

ORISSA SOCIETY OF AMERICAS

Newsletter ----> Vol 1, 1983

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

EDITOR'S NOTE

IN GENERAL...

The year 1983 is one quarter old now. Blossoms are starting. Unfriendly cold temperatures are yielding to mild and cheerful spring weather.

In the last newsletter I had reflected briefly on OSA's past. Consequently, I received a note to my delight from a 15-year old, consoling me to dispel my gloomy outlook and be more positive in evaluating our accomplishments. I have included that letter in this issue. I wish more of us feel that way! Maybe the frustration grows out of my firm conviction that we, as a group, are capable of doing lot more. For example, look at what happened last fall! Based on one appeal, we collected about 5000 dollars in a few weeks for the Orissa flood relief!

Anyway, it is heartening to know how our young ones feel. Other letters in this issue shed light on this aspect.

The annual convention is coming up at Washington DC. Everyone I know in the east coast is planning to be there. Based on past records, the Washingtonians will do an excellent job again as hosts.

A WINTER INTERLUDE!

Speaking of Washington, I did spend two weeks there during February. It was not the city I had known - greenery all over, sylvan landscape on both sides of George Washington Parkway, easy access to Maryland/Virginia suburbs via the beltway - it was something else. There was a twenty-inch snow storm that paralyzed the city. From my hotel near Georgetown, it was quite a challenge to venture outside. However, local Oriyas made my brief stay quite pleasant, as always.

For example, energetic bachelors like Manas (Das) and Sudip (Patnaik) braved the slippery roads and gave me a ride to Silverspring. I had a pleasant evening with Sudip's brothers Dilip, Bhudeep, and Sreedip. I also met an Oriya student Dilip Mohanty visiting from Blacksburg, Virginia.

Then we drove to Germantown, a sleepy town in Maryland near Gaithersburg that displayed a landscape blanketed by waves of shinning snow. A sort of apocalyptic silence presented a sharp contrast to the fury of previous night's storm. We met Pratap and Pinoo (Das) in their house and enjoyed lunch.

The saga of weekend-meeting with Oriyas continued. Next stop was at Suresh and Niva's (Kodolihar, Manas's sister) house in Columbia, a planned suburb in Maryland. Rabi and Shobha (Patnaik) from Randallstown joined us there. Rabi Babu is our OSA president.

During the week, I was invited to spend an evening with Binod and Bandita (Nayak) in Seabrook, Maryland, about thirty-minute drive from the city. There Jagannath and Jhunu (Rath) joined us. During the week I had lunch with Saura Sahu, who lives south in Woodbridge, Virginia.

Despite the impediments imposed by the weather I was glad I met a few friends. You can treat this sample hospitality as a mere prototype for the pomp and grandeur that is waiting on July 4th weekend when the weather is lot more pleasant.

Morale of this episode:- You must attend the convention!!

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

- The Bahamas island is fortunate to have an Oriya resident for the last 5 years. Naresh Das, a scientist, has made Nassau his home. He works for the government in the capacity of an advisor and also teaches at the University. Naresh Babu is from Tulsipur, Cuttack. He is well known to the Canadian Oriyas from his

years in Montreal (Ph.D. from McGill) and Toronto (U. of Toronto).

- A new Hindi movie 'Bheegi Palkein' is available in video tape now. This is of interest to us because the director is an Oriya named Sisir Misra. Raj Babbar and Smita Patil are in the lead roles along with a supporting cast from Bombay and Orissa. For example, well-known stage artist Babi (Samuel Sahu from Annapurna Theaters) has acted as Smita Patil's father. Story and screenplay are written by Sisir Misra and Kartik Rath and the film is shot in various locations around Orissa. Music is given by Ravindra Jain. Quality of direction and acting is quite good.
- Saura Sahu of Washington D.C. has been elected as a member of the Indian National Academy of Sciences. He was nominated for the membership by Prof S. Srinivasan of Banares Hindu University and Prof R. Das of Post Graduate Institute of Medical Research, Chandigarh.
- Arabinda Das of Beleville, Illinois has been offered the professorship in Chinese Medicine by the University of Oriental Studies, at Monterey Park, California. The University's goal is to create better understanding between East and West through the comprehensive study of medicine by producing scholars with practical knowledge in all specialty areas. The University offers Ph. D. in Acupuncture and Arabinda Babu specializes in that.
- Jagannath Das, professor of Psychology at University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada will be visiting Orissa on a special research project along with a Canadian colleague. Both will do their work at the Advanced center for Psychology, at Utkal University. Jagannath Babu will stay for a month and his colleague will spend four months.
- Laxmi Narayn Bhuyan has joined University of Regina at Regina, Saskatchewan as a Assistant Professor in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science. He did his Ph.D. work at Wayne State University, Detroit.
- Madan Biswal has moved back to Minneapolis after a brief stay in Florida with Harris Corp. Currently he works for Sperry Univac as a process engineering manager.
- Ajit Das has joined Meheri Medical College as a resident. He is from Jamshedpur and is the younger brother of Santosh Das of New Jersey.
- Prabir Dash moved to Dallas from Richland, Washington in late 1981 to Fort Worth, Texas.
- Purna Das moved to Los Angeles from New York after completing his Ph. D. in Physics at NY University.
- Kishore Kar moved to Midland, Michigan some time ago from Cleveland, Ohio. He works for Dow Chemicals. Recently his wife Sangeeta (Mohapatra) arrived from Cuttack.
- Nityananda Misra has moved to Rogersville, Tennessee from Boston, on a temporary assignment.
- Ajaya Misra is returning to India to join the faculty at I.I.T. Kanpur as an Asstt. Professor of Material Science. He did his Ph.D. from Univ of California at Berkeley and was doing post-doctoral research at Cleveland.
- Srikant Misra has joined University of Texas at Austin for post graduate studies in Mining. He is from Bhubaneswar and did his undergraduate work at the Dhanbad School of Mines.
- Rabi Mohapatra moved to College Park, Maryland to join the faculty of Physics at U. of Maryland. He was formerly teaching at NY University. He did his Ph.D. work at University of Rochester and has many research accomplishments.

PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

- Gayatri Bastia has joined Saskatchewan social services, a state government organization at Saskatoon, Canada.
- Akrura Behera has joined University of Toronto for post graduate studies in Mathematics. He is on leave from G. M. College, Sambalpur.
- Deba Mohapatra moved to Los Angeles from San Fransisco Bay area on a two year assignment with Kaiser Corpn, a Oakland-based company.
- Arun Padhi, medical doctor arrived in Los Angeles in early 1982 after spending one year in Dar-es-Salam, Tanzania. He is a graduate of S.C.B. Medical college, Cuttack (class of 1979) and did post graduate work at Bombay.

- **Sukant Panda** and family have returned from Greece after a temporary assignment to Ohio where they lived before.
- **Akhil Patel** has come to Stevens Institute, Hoboken, N.J. as a post-doctoral research fellow in Physics. He teaches at Berhampur University and did his Ph.D. work under Professor Trinath Ratho at Sambalpur University.
- **Mahesh Pati** moved from Cleveland to Youngstown, Ohio after completing his Ph.D. in engineering. He teaches at the university there. He is the younger brother of Jogesh Pati, reputed physics researcher at U. of Maryland.
- **Keshab Parhi** has joined Pennsylvania State University at Philadelphia in the department of electrical engineering. He is from Basudebpur, Balasore and is an alumni of I.I.T. Kharagpur.
- **Dhiraj Pradhan** is moving to University of Massachusetts at Amherst, as professor of Electrical Eng and Computer Science. He was teaching at Wayne State University, Detroit.
- **Tanuj Pradhan** has completed his studies at Univ. of Regina, Saskatchewan and moved to U.S. as a permanent resident. He is staying with his brother Dhiraj Pradhan at Detroit.
- **Bidyut Rath** has moved to San Francisco from Houston on a new job with Bechtel's power division.
- **Mihir Rath** has arrived in Tennessee at his sister Nihar and brother-in-law Nityananda Mishra's residence. A mechanical engineer, he did his bachelors and masters degrees from Regional Eng. College, Rourkela.
- **Minakhee Samantray** has joined Meheri Medical college at Nashville, Tennessee to do her residency work. Her husband Prasanna Samantray recently moved from Dallas to San Jose on a new job.
- **Dilip Satpathy** and family have returned from Madrid to Los Angeles after a three-year stay. They were residents of Washington D.C. (Gaithersburg) before. Later this year, they will go to South Korea where Dilip Babu will work on a special Bechtel assignment.

LETTER TO EDITOR

From London, Ontario

Dear Editor:

I thought I'd drop you a line in regards to some of your statements in the November OSA newsletter.

You mentioned that in its almost 14 years of existence, the OSA has come through with no constructive accomplishments. That is not so! I admit, many more Oriyas could make the effort to attend meetings, pay their membership dues regularly, and hopefully, in the next election show greater response. But think of what we have done positively in the last few years! We now have a much more organized newsletter, almost regular at that. We published a phone and address book. In your newsletter we know of the comings and goings of North American Oriyas, and also visitors from India. The newsletter also includes creative work from youth members of the organization. And, most importantly, we contributed \$4500 to the relief funds for flood victims of Orissa's disastrous flood. Are these not accomplishments? To me, they are.

I hope that the OSA will continue to progress in a positive direction.

Yours,

Pepi Manasinha
507 Lawson Road,
London, Ontario, N6G 1Y1

To the readers: Pepi is 15 years old, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Lalatendu Manasinha of London, Ontario.

From Alameda, California

Dear Editor:

Let me thank you first for developing and maintaining the OSA newsletter into an effective forum of communication. I feel more in touch, for sure and look forward to the next publication eagerly.

I was happy to read in the last newsletter about the response for Orissa flood relief work. Immediately following flood, Orissa and much of India went through an unprecedented draught which affected nearly 100 million people. While these natural calamities brought untold sufferings to millions of our people, their difficulties under 'normal' circumstances are almost as much. The record of the authorities in New Delhi or Bhubaneswar in solving the

problems of disaster like flood and draught or in uplifting the lost of people otherwise speaks for itself. There are many relief agencies and organizations, who are doing something and through which we may contribute, but the question remains that almost nothing is done that will bring lasting change. The root causes of the problems remain unsolved and so we find the same problems year after year (inspite of honest effort of many agencies), eg. draught, flood, leprosy, untouchability, blindness, etc.

Our recent relief drive has shown that even though living in North America we care about our people back home and also that our efforts and concerns are deeply appreciated by them. Let us use this opportunity and devise ways by which we can become permanent sources of support for those who are working towards the above goals.

I strongly feel that as a first step we must discuss the problems of India and Orissa, understand its causes and solutions. I realize each of us have our own perceptions, but if a single document is prepared and discussed in the national as well as local gatherings we can evolve an united plan for action. Can't we?

In the mean time I would suggest in all private gatherings we set aside half hour to discuss the current situation back home for information and analysis, if necessary formally.

