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MEN (AND WOMEN) WHO TOUCHED OUR LIVES

17. DR.HAYMAN (1929-1963)

a) DR.R L HAYMAN - A MAN IN A MILLION

Distinguished old boys, members and friends of the Old Thomian Swimming Club, gathered on the evening of Wednesday, the 20th to perpetuate the memory of Dr. R L Hayman - truly a great and noble man, by unveiling is portrait.

Befitting the man, who in life was not given to any form of ostentation, the ceremony though simple was a meaningful and purposeful one. Mrs. Mary Hayman wife of Dr.R L Hayman, who is presently here in connection with the Golden Jubilee celebrations of S.Thomas' Gurutalawa, of which her husband was the headmaster in 1942, was at hand to lend patronage to an important event in her life as well. She was met on arrival by the president of the club, N T Perera, and other officials, whilst little Adriana Achilles presented her with a bouquet.

Mr. Bradman Weerakoon an illustrious old boy of STCMTL and STC Gurutalawa, speaking on the occasion said that it was a pleasure and a privilege, to be associated at a ceremony such as this, which was a mark of respect to this devout man, who did so much and played a leading role in the life of S. Thomas'. There was, he said, two significant phases to Dr. Haymans' life at S. Thomas'. He began in 1929 at S. Thomas' Mt.Lavinia went over to S.Thomas' Gurutalawa in 1942 and came back again to serve at Mt.Lavinia.

He was verily a courageous man, who through his dedication, unflagging zeal and sacrificial nature did much to mould the lives of young men in the years gone by. The other part of his life was so rich and varied covering every aspect of sport. He donated a swimming pool to S.Thomas' in 1934 and later on gifted one to S.Thomas' Gurutalawa.

He observed it was a time when swimming pools were unheard of, it was a novelty then. He reminded the gathering that Dr.Hayman personally coached Allan Smith the Olympic Diver, and the Arndt brothers who excelled in the annual two-mile swim. He did not confine himself to swimming alone but had a tremendous love for all forms of sports and humorously jibed that Dr.Hayman displayed a preference being a leg umpire at cricket and a linesman at soccer matches. Mr.Weerakoon stressed that their evinced from Dr.Hayman the four salient qualities of a Thomian that of simplicity, a sense of justice and fair play, a practical caring love and generosity and above all a spirit of tolerance.

There was no intellectual arrogance in the man, who at all times championed the cause of the underdog. Yes, he was an affable mild mannered man, who carried with him all the virtuous qualities with stoic calmness..... Hayman in all what he laboured for in love.

Mr.Clifford Ratwatte, a senior vice president of the club, yet another distinguished old boy,

opened up by saying that he was ordered (summarily) by Justice Douglas Wijaratne the donor of Dr.R L Hayman's portrait, not only to speak of his confidante, mentor and friend, but also to perform the act of unveiling. With a touch of nostalgia Mr.Ratwatte spoke endearingly of this teacher of mathematics, physics, love of sports who did his best to promote swimming in this land of ours. He was a firm and kindly man, who instilled discipline in the boys by involving them in scouting, hiking and shramadana. It could be rightly said, that it was he who first got students to clean building sites, roads and the playground and more often than not, he acted as a building supervisor. Dr.Hayman he said had a special concern for the domestic staff, who help him to build S.Thomas' Gurutalawa.

There were no statues for him, but what he left behind were the buildings, which bear eloquent testimony to all what he said and did. To a man who gave of his time, energy and money, he was much more than the first Headmaster, more even than a founder, for with all his goodness and expertise he was verily a servant of God. So saying, he unveiled the portrait of that much-loved highly -esteemed Dr.R L Hayman of S.Thomas. Mr.Amita Abeysekera, a committee member of the club, delivered the vote of thanks at the close.

We reminisced as we sat for a fellowship get together where we recalled of what was said of Canon R S De Saram, the warden, when he got together with Dr.R L Hayman as sub warden. "A combination was established at the helm of Thomian affairs, engendering one of the vintage periods of the school, spanning a little over thirty years. It was the rarest blends Homer and Einstein". On the commemorative tablet in the Dr.R L Hayman's science laboratory are inscribed the words which epitomizes the man "to spend and be spent in the service of others". But we could never forget the poignant words he uttered with so much feeling when he some years ago said "You belong to one of the best schools in the world a school with splendid traditions and a most honourable name and I charge you to try and hand down those traditions and that name to those who come after you untarnished and unimpaired. Be proud being Thomians and make the College proud of remembering you among its sons".

It is fitting that his portrait found a place in the Old Thomian Swimming Club of which he was a founder member way back in 1956 and for the reason that he did so much for swimming.

By Richard Dwight

b) APPRECIATION - A TRIBUTE TO DR.R L HAYMAN

Tall, well built and powerful. Dr.Hayman strode the Thomian scene as a giant during all his many years of service in Sri Lanka.

He spent much of his time at St.Thomas' College, Mt.Lavinia, as Sub-Warden, and as Acting Warden in the absence of Canon R S de Saram. They were both Oxford men. Dr.Hayman then served as Headmaster of St.Thomas' College at Gurutalawa. He met and married his wife during the war years. She too became active in college life since her arrival in 1944, and has been his supporter and co-worker ever since. We share with her the thanks-giving and joy of a life well lived, dedicated humbly to the cause of education in Ceylon. We are aware of the Christian inspiration that motivated R L Hayman into selfless service. We thank God as each of us recall our special yesterdays when Dr.Hayman had some part that he played in our college life. Fraser, Senior and Hayman were all in the line of dedicated educationalists sent by the Anglican Church in Britain to serve in Ceylon. They were all giants in their day and dwarfs like us were able to see far as we stood on their giant shoulders. Dr.Hayman also lavished financial generosity on STC. The swimming pool at Mt.Lavinia remains as a lasting memorial to his love for the college. If we want a true memorial to R L Hayman we must as to Mt.Lavinia and look around. The Old Boys in London are already thinking in terms of a Hayman Memorial Scholarship/Foundation which is an indication of the love and respect they have for one of their old chiefs.

Two extracts from the Old Testament many not be out of place here. The first comes from Ecclesiasticus -Chapter.44-

"Let us now praise famous men, and our fathers who begot us..... Giving counsel by their understanding..... men of learning for the people. Wise were their words in their instructions. Rich

men furnished with ability. Living peaceably in their habitations. All these were honoured in their generations. There be of them, that have left a name behind them to declare their praises. Their bodies were buried in peace and their name liveth to all generations. Peoples will declare their wisdom and the congregation tells out their praise."

The second quotation comes from Proverbs- Chapter 1-

" That men may know wisdom and instruction, understand words of insight, receive instruction in wise dealing, righteousness, justice and equity; that prudence may be given to the simple, knowledge and discretion to the youth; the wise man also may hear and increase in learning, and the man of understanding acquire skill."

In ecclesiasticus we pay our homage to the memory of the late Dr.R L Hayman. In the Proverbs passage we may detect the high ideals that motivated this gentle giant. The last word comes from the world of cricket, so familiar to Thomians near and far.

Learie Constantine, that great West Indian test player once said:-

"Stick to it in Cricket as in life. God Bless You. And, when you have played your innings out and returned to the pavilion, as we all must do, to meet the Skipper of us all, may you and I be welcomed with those words that always warm the heart- Well played Sir."

R L Hayman, Master of Arts, Doctor of Philosophy, educationalist, teacher, friend and guide, may you rest in peace. *Esto Perpetua*.

Rev. Dr.Charles Karunaratna

c) APPRECIATIONS - HE LEFT HIS STAMP AS A DEDICATED TEACHER

The upper most thought of all Thomians with the sad announcement of the death of Dr.Hayman on May 7 at Bournemouth would have been the imperishable memory of a dedicated giant, whose remarkable qualities of head and heart, whose lovable personal qualities so endeared him to the men who sat at his feet, that their entire future lives were influenced by their beloved school master.

Scorning the prospect of a Research Fellowship in Oxford University, and the rewards and glamour of ascending to the top most height of the academic world well within his grasp he desired no audience more selected than his own students, and the tinsel glitter of public acceptance left him cold.

Dr.R L Hayman, M A D Phil, Oxon. M B E, came to Sri Lanka in 1928 as a school master to St.Thomas College, Mount Lavinia, with his colleagues, Mr.Keble and Mr.Wheat and it was the first time that a man with a doctorate came as an Assistant School Master to any school in Sri Lanka.

He was in fact a true craftsman deeply skilled in that most exacting and delicate of skills - the fashioning of character and personality of the boys he taught- at times transmitting base metal into gold. He moulded gentlemen whose guiding spirit in life was loyalty to the school and country.

He was a fine synthesis of culture, spirituality and childlike simplicity. His modest and unassuming nature cloaked both his profound learning and the grandeur of his soul.

Those of us who were privileged to see this all giant of a man- impeccably dressed in white and always a plain blue tie, courteously saluting in response to the greetings of little smiling school boys- heard the quiet courtesy and dignity of speech, whether in assembly or personal conversation, could not be otherwise impressed with his deep sincerity.

At Mt.Lavinia he encouraged an out door training course with the sea as a setting and up in the hills of Gurutalawa, he organized the "Outdoor Training School", a vacation course (open to students of other schools as well) designed to give the participants instructions against an adventurous background of scouting, hiking, boxing, swimming, life saving and first aid. This idea was itself inspired by the famous "Outward Bound Training School" at Gordonstown, Scotland.

He believed that.

" Two voices are there - one is of the sea,
One of the mountains -each a mighty voice."

We cannot help but enumerate-much against his will the gifts to St.Thomas college.

About 50 years ago, he gifted to St.Thomas' College, Mt.Lavinia a fine swimming pool.

He methodically, day after day, instructed the boys in the principles of scientific swimming, which is difficult to do in the sea with the rough currents during the monsoon. Later he presented the Gurutalawa Branch with another swimming pool.

The Fives Courts at Mt.Lavinia and at Gurutalawa the Chapel, the Science Laboratory and the swimming pools are standing monuments of his unlimited generosity. But the help and the many scholarships he has given to poor students at College and the University to enable them to continue their higher studies remain unknown.

This is best expressed in the words of Rudyard Kipling.

"Not as a ladder from earth to Heaven

Not as a witness to any creed, But single service simply given

To his own kind in their common need."

Had he made no benefactions to the schools, yet he left his stamp on St.Thomas' College as a first class dedicated teacher. With an M A Phd of Oxford. Physics and Mathematics were his forte. He had the ability to impart to his pupils the desire to apply their own knowledge to practical purposes and think on original lines.

Dr.Hayman returned to England in 1963, after 34 years of teaching at St.Thomas' College.

Though he was Sub Warden at Mt.Lavinia and Head Master at Gurutalawa, he considered himself a teacher. It was only two months ago that he and his wife visited us and stayed at Gurutalawa and Mt.Lavinia being the last of his four visits after he left. It was indeed a joy to meet them.

Dr.Hayman exerted to us, Thomians, an influence far greater than we realized, great Head Master a learned teacher but specially as a man of character, steadfast faith and simple kindness, he will live long in the thoughts of all who had the privilege of knowing him.

Dr.Hayman, is survived by his wife Mary, who shared his total commitment to the College and the students, and when they were in England, Thomians and friends never failed to call on them, and even stay there a few days.

It was always an experience to partake of their quiet but bounteous hospitality - Truly an upright honest man - if ever there was.

-GUY DE SILVA
Moratuwa

d) **TRIBUTE TO A HEAD MASTER-HAYMAN OF GURUTALAWA**

1) To pay tribute to one whose sense of sacrifice and generosity was endless is no easy task The depth or reach of the pockets in his khaki shorts was proverbial. So was his commitment to Gurutalawa and the hundreds of students he moulded and nurtured to be responsible citizens in Society. He did reach deep in to his pockets in order to give us all he had. He took away nothing when he left Sri Lanka. The standards and traditions created, maintained and handed down live on. Truly he lives in the hearts and minds of all who passed through him. No Tribute can therefore do justice to the greatest of Head Masters who created at one time the best boarding school not only in all Sri Lanka but in the whole of Asia.

2) Dr. Hayman thought teaching was his vocation. He was sent by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel to Sri Lanka. His services were first sought by Trinity College, Kandy. He had however joined the staff of S.Thomas College, Mt. Lavinia in 1929. He was a fine Maths and Physics Teacher. He involved himself fully in the life of the College. He became a great House Master. He was reputed for his generosity. He took a keen interest in Scouting and was the Master in Charge. It was however in Swimming that he made his special contribution to sports in Sri Lanka. In the early thirties there weren't many swimming pools. Dr. Hayman stepped in and gifted the school with a superb Swimming Pool, the first of its kind in a school. He pioneered Swimming and Life Saving in Sri Lanka. Generations of Thomians and others owe him an immense debt of gratitude for having learned to swim. He went further. The Fives Courts, towards the Library, the prizes, the dormitories etc. nobody knows the exact amount. "Thalassa" belonged to him. He gave it to College in 1963 for a price paid by him 30 years before.

3) He was appointed Sub Warden in 1935. In 1942, when the College split up, he was appointed Head Master at Gurutalawa. He pioneered the foundation of an independent school belonging to

the Thomian Family with 56 boys. Gurutalawa also benefited from his generosity. The Swimming Pool and the Dormitories are some. Keble House and the land attached to it were his parting gifts. Dr. Hayman is supposed to have opined that the value of a gift lay in how the recipient made use of it. One wonders what Dr. Hayman's thoughts would be if he saw the campus today.

4) According to Professor C C De Silva, a one-time member of the College Board of Governors, "No single man has done so much or given so generously both materially and intellectually to S.Thomas' College or to any other school for that matter in Ceylon at any time of her long history. I think I can pronounce that as an indisputable, incontrovertible statement of fact." On the memorial tablet of the Science Laboratory which was named after him are inscribed the following words " to spend and be spent in the service of others is his greatest privilege."

5) In 1964, the M B E was conferred on Dr. R L Hayman by the Queen. His name appeared in the New Year Honours list. Truly Dr. Hayman, Tea & Cricket may be considered Britain's greatest gifts to Sri Lanka.

6) In 1945, when food shortages were the order of the day and there was much dissatisfaction, he had lunch with the boys seated on a bench in an open shed, which passed as a Dining Room. It is said that in a short time, he underwent a marked reduction in weight.

7) In 1948 the number of Boarders increased to 134 and 04 Day Boys. Now, Gurutalawa was attracting boys on its own merits.

8) Although, Gurutalawa may in a sense be described as an "accident" or a place that had to be improvised during a time of crisis and one would have expected it to have wrapped up once the crisis was over it so happened that from the late 1940's right up to the 1960's, parents clamoured to send their sons to Gurutalawa in preference even to Mt. Lavinia. Thus almost all students left S. Thomas' Prep School, Bandarawela for Gurutalawa, whilst some discerning parents of students of S.Thomas Prep School Kollupitiya too sent their sons after Standard 5 direct to Gurutalawa in preference to Mt. Lavinia. Gurutalawa was also the recipient of students from schools all over the Island. Word had spread of that wonderful school in the Hills superbly administered with the discipline necessary for the times by Dr. Hayman. By 1962, it can truly be said that there was no School like Gurutalawa, anywhere in Sri Lanka.

9) He was a great lover of wild life and nature. The scouts looked forward to their camps at Wilpattu and Yala. His photographs and films of wild life and Sri Lanka were proverbial. There was little he did not know about the country. He was the operator of his Projector through which he gave the students that little entertainment Gurutalawa had on Friday evenings of movies preceded generally by his feats of filming of the Jungles and the Wild Life of Sri Lanka and other interesting events which had taken place in College.

10) He used to be in the Sick Room helping Mrs. Hayman. He also taught the Lower 6th and Upper 6th Students, Physics and Mathematics apart from handling the Administration of the school. After tea, he could be seen daily at the Swimming Pool till late evening coaching Swimming and Life Saving. With his "On your marks, get set, go !!" ringing out like a Pistol Shot in the revered environment of the Pool and Chapel. He supervised the boys as they served dinner at the hatches.

11) Mrs. Hayman assisted him in his noble endeavours. She devoted herself to the Sick Room, the cleanliness of the Dining Hall and Kitchen, the animals and the fauna and flora of College.

12) This was a man of whom it is said that those who had the good fortune to come under his influence never ever forgot him. The impact he had on their lives has been lasting.

13) My own memories of Dr. Hayman commenced even before I became a student at Gurutalawa. My elder brothers preceded me at Gurutalawa from S.Thomas Prep School at Bandarawela. Dr. Hayman utilizing his personal relationship with the school authorities at St. Michael's - Batticaloa had established an annual event of several teams proceeding to that school for various sports activities. He never failed to drop in at our home on his way to Batticaloa. I have vivid memories of my parents entertaining Dr. Hayman to tea in the garden and he made a note of the 3rd brother who would follow suit at Gurutalawa. Years later I was myself to scoot off on the way to Batticaloa and have a good meal at home with friends and collect some pocket money.

14) Dr. Hayman conducted school assembly on one day of the week making all important announcements, appointments of Prefects, as well as games captains etc. He was very fond of comparing shortcomings in our Society with the position in U K. and was wont to say "When I was in England....." This would raise a loud hum from the assembly of 300 odd students which of course Dr. Hayman was quite used to and he would carry on regardless.

15) Another stormy entrance he would make would be a short while after the commencement of

evening prep when he would make a sudden appearance and announce, "someone has interfered with the lighting and bulbs in the verandah. This is too bad. There will be school on Saturday." This would again raise the proverbial loud hum from the gathered 300 students and Dr. Hayman would turn on his heels utterly unconcerned, march out of the hall visibly angered by the mischief to the electrical circuit, but ignoring the hum.

16) He had his Lunch and his Dinner without fail, every single day in the Staff Dining Room, which was a part of the Students' Dining Hall . We had no doubt that the masters' behaviour was more curtailed during meal times than that of the students by Dr. Hayman sitting at the head of their Table. My recollection is that he would not sit at the Staff Dinner Table and start eating until the last student had been served at the hatches and taken his seat.

17) As Head Master, he together with Rev. Foster made it a daily part of their routine to visit each Dormitory after dinner during Room Time and thereby got to know each boy individually.

