

## MEMORIES OF MR.SISIRA NANAYAKKARA

Sisira who has been a staunch supporter of Guru has sent us the following humorous anecdotes.

1. Clifford Ratwatte as a practice more often than not made his after dinner speeches in Sinhala . On one such occasion in his speech he said (being the 1<sup>st</sup> batch at Guru) (Api thamai kreeda pittaniya hadanna “*pus capuwe*”(we were the People who cut the earth to level the playground).

Lucien in his speech referreing to what ceremony said in his own inimitable style said “ Clifford said he cut the earth to level the playground. But he never said about the “*Gul-Kapilla*”.

2. During the Old Boys cricket match – after a couple of beers iin the pavilion. “A certain V I P Old Boy – A Colleague of mine since 1940 prep school days – the previous night in the dorm asked Lucien “munda can’t you arrange a room for a night at Goldi Sands Tour Hotel?. Lucien remembered this during the match when the V I P Old Boy who went in to bat with me (I having made 20 odd ..... runs got out while the VIP was Stone- Walling till he finally got out in frustration unable to get the score board ticking.

Lucien asked him once he returned to the Pavilion why he didn’t “*hit*”?

VIP’s reply “Munda you know even in my college days I was not a hitter but an opening Bat”:

Munda’s Reply: The why the bloody hell did you ask me for a room at Goldi?

**Mr.Sisira Nanayakkara has also sent us the following Anecdotes etc:-**

"(1) Mr.Packeer  
"Nana what is HNO<sub>3</sub>

We had just started Chemistry and I knew the answer. But, it just would not come out. So, I told him. "Sir it's at the tip of my tongue."

Mr.Packeer "My God, Spit it out - it's Nitric acid"  
I had mis-spelt Potassium with one "S"

(2) Mr.Packeer  
"Always remember, if the Ass is not in Potassium you're the Ass".

(3) Mr.Packeer "Nana, your Father knew my father and my father knew your Father.  
That does not mean that you should not know the Equation

That is, the class of teacher we were fortunate to have. "Wit" played a part and relieved the students of a normal class which at times can be boring.

Some of his students ended up as leading Doctors and Heads of Mercantile Firms, while yours truly "obtained a Phd in the University of Experience"  
(Phd=Passed High School with difficulty)

EXCERPTS FROM AFTER DINNER SPEECHES MADE BY LUCIEN FERNANDO (MUNDA) A FORMER VICE PRESIDENT OF THE OBA (AS ETCHED IN MY MEMORY)

(1) At the Gurutalawa AGM Dinner on one of Dr.Hayman's visits

Bishop Lakshman Wickremasinghe in his speech said, that he was asked to leave Royal having got caught smoking at the age of 14 and after coming to Gurutalawa, under the guidance of Dr.Hayman and Father Foster, ending up as the Bishop of Kurunegala.

Lucien in his speech said "Gentleman, going by what the Bishop has said, I who started smoking at the age of 10 might end up as the Pope (Whether Bishop Wickremasinghe was joking, I do not know)

(2) Dinner hosted to Bradman Weerakoon at the "Eighty Club" on his appointment as Regional Director, International Planned Parenthood Federation

I heard some of the speakers talking about Bradman's achievements both on and off the field and his lifting Gamini Goonesena for a six in the Royal Thomian 1948, in spite of which we failed to win the match! Now Bradman is going to an Institution where he will be asking us to Draw the Stumps when we are about to win the match."