Yours Sincerely,

Sandip Dasverma
450 Buena Vista, #308
Alameda, California, 94501

From Huntsville, Alabama

Dear Editor:

Something very strange is happening in OSA's organization and leadership. On the one hand, the number of Oriyas in the U.S. and Canada is increasing. But on the other hand, the OSA's ability to generate membership, revenues, publications, agendas for future action, social policy positions, and an equal or higher status among other Indian provincial organizations engaged in similar cultural and social missions is declining. While the problems are partly a matter of our small size of scattered population and, consequently, communication, I would argue that we have one overriding critical need we must meet if we are to overcome the difficulties: the need for strong and creative leadership.

Any organization's ability to survive depends on strong and effective leadership. We must be increasingly thoughtful about how we identify those who should be recruited to society's highest offices. The so-called elections in recent years have turned out to be a farce. The loose manipulative approach, which is our present mode of recruitment, does not address our need for better central direction and need to build (or to hold on to) our reputation. Presently, the absence of any centralized effort in raising funds for our flood affected fellow Oriyas back home is a case in point. This situation clearly indicates that there is something very wrong in our organization. Therefore, we must secure leaders whom we will be proud to have representing the Oriyas here and in Orissa. I wish to propose a committee which should insist upon some of the main qualifications in recruiting our future nominees.

First, our top officers should possess a considerable measure of earned respect and achievement. We need officers with a sense of perspective and vision about OSA's future based on strong elements from the past.

In addition, there is a need for persons who view the office as a duty - a moral obligation - rather than personal popularity or publicity.

In short, if OSA wants to increase its prominence, legitimacy, and effectiveness as a mature ethnic organization, it must act more like one. We Oriyas back home have suffered enough and perhaps are still suffering because of our division on caste and regional lines. But now it is our collective job abroad to grow up and seek capable and distinguished persons who have time, energy, and willingness to provide high caliber leadership.

Yours Sincerely,

Digambar Mishra - Nov 4, 1982
923 Mansard Dr., #210
Huntsville, AL 35209

Editor- According to another letter to editor, Digambar Misra was not receiving any mail due to change of address. Two points in above letter must be clarified. The elections were held via mail ballot last year. Results were compiled from the response which was very poor. Secondly, there was a central effort to raise funds for last year's flood in Orissa. This was a first of its kind and the results are well-known.

A POEM

Bada Boux

BY

Leena Pattanayak
Yardley, PA

As I lie here in bed
Thoughts wander through my head
Of yesteryear
And a tear rolls down my cheek

I remember how you cared for me
Loved me unselfishly,
Showed me what patience was
Because you knew me
And what I could be

I shared my secrets with you,
You kept my trust true
And took time to understand
Who I was

Wherever you were, music
of your laughter was all around
Your happiness was ours to share
Not your burdens nor your cares.

Our house is empty now
How can I live without you?
And a tear rolls down my cheek
While I think of you

Note: * - Leena is 15 years old and daughter of Mana Ranjan and Minati Pattanayak. She wrote about her Bada Bou (dad's older brother's wife) who visited last year from Orissa.

14TH. ANNUAL OSA CONVENTION (1983) - WASHINGTON D.C.

This year's annual OSA convention will be held in Washington D.C. during the July 4th weekend. The place of the convention is Bowie State College, Bowie, Maryland. The college is situated in the suburbs of Washington in a country-like surrounding with nice auditorium facilities. The convention activities will start on Saturday July 2nd and will continue through Sunday, July 3rd.

Following are highlights of the program.

Young Ones

This year's program will give special emphasis to participation of youngsters which include the following:

- Fashion show
- Essay Competition (Two prizes)

Junior High students topic - What in your opinion is Gandhiji's major contribution to India's struggle for independence?

Senior High students topic - How would you convince a villager in India for family planning?

Send your entries by May 1, 1983.

- Children's variety program
- "RAINBOW" - Photo exhibits for youngsters

Send 3 x 5 inch photos along with information about the photographer.

- Magic show

Saturday Night Live

Program will feature All India Radio artists: Sujit Mohanty, Susri Sangeeta (Mohapatra) Kar, Kumudini Dash and other amateur artists in an informal mehfil on July 2, Saturday evening.

Attempts are being made to acquire two Oriya movies. If available, there will be two late night shows on Saturday and Sunday.

Sports:

This year's convention will organize various sports events such as Volleyball or Soccer, Checkers Tournaments, etc.. Two prizes for checker tournament, which starts Saturday night. Interested? - must let organizers know by June 1, 1983.

Soccer or volleyball match between hosts and guests.

Other Activities

There will be seminar on investment opportunities in Orissa. Someone visiting from IPICOL will be there for discussions.

There is a plan to publish a souvenir containing an updated address list, the OSA constitution and a detailed agenda of the convention, to be made available at registration time.

Accommodation & Cost

A multi-storied dormitory at Bowie State College is reserved for the occasion. It is air-conditioned and the rooms have one or two single beds with mattresses and common baths. Double rooms will be allocated to families, however, should a family need extra accommodations, additional rooms will be available for nominal cost. Students and their families will enjoy free accommodation. However, they will be accommodated with local families on prior request.

Following 4 alternate choices are available:

- Choice 1 - Stay Saturday, Sunday and Monday (till 9AM), 5 meals.

Total cost:- adult(\$25), children over 5(\$11), students(single-\$15, family-\$25)

- Choice 2 - Stay Saturday, Sunday daytime only (leave at night), 4 meals.

Total cost:- adult(\$20), children over 5(\$9), students(single-\$10, family-\$20)

- Choice 3 - Stay Sunday and Monday (till 9AM), 3 meals.

Total cost:- adult(\$18), children over 5(\$7), students(single-\$9, family-\$18)

- Choice 4 - Come Sunday and leave at night without staying, 2 meals.

Total cost:- adult(\$10), children over 5(\$5), students(single-\$6, family-\$10)

Outside of the above cost there is a registration cost of \$12.00 (family), \$7.00 (Single). Students will not be charged. A \$5.00 fee will be charged for registration after May 1, 1983 or any change in the program after June 1st, 1983.