18) He would visit us in our Dorms at least 3 days of the week. He made these visits after Dinner and during room time. Of course, all the students were in any event well disciplined and there was no loud noise at that time. The Prefects who were given a separate cubicle were much respected and entitled to enforce strict discipline. In fact, there was no need for a Supervisor or Master to enforce discipline in the dorms. Dr. Hayman used to come to the bedside of almost every student. He would talk to almost everyone.

19) His visiting the dormitories after dinner during room-time was a very regular occurrence and so he would in fact meet each student at least thrice a week in the dormitory. Behind him would come Father Foster also more or less to fool around with boys whilst Dr Hayman's visit was more of a serious nature. Following Fr Foster would be Ariyadasa the sick-room attendant. They would all generally be armed with torches.

20) Sometimes, there was some delay on the part of parents to remit School Fees. These occasions were very rare, few and far between. I have heard it said that Dr. Hayman used to wait sometime and thereafter, write a personal letter to the parent concerned saying that the parent may have by an oversight forgotten to settle the fees and requesting to make payment. He would never make this an issue. In fact, we understand that he was generous enough to pay out of his pocket, the School Fees due from several students whose parents had some difficulties.

21) The End of Term Reports had a separate section for the comments of the Head Master. As he knew each and everyone of the 300 Students in his care, his comments were short, terse, to the point and very appropriate. I have with me all my Reports from 1958 - 1962 and in each one of these he has highlighted the core-issues, relevant for that period of that time spent in College, whether it was in relation to Studies in each subject, Sports or Health.

22) The way he inter-acted with the Minor Staff, the Tutorial Staff and Staff handling Administration and Accounts coupled with the care of the Students, made the entire population of the campus one big family. The Students who were generally of the ages 12 -16 or so all had regard and affection even for those on the Minor Staff with whom they came into contact. This could be said of the Ground Boy - Gunadasa; the Sick Room Boy - Ariyadasa; the Chef - Manis; the Driver of the School Van - Van Simon; the Ringer of the School Bell - Bell Simon; the Driver of Dr Hayman's car - Piyasena. These were all institutions, no less. Apart from the Minor Staff, all the members of the Staff with whom Students came into contact were also treated with that much more respect. The entire Tutorial Staff lived on the Campus. They all partook of the same food and had meals at the same time in the same Dining Hall. Only the married members of the Staff who had their own separate quarters within the Campus had their meals in their own quarters. I attribute this sense of closeness and affinity to the overall influence Dr Hayman had on everybody. It would be true to say, he held the entire network together and he was the Cog around which everybody else gathered.

23) To us, life at Gurutalawa meant firstly Dr Hayman and secondly, Father Foster and thereafter the rest of the staff and minor staff at Gurutalawa who were also important factors.

24) Dr Hayman traversed different areas of the campus from time to time. Going through the Junior Dormitory Complex, or along the corridors, used to be a common sight. Nobody, not even he, would walk across the quadrangle where the grass grown with care was held sacred. In fact, any student bold enough to walk across would find himself summarily punished by the Prefects or a Master. When Dr Hayman was sighted, students on the opposite side of the quadrangle would stand up with respect until he passed that area. Such was the regard and respect he commanded.

25) His attire would normally consist of a short sleeved shirt with small checks, a pair of baggy

khaki shorts with 2 side pockets more akin to two kit bags, for those pockets would hold innumerable articles apart from 2 handkerchiefs, one in each pocket. The articles and tools in his pockets composed a utility travel kit from which he would draw out and utilize various implements which became useful as he trudged along the Campus. He would wear brown shoes with brown stockings. It would be a rare sight indeed to see Dr Hayman in full suit. That would be on very special occasions like the Prize Giving.

26) He would encourage and ensure that the band of his favourite students particularly those in his Physics Class arranged to have the Science Exhibition in the old laboratory adjoining the canal on the day of the Prize Giving. Each exhibit would be explained by either one or two students who were responsible for it, under the patronizing eye and care of Dr Hayman. This would be an annual feature looked forward to by all.

27) On one occasion, a new entrant who was in the Lower 4th and the Winchester Dorm had turned up for swimming during games, i.e. 4.30 to 6 p.m. This boy, short of build and without realizing that the swimming pool had some gradient, ventured to an area which was beyond his height, without realizing his folly. Seeing this boy in some difficulty, I waded across, stretched out and took him to firmer ground where the level of water was manageable for him. Dr Hayman who was standing by the side of the pool towards the deep end had witnessed this insignificant incident and walking up to the other end of the pool, called out my name, nodded when he got my attention, mouthed the words "Thank You" and went away. That night during room-time, on his visit to De Saram Junior he came up to my bed and thanked me once again saying that he had seen what I had done. That was the nature of the man.

28) I occupied the upper bunk at the extreme end of De Saram Junior whilst the lower bunk was occupied by my friend the Neuro Surgeon now in U.K. On my bunk between the side fender and the mattress, I would always have stacked 5 or 6 books mostly novels which I would read during room time etc. when not having a chat. Each time Dr.Hayman visited us, in the dorm, he would make it a point to closely examine the books tacked up, make a few comments and move on. He never failed to mention in his remarks under Head Master's Report at the end of term, the reading habit. But always added that I needed to work at my Maths or that I was very weak in Maths, and perhaps the elder brother could help me.

29) Another regular feature was the payment of pocket money. The amount was 0.50 cents per week. Each class and there were 5, i.e. Lower 4th, Upper 4th ,5th Form, Lower 6th and Upper 6th, received pocket money on one day of the week, so that each month one would receive generally Rs.2/-. We were expected to queue up in the corridor outside Dr.Hayman's office and walk in and receive the -/50 cts. The coins were kept in a box and the pocket money was handed over by Dr.Hayman himself to each student across his table after making an entry in his Register. Father Foster used to stand at the doorway with his hands out-stretched. Being quite an imposing figure, it was not easy to be an "artful dodger". This meant that one had to forego a part of the pocket money to the Lord. That part would be 50% of the receipt. In effect one would drop the - /50 cts in to his hand and pick up a -/25 cts coin from him unless of course Dr.Hayman had given two -/25 cts coins. The wiser of the boys opted to take the pocket money once in 4 weeks which meant you got off with doling out to Fr.Foster only -/25 cts for the whole month. I do not think he ever got wise to that one. If one were to avoid Fr.Foster at the doorway by crouching or creeping, he would let out his customary growl and make a pretence of trying to grab you. The return match would be in the night after dinner during room-time when on his visit to the dorm, Fr.Foster would engage in a mock attack while the boy would be pretending to be asleep or even if awake, trying to grab him around his bed. All this was part of life and Dr.Hayman would quietly smile at the antics of Father Foster whether it was outside his office or in the dormitory.

30) In September 1958, the Prime Minister of the Country Mr. S.W R D Bandaranayake was assassinated at his residence in Rosmead Place by a Buddhist monk. School was in session during that time. Dr. Hayman made a sudden appearance in the dining hall at a time when the entire school was assembled, may be at lunch, and in a voice choked with emotion, broke the news and walked out as it was too much for him. It did surprise us how this event could have moved him so much.

31) I also remember in the earlier part of 1958, when also the school was in session, communal riots broke out on a fairly large scale across the island. Sinhala people living in the North were harassed and were evacuated. Tamil people living in the South were the target of mob violence. The barber of the area where my parents lived and who happened to be the only Tamil resident was out-numbered. He was assaulted, tied on to a small cart used to transport water in half

barrels and taken along the highway by a gang of hooligans who were mouthing obscenities whilst mercilessly assaulting the hapless man who could not budge an inch. The procession came to a halt opposite the gate of our garden. The assaulting continued. The poor man was screaming in pain. My eldest brother who happened to be at home rushed up to the gate wondering what the commotion was. Seeing the predicament of the poor man he rushed down once again to alert my parents. My father who was having a bath stopped mid way and together with my brother rushed upto the gate to prevent further mischief. However, by that time, kerosene oil had been poured on the man and the mob had set fire to him. Nothing could be done to prevent further harm. The man died there. Dr.Hayman who had heard of this incident, in his Prize Day Report and Speech paid a glowing tribute to my parents and my elder brother for the valiant efforts made in trying to save the life of the man. So also during this period saw the foul murder of a Master of our time at S.Thomas' Preparatory School, Bandarawela who was travelling by bus with his father to visit his relative who was a P W D Overseer in the area. They were dragged out of the bus and murdered in cold blood. None of these culprits were brought to justice and they continued to live among the community to which they brought so much disgrace.

32) We were in school during those troubled times but as far as I recollect, the external mayhem and ugly incidents had no bearing on our life in school. We were untouched by the events happening outside and indeed one of the foremost lessons we learnt was that all of us were equal members of the same human race. There was no distinction between different ethnic groups and some of the most enduring and sincere friendships between boys of different ethnic groups were born whilst we were students at College.

33) We have heard so much of Dr.Rollo Hayman. We have personally experienced various aspects of his life with us; what he has taught us not by preaching but by being a living example of all that is good, right, clean, courageous and fair. Thomians who have made their homes in far off places all over the Globe will never forget this great Head Master. They all feel the debt of gratitude they owe to him. We will continue to sing his praises and feel the loss to College and the country due to his early departure.

34) In this Diamond Jubilee Year of the College we look back with a sense of pride, that we had the privilege and good fortune of having as the head of our school forty years ago a giant in every sense of the word, to whom we owe so much; from whom we gained so much; who moulded our characters, our very lives and the immense loss to our country by the exodus of such persons whose absence is felt so very much in these days when student indiscipline seems to be the order of the day.

L.J. June 2002

e) THE GREAT GOODNESS OF DR.R L HAYMAN

LEAVING Ceylon shortly for permanent residence in England is Dr.R L Hayman, the energetic and scholarly Warden of St.Thoma's College, Gurutalawa. The loss is irreparable. Dr.Hayman has been one of the finest patrons of sport Ceylon has ever known.

Coming out to Ceylon some 30 years ago, the Doctor was first attached to St.Thomas's, Mt.Lavinia. he immediately threw all his spare-time energy into the cause of swimming.

It was he who conceived the idea of the Thomian swimming pool. It was his money, running in to thousands of rupees, that built that pool.

Once the pool was built, the Doctor threw his boundless enthusiasm in to coaching and training the young Thomians into swimmers and water polo players. The boys loved the fun and competition. This was the first college swimming pool in the island. Naturally the Thomians carried everything before them in swimming and diving in those early days.

Dr.Hayman was completely satisfied and started looking around for ways and means to make Ceylon more swim conscious. This he did through the Ceylon Amateur Swimming Association for which he has been a Vice-President for some 25 years. He was also closely associated with the Otter Aquatic Club and gave them invaluable help and guidance in the building of their Buller's Road blue tiled tank.

When the scheme for a junior Thomian college in the outstations was mooted, Dr. Hayman was an automatic choice as Warden. To Gurutalawa the Doctor went. Soon his expert planning and enthusiasm turned this school into one of the finest of its type in the East.

He again built a swimming pool at the up-country college. Gurutalawa soon became a symbol of clean, healthy, living and top flight educational service. Behind the symbol was the burning ardour of Dr. Hayman and his wife, who too, was there from the early days of the college.

The Ceylon swimming and diving nationals start today and will continue until Saturday.

The chief guest at the meet will be Dr. Hayman. This is a fitting tribute to someone who has given his whole life to the cause of swimming in Ceylon. The name of Dr. Hayman is remembered with gratitude by sportsmen big and small in every nook and corner of the Island.

A NEWS ITEM APPEARING IN A DAILY NEWS PAPER IN 1963

f) Dr. HAYMAN: -

An incredible human being God created with unique qualities that I have not seen in anyone to date. One who didn't limit the word magnanimity simply to its word, but displayed its reality to its true meaning. He was a mobile "Workshop" wearing a baggy pair of Khaki Shorts up to his knees, with large pockets stretching down to the bottom band of his shorts. A frequent "Night Walker" as we all know, visiting every dormitory after Dinner and chatting freely with all the Boarders. During these visits if he came across a malfunctioning electrical circuit board or any kind of electrical problem, you could see that huge right hand sliding into his right side pocket coming out with mini screw driver and a mini plier. What comes out of his left pocket would be a piece of wire, insulation tape and the balance requirements needed for the job, within minutes the job is successfully completed. His pockets were so large that one could not believe the items he was carrying. The shortest way to put it was "You Name it and He had it."

His first step into a Dormitory brought about the observance of a "Pin Drop" silence. He did the talking and the Boarders did the listening. And the answers to questions were short and precise.

I vividly remember an incident that took place when I was the House Prefect of Garnier Junior. My Co – prefect being Harsha Weerasekera. On this particular day I was conducting "Dorm Prep" when one boarder who was on the "upper bunk" attempted to break the monotony of silence by standing up and bringing down his Sarong, to display 'his family

jewels' (You know what I mean!). I warned him politely twice, but he did not respond. Thus I was compelled to walk up to him climb the bunk and slap him on his face. He turned his head to avoid the slap, and I ended up slapping his right ear. His ear started to bleed profusely leaving me spellbound and apologetic. However my pride overcame my desire to apologize.

Thus I stood firm justifying my action, his exaggerated reaction by rolling and screaming did not upset the other boarders as he was very unpopular amongst them. Without wasting any more time I carried him to the sick room with the assistance of a couple of boarders for treatment. I became jittery and nervous when I saw Mrs. Hayman and Ariyadasa. Without wasting time inquiring into the incident Mrs. Hayman treated the wound and whilst mentioning that an old blood boil had ruptured, she quietly inquired as to how this happened.

I boldly explained the incident in detail irrespective of what the consequence would be. I was shocked and amazed at the anti-climax when Mrs. Hayman bluntly told the victim

that I had done him a favour saving him from undergoing a minor surgery. The victim being defeated and with the added humiliation stared at me with disgust and anger. If stares could kill I would have died. Dissatisfied with Mrs. Hayman's comment he informed his parents by means of a phone call.

The very next day the father of the victim was seen storming towards Dr. Hayman's Office, fuming with anger. When he reached the entrance to the office I happened to be standing outside awaiting my call to obtain permission for a hike over the weekend. Although he couldn't identify me, I had a funny feeling that he was "so and so". However I decided that he should take my turn to meet "Doc". His vociferous complaint was given a fair hearing by "Doc". Doc immediately called my name as he was aware that I was waiting outside.

Sweating is hard to come by in Guru. I Believe, I do did sweat through fear with my imagination running riot, hoping that Doc would repeat Mrs. Hayman's decision. With Doc that was "Expecting too much". As soon as the old man (victim's father) saw me he started gesticulating and embarrassing me. Doc made a dead stop to all his nonsense with one word "stop" and wanted to know my version. On explaining my side of the story Doc stood up and said Mr. XXX if you wish to bring up your son in my College the way you want you can take your son with you now. If you want him to be brought up the way I want, you can leave him to me and go. These strong words were said by Doc looking down at the table. Mr. XXX became spellbound. "A lion turned into a pussycat". The inquiry ended instantly and with a shake of hands, the dejected and defeated Mr. XXX walked out. Doc kept me back and advised me strongly whilst expressing his satisfaction over my dedication for discipline, but issued a final warning in no uncertain terms to refrain from physical response to wrong doers.

That's one of the unique qualities of Dr. Hayman. "May his soul rest in peace with eternal bliss in heaven".

Mohamed Jabir Junaid 1958-1964

g) PRESENTATION AT UNVEILING OF THE PORTRAIT OF Dr.HAYMAN AT THE OLD THOMIANS SWIMMING CLUB

I consider it a privilege to participate in a ceremony which makes good a serious lapse in gratitude. Dr.Hayman's contribution to Swimming at S.Thomas' Mount Lavinia should have been recorded in an appropriate manner far earlier. It is to the credit of the Old Thomians' Swimming Club that this lapse has been made good, and it is indeed fortunate, that we have been able to do so in the presence of Mrs.Hayman who it is a great pleasure to have with us once again.

Of all the many sports that Dr.Hayman liked and on occasion took part in, swimming was possibly the favourite. Many of us present here, will remember as children being taught swimming personally by him at Mount Lavinia. When we were at Winchester, at the beginning of the 40's, swimming was actually a class period. S.Thomas' was possibly the first school in the country to give swimming such high priority. The effort Dr.Hayman made produced not only for the school, but for Sri Lanka, many fine swimmers. We recall on this occasion people like Allan Smith who went on to complete at the Olympics and the Arndt brothers whose exploits in the 3-mile swim in the Mount Lavinia sea were unmatched.

Dr.Hayman took his love for swimming to Gurutalawa too. Many of us remember the shramadanas that he organized digging the Swimming Pool and making it suitable for

competition. He would use his one-piece, swimming costume, a relic of past times, not for swimming but for hard manual labour. Today's ceremony at Mount Lavinia exemplifies in particular, two facets of Dr.Hayman's extraordinary, rich and varied life. It reminds us firstly of his Mount Lavinia connection, from around the year 1927. Many of us are familiar with the contribution Dr.Hayman made to Gurutalawa and are apt to overlook the fact that for several years he was a pillar of strength at Mount Lavinia, expending his time, energy and personal wealth in building the school.

The other facet of his life which this occasion calls forth is his genuine love of sports. It was not only swimming, but every other outdoor and indoor sport too that received the full measure of his enthusiasm and his time. Cricket, Football, Boxing, Chess, Photography, Athletics, Outward Bound, to all of these, he gave to the full. Most of us first met him after his prime and possibly did not see him participate in these sports. We saw him more as a referee, and umpire, rather than as a player. But even there, his performance was a joy to behold, full of attention and energy. In Cricket, the intricacies of the new L B W law deterred him from being head umpire. That was Fr.Foster's job. But he would eagerly volunteer to be leg umpire. And when he gave a batsman stumped or run out, the manner of his decision with upraised arm and crouched body left you in no doubt that you were completely and totally out. I wish to take this opportunity of recalling if I may, four qualities that Dr.Hayman mostly exemplified. They are, I think, very much the elements of what is called the Thomian tradition.

