participating girls were conducted with lots of fanfare.

There was a talent show that included violin recital and Bharat Natyam (by Annie Khuntia). The two Oriya movies were screened after that.

The annual meeting was chaired by Duryodhan Mangaraj, president Ohio chapter. The secretary presented the financial statement and discussed various chapter activities. There was concern that despite everyone's contribution towards OSA membership, some people are not receiving OSA newsletter nor the Directory. Further action was contemplated to remedy this situation.

It was decided that the tenure of OSA-Ohio executives will be extended to two years. The present group (President: D. Mangaraj, V.P: H. Misra, Secy-Tr: B. Mohanty, OSA rep: H. Choudhury) will continue. Further activities decided for future were: OSA-Ohio local directory, two-day picnic at Mohica State Park in August, Spring meeting in April in Columbus, and annual meeting in October at Cleveland. The chapter membership will be extended to the Pittsburg families.

WASHINGTON

- Matrimonial wave continued towards year-end 1983. Sudip and brother Bhudip(Lubu) Patnaik got married in India. Wife of Rasik Tripathy arrived from India. Earlier in the year, Manas Das got into wedlock.
- Arrangements are being made to bring an Odissi dance teacher for four months starting this summer (June-July time). Initially, dance classes will be held in Washington and New York area. If other chapters show enough interest, classes can be organized in those locations provided the chapter can bear internal travel and other expenses. Interested parents should contact Rabi Patnaik at (301) 655-8583 for further details.

VISITORS TO USA AND CANADA

- Mr Naresh Chandra Nayak, General Manager (Works) of Rourkela Steel Plant visited Pennsylvania and New York on work for a week in December.
- Mrs. Jayanti Patnaik, M.P. and wife of Orissa's chief minister visited Canada to see her daughter and son-in-law last fall.
- Mr and Mrs. Srinivas Sahu visited their son Amitav Sahu and family in Minneapolis during June, 83 - February, 84. He was the Vice Chancellor of Sambalpur University.

ORISSA: SOME IMPRESSIONS (NOV. 1983)

- The excitement of visiting Orissa begins only after landing in India (most likely Calcutta) and clearing customs (usually a non-trivial ordeal). The flight to Bhubaneswar takes only 50 minutes, a Boeing 727 that continues towards Vizag/Hyderabad. On November 1 every year, the schedule of Indian Airlines changes for some reason. Now there is a flight that connects Bhubaneswar to Bangalore via Hyderabad.

Bhubaneswar airport seems crowded, not with passengers, but with friends and relatives of passengers. Physical presence at the airport is taken seriously, which is nice!

Running into other visiting Oriyas from here is always nice. At Bombay's Santa Cruz, I met Chita Ranjan Nanda from Oklahoma. It's a small world.

- Everytime I asked about the 1982 flood, people mentioned about the elaborate coverage of our (OSA) help in the 'Samaj'. There is a growing recognition that the OSA is a serious organization. Vocalists, dancers, and even a magician asked if a trip to the USA can be sponsored.
- Many friends had told me that Orissa is beaming with housing developments all over & affluence is on the ascent. It is like judging India after visiting New Delhi or Bombay. I went to villages and saw no changes within last decade. Yes, villages do not seem that peaceful. Conflicts between individuals, between groups seem to be on the rise. Political affiliations extend to the villagers, supposed to be a healthy sign for democracy!

The elites prefer to talk of American foreign policy specially as it applies to India. The middle class deplores the corruption at the state level administration. Villagers talk about local politicians - who has the shortest access to which ministers, etc. The hierarchy lives!

- All over I heard discussions about how much money so and so has made in the last couple of years by corrupt means. The big houses just before entering Bhubaneswar belong to government officials and everyone knows who they are and where they made all that money. There are animated discussions about certain ministers who have built hotels (costing crores) in places like Bombay and Kathmandu. One wonders!
- Industrial shades abound around Mancheswar and Bhubaneswar, but most of them are locked. Loans have been taken from banks in the name of industry, only to be abused for other purposes. These sheds serve as eye-wash. Loan money is one-way traffic. No one returns it. There are many ways to prove that the money can not be paid back. Intention of providing easy loan is good, but it's implementation is faulty. Everyone seems content with this approach. Whoever looks at such things at a macro level?
- Video movie houses have appeared in many unlikely places. Individuals tell me they have seen Gandhi in

english long time ago thru video. A video shop in Cuttack asks me if I would sell my video camera. Someone explains the various systems (PAL, NTSC, etc) and the one that works in India. My attention was drawn to the familiar 'Maniac' number from Flashdance exploding from a nearby tape-recorder in Cuttack. Jane Fonda's 'workout' is one of the popular videotapes discussed by the status-conscious societies of Delhi and Bombay.

- There was much hoopla about a 'Boat Show' in lake Chilka. The advertisements appeared everywhere including the nationwide TV program Door Darshan. We got up early and drove to Chilka. There were thousands of people. Inside the naval training center, people gathered to watch the boat show. It was over when we got there. We heard parts of chief minister's speech, '....I have been to Dal lake in Kashmir, but the beauty of Chilka is no less....'. Looking at the crowd and noise level, I wondered if anyone listened!
- Despite our increasingly different viewpoints about India and Orissa, it is always beautiful to go back to the dear ones. There is that nostalgia and a sense of isolation here that makes each trip to Orissa a memorable and charming event.

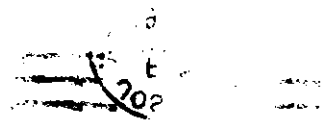
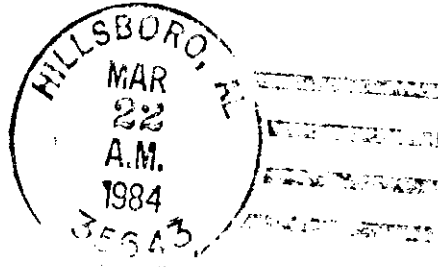
HOUSE FOR SALE - BHUBANESWAR

Raja Mohanty of Denver, Colorado is interested to sell a house in Bhubaneswar. If you are interested please contact him at (303) 337-2227 for further details about location, price, condition, etc.

MEMBERSHIP DUES: were collected from all attendees of the annual convention. Those who did not make it should send their dues to the following address. Membership due covers the period between July 1st. of current year upto June 30th. of next year.

OSA membership dues are: Family - \$15, Single - \$10, Students - \$5.

Pratap Das Treasurer, OSA Inc. 13309 Wedgeport Lane Germantown, MD 20767 Tel:301-428-9017



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