Due to the large attendance expected and reservation arrangements, everyone is requested to plan early and send deposit of \$25.00 per family and \$20.00 per students/single to Pratap Das by May 1, 1983 with information on number of attendees and the preferred choice.

The attendance is expected to hit an all-time high, around 150 to 200 families. Most are opting for the first choice - stay Saturday, Sunday and leave Monday (many local hosts are planning to stay in the dormitory with visitors).

Local responsibility - Names

- Chairman Organizing Committee - Pratap Das (301-428-9017)
- Communications Coordinator - Rabi Patnaik (301-655-8583)
- Accommodation Coordinator - Prafulla Misra
- Cultural Coordinator - Surendra Ray
- Food Catering Coordinator - Jagannath Rath
- Financial Coordinator - Manindra Panda

Address all queries to Pratap Das, 13309 Wedgeport Lane, Germantown, MD 20767.

REGIONAL NEWS

NEW YORK

A few families in the New Jersey and New York area have decided to start a school for the youngsters to learn the Oriya language and about Orissa. Their plan is to hold the school once every three weeks. Between them, the teaching load will be distributed. Following are the student objectives:

- Learn spoken Oriya
- Learn to read Oriya script
- Learn to write
- Learn about Orissa's past history and culture

The first class was held at Santosh Das's residence. Everyone constrained their conversational medium to Oriya-only to help start the learning process. That was in February. Next class will be held at Uma Misra's residence in March. Rabi Ray is one of the teachers. Currently, the group is reviewing a 3-volume book-set from University of Michigan (South Asian Studies), that covers the learning of spoken and written Oriya. These books may be a strong basis for the teachers to work from. The role of mothers is very important in this effort. The class is broken into smaller teams, managed by mothers, for better interaction on one-to-one basis.

Wedding

Another event in New York area was the wedding ceremony of Jagat and Manaka Subudhi's oldest daughter Mita to Nihar Kanungo, son of Kalpataru and Anu Kanungo of Bridgeport on February 6th. Many local Oriyas attended along with other Indian and American guests.

TRAVELOG - DALLAS/FORT WORTH

Upon arrival at the modern DFW airport, one gets impressed with the new design, where the luggage pick-up area is optimized to be at a very short distance from the arrival gate. Then, you can be hauled by a computer-controlled train called Surtran. Don't be scared just because there is no driver!!

Going towards Dallas, let us stop at Plano, where Hari Arjun Patro lives with his family. They recently moved from Wichita, Kansas, where Patro babu worked for a few years after his MBA. Not far away, lives Manoj Dash and family - another MBA who has been in Dallas for a few years.

Driving few more miles, let us meet a young engineer Kishore Mohanty. He got his Ph.D. from Univ. of Minnesota in chemical engineering and currently works for ARCO. At the new-year time he was visiting Orissa and rumors of matrimony was strong.

Let us proceed south and west, via highway 20 towards Fort Worth to meet Prabir Dash and his wife. They have been living here for two years and moved from Washington state. Prabir's wife Prajesh Nandini is an accomplished Orissi dancer. Nearby, lives the family of Rajat Mohapatra, who is a doctor and works for US Airforce.

ADDITIONAL DONORS TO ORISSA FLOOD RELIEF

Total To Date -- \$4927.00 (3/1/83) Sent to SAMAJ Flood Relief, Cuttack

1. Birendra Patnaik, PA ----	100.00
2. Uma Ballav Mishra, NY----	50.00
3. Bidumani Patnaik, PA ----	25.00
4. Aswini Ghatalia, NY ----	25.00
5. India Club ----	5.00
6. Bhanja Sayala ----	15.00
7. S. D. Cherian ----	10.00
8. Indu Bhusan Misra, IL----	100.00*
9. Pramod Patnaik, AL ----	71.00*

10. Minati Pattanyak, AL ---- 25.00*

* - sent directly to SAMAJ, Cuttack

VISITORS FROM ORISSA

- B. B. Jena, professor of political science at Berhampur University came to Kentucky State Univ. as a visiting professor (11/82 - 2/83). During his stay he delivered lectures in various campuses and visited major social science research centers at Berkeley, Stanford and Ann Arbor.

He is the editor of the Indian Journal of Political Behavior, a newly established scientific journal, and would like to receive manuscripts from social scientists in the U.S. and Canada. His address:- Department of Political Science, Berhampur Univ, Berhampur, Orissa, India 760007.

- Shailarani Misra, wife of well-known Oriya writer Durga Madhab Misra (I.G. of CRP, Calcutta), is visiting her daughter Swadha and son-in-law Pradeep Rath of Bay City, Texas. She herself is a short story writer with many publications.
- Basanta Kumar Nanda is visiting his son Jaya Prakash Nanda of Baltimore. He is from Puri town.
- Braja M. Pradhan visited the USA and Canada for 8 months between June-82 to January-83. He visited his sons Dhiraj and Tanuj Pradhan in Detroit and daughter Gayatri and son-in-law Bibudh Bastia at Saskatoon, Canada.
- Jagannath Rath and wife are visiting their daughter Runu and son-in-law Jogeswar Rath of Safford, Arizona.

MEMBERSHIP DUES: should be mailed to the following address. OSA's family membership is 15 dollars and single membership is 8 dollars per year.