First, there was his simplicity. This showed itself in a total lack of arrogance, intellectual or otherwise although he had much to be proud of. He was full of humility and almost shy in his public appearances. There was no place in his life for false show or humbug. The second of the qualities that impressed us all was his innate sense of fair play. He didn't merely talk of justice, equity and equality. He actually practiced them. He was able unerringly to do the fair thing. Not to strike below the belt, nor to hit the man who was on the ground. Instinctively he went for the underdog. He had the courage to stand against the majority opinion if right was with the minority.

Dr.Hayman also had the quality of caring; compassion which all our religions teach. This meant for him giving time to others, to be generous not only in money, but sometimes, and more difficult, with time. All of us, his pupils, must keep with us copies of the numerous postcards and letters he would write us. Especially in the holidays, to write to him was to invite an immediate reply in his very legible small handwriting. How much he could compress in to a postcard or an aerogram. There was also with him a total involvement with his students and their families. He knew not only our parents, but even knew what our sisters or younger brothers were doing and would write to congratulate them when they did anything note-worthy.

The final quality was his tolerance. He had a deep understanding of the human condition and of the frailties of human-kind. So he could both forgive and forget. With his humaneness was included a puckish sense of humour with which he would embroider his enthralling stories.

As the years pass and as Dr.Hayman too passes into legend, it is good to periodically remember him at functions such as this and the sterling contribution he made to the school and all of us. It has been said that emulation is an extreme form of adulation. If, as we remember Dr.Hayman and we strive to emulate his qualities, some of which I have attempted to enumerate, I think we will be affording him the due respect and regard that he surely earned by his work here. This to me will be his lasting contribution.

Not alone the buildings and swimming pools which he created at great personal cost, but the qualities that he exemplified, and which may live, even in some small measure, in his pupils. In that event and to that extent, his memory will never die.

Bradman Weerakoon
20TH MAY, 1992

h) S.T.C. GURUTALAWA DIAMOND JUBILEE

My Lord Bishop, Chaplain of S. Thomas' College, Friends.

It is appropriate that in our celebrations of the Diamond Jubilee of the College that we should set a little time apart to focus our minds in remembrance and thanksgiving on the past Headmasters of the College who governed its destiny and influenced our lives.

Inevitably our thoughts turn to Dr. R.L. Hayman and Rev. A.J. Foster who pioneered the school. But first let us remember Mr. Leslie de Saram for his gift of the beautiful 36 acres Farm without which this College would never have been. It was the collective wisdom of that time that such an act of munificence was in reciprocation for all that he had observed Dr. Hayman giving freely out of his own pocket to the development of the school at Mt. Lavinia. Be that as it may, we remember him with gratitude for the gift given.

The truth of Ralph Waldo Emerson's aphorism - that properly there is no history only biography is borne out most forcefully in the life of S. Thomas' College Gurutalawa and lives of its Headmasters. In the Commemorative Plaque to the Dr. R.L. Hayman Science Laboratory, there is this inscription –

"To spend and be spent in the service of others was his greatest privilege" and these words have been taken from a letter written by Bishop Chapman to his brother-in-law just before he set sail for Ceylon as it was then known to become the first Bishop of Colombo and to found S. Thomas' College at Mutuwal. There are many parallels between Bishop Chapman and Dr. Hayman but this is not an occasion to follow that trail.

Dr. Hayman became a legend in his life time. Tomes have been written about him none of which he read. He knew the penchant to over praise and the danger of crossing the line to flattery which he abhorred. Prof. C.C. de Silva said it all " No single man has done so much or given more generously both materially and intellectually to S. Thomas' College or any school, for that matter, in the history of Ceylon. I think I can pronounce that as an indisputable, incontrovertible statement of fact.

Address delivered by Mr. P.S. Duleepkumar at the Service of Thanksgiving and Commemoration held on Dec, 3rd 2002

i) A SCHOOL BOY REMEMBERS - DR.R L HAYMAN

In 1962, when it was found that the minor staff who were performing duties in the dining room, had to be released earlier than usual due to some Labour Department intervention, at the request of Dr Hayman, the College Prefects under the Supervision of Sunil Watawala willingly swung into action laying the tables and serving food. The Prefects were allocated a cubicle in each Dormitory where 02 of them would occupy a bunk-bed, then a novel feature but now common place. Their cubicle was considered a sacred place and no one dared venture forth. The Prefects also were called upon to take a turn of duty during morning and evening prep until the master on duty arrived or the latter considered there was a sufficient infringement as to warrant

an admonishment in the form of a caning, generally 4 to 6 cuts and would request the Prefect to take charge of the Hall and take the victim to Dr Hayman's office for procurement of the cane. As there was pin-drop silence in the dining hall where the students were doing their Prep and as the caning was administered in the passage just outside Dr. Hayman's office which was situated adjacent to the dining hall, the smack of the cane alighting on the buttocks would be loudly heard by the 300 boarders in the hall. Each cut would be accompanied by the usual hum which would grow in volume depending on the number of cuts received. On one occasion was heard distinctly the sounds of a struggle. The offender had turned on the Master. May be he felt enough was enough. The following morning saw him depart from College for good. Discipline was given absolute priority. Nobody escaped.

On another occasion, the Senior Class, i.e. school leavers, were on their way to the class rooms situated in the main block. The culvert immediately below the main class room block is at a sharp bend and the tall hedge/fence covers oncoming traffic, vehicular, the two legged or any other variety. There was a much respected Master who taught English and who insisted on the correct pronunciation. He was walking ahead of his class and he suddenly found himself confronted by the Stud-Bull, 7 feet long, tons of hard sinewy muscle. It was a wondrous sight to see the stud bull having suddenly come upon our Master stopping on his tracks and measuring up the English Master. The keeper of the stud-bull was too slow to react. The Master who always carried his black umbrella pointed it at the stud-bull to a point in between his horns, reminiscent of a gladiator in the Roman arena confronting the charging bull. The umbrella inches away from the dangerous horns of the stud bull made a few small circles. The stud bull in keeping with the charm of the moment kept turning his head to time with the umbrella. The English Master in spotless white, national costume, black umbrella in hand also reminded the students of Mandrake the Magician performing one of his feats. This was a sight to behold. Unfortunately, one or two of the students could not take it much more and let out a few cackles. The cackles increased in volume. The Master did an about turn and went back to where he came from. Perhaps the confrontation necessitated some refreshment. The students proceeded to the classrooms, the rare incident just witnessed having been concluded to everybody's mirth and laughter and forever etched in memory.

Whilst the students were seated in the class, a message was received that they had all been summoned by Dr. Hayman. On assembling outside his room, he uttered a few words "what you have done is bad and unforgivable. Do not repeat this. Now come into my room one at a time". The Head Prefect of the College was called in first and received 6 of the best with the inflictor's energy at its maximum potential. He came out rubbing his buttocks. Being an Eurasian, no doubt there would have been several shades different where the cane would have alighted.

Next summoned were the College Prefects. All of them were in this class. In fact each of them, received 5 of the best. They came out rubbing the pain. Then were summoned the others and administered 4 cuts. The consensus was that there was no difference in the pain inflicted by the first cut on the Head Prefect and even 150 cuts later on the last man. Everybody received the punishment like men and went back to the class room where of course the English Master had several pairs of eyes glaring at him during the class. The incident was soon forgotten. That was discipline and the manner in which Dr. Hayman administered it. The more important or authoritative the student he was made to feel humble and received the more severe punishment.

[An Article by LJ](#)

j) DR.HAYMAN DEPARTS

Dr. Hayman made a valiant effort to obtain O/Level proficiency in Sinhala, but he abandoned plans he had nurtured to settle down in this Country and made ready to leave. One important step he took in terms of the future of the school and to maintain continuity, was to form in 1959 the Old Boys Association with the assistance of a senior Old Boy who from his pioneering days, had kept in touch with the school and with Dr. Hayman. 1962 marked Dr. Hayman's last Prize Giving. Numbers of the

school stood at 300. His departure was a 'wrench' particularly considering his love for the country he lived in for over 35 years but the socio-political changes and its assault on "privileged" public schools identifying even men like Dr. Hayman as an Imperialist Foreigner, left him with little option but to leave. He had one regret - not enough Thomians had taken to the teaching profession. The last day of Dr Hayman's stewardship was Thursday the 14th March 1963. The last notice signed

by Dr Hayman before he relinquished office, was a notice of the Sinhala Literary Society which he signed in Sinhala. His vision for Gurutalawa was of Gordonstoun, an English Public School with special emphasis on outdoor life and inculcation of the spirit of adventure. He himself was a great lover of wildlife and nature, and many films he made are still in reasonably good condition.

His school routine in later years, will find most Headmasters wanting. After breakfast he would go to the surgery and assist Mrs Hayman. He taught a full timetable in the Lower 6th and Upper 6th forms in his subjects of physics and mathematics. After tea, he was at the swimming pool coaching swimming, diving and life saving. At dinner time, he very often supervised, with the Duty Master, the serving of dinner. After dinner he rounded off the day with a visit to the dormitories, a duty he shared with the Chaplain, Canon Foster.

Dr Hayman would be the first to acknowledge the role of Canon Foster in all these endeavours. They were complementary, like two sides of a coin. Neither should the role of Mrs Hayman go unrecorded. Devoted to the sick room, her penchant for cleanliness, particularly in the kitchen and dining hall, was an important contribution to the well being of the boys. Her love of animals and her concern for the protection of fauna and flora in the campus was an inspiring example for all.

There was a final Assembly, the walk between a Guard of Honour by the Boys to the main gate. Farewells to the staff; before the sad drive out with Mrs Hayman in his blue Holden car. Winchester House would in future be called Hayman House.

P S Duleepkumar

k) Dr. R L HAYMAN

In one of his four visits to Sri Lanka after his retirement, Dr. Hayman confided in a moment of introspection. "All in all, I have been a failure". We all know that the truth is exactly the opposite. But he was using a particular yardstick. He explained that not half enough Thomians had taken to the teaching profession. In a way he was anticipating the present problems of the Diocese in manning its schools, with the leadership required. Perhaps also there is a hidden irony in his confession which bears out a great pedagogic principle that a good teacher defends his pupils against his own personal influence.

P S Duleepkumar

l) DR. R. L. HAYMAN RECOLLECTIONS:

(A SYMPOSIUM BY HIS CONTEMPORARIES AND STUDENTS)

COMPILED BY THE EDITOR

“In the year 1928 I went to England on short leave, and while I was there I met four men who wanted to return with me to Ceylon; they came and subsequently became members of the staff. One was Rollo Hayman, Doctor of Science of Oxford, who gave many years of devoted service and who also made some generous gifts to the College, notably the Swimming Bath and I believe, the Fives Courts.”

The Rev. K.C. McPherson. Warden (1926 – 1930)

“How I came to join the staff of the College is a long story. Briefly this is what happened. While doing research at Oxford I was approached by a representative of Trinity College, Kandy and asked if I was interested in considering an appointment there. At that time I had no intention of going abroad and dismissed the suggestions without much thought. Later when I decided to work for a missionary society, it seemed best to choose one concerned with education in Ceylon, because I had known the then Bishop of London, when he was at Oxford. So I wrote to the S.P.G. and the society put me in touch with S. Thomas’ College. My parents were against my choice on the grounds that they had spent a lot of money on my education and that their efforts might well prove to be wasted. In order to reassure them I put the matter to the S.P.G. and was told that Ceylon was a country working its way to independence, and that it needed men who would train Ceylon boys, so that in due course they would be fitted to take over the running of the country. For this purpose the country would need statesmen, doctors, engineers, scientists, agriculturists etc. and S. Thomas’ College was trying to provide an education which would enable its boys to launch out on such careers. To this end anything I could teach in England would be equally useful and acceptable in Ceylon. So in the end my parents rather unwillingly allowed me to follow my wishes

Dr. R.L. Hayman. “Recollections of S. Thomas’ College Mount Lavinia before the War.” S. Thomas’ College Mount Lavinia Jubilee. 1918 – 1968

“S. Thomas’ has had no better friend than Dr. Hayman. I was fortunate to have him as my boarding house master. (Miller House). He was never too busy to attend to any problems we had at any time. After every test and examination, streams of boys, both day boys and boarders, would go to him to tell him how they answered the paper and to consult him as to whether they had tackled the paper correctly. He would gladly sacrifice his leisure to attend to them all. I don’t suppose there is any single person who knows all the generous acts he has done for the school.”

From “ **Not so Very Long Ago**” by an Old Boy.

S. Thomas’ College. Centenary Number.

Mt. Lavinia & Gurutalawa

“Gurutalawa is Dr. Hayman and Dr. Hayman is Gurutalawa”, so said Mr. Dudley Senanayake at a farewell dinner to Dr. & Mrs. R.L. Hayman at a Colombo Hotel. The dinner was organized for the Ceylon Amateur Swimming Association by Neville Jansz.

In proposing the toast to Dr. Hayman in a speech of great simplicity and sincerity Mr. Senanayake paid a fine tribute to the retiring Thomian educationist. Although in his time there was no swimming pool at the College – cricket, soccer and fives being the sports in vogue – Mr. Senanayake well remembered the work of Dr. Hayman who was his Physics teacher at the time.

..... At a dinner given to Dr. Hayman and his wife the previous evening by the old boys of the College, Mr. Senanayake had in a brilliant speech held over 250 people enthralled with fine raconteurism and a masterly recapitulation of the great contribution Dr. Hayman had made to S. Thomas' for over 35 years.

At that dinner Dr. Hayman had said that Mr. Senanayake held a Thomian record for eating 80 stringhoppers at one sitting. Mr. Senanayake said that he wanted to contradict this statement flatly. And this contradiction was going to be something different to the type of contradiction we were used to in these days. He said he had eaten only 70 stringhoppers and not 80.”

..... “Mr. Greg Roszkowski said that he had been closely associated with the work of Dr. Hayman in the cause of swimming from the early thirties. He recalled that in those early days of pool swimming the Otters had invited a team of international Japanese swimmers to the island.

But although the Otters sponsored the visit they were a small club in those days and had not the money to pay all the expenses. Dr. Hayman had with characteristic generosity come to the aid of the club by putting the swimmers up at S. Thomas'.

Mr. Roszkowski also pointed out that Dr. Hayman had made a great contribution to the building of the Otters Pool. It was not only his cash that he gave of freely; his technical contribution had been invaluable.

It was on his suggestion that the filtration system now in use at the pool had been adopted. Dr. Hayman had always shunned publicity but the monuments to his work were there for all to see”.

On his feet in reply, Dr. Hayman was in a happy, reminiscent mood He also mentioned that Dudley Senanayake was one of our earlier life servers. It happened this way. After a cricket match, Senanayake, Selvadurai and Roy Hermon had asked for permission to have a sea swim. This was granted. But Herman had been in the water for only a few minutes when he was seized with cramp in both legs. It was Dudley Senanayake who pulled him ashore.

From **Ceylon Daily Mirror, February 26th 1963**

...."He (Donald) is indebted to Dr. R.L. Hayman for having encouraged him in this line, when most other teachers would have frowned on such activities.

When he was a boarder in school Donald had to save his pocket money to buy the torch cells he required for his private experiments and was naturally worried as to why the cells ran down so soon. He asked Dr. Hayman why this was so and was told that if he used a thinner wire for the armature the cell would last longer. The next day Dr. Hayman found Donald with a whole mass of unwound wire trying to wind the armature with thinner wire. Dr. Hayman doubted whether the boy could succeed but as encouragement offered Donald and his friend one weeks free food at the tuck shop if he succeeded. Donald won the reward.

On another occasion Dr. Hayman had found Donald using a slide rule in his private experiments and calculations. He had to buy this for work in connection with a course in Engineering he was privately following through the British Institute of Engineering and Technology. He was shy to bring the slide rule to the class fearing the boys might think he was trying to show off but Dr. Hayman insisted that he should bring it to class every day as he would have to use it later on as well.

When Donald left S. Thomas' in 1940 with the intention of following higher studies in Physics & Engineering, Dr. Hayman stated in the certificate he gave him that there was no other boy he knew who was more fit for those studies."

Donald Gunasekera speaks of Dr. Hayman to a reporter:-

**"Captains of Commerce & Industry XLV: the Backroom Inventive Genius of Bentota".
From Times of Ceylon, November 1966**

"A party of school children was taken to be shown the swimming pool a long time ago and a few of the teachers met Dr. Hayman. One teacher happened to ask him about her younger brother in school. To her amazement he spoke of the student's progress in detail and rattled off "but last week he got nought in Mathematics, 62 in English etc". The other

teachers looked at each other, and they must have thought to themselves that they did not even know the names of some of the pupils in their classes.”

Guy de Silva “Farewell to Dr. Hayman of S.T.C.”

Times of Ceylon, March 19th 1963

“There was that unforgettable occasion when he carried his sense of duty and calling to lengths that to us in school seemed absurd.

He had returned from a scout trip suffering untold agony from severe sunburn. Blistered from head to foot and in veritable torture he had been ordered to bed and confined to his room by the doctor.

Students from his several classes in Maths and Physics were jubilant at the thought of weeks of anticipated off periods.

They hadn’t reckoned with Dr. Hayman and the kind of man he was. Not one class was allowed to go untaught. He summoned them to his room, and sitting awkwardly on a pile of pillows, armed with large poster paper for blackboard, he carried out his teaching as efficiently as he did in the classroom.

We marveled at his fortitude and determination, albeit swallowing our disappointment at opportunities lost!”

Bertie Wijesinghe. “Dr. R.L. Hayman.” S. Thomas’ College. Mt. Lavinia Magazine Term 2, 1983. Vol CVIII, No. 2

“Father Foster has paid a tribute to Dr. Hayman and I must endorse it on behalf of myself and of the Board of Governors. No single man has done so much or given so generously, both materially and intellectually to S. Thomas’ College, or to any other school for that matter in Ceylon at any time of her long history. I think I can announce that as an indisputable, incontrovertible statement of fact. He has given of his substance not till it hurt, but till it has almost paralyzed him. While Thomians young and old sing *Esto Perpetua* they should and they must link the name of Hayman with the College in that song for ever. Let us always praise famous men, wherever they come from, that is the duty of all civilized and cultured peoples.”

Professor C.C. de Silva. S. Thomas' College, Gurutalawa, Magazine, Term II 2 & 3, 1963 Vol 1-2

“Warden (de Saram) was the great classicist and humanist while Dr. Hayman was a man of many deeds and few words. Consequently we were indeed surprised to see him one Sunday evening at a Debating Society Meeting when yours truly was the principal speaker, the subject being “Democracy exposed.” It must be remembered that this was in the year 1940 with World War 2 raging in Europe and the future of the Empire at stake. In the course of my speech I quoted Sir Stafford Cripps, M.P., P.C. “One has only to look into the pages of British imperialist history to hide our heads in shame that he is British”. A cool silence followed when our visitor, Dr. Hayman rose and said, “As Sub Warden of this College I call upon you to stop”. Promptly I countered, “As Secretary of this Debating Society I bow down to the ruling of the Chairman”. Mr. J.G. Elliot (later Revered) the mildest of English gentleman torn between conflicting loyalties to the school and the society declared the meeting adjourned. I was ordered by Dr. Hayman to follow him to the warden’s bungalow which I did keeping a respectable distance of four yards between us. The upshot of this little drama was that the Debating Society was dissolved and reconstituted with a limited membership minus the incumbent secretary”.

.....”It was he who organized the College Social Service Society where this writer too was a member. We would visit the homes of the sick and the suffering with Dr. Hayman as guide and counsellor. It was here that we saw for ourselves the deep humanitarian feeling that influenced and motivated his every action. Our Secretary was “Ibba” Rupasinghe who in later life became the Director of Social Services”.

“Dr. R.L. Hayman – A Tribute” by S.K. Goonawardena. S. Thomas' College, Gurutalawa (1984) Magazine.

“During his spell as Acting Warden, when Canon de Saram was abroad, Mr. Wise presided at a school Prize Giving. There was an incident of great humility that we witnessed on this occasion. As old Thomians would know Mr. Wise was not a graduate but a First Class Trained Teacher. At this Prize Giving, since Mr. Wise was presiding and could not don a graduation cloak, Dr. R.L. Hayman, the great man that he was, opted not to wear his Oxford Doctoral Cloak. I never really knew Dr. Hayman but his towering personality and devotion to the College was an inspiration and strength to the boys at Mt. Lavinia.

“A Tribute to the Teachers of my Time” by Nimal Sanderatne, S. Thomas' College, Old Boys' association. Centenary Thomian Fair Souvenir & Guide.

m) DR. R.L. HAYMAN D. Phil Oxon - HEADMASTER 1942 – 1963

“An Institution is the lengthened shadow of one man”

R. W. Emerson

Dr. R.L. Hayman, first came to Sri Lanka in 1928 as an assistant master, at S. Thomas' College, Mt. Lavinia. His doctorate was in Science (Physics) and with his decision to become a teacher he left behind the prospects of a research fellowship in Oxford University and the rewards of reaching the very heights of academia.

He chose to serve his fellowmen in the most demanding of professions inspired foremost by his missionary calling – “To spend and be spent in the service of others” as the commemorative tablet in the Dr. R.L. Hayman Science Laboratory at S. Thomas' College, Gurutalawa, testifies.

He arrived in the turbulent days of Warden Mc Pherson and very soon evoked the admiration of all those connected with the school. He was appointed Sub-Warden in 1935 and with Warden R.S. de Saram made up a combination at the helm of Thomian affairs which engendered one of the vintage periods of the School's history spanning 30 years.

This was an era of staggering events and their historical consequences. The Great Depression was followed by the Second World War and in Sri Lanka the movement towards Independence quickened and brought in its wake the clamour for Free Education. But the War itself had the serendipitous outcome of the rapid expansion in the number of Thomian Schools.

First S. Thomas' Preparatory School, Kollupitiya was founded under another great educationist, W.T. Keble (1938) and then as the dangers of War threatened Sri Lanka herself, S. Thomas' College Preparatory School, Bandarawela and the branch at Gurutalawa in 1942.

Of his spell at Mt. Lavinia Mr. H.E.R. Abeyasekere doyen of journalists and a distinguished Old Boy of the School has written “..... S. Thomas' College had barely a decade previously been transplanted from Mutwal to Mt. Lavinia and had to embark on a costly building programme to discharge its responsibilities as a growing

school. It was a problem even to service its mortgage. Dr. Hayman proved to be both a first rate teacher of Science, as well as a veritable Rock of Gibraltar in support to Warden De Saram who had the worrying task of piloting the school clear of financial perils. When the money-lenders were clamant for their pound of flesh, Dr. Hayman helped to reduce the shock of their assault by making a number of generous gifts to the school. They are difficult to enumerate as they were given in order to aid the institution and not to advertise himself. The swimming pool which he donated nearly 50 years ago was the pride of S. Thomas' College and gave a wonderful impetus to scientifically taught swimming as well as to Life Saving. Even Warden De Saram was baffled trying to keep track of the benefactions. He wrote in the Centenary issue of the S. Thomas' College Magazine: What Dr. Hayman has given to the school nobody knows. He gave us our Swimming Bath – everybody knows that. But he has given a great deal more which nobody knows about. It may be seriously doubted whether he knows himself. He does not let his left hand know what his right hand gives!"

He goes on to mention Dr. Hayman's anonymous generosity in awarding scholarship, free board, lodging and tuition to recipients who were kept in total ignorance of the identity of the benefactor until perhaps they were able to guess if after they had left school.

William Rollo Lenden Hayman was born on 14th December, 1902 at Clapham, South London. His father William Hayman was a doctor of Medicine, the family moved to Brighton and then to Bournemouth. Rollo Hayman went to Wychwood Preparatory School and later, during the 1914 – 1918 War, he became a boarder at Sherbourne School in Dorset. While he was there he had measles and reading too much affected his eyes and he had to wear glasses. When he left Sherbourne he went to Oxford. After his first degree he stayed on to take his M.A. and Phd. He then trained as a teacher in North London for the Anglican Church in Ceylon and joined S. Thomas' College Mt. Lavinia as Mathematics, Science and Physics teacher.

Gurotalawa to Dr. Hayman was school master's dream and it was here that Dr. Hayman left indelibly the imprint of his many faceted personality. To him there was no question that the best type of school was a school, small in members, preponderantly boarders, where there could be a personalized interest in every boy each of whom would also learn to live in a sharing and caring community. Add to that a beautiful natural setting with opportunities for every type of out-door activity to encourage a spirit of adventure and self-reliance and you have what S. Thomas' Gurotalawa was in its halcyon days of the Hayman – Foster era.

“S. Thomas’ College will be forever grateful to Dr. Rollo Hayman, the Sub-Warden and first Headmaster at Gurutalawa for his unflagging enthusiasm wherever it was needed, “wrote the Secretary of the Board of Governors in 1968; and continued, “It would be impossible to measure the extent of his generosity by mere rupees and cents.

“The old boys of Gurutalawa will tell us how they put their shoulders to the task in that true spirit of eagerness and faith, inspired by the enthusiasm of their Headmaster doing even manual labour in putting up the building, squash courts and their swimming pool. No task was too mean or lowly

Dr. Hayman gave the lead in Shramadana long before it became the “In Thing” in Sri Lanka.

He enjoyed out-door life. He pioneered “Outward Bound” in Sri Lanka at Gurutalawa. This attracted boys of other schools as well. His knowledge and love of Ceylon wild –life and birds was second to very few and Mrs. Hayman whom he married in 1945 was one of them.

In the early years at Mt. Lavinia Dr. Hayman traversed the length and breadth of the island and experienced its joys and its profundities with no less a person than W.T. Keble of “Ceylon Beaten Track” fame. The love of the jungles, its lure and its lore was an infection that never left his blood stream and was something they both shared with Warden De Saram. Besides it had its uses too during the admission month of December.

At Gurutalawa Dr. Hayman explored every path and trail of the Welimada Plateau extending to the magnificent range of mountains which panned across from Horton Plains to Pidurutalagala. He became a familiar and welcome sight to every village and we were the beneficiaries as we roamed the countryside along trails he would set. He had an empathy with the people at the humblest level.

Dr. Hayman was in many ways a visionary. He gave emphasis to vocational education and realized the importance of agriculture (Gurutalawa started teaching agriculture for the O. Levels and Mr. R. Peglar the Welsh agriculture master at the farm even assisted the Education Department Examination Branch in drawing up the syllabus) the co-operative store providing groceries for the school community and the Savings Bank also run by the boys themselves. The co-operative store building was another product of shramadana. The boys made building blocks of earth stabilized with a little cement. The squash courts were built in the same way. There was a time he held special classes in Physics for the Arts boys.

However, Dr. Hayman's own core self perception was that of a teacher and all his other interests were ancillary to this perception.

In this Dr. Hayman set standards and ideals that have been impossible to emulate. He gave himself the maximum possible number of teaching periods. He was on the playing fields every evening, watching, encouraging and on occasion participating. He visited the boys in their dormitories for a chat and interchange of ideas during room-time after dinner, going to each house in rotation. He ate with the boys when there were complaints about food. He never left the college premises even during week ends, but always stayed in, unerringly realizing his responsibility to do so and at the same time enjoying organizing hikes and wide games and scout camps for the boys. When he had occasion to send a boy home, he took him in his care and handed him over personally to his parents. He invariably gave admission to boys who had been dismissed from other schools. He considered it challenge to make good of them and he succeeded. He made it a point to visit his students and their parents during the holidays.

There was a time Dr. Hayman seriously considered settling down in Ceylon, as it was then known, but the socio-political climate was forbidding. When he did decide to retire it was primarily because of the growing communication gap between him and the boys who were progressively coming from non English speaking homes. He felt he had outlived his usefulness as a teacher. He tried hard to learn Sinhala but his grammatical usage only succeeded in leaving the peasant farmers of the area with whom he would exchange courtesies on his walks, puzzled if not amused. They understood well enough however the idiom of his humanism and his munificence. Indeed it was striking the way in which the community at large respected and honoured him.

Dr. Hayman could never understand the growing resentment to the Public Schools. This of course came from a different class. The values he upheld and tried to propagate were in counterpoint and not in contradiction to indigenous culture. As he himself wrote many years after his retirement. "There were plenty of activities that we started. Though some of them were not Sinhala in character, they were intended to be the same sort of things you would find in any part of the world. We would have liked to have struck a balance with world cultures."

Dr. Hayman retired in 1963. He was awarded an M.B.E. for his service to his country. He resisted all pressure to buy an overcoat for the investiture at Buckingham Palace and went in his raincoat instead- a part of his wardrobe which the boys at Gurutalawa will identify only too well along with his khaki shorts, blue airtex shirt and outsized hardwearing rubber soled shoes and the grey-green garter whose tassel would appear very neatly an inch or two below the fold of stockings. "For myself I can never get excited about clothes," he wrote. It was an attire of characteristic simplicity and symbolic of his way of life.

On one of four visits he paid to Sri Lanka after he retired he was painfully concerned about shortages of food that had been reported and Old Boys should not spend unreasonably when hosting him – Mrs. Hayman and Ms. Joan Foster (Canon Foster's sister) at meals. "Mary and I (don't laugh at the inclusion of my name) are small eaters by Ceylon standards and I certainly would be prepared to have on two days a week: Manioc, Sweet-potatoes, Yams, Soyabeans or Kurakkan when we used them during the War."

That he came back on four occasions gave a tremendous boost to the morale of the Old Boys but it is nonetheless uncomfortably true that Dr. Hayman left our shores a somewhat disappointed man. He was distressed at the upsurge of racialism and its disintegrating effect on our multi-racial society of which the Thomian community was the epitome. But his real disappointment was in his failure to ignite the spark of idealism he generated in his students (by his example) in the vocations they chose. But on his visits he gradually came to realize that a new society had emerged in which there was little reason for idealism- not merely in Sri Lanka but as a universal phenomenon. His last gift to the school before he left was "keble House" on which he was called upon to pay gift tax. It was an irony which appealed to his considerable wit.

Dr. Hayman died on the night of 7th May, 1983 and his funeral was held on the 12th of May, at which a fair crowd of Old Boys of all ages had gathered. He had barely settled back in the U.K. after what turned out to be his last visit to Sri Lanka with Mrs. Hayman over a two week period from 28th February. He was not in the best of health during his stay but as always bore it up with great cheerfulness.

Dr. Hayman (and Canon Foster) were our last links with a tradition which goes back many generations to Bishop Chapman who founded the school in 1852. He was undoubtedly one of the most outstanding representatives of this tradition, which has redeemed the perceived evils of Colonialism, by its resolute commitment to values based on the inviolability and the integrity of the individual person derived from the Christian doctrine of man.

“I direct that my funeral shall be of the cheapest kind consistent with decency, and no expensive memorial stone should be erected” was the opening sentence of dr. Hayman’s Last Will and Testament!.

Truly has it been said that no really great man ever thought himself so and that the world knows nothing of its greatest men. In this we were privileged indeed. Dr. Hayman needs no monument. He is a Legend.

P.S. Duleepkumar

n) DR. R L HAYMAN

“There was no Meanness or Littleness in Him”

SERMON

(Preached on Thursday 12th may, 1983 at the funeral service prior to the burial of the late Dr.R L Hayman, in Boumemouth, Englan, by the Rt Revd. Lakshman Wickremesinghe)

TEXT: “Let integrity and uprightness protect me, for i have waited for thee, O Lord. O God redeem Israel from all his sorrows!

We have come here to perform an act of piety. We are paying our last respects and performing the final rites for a man we have, each and all, come to revere as a guru. he is a guru in the Eastern tradition because he was not only a great teacher but also a great exemplar. His life matched his teaching.

Each of us present here, and many who are un able to be present have a deep sense of gratitude; each has special memories of Dr.Hayman. they are treasured memories and we shall carry them in our hearts to our graves. He achieved many things but his lasting impact will be the imprint of his life on our own lives. I had only eight months in S.Thomas’ College and that in Gurutalawa whether i was compelled

to go owing to the exigencies of the last war. But from that time, there began a ripening friendship which lasted over forty years, which included a spell as acting Chaplain during Fr. Foster's absence on furlough. We all remember the large frame and even larger heart, the serious demeanour and the boyish chuckle, the collection of photographs and the variety of anecdotes, the phenomenal memory and the child-like trust, the capacity for work and the ability to relax, and above all the inherent kindness in the man who has now breathed his last. And we each also recall some word, some deed, some event special to us. The words of the poet Tennyson come to mind:-

“Tears idle tears, I know not what they mean
Rise to the heart and gather to
the eyes
When I recall the days that are no more.”

The words of the psalmist which I have chosen as my text will I hope convey something of the character of our guru for whose life we give thanks to God. The words “integrity” and ‘uprightness’ are words that describe the inner quality of Dr. Hayman's life. He had real integrity. He was not perfect but frail like all of us. But there was an inner honesty, a lack of hypocrisy of play-acting, of wearing a mask to hide one's real feelings or motives, which shone in his dealings with others. There was no meanness or littleness in him. In his presence, those with ulterior motives and mean minds were drawn as it were to be better people, because they respected what he was and what he stood for, and he himself made it his life's work to nourish integrity in the lives of others. Where other teachers would merely punish a boy for lying he would also long for the boy to become truthful. This is the difference between a guru and a teacher.

He was also upright. This word as used in the Bible has the same meaning as single-mindedness. As educationist Dr. Hayman was single minded in the pursuit of an ideal. It was the ideal of the English public-school as it evolved in the middle years of the last century. It is epitomised in the phrase ‘mens sana in sano corpore’ which means a healthy mind in a healthy body’ or better still ‘an alert mind in an agile body’. I well remember the alertness of his own mind as he taught us mathematics including the use of the theodolite, because for him theory and practice went together. I also remember him preparing plans for the first set of new buildings in Gurukulawa, when the surveyor had done an inadequate job. Later when I was acting Chaplain and asked him for the gist of the alternative theories of evolution. I can recall how grateful I was to receive a hand written sheet next morning with a succinct summary of these theories. His concern for the agile body was something so obvious, whether we recall the swimming pools he built, the cross country runs he instituted, or the Outward Bound School he ran for many years. I can still recall very vividly how he placed a fainting Muslim boy on his shoulders and carried him all the way from some point in the forest all the way to Pattipola. It was only a few years ago that he showed me the pictures of that memorable walk. As a rue

educationist he both led and nourished those under his care with a single –minded pursuit of the ideal which inspired him. Others here will have their own memories of the ideal he pursued.

But the psalmist adds that he waited for the Lord, in order to have uprightness and integrity to surround him. This exactly was what Dr.Hayman did. He had these qualities of character because he waited daily upon his Lord and Master, Jesus Christ. He was always present at the daily Eucharist, he read the books written by well known Christian writers and pondered on their implications. He was always present at the daily Eucharist, he read the books written by well known Christian writers and pondered on their implications. He always considered himself a missionary or one who came across the sea to share the Christian Gospel. He was true to the motto of his old University which was Oxford. The motto runs “dues illumination nea’ of “The Lord is my light.” And it also means as the psalmist meant it to be ‘The Lord is my light and my salvation.” It was the kind of Light which not only illumines but also liberates. He walked uprightly before his Lord. He knew the secret of how to be liberated from worldliness, to walk along the way of enlightenment as a disciple of Jesus.

Finally, the psalmist asks God to deliver Israel from all its sorrows or affections. He bore the evils and sufferings of his nation. In the same way Dr.Hayman adopted Sri Lanka (or Ceylon as he knew it) as his nation and cared for all its peoples. He knew no distinction of race or caste or class or even of creed, though he was himself a committed Christian. He took an interest in persons because of his natural kindness. Hesperent and was spent in the care and nurture of others. We all know how many students he helped financially, especially those stranded during the war; we also know how much he donated towards S.Thomas’ College. He husbanded his investments carefully and used them both generously and wisely. It was a curious mixture of a High Anglican following Wesley’s maxim which was “Earn as much as you can, we save as much as you can, and give as much as you can’. He not only gave much he also sorrowed much. He took in to his heart the strife and divisions among our peoples and bore them before his Lord in prayer, as he asked for deliverance. And he continued to watch over his old students with care and goodwill and valued their friendship. That is why he returned so often to our shores. It was good for us, each and all, that we had such a soul friend.