Pratap Das Treasurer, OSA Inc. 13309 Wedgeport Lane Germantown, MD 20767 Tel: 301-428-9017
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Orissa Society of Americas
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ORISSA SOCIETY OF AMERICAS

Newsletter ----> Vol 2, 1983

Editor - Jnana Ranjan Dash
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EDITOR'S NOTE

JULY 4TH. AT THE NATION'S CAPITAL

In its 14-year history, OSA members had never seen such a convention. It was the most attended and the most elaborate convention ever! The final outcome was a grand success - due to the thoughtful planning and hard work on the part of the Washingtonians. An important message came out: the convention is the most significant event annually and it is getting very popular amongst the OSA membership.

Let us recount what happened at Washington. Never before have so many Oriyas from so many different cities congregated in one place for two days. Here is a sample: Jatindra Kanungo and family from Labrador City, New Foundland (800 miles north east of Montreal); Jogeswar Rath and family from Safford, Arizona; me and my family from San Jose, California; Dilip Satpathy and family from Los Angeles; Pramod Senapati from Hollywood; Sanjib Behera from San Diego; Sitikantha Dash from Minneapolis; Kiran Senapati and family from Pensacola, Florida; various people from Toronto, Alabama, Nashville, Knoxville, Louisville, Cincinnati, Chicago, Detroit, Virginia, New York/New Jersey area, Buffalo, Vermont, and Pennsylvania. The total headcount reached close to 500.

The July sun was harsh! Given the added dose of humidity, the situation brought back nostalgic feelings of Orissa's July days. As we arrived on Saturday (July 2nd.) at the Tower residence of Bowie College, the parking lot was getting full. The trip from the parking lot to the registration desk was brisk due to the sudden encounters with so many friends! There was excitement all over. The whole campus was in turmoil! It resembled a wedding atmosphere from back home - relatives from long distances arriving, local hosts rushing by with no time to stop, kids running away with newly discovered friends, youngsters ganging up to plan immediate

activities. Some early arrivals sat cross-legged on the lawn, engrossed in card games - albeit oblivious to the pandemonium surrounding them.

The registration process was well structured. A package was handed out to every registrant containing a souvenir (excellent!), general instructions regarding the convention and a map-guide to Washington. The souvenir contained messages (see elsewhere), agenda of convention activities and the new OSA directory. Almost 100 families had registered by Saturday night. Then followed dinner. Afterwards the crowd was entertained at an open-air 'mehfil'.

Sunday was full of activities. Besides business discussions, there were children games program, an elaborate stage performance of songs, dances, skits, and one-act play. The Sunday dinner was excellent (thanks to Jagannath Rath and friends). By Monday noon, everyone had left. Just like the aftermath of a festive occasion back home, people were saying unenthusiastic good-buys. Requests to visit each other continued between departing parties - so also the persistent reminders to call each other periodically.

With this, our Washingtonian friends have set a very high standard towards the scope and grandeur of the annual convention. Our congratulations, especially to Pratap Das, chairman of the organizing committee, for making a project of this magnitude so successful and memorable!

WHAT ELSE IS NEW?

Many things. Sikandar Alam, the noted singer from Orissa is visiting the USA and Canada. He has given performances in New York, Huntsville, Chicago, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Washington, Toronto and Boston. This was possible by some enthusiastic friends from the New York area. Local chapters played a key role in making individual programs possible.

Two Oriya films have arrived in the USA, thanks to Pratap Das of Washington D.C.. They are: Akhi Trutiya and Srikrushna Rasa Lila. The movies are being circulated to various chapters for local viewing. Again, this is the first time Oriya movies have come to the USA. It is our goal to make it a recurring event, preferably through video cassettes (these two are 16mm copies).

SENDING NEWS TO ORISSA.

On many occasions in the past, various people have taken the liberty of sending news items pertaining to OSA activities, to newspapers in Orissa. We have heard complaints from many friends that such coverage is erratic and at times not balanced.

Newspapers in Orissa have been communicated recently to discard, from now on, any news items sent by individuals other than the OSA executives (president, vice-president, secretary/treasurer and editor - no one else). These four are the only authorized people to send news to Orissa regarding OSA activities such as the convention. Anyone else can send news regarding personal matters; however for OSA activities individuals should go through the OSA executives for any suggested news items.

PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

- Hrushikesh Acharya and family have been living in Jamaica for last year. He is on assignment with ALCAN on behalf of Indian Aluminum, Hiraakud. His son Kamal Acharya has completed his Masters in Computer Science from Florida Inst. of Technology, Melbourne, Florida.
- Rabi Kanungo is spending his sabbatical year in India, mostly at the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad. Another Oriya who teaches industrial psychology at IIM is Sashi Mishra, who got his Ph.D. from Univ of California at Los Angeles (UCLA).
- Sanjay Mal has joined Princeton University, New Jersey for post graduate studies in Chemical Engineering. He completed his B.Tech at I.I.T. Kharagpur(1980) and M.Tech at I.I.T. Kanpur.
- Debendra Mallick has joined Intel Corporation at Santa Clara after finishing his Master's in Mechanical Engineering at University of IOWA, Ames. He is a graduate of I.I.T.(Kharagpur), class of 1980.
- Jayadev Misra has joined Stanford University, Palo Alto for one year as visiting professor in the computer science department. His wife Mamata joined IBM's San Jose research group for the year. They are residents of Austin, Texas.
- Prabeen Misra joined Cornell University, Ithaca for Ph.D. in veterinary sciences after completing his Master's work at University of Saskatchewan, Canada. His younger brother Abinash Misra is attending University of Saskatchewan in the department of Political Sciences.
- Srikanta Mishra will start his Ph.D. in Mining engineering at Stanford University this fall. He finished his Master's program at University of Texas at Austin.
- Subhransu Mishra will start his M.B.A. at Alabama A & M University at Huntsville this fall. He is the younger brother of Surya Mishra of Chicago.
- Jayant Mohanty has joined University of Texas at Arlington for post graduate studies in Electronics Engineering. He is graduate of R.E.C., Rourkela from the class of 1982.
- Sapan Panigrahi has joined University of Texas at Arlington for post graduate studies in Chemical Engineering. He is graduate of R.E.C., Rourkela from the class of 1982.
- Sudhakar Rath has completed his Ph.D. in Psychology at Queens University, Kingston and will be leaving for Orissa soon. He teaches Psychology at Utkal University, Vani Vihar.
- Shaibal Roy from Cuttack has joined Stanford University in the department of Computer Science. He graduated from IIT, Kharagpur in 1983. His predecessor from the 1982 batch is Devika Subramanian (PGM holder), who is doing her Ph.D. in Computer Science at Stanford. Devika is a resident of Rourkela and is the daughter of Prof T. N. Subramanian of Regional Eng. College, Rourkela.
- Sunil Sarangi and family have arrived in New Mexico for two years from I.I.T. Kharagpur. Sunil used to live in Stonybrook and Pasadena prior to returning to India in 1976.
- Dilip Satpathy and family moved to Topeka, Kansas from Los Angeles on a new assignment with Bechtel's