So we thank God for Dr.Hayman’s life and ministry. With foster he was a shining witness in the last phase of the missionary era. They were two precious gifts from England in her connection with our island history. We are debtors and must acknowledge that debt. And we thank you too Mary, for being such a devoted and loving help mate all these years to Dr.Hayman. Those of us who know you are aware of your special contribution that enriched both him and others. We feel for you in

your grief and pray that God will shine on you and uphold you as you face the days that lie ahead.

Dr.Hayman is beyond the veil, but neither are we beyond his love or he beyond our gratitude. His prayers as he is being purified and the perfecting of his life under God will avail for us. A deep sense of gratitude and goodwill can turn in to prayer for his life beyond, that he may grow in Christlikeness until he attains to that vision of God to which we are called. Of those who have gone beyond the veil to God's nearer presence, St.Augustine says that they shall 'rest and see; see and adore; adore and love; love and serve' in ways beyond our present ken. So let us leave him there, as we continue this Eucharist or Service of Thanksgiving for Jesus Christ and all who are being fashioned in his likeness.

Old boys are already beginning to talk of a memorial and of scholarships and other things. The greatest memorial to Dr.Hayman will be to follow the way of life he led to seek integrity, to follow uprightness, to care for others in their affliction, and to love and labour for their deliverance.

So be it. Amen.

[From – The First Fifty Years – A History of S Thomas' College Gurutalawa 1942-1992 \(Pages 335-339\)](#)

18. REV. CANON R.S. DE SARAM (1932-1959)

Canon R.S. de Saram was Warden of S. Thomas' College from 1932 to 1959. When the College buildings at Mt. Lavinia were commandeered as a military hospital in 1942, he made the decision to start a school at Gurutalawa under the Headmastership of Dr. R.L. Hayman. In 1944 the branch of the school at Peradeniya was closed, and during 1945 the Warden came into residence at Gurutalawa, staying in the house now occupied by Mr. F.L. Amerasinghe. He left here when the College buildings at Mt. Lavinia were handed back, and S. Thomas' restarted life once again in its own buildings at the beginning of 1946. In asking you, Sir, to unveil this photograph, I would pay tribute to one of our distinguished Wardens, whose integrity and courage shine out of a life dedicated to S. Thomas' College.

[At an unveiling of Photographs.... Rev.A J Foster](#)

19. MR. C.H. DAVIDSON (1946-1947)

a. Mr. C.H. Davidson was Headmaster of S. Thomas' College, Gurutalawa

from 1946-1947. He gave some of his best years to us and was renowned for his thoroughness, care and diligence. His gifts were particularly suited to Gurutalawa for he had a genuine love for school and farm alike. In calling upon you, Sir, to unveil his photograph, I am glad that we should honour one who has since been called to the highest office S. Thomas' can confer, the office of warden.

At an unveiling of Photographs.... Rev.A J Foster

b. Mr.C.H.Davidson

During Dr. Hayman's absence on furlough in 1946 Mr. C.H. Davidson took over. He was also a revered teacher of pre-war Mount Lavinia vintage, and Classics Scholar. In the beginning of 1946, S. Thomas' College Mount Lavinia re-commenced and many of the boys at Gurutalawa resumed their education there. In any event since Gurutalawa has classes only upto the O.Level they were automatically accommodated at Mount Lavinia in College Form A and B classes for the University Entrance Examination. 1946 saw the numbers at Gurutalawa falling to 110 but the School was considered a separate school in the eyes of the Department of Education. However it was clearly accepted on a recommendation of Warden De Saram who has been the Head at Gurutalawa when the boys from Getambe moved in, that both S.Thomas' Mount Lavinia and Gurutalawa should be considered one and the same school. In that year a new Education Ordinance promulgated Free Education in the Country, with the medium of instruction in Sinhala and Tamil. In this scenario, S. Thomas' College opted out and remained a fee levying school.

P S Duleepkumar

- c. Dr.Hayman went on leave to England in the third term of 1945 and Mr.C H Davidson took over as Headmaster of the school and continued till the end of 1947 when he went back to Mt.Lavinia. Mr.Davidson, a contemporary of Warden de Saram and a teacher cast in the classical mould, was ideally suited for this role. A teacher of the classics and the officer in charge of the Senior cadets whom he led in a route march from Peradeniya to Diyatalawa on two occasions, he was regarded with awe and respect no less than the Warden himself. (It was said that the best time to meet Mr.Davidson on official matters was after lunch when he had finished smoking his pipe). His task was to restore confidence in the school and, in a sense, to begin again. How well he did this could be seen in the tributes paid to him by both Dr.Hayman and Warden de Saram on his return to Mt.Lavinia.

Dr. Hayman said of him "The quiet work done by Mr.and Mrs. Davidson and their staff has left a permanent mark on Gurutalawa, and it is due to them that there was anything in Gurutalawa on which their successors could build. Their task had been all the harder since they had to carry on their work when funds were short and retrenchment was the order of the day. Their return to Mt.Lavinia at the end of this year (1947) was a serious loss, and the only consolation was that it resulted in a corresponding gain for Mt.Lavinia.

On Prize Day at Mt.Lavinia on 21st September, 1948, Warden de Saram had this to say "Mr.Davidson who for two most difficult years acted as Headmaster at Gurutalawa, has now rejoined us at Mt. Lavinia where he has thrown himself into his work with the same self

effacing thoroughness that he has always shown. I would express to him and Mrs. Davidson our thanks for the great services rendered by them to the school at Gurutalawa.

A task which Mr & Mrs. Davidson undertook almost immediately was the improvement in appearance of the school campus. Formerly, the area in front of the Senior dormitories was an ugly mess. Now flower beds were laid out and the area was transformed from a waste to a mass of colour. He was also keen on bee keeping and placed bee hives in the flower garden. He would personally supervise the upkeep of the hives.

The First Fifty Years- A History of STCG 1942-1992

4. Fr. A J FOSTER (1932-1964)

a. THANKSGIVING SERVICE FOR PAST HEADMASTERS AND FR. A.J. FOSTER. Memorial Service for Fr Foster.

The above service was held in the Anglican Chapel at the General Cemetery Kanatte on December 03, 2002. It was officiated by His Lordship the Bishop of Colombo Rev. Duleep de Chickera, who is also the Chairman of the Board of Governors of S. Thomas' College. The Headmaster and the Chaplain of S. Thomas' College Gurutalawa Rev. Nihal Fernando were present. Flyers had been sent by the OBA to the Membership. There were about 40 Old Boys present on this occasion. Mr. N.D.U. Kurutumpala gave the reading and Mr. P.S. Duleepkumar made a short address with regard to the Headmasters who are no more and also of Fr. Foster. At the conclusion of the service the congregation moved to the grave site of Fr. Foster where further prayers were offered. It was considered appropriate that in this Diamond Jubilee Year a service of this nature should be conducted.

Petals of Flowers brought down specially from Gurutalawa by the Headmaster and the Chaplain, were strewn on the grave by some of the Old Boys present.

Though it was intended that this service be held on 9th December, the date of Canon Foster's death, it was brought forward to the 3rd to enable the Bishop to officiate at the Service. It will be recalled that Canon Foster died in 1964

Newsletter No.4
January 01,2003

b. S.T.C. GURUTALAWA DIAMOND JUBILEE

My Lord Bishop, Chaplain of S. Thomas' College, Friends.

It is appropriate that in our celebrations of the Diamond Jubilee of the College that we should set a little time apart to focus our minds in remembrance and thanksgiving on the past Headmasters of the College who governed its destiny and influenced our lives. Inevitably our thoughts turn to Dr. R.L. Hayman and Rev. A.J. Foster who pioneered the school.

When Dr. Hayman left in 1963 Canon Foster took over from him. But before that there were two Wardens who were Heads of the school. Firstly the great Canon De Saram, a benign autocrat with a cherubic smile which emanated from time to time from the rich strands of humanism which lay like some hidden treasure beneath his stern exterior. It was Warden De Saram at a critical time of the College's history who ensured that it continued as a Private School and maintained its identity within the structure of a national system of education.

There was also Warden Davidson a revered teacher at Mt. Lavinia and also a classics Scholar who came as Headmaster to Gurutalawa to enable both Dr. Hayman and Canon Foster to go on a much delayed furlough at the end of the War after the sea lanes had been cleared of mines. They returned to Mt. Lavinia to assist Warden De Saram in re-establishing the school. A feature of Warden Davidson's temperament was, being a Senior Cadet Master, he did not like to see boys slouching along in a slip shod manner - "pull yourself together man" he would say "put your shoulders back and keep your head high". As a Headmaster he ruled by a simple dictum rendered in Latin - *Habeo in loco parentis* - I stand in place of your parents. Rev. Bowyer Yin who came as Chaplain to Mt. Lavinia in 1947 has written of Rev. Foster "that he was and is a saint". One notes the present tense. Rev. Foster loves gardening and the garden was his metaphor for life - we were the plants he nurtured clipping off the dead leaves of a misdemeanor and uprooting the evil weeds that choked our moral and spiritual growth. One facet of his saintliness was that he saw a redeeming feature in every boy however reprobate or wayward he was and spoke up for him sometimes against heavy odds at staff meetings. But Headmastering was not Rev. Foster's line of country. It subjected him to great stress and he succumbed to a heart condition while yet in office.

Address delivered by Mr. P.S. Duleepkumar at the Service of Thanksgiving and Commemoration held on Dec, 3rd 2002

c) Canon A. J. Foster (Father of S.T.C. Guru)

"Father" yes indeed a father in the Chapel and to all the students irrespective of Caste, Creed or Community. He was nicknamed "Amba Deviyo" by the students which he was not aware of. As for me I would call him "Amba Yahaluwa" as he was rarely seen in any attire other than a clean white cassock. Active as ever, frequently he was seen mingling with students witnessing and taking part in almost all sports during the evening hours. The fatherly interaction with the students and the freedom to share jokes with him whilst paying immense respect to his designation was a pleasing sight indeed. I am lost for words to express my indebtedness to this unique person for the encouragement and the facilities provided to me.

Mohamed Jabir Junaid 1958-1964

5. Mrs. MARY HAYMAN (1945-1963)

a. MRS MARY HAYMAN

Mrs Mary Hayman, wife of the late Dr R.L. Hayman passed away in a private nursing home in her home county of Worcestershire on Saturday the 17th November. The funeral has been arranged for Tuesday the 27th November at 10.30 hours G.M.T. Guru Old Boys of the years 1948 to 1963 will remember her with affection and gratitude as a Sick room Matron par excellence. She also spent her time seeing that the campus of 35 acres was kept spick and span and maintained the highest standards of conservation.

She was soft spoken and kind but brooked no nonsense from *mala fide* miscreants. She was a source of great strength and support to Dr . Hayman as Head master and as the head of the community that was Gurutalawa.

She enjoyed keeping in touch with the school and the old boys after her retirement and made five memorable visits back to Sri Lanka and the School, the last two of which was after Dr Hayman's death in 1983 ; the first being to open the Canon

R.S.De Saram memorial Library in 1987 at Gurutalawa and finally as Chief Guest at the 50th Anniversary dinner in 1992.

She spent her retirement as was Characteristic of her in visiting and ministering to the needy elders at Bournemouth. She was also persuaded to be the President of the Joint UK O.B.A. Branch till her health precluded her from making the Journey as required to London for the meetings.

The College at Guru will remember her at a special service on the 27th itself and there will also be a special Memorial and Thanksgiving service for her life, at S.T.C Mount Lavinia in the Chapel of the Transfiguration, as will be noticed .

Mrs Hayman started her stint in Ceylon as it was then known as a nurse in the Military Hospital at the College premises in Mount which was requisitioned for the Purpose (Thus Gurutalawa) and returned to serve the Main School as sickroom Matron in the years 1946/1947, when Dr Hayman was recalled By Warden De Saram after the War was over to assist in the Rehabilitation of the College.

P.S. Duleepkumar.

b. TRIBUTE TO MRS. MARY HAYMAN

'When I am dead my dearest
Sing no sad songs for me.
Plant thou no roses at my head
Nor shady Cypress tree.
Be the green grass above me
With flowers and dew drops wet.
And if Thou wilt remember,
And if thou wilt forget.'

These lines from Christiana Rosetti resonates the sentiments of the late Mary Hayman when she wrote in her will, 'I want a simple funeral and no flowers Please. " In life she never imposed on any one and so too indeed on her death. She was a person who disliked fuss, putting people out, and shunned the limelight. But Today in this service it is Right and we are privileged to Remember And give her Centre Stage.

Mrs.Mary Hayman was the last but not the least of that great Triumvirate which Guided the destiny of S.Thomas' College at Gurutalawa in its formative years. Under the shadow of the legendary Dr.Rollo Hayman, subwarden of S.Thomas' Mount Lavinia and later the first Headmaster of S.Thomas' College at Gurtalawa Mrs.Hayman emerged from it, albeit in her characteristic subdued manner and established herself as a person of great value in her own right.

She was born Mary Rudd in Sutton Surrey and her family settled Down in Worcestershire. She was an ardent supporter of Worcestershire in the County Cricket Championship and one immediately established a strong rapport with her in her unsuspected interest both in the county cricket Championship and the F.A.Cup. It was a rapport which undergirded a lifelong friendship and evokes nostalgic memories no less compelling than one has for Dr.Hayman and Canon Foster. Trained as a nurse Mary Rudd jointed the Army and in the line of Service was sent to the military base Hospital in Bombay. In fulfilment of the axiom that God works in a

mysterious way his wonders to perform the guiding hand in its benevolence brought her to Ceylon, happily so called at the Time, where she took up duties at S.Thomas' College Mount Lavinia which had been requisitioned for a military hospital. Part of the College was relocated in a show piece Farm of 35 acres at Gurutalawa Where Dr..Hayman was in charge and it was a matter of time before she met Dr.Hayman in an exchange hiking visit from the Army camp at Diyatalawa accompanied by a Major Kirk.

It was a fortuitous meeting which had Dr.Hayman Reversing roles and playing the nurse to remove some leaches which had adhered to the future Mrs.Hayman's Feet. They married in 1945 when Dr.Hayman took his home leave in England and returned as Dr and Mrs.Hayman initially to help Warden De Saram rehabilitate the School at Mount together with Fr.Foster as Chaplain, also returned from Home Leave. Their Job Done they were released to go back to The College at Gurutalawa, commencing from the first term in 1948.

As a nurse Mrs.Hayman epitomized the highest standards of the profession and as sickroom matron she established her own particular Regency over the Thomian community. If Gurutawala was a showpiece farm with its Keatsian ambience Mrs.Hayman made the sickroom a haven of care and love. She was particularly concerned with the Junior boys that they were warm against the cold and gave two of the attendants a rigorous training such that they could cope in her absence. She had a bug bear that the food served was hot and that the kitchens were kept clean and airy.

Apart from ministering To the boys of the college she opened its doors to the surrounding Villages and they came to her from every dell. It was characteristic of her that those needing Hospital attention were sent in the school vehicle to Badulla 25 miles away with firm instructions to the accompanying attendant from the school to take good care of the patient which she would follow up with a telephone call to the hospital, monitoring progress. It was more than professional care. It was compassion!.

She was a committed environmentalist and her Regency included the house keeping of the vast campus redolent with Gum and Fir Trees, fruits of every Kind and flowers of every hue. Under her unrelenting eye Grass was mowed, Hedges were trimmed, flowerbeds bloomed, roofs and gutters were cleared of leaves and twigs. Her Ubiquity kept everyone, Staff, boys, Domestic and Farm Labourers on their toes. So too the cooks in the kitchen and the house boys in the Dormitories and I suspect even when the occasion demanded, Canon Foster and Dr.Hayman. These occasions though rare arose from moments of indecision and the predeliction to be soft, when firmness was the order of the day. She was a Florence Nightingale no doubt but with more than a touch of Margaret Thatcher.

Her outreach to the farm included in particular the guardianship of the trees in the campus. It was not just that she saw in their conservation the opportunity for bird watching which was her pet hobby but she was sensitive to the amplitude of its ecological implications and this, long before it became a global concern as it has become now.

Inevitably it brought her in confrontation with the Welsh Farm manager of the time who was pressing for a larger extent of pasture land for the dairy. I believe the lease of the Nine acre block was Dr.Hayman's resolution of an embarrassing Embasse as Mrs.Hayman stood her Ground.

She extended her vocational remit not just to the vegetation around but to all forms of natural life. She once received a Turkey for Christmas which lived to a ripe old age and died a natural death. On another occasion some villagers brought her a python which she duly released with Piyasena the driver's assistance by the very same sisal plant where it was captured. She always had a Siamese cat as a pet to which she added a deer and a peacock which actually followed her around She empathized with them as S.Francis would have done presiding as he was as the Patron saint of the College Chapel. Mrs.Hayman was slightly built, always very simply dressed and had the minimum make up, if at all. She was very much the country lass unspoilt by her exalted position as the Head masters wife and completely free of any desire to acquire the sophistication that would entrap lesser beings to butress shallow personalities. But Integrity was the shared value of this famed Gurutalawa triumvirate-that rare and elusive quality of being true to yourself. She was soft spoken as one would expect and when she did speak it was in a whisper. She had a great sense of fun and was equal to making humorous asides, Deflating the pompous and exposing the spurious. Her asides were made sotto voice' with close and understanding friends. There was no malice or littleness in her. The ship that brought her to Colombo dropped anchor perforce a safe distance away from the harbour which was under attack by a Japanese air squadron, on Easter day April 2nd 1942. She watched the ominous fireworks display with equanimity from the deck of her ship and wondered if it was a foretaste of things to come. One of the Japanese planes crashed in the big club grounds. But the Dangerous moment Passed. She knew no danger and had a particular fearless disposition.

One such was an expedition with some old boys on holiday to explore a cave which tradition maintained reached all the way by a tunnel to the banks of the Kelani in the Siyanne Korale. She was gone missing for about One and a Half hours and emerged from that to the eye was a black hole full of bats and sundry rodents, to the Great relief of Canon Foster and some old boys on holiday but one who had the guts to accompany her.

To Mrs.Hayman it was just another day at the office.

Mrs.Hayman retired in 1963 when Dr.Hayman himself decided to leave. It was a wrench for the School. She returned again and again 5 times in all 3 of them after Dr.Hayman's Death in 1983. On one such occasion she came as the most Logical Chief Guest for the Schools Golden Jubilee Celebrations. Her visits were at her own expense and was a great source of strength to the Thomian Community. She gave generously from her limited resources without Ostentation.

Having settled down in Bournemouth, Dr.Hayman's home. Mrs.Hayman spent Her retirement in ever the Ministering angel looking after the Old, The infirm and the Bed ridden. These included Miss.Mowena Hayman Dr.Hayman's sister, Miss.Joan Foster Canon Foster's sister and Miss. Blanchard of prep. school fame: 3 with Thomian

connections of seventeen in all, at the height of her self obligated Ministry. On Dr.Hayman's death she was justly made patron of The Old Thomian association in the U.K.a position she held till about a few years Before her death on November the 17th 2008 at the age of 94. On her later visits she was progressively dismayed at the State of affairs in the Country and its noxious effect on the values system which spawned the Thomian Ethos.

Laid Back, soft-spoken and simple Mrs.Hayman had nerves of steel and a heart of Gold.

She will assuredly have a place in her own right in the annals of the College. She lives on according to her faith elevated by the quality of her life In a dimension beyond the ken of human consciousness.

And we shall not forget. We shall Remember. Her memory remains within our domain, Inspiring us by example to love not merely the School but all Life; and indeed Life itself as a gift to be shared and given in the service of others.

A Tribute at the Service of Remembrance and Thanks Giving at the Chapel of the Transfiguration S.Thomas' College Mount Lavinia 12th January 2008.

P.S.Duleepkumar

a) MRS. MARY HAYMAN – AN APPRECIATION

I came to know Mrs. Hayman long before I joined Guru as a student in the Lower Fourth Class. My father was teaching Sinhala at Guru and he was living in one of the married quarters set aside for Staff. Mrs. Hayman used to visit the married quarters of the Staff at least every other week. She inquired about the health and welfare of the entire family of the Staff Member. We all knew how she cared about the health and food of the students.

She was very concerned about the cleanliness of their living conditions. She was particular that the Dorms and the toilets including the night toilets were regularly swept and washed and maintained properly. She was equally concerned that the kitchen, the food stores, the pantry, and the dining room were spotlessly clean. She ensured that these areas were washed every weekend with detergents. She was in charge of the sick room and the Isolation Ward. The sick room had a regular stream of boys each evening, to be treated for their colds and coughs with the mixtures; to be dressed for their invariable cuts and bruises earned during the regular sporting activities each evening. The Isolation Ward came in to use when boys in large numbers contacted infectious illnesses in the nature of chicken pox, mumps and measles. The boys loved being her in-door patients when suffering from any of such illnesses or common fevers. Unlike their mums at home who put them on starvation diet, Mrs. Hayman insisted on the boys being served with a hefty plate of regular rice and curry. She together with Dr. Hayman supervised the weekly attendance in the sick room of Dr. Blaze ,the medical practitioner from Welimada who was the Physician attending to the needs of the College and who was responsible for

the immunizations and inoculations that had to be administered at various ages. Mrs. Hayman was also very concerned about the garden and orchard and their orderly maintenance. She had a pet Deer at one time by the name of Rani and was very attached to her. Although Dr. and Mrs. Hayman had no children of their own the hundreds of boys who passed through Guru were made to feel that during the College Term the places of their parents were taken by this couple. Indeed the two of them definitely felt that they were morally obliged to take on that mantle. Whilst Mrs. Hayman was of the very strong view that the boys in their charge must have proper food and health care etc. and every thing had to be done to make them happy whilst in College she was equally of the very strong view that for the sake of the students the entire staff must also be treated in the same way. That is why as I said before she paid regular visits to the Staff Quarters. Few people would know that she did not stop at inquiring about the health of the wife and children of the Master. She went in to the toilets, bath rooms, bed rooms and kitchen. She inspected all these areas on every one of her visits. She made sure that the electricity and water service was in order. If she found that any of these services required attention she made sure that the maintenance department of the College sent the Electrician, Plumber, Carpenter or Mason the same day to have the short coming rectified. On one occasion she dropped in to see us, my mother was cooking in the kitchen. Mrs. Hayman would walk in to the kitchen without any hesitation and continue to chat to my mother. Although my father was not very fluent in English and more comfortable with Sinhala, on the other hand my mother was able to carry on a conversation with her in English. When Mrs. Hayman found that my mother kept standing during the entire time it took her to prepare the meal in the kitchen, Mrs. Hayman on her return made sure that a stool from Dr. Hayman's Physics Lab was requisitioned and sent for my mother. Mrs. Hayman took a great interest in the Staff and as Guru was for both of them, their home, continued to take an interest in the Staff even during the holidays. I am now in my sixties. Mrs. Hayman died at the age of 94. I knew her when I was a small boy between the ages of 9 and 16 ie, about 45 years ago.. My memories of her are still fresh. She was such a gentle soft spoken and gracious lady. I have never seen her angry. Such people cannot be found any more. All those who were fortunate to know her and Dr. Hayman will always carry those very special memories. For all the love comfort and care she gave those hundreds at Guru may she be blessed with absolute and everlasting peace in her final resting place.

Sydney Abeykoon (1958-1963)
November 29, 2007

b) Mrs Mary Hayman—An Appreciation

Mrs Mary Hayman widow of the late Dr R.L. Hayman, legendary Sub Warden and Headmaster of S. Thomas' College Mount Lavinia and Gurutalawa, passed away peacefully in a private Nursing Home on Saturday the 17th November 2007. She was accorded a simple funeral at the Crematorium Atwood Road Worcester, on Tuesday the 27th November. In her life she recoiled from being the cause of any Fuss and so it was that she ensured that it would be so as she left it.

Writing of her funeral old boy expatriates Kamal Gammanpila together with Kamal Nilaweera wrote evocatively of the pervasive Gurutalawa ambience of that morning – of the overnight mist lifting to a thin crispy hue so familiar as one looked across the

paddy fields from the Head-masters bungalow, as the hearse bearing her rolled its way gently through the wooded Landscape reminiscent of the Farm's windbreak, and of the autumn leaves gentle fall: in nostalgic contrast to the rainbow hues of the summer flowers of Gurutalawa. :as if to comply with her request., No flowers Please!

Mrs Hayman was the last but not the least of that great triumvirate which moulded the Lives of the many boys at Gurutalawa in their formative years. While it is inevitable to associate her as the wife of Dr Hayman, she emerged from the shadows of his towering presence albeit in her characteristic self effacing manner to establish herself in her own right as the Sickroom Matron complementing the Headmaster and the Chaplain Canon A. J. Foster.

Together they established the ethos of a public school in the illustrious tradition of such schools which were bywords for Gentle manliness, leadership, learning, fair play and manners: in the English paradigm of such schools at their height.

She was born Mary Rudd in Sutton Surrey and her family settled down in Worcestershire. Trained as a nurse she joined the Army and in the line of service was posted to the military base hospital in Bombay. The Divine hand which passes as fortuity in the Secular view, in its benevolence, brought her to Ceylon and to the military hospital established at S. Thomas'College Mount Lavinia.

Her contact with the College therefore predated her meeting with Dr. Hayman who was sent in charge of a part of the College relocated in a showpiece farm of thirty five acres at Gurutalawa in April 1942. But Diyatalawa across the hills was (and is) n Army camp and so it was that there was a 'fortuity' in their meeting. Hikes were exchanged since Dr. Hayman made use of the Army personnel to help out with Physical Training, Boxing, the establishment of a battle course and other sporting activities.

They married in 1945 when Dr Hayman took his home leave after the war was over. Their return was Initially to the College at Mount which had been derequisitioned. Warden de Saram needed the old and well tried firm to rehabilitate the School with Canon Foster an integral part of it (1931 –1942)also returned from his Leave. The triumvirate was back in harness at Gurutalawa from the first term of 1948. As a nurse Mrs Hayman epitomized the highest standards of the profession. As Sickroom Matron she established her own particular Regency over the Thomian Community. She made the sickroom a haven of care and love and adhered to the maxim that prevention was better than cure, particularly with the Junior boys with their predilection to colds and coughs as temperatures plummeted in the "winter" months and again as the seasonal winds savaged through the campus in all their fury. Apart from ministering to the College boys and Staff of every category she opened the doors of the sick room to the surrounding Villages. It was characteristic of her that those needing hospital attention was sent in the School Vehicle - invariably Dr. Hayman's car - to Badulla 25 miles away with firm instructions to the accompanying attendant from the school to take good care of the patient and she would follow up with telephone calls to the hospital, monitoring progress. She made it a point to train two members of the College Domestic staff to be Locums in her absence.

Her Regency extended beyond her primary writ of caring for the Sick. It included the House keeping of the built premises as well as the vast campus, redolent with gum

and Fir Trees, fruits of every kind and flowers of every hue. Under Her unrelenting eye, grass was mowed, hedges trimmed, roofs and gutters cleared of debris, and flowers blossomed in their chosen locations. A stickler for cleanliness, every morning unfailingly she was in the dining hall, supervising the cleaning of its floors and tables. She persisted and succeeded in opening out the kitchen to air and light and making it easy to move around in for the staff by increasing its size. She was adamant that food should be served hot to the boys and ensured that through a Queue system each boy would be served straight from the particular cooking utensil. Her ubiquity kept every one on their toes .

She was a committed environmentalist and conservationist . She found bird watching an exciting Hobby and a wonderful therapy and initiated the boys to its delights. Her compassion extended to all forms of life. On one occasion she had the nerve to upbraid a burly retired Rugger playing English planter for snipe shooting in the paddy fields bordering the campus. Madam he had said to her 'You must be a vegetarian'. He had his day then, but that was the last occasion he was seen around. Once she received a turkey for Christmas, but the bird found in her, a benign new owner and lived to die of old age. On another occasion some villagers brought her a python they had captured, but she discreetly had it released by the very same sisal plant where it was caught. She had a Siamese cat as a pet which she managed to take to England when she left. She adopted a deer and a peacock which actually followed her around. She empathized with them as St. Francis would have done' presiding 'as the Patron saint of the College Chapel.

Her Love of Gardening and plants once led her to an embarrassing contretemps. On one of many visits to the famous Hakgala gardens, as well known and distinguished visitors they were taken round by the Curator himself. Typical of the weather there was a sudden shower of rain which caused Mrs Hayman to open her parasol to protect herself, whereupon a shower of plant slips rained to the ground. The curator, a gentleman of the highest order did not merely look the other way but hastily helped Mrs Hayman to retrieve them and got them packed.

Most boys saw her as a latter day Forence Nightingale. But there was in her more than a little touch of Margaret Thatcher. Kind and compassionate she was also firm and resolute when the occasion warranted, often in counterpoint to the innate predisposition of both Dr Hayman and Canon Foster to be too accommodating of human frailty. Important decisions no doubt carried some weight of her own views. She was Candid and Open and called a Spade a Spade .

Mrs Hayman was slightly built, always very simply dressed and had the minimum make up-perhaps a touch of lipstick. There was generally a suspicion of a smile in her eyes benevolent and not derisive as if she saw through people and things to what was spurious. Very much the country lass she was unspoilt by her exalted position as the Headmaster's wife and completely free of any desire to acquire the sophistication that ensnared lesser Mortals to veneer shallow personalities. She was soft spoken as one would have expected and in fact when she did speak it was in a whisper. She would venture the odd joke to a close friend sotto voce and ensured it would not be a source of any embarrassment to whoever it was holding forth on the 'Thusness of Thus'often at dinners she was obliged to attend as the Headmaster's wife
She arrived in Colombo from Bombay on the very morning of April 2nd 1942 when

Colombo harbour was being subject to an Air attack by the Japanese and watched proceedings perforce from outside Colombo harbour. One of the planes was brought down on the College Big Club Grounds. Prospects of danger left her unfazed. We had ample evidence of it during her stay at Gurutalawa whether it was climbing Up the sheer face of forbidding mountains, exploring underground caves or negotiating Forest short cuts where leopard had been sighted and restive wild buffalo were a clear and present danger.

The Hayman's left Gurutalawa on March 14th 1963. There were a series of valedictory gatherings and speeches leading up to the departure. But nothing could assuage the disillusionment of the Reality . They had planned to settle down within an hours hike from Gurutalawa in the vicinity of Erabadde. But took note of the message of political change and were eye witnesses to the early turbulence. They were most concerned with how the cross currents of events would affect the school. 'But the best laid schemes of mice and men gan aft aglay. 'and they absorbed the wrench with the typical unsentimentality of the English character.

Mrs Hayman settled down to run their Bournemout Establishment. But they never lost touch, looking forward to entertaining Old Boys who made their visits a kind of pilgrimage. She delighted in giving them the traditional, Thomian fare of Rice, dhal and Coconut Sambol, and getting first hand news of the school. She never failed to see that the visiting car was provided with sandwiches and a soft drink for the return journey.

But the Thomian connection was too compelling . She returned 5 times in all, 3 after Dr Hayman's death in 1983 . Appropriately her Final visit to Sri Lanka was in 1992 in connection with the Golden Jubilee Celebration of The College at Gurutalawa at which she was the Chief Guest. She found that Things had changed and maintained a discreet silence except in *Sotto Voce* to close friends who shared her views. After Dr Hayman's death she was rightly appointed President of the OBA UK Association and made the journey from Bourne mouth for every meeting till she was physically unequal to the travelling.

More so after Dr Hayman's death, she was ever the ministering angel looking after the infirm and the bed ridden Sometimes her rounds, including caring for around 17 or 18 patients' daily. These included Miss Joan Foster, Canon Foster's sister, Mrs Mowena Hayman, Dr Hayman's sister and Mrs Blanchard (prep School) with Thomian associations. It involved attending to daily needs, shopping, collecting medicines, arranging Transport visiting Nursing homes and Hospitals and even caring for pets. 51, Boscombe Overcliff drive was a drop point for Grocers, Chemists and Laundries'which she would deliver by car for friends who were not mobile—the car a generous gift from a grateful Thomian Ward.

Laid back and simple Mrs Hayman had nerves of steel and a heart of gold. She will assuredly have a foremost place in the History of the School in her own right. In later years when she was unable to continue with her voluntary medical service and her faculties had dimmed she preferred the tranquillity of solitude. She divested herself of mementos to be placed in the Hayman -Foster memorial museum at Gurutalawa. Her casket was draped in the College flag and the funeral Service was completed with the Thomian Song in the background.. She has gone beyond the ken of human consciousness but her twilight thoughts would typically have echoed Christiana Rosetti's Famous lines in keeping with her matter of fact approach to life. 'If thou wilt, Remember, If thou wilt Forget. ' She was completely free of Romantic Illusions. But We shall remember . We shall not forget. Her memory remains within our domain inspiring us to love all life and indeed life itself as a gift to be shared and

given in the service of others. Mrs Hayman was not a religious person in the commonly misguided perception of the Religious. She lived the maxim 'laborare est Orare' To work is to pray.

She lived her life the epitome of a verse from J. Keble's familiar Hymn.

The trivial round, the common task,

Would furnish all we need to ask,

Room to deny ourselves, a road

To bring us daily nearer God.

And on that road, Mrs Mary Hayman walked the extra mile.

P. S. Duleepkumar

c) MRS. HAYMAN (FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE OF GURU) –

A lady of unique qualities possessed by the later Mrs. Hayman has yet to be created by God.

She was a God sent angel to Guru. If I were to write a detailed description of the yeomen service rendered to S.T.C. Guru by Mrs. Hayman it would amount to a repetition of all the wonderful things mentioned by some most prominent old Thomians in the recent past, some of them living legends. My humble contribution in the form of a poem has been attributed to her. May the almighty God grant her soul peace with eternal bliss in heaven!

Mohamed Jabir Junaid 1958-1964

6. Mr. FRANK JAYASINGHE (1965-1968)

Mr. Frank Jayasinghe (a 1st Class Trained Teacher and Honours Graduate in Oriental Languages of the University of London) took over in 1965, youthful and energetic, he had a salutary impact on the life of the school and the maintenance of standards. He was very fortunate that he had a loyal staff whose senior members co-operated with him in the running of the school. Education wise "New Mathematics" and the provision of technical and vocational education was instituted as Government policy, and Mr. Jayasinghe advocated as a model, Comprehensive or Multi-Lateral schools as found in Sweden and England. Singing in both Sinhala & English was started under Mrs. Jayasinghe for the first time as a subject.

Proceeds of a Thomian fair in 1962 were used to construct a Science laboratory as a testimonial to Dr. R.L. Hayman as mooted at the time of Canon Foster, when the memorial tablet was made with the inscription "To spend and to spend himself for others was his greatest privilege", something which was said of Bishop Chapman who founded the College at Mutwal in 1851.

P S Duleepkumar

c. Mr. Frank Jayasinghe

Took over as Headmaster at the beginning of the third term in 1965. A product of Richmond and Wesley, he was a trained teacher (1st class) who had speialized in the teaching of Science and mathematics. In addition he was an Honours graduate of the University of London in Sinhala and Oriental Languages. This proved to be a

valuable asset in the post 1956 era. He was not new to education, having served for twelve years as senior Boarding House Master at Wesley College. His interests were varied; he was the master-in-charge of tennis and the secretary of the Parent Teachers Association, The Ceylon Christian Teachers Association and The Ceylon Teachers Travel Club. Friendly, accessible to all and easy to get on with, he was an ideal choice for the times. His style of management was democratic and consensual as the staff came to know. He was installed as Headmaster by the lord Bishop of Colombo on 17th January 1966.

He was also very fortunate in that he had a very fine and loyal staff whose senior members co-operated with him in the running of the school. The administrative and minor staff, too, were very loyal and had served the school for a long period. The school was till small-it had only 346 students in 1966, with a distinctive character of its own. All these made the new Headmaster's job, initially, easier. It was indeed a formidable task to follow in the foot steps of giants like. Dr.Hayman and Canon Foster.