power division.

- Kiron Senapati has moved from Alabama to Pensacola, Florida on a new job.

15TH. ANNUAL CONVENTION OF OSA - 1984 JULY

Next year, the New York chapter has taken the responsibility to hold the annual convention. Probably, a panoramic site in the garden state New Jersey will be selected. The expected attendance will be very high due to the proximity to so many groups of Oriya friends. Get your plans ready for next year. Details of the convention will be mailed sufficiently in advance to help your planning process. In the mean time, you can contact Mana Ranjan Pattanayak (215-493-8770), president of OSA NY chapter for any questions or suggestions.

ORISSA NEWS

- Manmath Nath Das, noted scholar and professor of History, has been selected as the Vice Chancellor of Utkal University, Vani Vihar. He replaces Mahendra K. Rout (Chemistry) who retired.
- Prafulla K. Pati, formerly professor of English at Ravenshaw College, has been nominated as the Vice Chancellor of Sambalpur University, Jyoti Vihar.
- The law and order situation in Orissa has deteriorated to a new low! Recently Lakhman Mohapatra, a former MP from Berhampur, was murdered in broad daylight in front of hundreds of people on a main street in Berhampur. Police arrested a couple of individuals in distant places within Orissa. Personal vendetta seems to have motivated such a ghastly act!
- Many friends who recently got back from Orissa said one thing: corruption is at an all time high. Everyone talks about 'percentage' for any routine transaction, meaning a portion of the money-on-flight to be given as bribe to the responsible officer. Such demands have become the institutionalized norms and everyone talks about such things freely. How unfortunate for a state that is still considered as one of the most backward states within India.

- On the industrial front, Orissa keeps alluring a lot of entrepreneurs from within and outside the state. There is Orissa Export Promotion Council besides the established IPICOL. A free trade export promotion zone (a la SEEPZ, Santa Cruz) is proposed for Orissa in Paradip. This is the 3rd. such outfit in India. At the annual convention, officers from India Trade development group (New York) provided information on this free trade zone in Paradeep. Many interested people attended the session and got various handouts containing important info.

LETTER TO EDITOR

From Guelph, Ontario

Dear Editor:

I must agree completely with Pepi's (Manasinha) letter in the last OSA newsletter (Vol. 1/83). I look forward to reading each newsletter. I wish I could contribute something to the OSA. I guess I'll get my chance in a few years.

As for conventions and picnics, there hasn't been one that I haven't enjoyed. I've been to every "annual picnic" ever held for the Oriyas up here since 1971 (the first one!). I've been to two in the States. Washington area in 1978 and Detroit in 1980. I enjoyed both of them thoroughly and I look forward to attending as many as I can.

Unfortunately, the apathy as of late has been disheartening. I sometimes feel that I'm one of the few that enjoy these gatherings. I hope that this is not true. I certainly do not want to lose hold of my heritage. I regret the fact that I cannot write or speak Oriya well.

At any rate, I hope there are other Oriyas who feel the way I do and will try to keep the OSA going.

Yours Sincerely,

Raj Kumar Dash (Bapi - 21)
31 Argyle Drive
Guelph, Ontario, Canada N1G 2P3

Note: Bapi is the son of Arta and Basanti Dash of Guelph, Ontario. He is studying Computer Science at the University of Waterloo.

MESSAGES TO THE 14TH. ANNUAL CON-
VENTION

Following messages were received on the eve of the annual convention.

President Ronald Reagan, The White House, June 29, 1983.

I am pleased to extend greetings to all those gathered for the Convention of the Orissa Society of Americas.

Since its founding, the Society has worked to preserve the culture and traditions of your homeland while promoting the active participation of its members in American life.

All Americans can take great pride in the contributions of Americans of Indian heritage to our nation. A major part of the success of our nation stems from the vast diversity of our people and all our citizens have done to enrich their communities throughout our history. You play a valuable role in furthering the pluralistic development of America.

You have my every wish for a most enjoyable and rewarding meeting.

Prime minister Indira Gandhi, New Delhi, April 16, 1983

I have your letter of April the 5th, informing of your 14th. Annual Convention.

Thank you for inviting me. I wish I could come but I am sorry this is not possible. I hope the functions will go off well.

A.N.D.Haksar, Charge d'Affaires of India, Embassy of India, 6/23/83

I am glad to greet the Orissa Society of Americas on the occasion of its 14th. Annual Convention on July 2 and 3. Such conventions serve an important cultural and social purpose. I hope that the present occasion will provide yet another opportunity for the joint remembrance of our cultural heritage.