[From – The First Fifty Years – A History of S Thomas' College Gurutalawa 1942-1992](#)
(Page 91)

At this prize giving the Headmaster announced his departure from the school and the appointment of his successor Mr.E L Perera, who he modestly said was “much better qualified than myself in every way”.

Mr.Jayasinghe was going as Sub Warden to S.Thomas' College, Mt.Lavinia. His departure was sudden and unexpected and caused much grief and disappointment both among the boys and the staff. The editorial in the school magazine for the year puts the matter succinctly. “Young and naturally energetic, understanding and easy to get on with, dedicated and thus full of ideas we found in him the type a growing institution needs. During his short stay here he was able to do so much tat we are not surprised that they needed him there. A good example of parent shifting attention to the more needy of the family, or is it robbing Peter to pay Paul?”

In his farewell address the Head Prefect bade him good bye with these words. “We realize that every action you took was for our benefit. You had the good of the school at heart and as Headmaster you have done so much for the school in so little a time that posterity will remember you as somebody who was not given the chance to complete the good work he started.”

It was indeed a most appropriate judgement on the Headmaster's career at Gurutalawa.

The numbers in the school were as follows:-

1966 346 290 boarders 56 days boys

1967	388	312	boarders	76 day boys
1968	400	318	boarders	88 day boys

From – The First Fifty Years – A History of S Thomas' College Gurutalawa 1942-1992 (Page 97-98)

7. MR.E.L.PERERA (1968-1974)

- a. Mr. Frank Jayasinghe left at the end of the year 1968 to take an appointment as Sub Warden S. Thomas' College, Mount Lavinia. The numbers in the school had risen to 400 of which 318 were boarders. He was succeeded by Mr. E.L.Perera, B.Sc, 1st Class Trained, educated at Trinity College and had been a renowned teacher at Mount Lavinia from 1932 and a founder member of the teaching staff at Gurutalawa in 1942.
- It was always important to follow the Education Department policy directives carefully as Schools like S. Thomas' were considered privileged institutions by the new social order and every now and again motions were taken up even in Parliament, to take over the non-fee levying schools as well.
- During his tenure Mr. Perera who was an ardent advocate of "The New Mathematics" piloted the new Science and Mathematics programmes introduced in the secondary schools.
- The government also raised the school going age to 6 years and introduced an examination at grade 9(NCGE) in place of the SSC at grade 10, to be followed by the Higher examination at grade 11.
- 2 pre vocational subjects were compulsory for everyone and unlike the disruption caused by the former, this was grist to the mill of a school such as Gurutalawa, where already agriculture, woodwork, metalwork and Kandyan dancing had been taught for a long time.
- One of the highlights of this period was the opening of the New Science laboratory as a testimonial to Dr. Hayman who returned to Sri Lanka, the first of four such visits, as the Chief Guest for the opening.

P S Duleepkumar

b. MR.E.L.PERERA

Then there was Mr. E.L. Perera a great teacher from Mt. Lavinia days. He specialized in Mathematics and came back fortuitously as Headmaster as the new Maths was introduced in the school curriculum. His stewardship bore the mark of gentle persuasion and he introduced for all boys a period of reading and meditation of sacred texts as a daily routine. This reflected his own personality, equanimity and a tranquil presence.

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E.L Perera (1968-1974)

Mr. E. L. Perera, B.Sc., 1st class trained, was educated at Trinity College and joined the staff of S. Thomas' College, Mt. Lavinia in 1932 where he excelled as a teacher of Mathematics. He was also in charge of athletics and trained many generations of Thomian athletes. He was no stranger to Gurutalawa having been one of the founder members of the staff in 1942. He taught Mathematics at which his skills were equalled by very few. So conscientious was he that he used to hold extra classes, free of charge, for the weaker ones after school. Those who were doing the London Matriculation were also taught free of charge in his home. He also taught a subject called "Biography" which was done by Non-Christians as an alternative to Christianity. The writer still remembers vividly his talks on great scientists like Johannes Kepler, Tycho Brahe and Michael Faraday.

He left S. Thomas' College to become one of the pioneering Principals of the newly opened Central Schools which were in the vanguard of the free education scheme being put into effect all over the island. In his Prize Day speech of 1969 he rejoiced in the fact that whereas in 1942 there were no schools in the area now there were many large schools serving the needs of the school going population. He finally ended his career in the Ministry of Education as an Assistant Commissioner of Examinations.

The school was very fortunate in getting his services at this point of time when the educational reforms of the United Front Government (1970-1977) were being carried out. He had experience of both the private and state systems of education and as a result there was a smooth liaison between the school and the Ministry of Education.

During this period he piloted the Science and mathematics programmes that were being introduced in the secondary schools by the government. An ardent advocate of the "New Mathematics" he ordered the latest books on the subject for the library and infected the staff with his enthusiasm. He claimed that "long and loud arguments on "New Mathematics" are at present a common feature wherever Mathematics teachers meet together.

In his Prize Day address of 1969 the Headmaster referred to the rapid changes that were brought about in society, the revolt of youth and the fact that elders should try to guide youth by example and not by precept.

The Headmaster also introduced in to the school timetable a period of reading and meditation for a few minutes on a sacred text at the beginning of each day. This was noel practice which had never been tried out before.

[From – The First Fifty Years – A History of S Thomas' College Gurutalawa 1942-1992 \(Page 99-101\)](#)

8. MR.M.L.C.ILLANGAKOON (1974-1977)

- a. When Mr. E.L.Perera retired in 1974 he was succeeded by Mr. M.L.C.Illangakoon an old Thomian who had started at Mount Lavinia in 1942 and joined the Dept. of Agriculture from where he retired in 1973 as a Deputy Director. He was Graduate of the University of London in Chemistry, Botany & Zoology and an Associate of the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture. An immediate problem was that boys who did not qualify for senior secondary education to proceed to grades 10 and 11 had nowhere to go and Gurutalawa

would be a school diminished in numbers and restricted only from grade 6 (Lower 4th) to Grade 9 (Lower 6th). The Headmaster therefore decided to start classes from grade 5 in 1976 and grade 4 in 1977. Further the Board decided to introduce a vocational education course for the missing year, Upper 6th. Agriculture was recommended for Gurutalawa for obvious reasons but at a meeting of the parents chiefly attended by headmasters from the Govt. Schools in the vicinity, they emphasized that they wanted their children to benefit from a Thomian education in English. This was significant, coming from a social milieu, which was Sinhala only in character. The vocational course drew very few in numbers and with the change in Government in 1977, the NCGE was abandoned and “O” levels and “A” levels were introduced. Another problem, which had a lasting effect, was that with the Prep. Schools extending their classes beyond grade 5, admission to Gurutalawa from these schools dried up. These boys had been given a sound academic foundation. They were well disciplined, familiar with the routines and the ‘give and take’ of boarding life and had been nurtured in the Thomian tradition. No adjustments were necessary when they came to Gurutalawa and it was as it seemed, a continuation in the same school. But after 1970 all this had changed and the boys who came to Gurutalawa, did so from different schools with different backgrounds.

This was a watershed phenomenon but the saving grace was the fact that successive Headmasters were Thomians and would come to grips with the challenges they were confronted with but for how long this would be, was a moot point. In 1974 the number in the school was 433 of which 330 were boarders. Yet another concern of Mr. Illangakoon was the inadequacy of the water supply with the burgeoning numbers. Water consuming trees were cut down and replanted with water conserving trees and the water supply source in Gonagala, was secured from village expansion. He also effected a qualitative change in Agricultural Education and the layout and beauty of the whole school campus, specially around the new hall area. The management of the School farm was improved and the farm developed.

A College Savings Bank managed entirely by students was opened in January 1975 following the new ground that was broken by the formation of the Parent Teachers Association in 1974. The New College Hall built in Mr. E.L.Perera’s time was formally opened on 24th February 1974 by Miss. Joan Foster, sister of the late Canon Foster, the famed first Chaplain of the School and Dr. Hayman’s right hand in the glory days of the College. She accompanied Dr. and Mrs. Mary Hayman on another of their visits, their second visit to the College since they retired. The new hall, put behind the days when the dining hall was used for Meals, Prep, Assembly, Prize Givings, staging of plays and film shows. Mr. & Mrs. Illangakoon invested the School with a certain dignity, sophistication and style, as was evident in the way they bore themselves as the leaders of the community, overviewed the housekeeping of the College campus and maintained the Headmaster’s Bungalow.

In June 1977 after three eventful years Mr. Illangakoon accepted the offer of taking up the Wardenship of Mount Lavinia, albeit most reluctantly.

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- c. He was succeeded by Mr. Lyn Illangakoon an Old Boy and one time teacher at Mt. Lavinia . He was one of two masters who helped Dr. Hayman to dismantle, inventories and pack all the instruments of the science laboratory within the three days notice given them by the British military. Mr. Illangakoon was a very private person and was somewhat distant. He upgraded agricultural teaching and practice in Gurutalawa and loved the school agonizing over the decision he had to make, and go to Mt. Lavinia as the Warden. It was significantly at the instance of Dr. Hayman that agriculture was included as a subject for the S.S.C. examination.

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- c. When Mr.E L Perera retired he was succeeded in April 1979 by Mr.M L C Illangakoon, a graduate of London University with Chemistry, Botany and Zoology as his subjects. He was also an Associate of the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture. An old Thomian, as were his father and brothers, he began his career at S.Thomas' College, Mt.Lavinia where he was house master of Chapman House in 1942. he moved to Peradeniya with the school during the second World War and subsequently joined the Department of Agriculture from which he retired in 1973 as Deputy Director. During his period of service in the department he was principal of the schools of Agriculture at Peradeniya and Kundasale.

The educational policy of the government at this time was to terminate junior secondary education at Grade 9 with the NCGE examination (an not at Grade 10 as was the practice before) and permit only those who qualified for senior secondary education to proceed to grades 10 & 11. this in effect meant that Gurutalawa would be left with classes from Grade 6 (Lower 4th) to 9 (Lower 6th) only, without a sufficient number of students to make it a viable institution. Therefore, the Headmaster decided to start classes from Grade 5 in 1976 and Grade 4 in 1977. Since both preparatory schools were going to start classes from Grades 6 to 9 their students would no longer join Gurutalawa. Students from all schools could now apply for Gurutalawa and be selected on a competitive basis.

In the past the intake to the Lower 4th (Grade 6) was mainly from the Prep Schools at Bandarawela and Kollupitiya. The student who came from these schools had been given a sound academic foundation. They were also well disciplined, familiar with the routines of boarding school life and were aware of Thomian traditions. Their passage to Gurutalawa was smooth and free of the difficulties of adjustment to a new environment. No such, assumptions could be made about the newcomers after 1970 who came from different schools with different backgrounds.

Mr.Illangakoon's contributions to education in Gurutalawa were his enthusiasm for and innovations in agricultural education and the related development of the school farm. These activities were closely related to the changes taking place in education which emphasised the importance of pre-vocational studies, working in co-operation with others and involving the school with the life of the local community.

The Agriculture club was given new life and a number of projects involving boys working in groups was started. The boys in these groups were taught how to keep

accounts. There were groups engaged in vegetable cultivation, growing flowers, bee keeping, rabbit rearing, rearing day old chicks and rearing calves. The senior scouts constructed a building near the basketball court. This was to be used for recreational activities such as table tennis and Kandyan Dancing classes. It also incorporated a scout room. The levelling of the site, the masonry and the carpentry were all done by the boys. This room was later converted into a dormitory.

In 1975 the farm was provided with a tractor and a trailer. A farm workshop to maintain and repair agricultural machinery was to be set up and the Freedom from Hunger Campaign initiated a project to obtain the equipment.

Five acres of the 'nine acre' block were now set apart for the growing of food crops by the school in collaboration with some of the domestic staff. This was to be the nucleus of a co-operative farm but the project never quite got off the ground.

The Headmaster identified six aims in the development of the farm. First, it was meant to produce learning experiences for those doing Agriculture. Secondly, to grow the food requirements of the school. Thirdly, to make a substantial profit from the farm and to make it a commercial venture. The next was to exploit the economic potential for small scale intensive farming. The fifth objective was to develop the farm through a combination of forestry and animal and crop husbandry. In this way boys would get to know the environment, the natural resources and the fauna and flora of their country. Finally they would learn how to farm as distinct from learning Agriculture.

[From – The First Fifty Years – A History of S Thomas' College Gurutalawa 1942-1992 \(105-107\)](#)

During Mr. Ilangakoon's period at Gurutalawa the campus took on a new look. With his contacts at the Botanical Gardens at Peradeniya he was able to have the grounds laid out, especially near the Foster Memorial Hall. Mrs. Ilangakoon, herself, was found in the garden planting new flowering plants and trees. The campus once again blossomed as in the past. She also took the initiative in getting all the ladies together and forming a ladies club which organised social events. She got the staff to meet together at a social level.

Once a month all the staff would meet together to have a social evening with games and music. It would end with a dinner. These were to celebrate the birthdays of the members of the staff which fell during that particular month and were held in the Staff Club House.

Mr. Ilangakoon was a very hard worker, and expected all the staff to work just as hard. A strict check was kept on unsupervised classes and he made a point of seeing that no class was kept without a member of the staff to supervise work that had been set in the absence of the normal class teacher.

In June 1977, after a period of three years Mr. Ilangakoon left Gurutalawa as he was appointed the Warden of S. Thomas' College, Mt. Lavinia. He was the second

Headmaster to be moved from Gurutalawa to Mt.Lavinia. His departure after so short a time was a great loss to the school as his expertise in Agriculture was needed at Gurutalawa. His innovations in Agriculture education sadly did not long survive his departure.

The Numbers in the school during this period were as follows:-

1974' 433 Students 330 Boarders 39 Day Boys

From – [The First Fifty Years – A History of S Thomas' College Gurutalawa 1942-1992 \(Page 113-114\)](#)

9. MR.S.C H De SILVA (1977-1981)

Mr. S.C.H.De Silva B.Sc (Lond), Dip. Education (Lond), Dip. In Admin. (Indiana, USA), who had ended his career in the State Education Sector as the Principal of Prince of Wales College Moratuwa succeeded Mr. Illangakoon in July 1977. He will be remembered mainly for starting the primary section of the School, Grades 1, 2 and 3, and also admitting girls to the Male Atmosphere of the College. The necessary classrooms were built in the Keble House premises while Keble House itself was converted into a dormitory for the boarders.

An attempt was made to start A.Level classes too and a beginning was made in 1980 but had to be abandoned in 1987 because of the difficulty of obtaining qualified staff. This inevitably caused admission problems as the New Warden, Mr.Neville De Alwis refused to grant automatic admissions to Gurutalawa Boys who qualified for "A" levels, as had been the practice from the very beginning. Parents of boys in Gurutalawa would now have to find new schools for their sons after the "O" Levels and this affected "quality" admissions.

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Mr.S C H de Silva, B Sc, (London), Lip. Ed (Lond), Diploma in School Administration (University of Indiana, U S A) was appointed Headmaster in July 1977. He too like Mr.E L Perera before him, came from the state sector in education having ended his career as principal, Prince of Wales College, Moratuwa.

He will be remembered mainly for his role in starting the Primary Section of the school- Grades 1,2 & 3. He also made a very bold decision when, for the first time, he admitted girls into the primary school. This was a revolutionary and progressive step in the all male atmosphere of Gurutalawa.

In January 1978 pupils were admitted to Grade 1 for the first time. It was a great success. One hundred pupils were selected of whom sixty chose to live as boarders in the new dormitory constructed for the purpose.

Admission tests were held for the first time at Gurutalawa in November 1977. In previous years these tests were conducted at Mt.Lavinia and Bandarawela. In 1978 the parents came to Gurutalawa and the tests were held in the College hall.

The necessary classrooms for the primary school were built in the Keble House premises. The Headmaster also got Keble House converted in to a large dormitory for the boarders in the primary school.

The Year 1 classes were started with Miss.Chinta Jayasinghe and Mrs.R Sallay in charge. The Head of the primary school was Mr.Cyril Perera who has loyally worked for the school since 1963. The primary school has been a great success since its inception.

The Headmaster also began advanced level classes in 1980 with t he consent of the Board of Governors. In a personal communication to the editor Mr.de Silva states, 'The Old Boys' Association at the annual general meeting in February 1979 resolved to recommend to the Board of Governors that an advanced level course of studies be given to the post G C E (O/L) class pupils who qualify to study in the A/L class. Hitherto all pupils who qualified had been admitted to STC Mt.Lavinia.

[From – The First Fifty Years – A History of S Thomas' College Gurutalawa 1942-1992 \(Page 115-116\)](#)

10. MR.PATRICK GUNAWARDENA (1982-1987)

- a. Mr. Patrick Gunawardena (B.A.,Dip.Ed.) was appointed Headmaster in January 1982. Being an old Thomian and fully aware of the liberal traditions of S.Thomas' College, he was well qualified for the job. He was a Principal of a Govt. School and came to Gurutalawa from S.T.C. Mount Lavinia, where he was Sub-Warden.

Though in 1982 a firm decision was taken to continue with Advanced Level classes and the expectation that the presence of these classes ensured that there would be 50 to 60 mature boys to provide leadership and disciplinary control of the students through a respected prefects body, as pointed out earlier, the classes were per force abandoned.

In 1983 Dr. and Mrs. Hayman made what was to be Dr. Hayman's final visit to Gurutalawa. Dr. Hayman was not in the best of health and soon after his return to Bournemouth, passed away. The Rt. Rev. Lakshman Wickremasinghe one of the first batch of boys to be admitted to the school, preached the sermon at the funeral services prior to his burial in Bournemouth on 12th May 1983.