Orissa is a significant and beautiful part of the Indian panorama, and its contributions to our composite cultural traditions go back to historical times. It abounds also in "temples" to our modern development and progress.

I am confident that the convention will help the people from India in general and Orissa in particular, now living in the USA, to show to their fellow citizens in this country some of the riches of Orissa's heritage and thus help to strengthen further the understanding of India. I wish the convention every success.

Radha Nath Rath, editor 'SAMAJ' & President, Servants of People Society, New Delhi. June 2, 1983

...I am supremely happy that you are organizing the 14th Annual Convention of the OSA at Washington in the first week of July. We are proud of our Oriya friends who have been serving in different parts of the world including the most developed countries and have earned reputation for their integrity, efficiency, devotion and high standard of character and intellectual attainments. In the last devastating cyclone and floods followed by a spell of serious drought in Orissa, we had to organize emergency relief as also to execute rehabilitation program under great difficulties. The financial assistance and the deep sympathies and cooperation extended by our Oriya friends from abroad, particularly from the USA and Canada, not only gave us substantial support in redressing the miseries of the distressed people, but also enabled us to approach the most needy and suffering people in the distant interior of our state. Until now more than Rs. 50,000 has been received from our Oriya friends in USA and the same has been utilized both for emergency relief and rehabilitation programs. We are going to publish a full report of our activities giving details of the assistance we have received from our friends in the country and abroad both in cash and kinds. You have been a pillar of strength to us in executing sustained relief operations and we are glad to say that your kind assistance and deep sympathies have been greatly appreciated by the suffering poverty-stricken people as well as by the intelligentsia of our country.

I wish I could visit the U.S.A. so that I could come in direct contact with you friends and apprise you about the present situation and the intense suffering and terrible loss the people have suffered and the present state of affairs which make us greatly disappointed and apprehensive about the future. The weather is behaving in a very erratic manner and the spell of draught still continues. There is scarcity of drinking water and food grains. There are certain areas where starvation deaths have already occurred. Unless both Governmental and public efforts are made to augment our resources in cash and kind in order to meet the minimum need of the suffering people, 1983 may prove to be a year of disaster as the agriculture may further suffer. There have been localized tornadoes and unseasonal rains resulting in destruction of buildings and houses and loss of 'rabi' crops.

Kindly convey our most grateful thanks to all our Oriya friends in U.S.A. and Canada for all that they have done and we look forward for their further

assistance. May God help you all to do better in the professions and to be in a position to serve your poor countrymen as far as they lie within their power and resources.

Wishing your Convention all success and with best wishes.

A POEM

My Dog

BY

Devjani Mishra
New York

If I had a dog, I would call it Army.

If Army had a puppy,
I would call it Navy.

If Navy had a puppy,
I would call it Air Force.

If Air Force had a puppy,
I would call it Marines.

If Marines had a puppy,
I would call it weapons.

If Weapons had a puppy,
I would call it Russia.

If Russia had a puppy,
I would call it U.S.A.

If U.S.A. had a puppy,
I would call it...
NUCLEAR WAR!!!!

Note: Devjani is 9 years old. She is the daughter of Uma Shankar and Shanti Mishra of Dobbs Ferry, New York.

EVENTS AND DISCUSSIONS AT THE 1983 ANNUAL CONVENTION.

Following was the agenda at the annual convention.

Saturday, July 2

- 5 P.M. - Registration
- 7 P.M. - Dinner
- 9 P.M. - Mehfil

Sunday, July 3

- 8 A.M. - Breakfast
- 9 A.M. - OSA Executive Committee Meeting

- Youth Corner

- 11 AM - OSA General Body Meeting
 - Clown & Magic Show
- 1 P.M. - Lunch
- 2 P.M. - Business Investment Seminar
- 3 P.M. - Cultural Show
- 8 P.M. - Dinner

Monday, July 4: Breakfast and official closing of the Convention by noon.

A few topics were discussed with the following highlights:

- It was decided that nominations for OSA executives during the election year will be solicited via the newsletter. The election committee will conduct the electioneering process and results should be announced at the annual convention, where the official handover of responsibility will take place.
- The membership dues will cover from July 1 of current year until June 30 of next year. Attendees of the annual convention will pay the membership at registration time. Others should take the initiative of mailing the membership dues to the secretary treasurer (see last page for address).
- In future, a student member will be included in the OSA executive committee. The OSA president will do the selection.
- There was a lot of discussions about last years convention at Minneapolis and opinions were divided regarding the validity of OSA paying for the losses. A committee will resolve this issue in future.
- Samar Bhuyan (New Jersey) suggested certain ways to make OSA a dynamic organization. He asked for creating stimulating environment for children and creating environment for visibility within the Indian community. He suggested OSA to participate in the India day parade in New York. He deplored the poor financial health of OSA and urged everyone to be little more sincere in sending membership dues.
- Duryodhan Mangaraj (Ohio) suggested that the president and the executive committee should provide goals and objectives to be reached during their office and give an

account of what they have achieved each year at the convention or via the newsletter.

- Subhas Mohapatra (North Carolina) talked about issuing a membership card with expiration date (or life membership) to each member of OSA with Social Security Numbers printed on top right.
- Birendra Nath Sahu (New York) suggested OSA's participation in the India day parade in New York city.
- Rasik Tripathy (Maryland) talked about current election in OSA to be conducted in an open manner rather than hand picked.
- Much discussion took place regarding the election process. Mana Ranjan Pattanayak, who conducted the last election, explained the procedure he followed. He expressed repeatedly his dismay at the extremely poor response from members (is it the lack of general interest or plain apathy?) in sending nominations, etc. He compiled the results from whatever responses came back to him.

Due to our geographical diversity, mail ballot is the only practical approach, the success of which depends greatly on active participation of each and everyone.

- Pritidhara (Jini) Mohanty (Dundas, Ontario) suggested that OSA should pass a resolution asking the US Government to ban all nuclear weapons.
- Jayashree (Ranu) Mohanty (East Lansing) pointed out the lack of women members in the OSA executive body. While women share a lot of responsibilities in group activities such as the convention, they are conveniently ignored in general discussions. Even they are not given simple recognitions! Everyone should be more sensitive.
- Ladu Patnaik looked at the previous years in retrospect and gave an account of the various achievements such as making the OSA a tax-deductible organization, sending relief for flood victims.
- Satyabrata Shaw presented the financial report of OSA. Total revenue for the period ending June 30th, 1983 was \$5903.69 and total expenses for the same period was \$5462.58, a major portion going towards the flood relief. Fund balance as of June 30, 1983 is \$2066.80.

- The handover of OSA financial accounts should happen immediately between the past treasurer (Satyabrata Shaw) and the new treasurer (Pratap Das).

REGIONAL NEWS

CALIFORNIA

The annual picnic was held during the July 4th. weekend at Wawona park, near Yosemite. About 50 people attended, coming from the Bay area as well as the Los Angeles area. Besides elaborate eating, there were sightseeing trips to Yosemite park, various games and informal 'mehfil' programs. This years conveners were Sarat Misro (Cupertino) and Kirttan Behera (Torrance). For next year, Prasanna Samantray (San Jose) and Purna Patnaik (San Diego) assumed the responsibility.

NEW YORK

Friends in the New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania states had a two-day outing over the labor day weekend. The rendezvous was the Bell Plain National Park, a very panoramic site on a lake front. A building was reserved for accommodating everyone. Activities for the youngsters were emphasized throughout the program. There were games with prizes for the participants. There was volleyball match between teams consisting of fathers on one side and their sons on the other side. Samar Bhuyan tried his best to be the impartial umpire.

Sikandar Alam was there providing music via a CASIO synthesizer (he plays it soooo well!). The two Oriya movies were screened. Almost 170 people participated in the event. Some friends from the Washington area attended also.

Uma Mishra and family hosted the catered dinner on Saturday. Mana Ranjan Pattanayak organized this outing.

VISITORS TO USA AND CANADA

- Sikandar Alam, the noted singer from Orissa, is visiting the USA and Canada. He lives in Bhubaneswar and works for the Government of Orissa.
- Jaya Krushna Baral is visiting the USA (Washington). He is from New Delhi.

- Saubhagya Misra is visiting USA (Cedar Rapids, IOWA) to attend an international writers conference. He teaches English at Ravenshaw college. He is a writer (Oriya and Indo-anglican) with many publications.
- Om Prakash Mohapatra and family visited the USA and Canada from Dhahran, Saudi Arabia. They used to live in Toronto before.
- Laxmidhar Nayak and wife, parents of Binod Nayak of Washington D.C. are visiting the USA since June. Mr. Nayak is a prolific writer (books include 'Singhbhum-ra Gopabandhu') and he is the first Oriya to produce an album of Poetry recital (abruti), himself being the author and the reciter.
- Bansi Dhar Panda and family visited the USA during May. Their oldest son Bunu studies engineering in northern Michigan. Mr. Panda is a the founder-chairman of the IMFA (Indian Metals and Ferro Alloys) group of industries.
- D. R.(Lulu) Patnaik visited his brother Mana Ranjan Pattanayak. He lives in Finland. His younger brother Krushna C. Mohanty, who lives in Bergisch Gladbach (near Cologne), West Germany visited the USA and Canada.
- Mr. Ramesh Satpathy and wife are visiting their son Dilip Satpathy and family at Topeka, Kansas.
- Mr. and Mrs. Ramaswami Senapati, parents of Nag Bhusan Senapati of Ohio are visiting the USA. Immediately upon arrival, they attended the 14th annual convention at Washington D.C.

TRAVELOG: CINCINNATI AND TOPEKA

They told me that Cincinnati means 'The seven hills'. I saw hills but did not count. Upon arrival at the airport you are reminded that you are in the state of Kentucky. Then the highway, the bridge over the Ohio river. Then you are in downtown, rather sparse on a sunday evening. Let us meet the Oriya friends. Ranjit Rath is a doctor and

has lived here for many years. His sister Itishree and husband Sukanta Panda live north of downtown in a nice residential area surrounded by rolling landscape, old trees, but new houses. Then you can meet Harlal Chowdhury and family. They are active in making the Ohio chapter of OSA more dynamic. Another Oriya friend in this area is Rabi Rout, an aeronautical engineer, with family. Everyone will tell you that you can meet northern Ohio Oriyas by driving only 100 miles north, or meet Kentucky friends 100 miles south.

It so happened that I had to go to Topeka from Cincinnati, before heading west. Reaching the Kansas City airport on a hot August afternoon, one instantly notices the flat landscape of Kansas. This is the city of the famous football club and everyone talks of football. Topeka is 100 miles west of K. City. The drive is tedious being affected by the sleepy mid-American landscape that seems so quiet! Then you reach Topeka and it does not take long to get used to the town. Again, it is awfully quiet at 7 pm. But with a Oriya friend in this town, life gets much more exciting! Dilip Satpathy and family just moved in from Los Angeles (where they stayed briefly after 3 years in Spain). A suburban Topeka house reverberates with loud conversations in Oriya amidst dinner. Everyone gets excited: everyone includes Dilip and Chhabi Satpathy, their daughters Sujata, Sarita and son Suraj, and this editor. Soon it is 1 in the morning and time to get back to the hotel. Every good thing must come to an end!

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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