With the 1983 Black July events many Tamil students left the school and Tamil parents had second thoughts of sending their sons to the school. However, nearly 125 Tamil boys whose homes, parents, business places, were destroyed were provided with free tuition and half boarding fees from July to December 1983. Mr. Gunawardena installed a Dr. R. L. Hayman Memorial Library constructed in 1987 with funds donated by the Old Thomian Association U.K. He took a significant step in

the field of curriculum development and introduced a computer science centre. This enabled a large number of students on leaving school to join courses of advanced computer studies in technology institutes. Woodwork which had been abandoned was re-introduced in 1982 and Art was also introduced as a vocational subject. As already mentioned a special effort went into the teaching of English as by now 95% of students hailed from non-English speaking homes and the clamour from parents was for more and better English teaching. But the character of the school was changing fast for this reason. With his experience at Mt. Lavinia and as an Old Boy of the School, Mr. Gunawardene re-activated all clubs and societies and introduced several new ones as he knew the importance of extra curricular activities especially in the isolated community that was Gurutalawa. The College Magazine which had been in abeyance since 1968 was revived in 1982 and edited by the Headmaster, came out regularly from 1982 to 1985. Cadeting was also revived in 1982 and become a very popular activity.

It is to the credit of Mr. Gunawardene that three students for the first time in the history of the College gained direct entrance to the University in 1982 and that others followed. In 1987 one student become the first to do Medicine at the Faculty of Colombo. Mr. Gunawardene had a mild and outgoing temperament and it could be said that the school reflected his cheerful spirit. But due to financial restraints, numbers were increased in the Boarding House beyond norms and discipline suffered. In fact the School had over a thousand students

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b. Mr. Patrick Gunawardena

With his departure to Mt. Lavinia, Mr. Patrick Gunawardene, Sub Warden was switched to be the Headmaster at Gurutalawa. An Old Boy, he had been a teacher all his life and an educationist who brought with him a host of fresh ideas but most importantly he emphasized the teaching of English and adopted a multi pronged strategy applying the language in a culture of lived experience through its use in the day to day life in the school.

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c. Mr. Patrick Gunawardena

Mr. Patrick Gunawardene (B A Dip.Ed) was appointed Headmaster in January 1982. he was well qualified for the job. Being an Old Thomian he was fully aware of the liberal traditions of STC and the basic ideals for which the school stood. He had been Sub-Warden of STC Mt.Lavinia for six years. He also had been Principal of several government schools for sixteen years and had just returned from a two year assignment as a lecturer in English in a Teachers' College in Nigeria. He was to be Headmaster for six years.

These were years of expansion, but also, owing to the Headmaster's special interests, a period when great efforts were made to improve the level of English, foster a love of music, and attain standards of excellence in sports.

The growth of the school was such that by July 1983 there were 1247 students on roll; 750 of them were boarders and 497 were day-scholars. The Board of Governors advised the Headmaster that numbers be frozen at this level. In 1986 there were 61 on the tutorial staff; 38 in the Upper School, 23 in the Lower. Office staff, matrons and other cadres amounted to a further 18, and there were 37 minor employees.

A number of improvements, extensions and alterations were made to existing buildings during this period. The Dr.R L Hayman Memorial Library was constructed in 1987 with funds donated by the Old Thomians Association, U.K

In January 1982, a firm decision was taken to continue with the advance level classes and new graduate teachers were appointed in all science subjects. In January 1983, an advanced level Commerce course was also started.

The presence of these classes ensured that there would be fifty to sixty mature boys aged between seventeen and twenty who could provide leadership to through a respected prefects' body. Further, the brightest student and excellent all-round sportsmen were retained by the school enabling it to field Under 19 teams in all Inter-School Sports Competitions; this had been impossible earlier since students usually passed their O/L at 15 or 16.

[From – The First Fifty Years – A History of S Thomas' College Gurutalawa 1942-1992 \(Page 120-121\)](#)

A significant step taken in the field of curriculum development was the establishment of a Computer Science Centre equipped with six Sinclair microcomputers and accompanying monitors and TV screens. Computer Studies was made compulsory from 1984, for all advanced level students, both Science and Commerce, Students of the O/Level classes, too, attended after-school classes and an elementary course in computer awareness was designed for Grades 6 to 8 by the graduates in Computer Science now on the staff. As a result of these courses, a large number of students, upon leaving school, joined courses of advanced Computer Studies in Technological Institutes, and specialised in this field.

The teaching of woodwork had been abandoned in 1980 and the fully equipped carpentry workshop had fallen in to disuse. More tools and equipment were purchases, and woodwork was re-introduced in 1982 as an alternative Vocational Subject option to Agriculture, from Grade 6 to the G C E (O/Level).

Art was also introduced as a vocational subject and two trained specialist Art Teachers were appointed, to teach Art from Year 8 to Year 11.

Mr. Gunawardene's new system of administration involved a total delegation of duties, the imposition of a strict and rigid procedure of 'in-line' management, and the establishment of a pecking order of vertical communication. Mr.J de S Jayasinghe was the Deputy Headmaster; the Chaplain, Rev. Harold Goodchild, had, as his assistant, Rev. A M Dhanaraj; Mr.J W Marasinghe was Office Secretary, Mrs.K Kanagarajah, Farm Manageress, Mr.T R Nirodhawardene, Prefect fo Discipline, Mr.L A M Chandrasekera, Master-in- Charge of Studies , Mr.S T Moorthy, Sectional Head of the Tamil Stream, and Mr.Cyril Perera, supervisor of the Lower School.

The school had its share of anxiety during the two terrible weeks of July 1983 when almost every Tamil shop and home in the area was destroyed and countless inmates were killed. The school received several warnings that its 300Tamil boarders and 4 Tamil families could be targeted. During this period, the Tamil ladies were accommodated in the College dining

hall with the Sinhala staff, minor staff and college prefects maintaining a day and night vigil outside.

[From – The First Fifty Years – A History of S Thomas' College Gurutalawa 1942-1992 \(Page 121-122\)](#)

11. MR. J.BALA GUNASEGARAM (1988-1989)

- a. Mr. Gunawardene was succeeded by Mr. J.B. Gunasegaram, B.Sc.(Eng.) M.Sc.(NY), M I Mech. E., Chartered Engineer and a Fulbright Scholar. He was an Old Boy of Mt. Lavinia and a highly qualified engineer with experience abroad both in the U.K., U.S.A, Zambia and Singapore and was a Senior Lecturer at the Open University of Colombo.

He was a strict disciplinarian and within a month's time, there was visible improvement in discipline and the organization of the school. In his short period of office he made a significant contribution in collecting arrears of school fees and exercising strict financial control and cleared all outstanding debts of the College which was on a Bank Overdraft before his time. In the interregnum before he took office, Mr. J. De S. Jayasinghe acted as Headmaster and initiated strict measures to collect a volume of outstanding school fees. Mr. Jayasinghe himself subsequently retired at the end of June 1989 after a period of long and faithful service lasting 40 years.

Mr Gunasegeram was greatly concerned with the cleanliness and appearance of the College Campus.

Sometimes he himself, undertook 'menial' tasks, his ubiquitous presence kept everyone on their toes.

A master says, " He got the Swimming Pool scrubbed and cleaned so thoroughly that it was once again, what it used to be".

Inevitably, his integrity and disciplinary standards, irked some members of the staff. In readying himself for the assignment as Headmaster, he had absorbed every note and scrap of paper on which Dr.Hayman had made comments in his period as Head. Thus Mr Gunasegeram was his own man, and this added to build up resentment. The years 1987 – 1989, was a period of trouble, which engulfed the whole country. The radical JVP unleashed, a reign of terror, which petrified most people. The intrepid Mr Gunasegeram did not cave into threats, but kept his dignity and that of the school, though there were unavoidable stoppages.

On October 20th 1989, he and his wife were brutally murdered in their bungalow at about 1.30 a.m. It was a shattering blow to many old boys who saw in him "the man"

to make a mid course correction in the way the school was heading and again reached the top.

Naturally, the staff and the students felt uneasy and uncertain. A number of parents removed their children from the school and there were doubts whether the school could continue. Fortunately, Rev.R.Harrold Goodchild who had returned as Chaplain, took the helm and the school reopened in early November.

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b.Bala Gunasekeram

Finally, there is Mr. Bala Gunasekeram. A man of deep faith, he brought to the Headmastership a missionary zeal, intent on restoring discipline and re-orienting a College in decline. His two years in office 1988 and 1989 were marked by a dangerous social unrest and uncertainty; but we knew he was equal to any challenge and our expectations soared. His violent death was a brutal shock, and smashed our hopes to smithereens. How could this be ? One's faith was shaken.

History has many cunning passages wrote T.S. Elliot - there are events difficult to understand. But he also wrote - For us the trying, the rest is not our business; In a cemetery in Montreaux in Switzerland there is a grave for a small girl of twelve, with a headstone inscribed with one word in French, " Porquois", why? It is in the book of Job in the Bible that one is confronted with the awesome majesty of THE Fundamental question - a question which itself is the answer to all questions. "Where were you when I laid the foundations of the World ? " Gurutalawa survives.

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c. Bala Gunasekeram

Mr.J B Gunasegaram, B Sc (Eng), M Sc (NY), M I Mech. E (Lond.), F I E (SL), C Eng. was appointed Headmaster in January 1988. An old Thomian, he had worked as a lecturer at Peradeniya University and later at the State Engineering Corporation. He had experience abroad both in the U K and the U S A. He was a consultant at the Open University when he was appointed Headmaster at Gurutalawa.

The Headmaster insisted on strict discipline from the very beginning and within a month's time there was a visible improvement in both the discipline and organisation of the school. His contribution in his short period of office was in the sphere of the college finances. He exercised strict financial control and all outstanding debts were cleared.

He was also greatly concerned about the cleanliness and appearance of the buildings and the campus. Active and energetic, he was not content to sit at his desk but seemed to be everywhere at the same time, willing to do whatever job was at hand, even to the removal or dust bins. The swimming bath and the dormitories were cleaned and renovated.

Constant contact was maintained with the Old Boy's Association in U K and Australia. As a result these associations contributed funds to help the school. With these funds the plumbing system was completely overhauled and all the buildings from the senior dormitories to Keble House were rewired

The welfare of the students was his primary concern and although he was a strict disciplinarian he was kind and considerate to the younger ones.

His untimely death prevented him from doing very much to reorganise and improve the school's curriculum but he was very particular in appointing qualified staff to the school and seeing to it that each teacher was best suited to his particular task. He insisted on high standards at all times.

[From – The First Fifty Years – A History of S Thomas' College Gurutalawa 1942-1992 \(Pages 131-132\)](#)

The year 1987 was a time of troubles which engulfed the entire country. Mr.Gunasegaram was the Headmaster in the period when the J V P unleashed a reign of terror over the entire country. Schooling was disorganised and many schools had to close down temporarily . S.Thomas', in its isolation, was especially vulnerable to the closures and stoppages of work. The school did not function for about three months after September 1988.

It was in this time of trouble and near anarchy that the most tragic episode in the history of the school took place. On October 20th 1989 the Headmaster and his wife were brutally murdered in their bungalow.

"The Island's" issue of 21st October 1989 carried this report on its front page. "The Warden of S.Thomas' Gurutalawa Mr.J B Gunasegaram and his wife Manohari were gunned down yesterday by an unidentified gang."

They had been shot dead at about 1.30 a.m yesterday, police said.

According to the police the watcher of the residence of the Gunasegarams and the property had heard gunshots at about 1.30 am. Yesterday. When he visited the residence he had seen Mr & Mrs.Gunasegaram sprawled on the ground with gunshot injuries. (Note by the editor. The bodies were discovered by the security guards at 5.30 a.m in the early hours of the morning).

Police also said that the gang numbered about 10 persons.

Police later recovered empty cartridges of a T56 gun from the scene of the shooting, police said.

A cordon and search operation of the area was being conducted by the police and the army as this edition went to press.

According to Lankapuwath before he breathed his last the Warden had told the security guards "go and call the others" and then died.

S.Thomas' is situated on a hilly terrain about four miles from the bustling agricultural town of Welimada in the Uva Province.

Rev.Goodchild, the chaplain, immediately took over the administration of the school. A staff meeting was held on the same day and it was decided not to close school with immediate effect. The school did close temporarily for a short period in view of the disturbed conditions which prevailed.

A memorial service was held in the school chapel and the coffins containing the bodies of the Headmaster and his wife were taken down to Dehiwala to the residence of his brother. From there they were moved to the chapel at S.Thomas' College, Mt.Lavinia where a memorial service was held on the afternoon of the 21st October. They were then buried in the Galkissa Cemetery at 4.30 p.m on the same day.

The School reopened after the tragedy in early November and sessions were held till December when it closed for the holidays after the usual Carol Service.

Mr.Gunasegaram was cut down in the prime of life just as his efforts for the school were beginning to bear fruit. As the "Daily News" said in a news item on the 21st of December " the principal had been a good and strict administrator'. The school had gone through an ordeal of fire and, as on many occasions before, its mettle was being put to a very severe test.

A member of the staff says " He was a very simple man who enjoyed his privacy. At the start he was aloof and unapproachable but this changed slowly. He was God fearing and held Bible study for the Christian staff every week on Wednesday during night prep. He was a stickler for detail and the closest thing to a perfectionist that I have come across.

[From – The First Fifty Years – A History of S Thomas' College Gurutalawa 1942-1992 \(Pages 133-135\)](#)

The School went through the most difficult period of its existence during the troubled and confused times following the murder of Mr & Mrs.Gunasegaram. many parents removed their children from the school through fear and anxiety for the safety of their children. There were even doubts about its continued existence.

[From – The First Fifty Years – A History of S Thomas' College Gurutalawa 1942-1992 \(Page 136\)](#)

When Mr J B Gunasegaram took over as Headmaster in 1988 the first thing he did was to get the pool cleaned up. The condition of the pool had gradually degenerated from a thing of beauty to a pool with green water and slimy walls and floor.

Probably this was partly due to the filtration plant not being worked during the holidays to save on finances. There is no doubt at least the water could be made clear and the floor scrubbed clean. Keeping the walls clean was a more difficult task but anyhow it was accomplished. I remember Mr.Gunasegaram telling me that it was his intention to keep the pool as clean as possible as a fitting memorial to Dr Hayman

who had gifted it to the College. In a very short space of time the pool had been scrubbed clean and the water was beautifully clean and clear. In closing this chapter I feel it would not only be a memorial to the founder benefactor Dr.Hayman, but a tribute to Mr.Gunasegaram if the pool could be kept beautiful and clean, as it was at the time I left the Staff.

Mr.J W Marasinghe - [From – The First Fifty Years – A History of S Thomas' College Gurutalawa 1942-1992 \(Pages 181-182\)](#)

12. MR. COLIN RATNAYAKE (1990-1997)

Mr Colin Ratnayake, from Trinity College, a graduate and special trained teacher of Science (1st Class), succeeded the late Mr Gunasegeram as Headmaster. His style of management was somewhat different to all his predecessors. He surrounded himself with new staff he had known before in Kandy and who had his confidence. This seems natural in the light of the fate that overtook the Gunasegerams but it did not go down well with the existing staff. He saw to it that the school boundaries were securely fenced with barbed wire and concrete posts, despite strong opposition from the Villagers, as it was through a break in the fence at the 6th Mile post on the Boralanda Road, above the Headmaster's bungalow, that Mr Gunasegeram's assassins had got into the campus.

[P S Duleepkumar](#)

In this time of pessimism and near despair concerning the fate of the school the one ray of hope was the appointment of Mr.C B Ratnayake from Trinity College, Kandy as Headmaster. It required a man of great courage and strong faith to fill the post held by Mr.Gunasegaram.

Mr.Ratnayake, a graduate of the University of Ceylon , was also a Special Trained Teacher of Science (First Class). His interests in education were wide and varied. He held a Post Graduate Diploma in Education specializing in the Teaching of English as a Second Language and was very interested in primary education. He had experience both in the public and private sectors in Education having been a Grade 1 lecturer at the Teachers Colleges at Uyanwatte, Peradeniya and Gampola as well as having served as In service Adviser in Teacher Training for the Kandy and Matale districts. He then moved to Trinity College, Kandy where he held the posts of Vice Principal and Deputy Principal. Finally his experience included a foreign tour of selected schools, teachers; colleges and universities in Europe.

His first task was to bring back a semblance of normality to the school after its recent trauma. This he succeeded in doing after which he set about a gradual reorganisation of the work of the school beginning with the Primary School.

[From – The First Fifty Years – A History of S Thomas' College Gurutalawa 1942-1992 \(Pages 136-137\)](#)

13. MR. GEETHAL C. MENDIS (2001-2004)

Mr Chandrasekera himself was transferred to St. Thomas' Prep School, Bandarawela and Mr Geethal C. Mendis who had earlier taught at Gurutalawa for 7 years, starting from Mr Frank Jayasinghe's time, and had moved to the Prep. School, Kollupitiya, and later been appointed Principal of the Deaf & Blind School Ratmalana, was appointed the new Headmaster, from September 2001, to face the early years of the new Millennium.

With the change of Headmaster and of the Bishop, (Rt. Rev. Dulip de Chickera replacing Rt. Rev. Kenneth Fernando), the most significant development was the determination of the senior old boys to play a more proactive role in the management of the school. They have been fortunate that Mr Mendis has been most accommodative of this idea. Battling the legacy of financial difficulties, the overall declining standards and the endemic indiscipline, he had been pragmatic to realize that the Old Boys Association had a positive role to play, not merely for much needed funds to rehabilitate the school buildings and infrastructure, which were in a sorry state of disrepair and neglect, but also to advise and assist and lend support in the management of the school. On the recommendation of a Report, commissioned by the OBA from a reputed firm of Chartered Accountants and Consultants, an Administrative Officer was appointed to assist the Headmaster. Also an old boy was appointed as the Farm Manager, and this stemmed the losses that were a drain on the limited resources of the College. The old boys also undertook various projects to rehabilitate the school buildings and infrastructure, particularly the staff quarters and one particular old boy restored the Senior Dormitories at a personal cost of over Rs.2 million. There is a perceptible improvement in the College at present and also hope for continued improvement, but there is always much to be done and a long way to go.

Colombo
September 08, 2003 Mr. P S Duleepkumar

14. THE REVEREND NIGEL MARC PIROSHA BILLIMORIA (2007-.....)

He had his early education at S. Thomas College, Mount Lavinia from 1980 to 1991. He was a School Prefect and Co-Editor of the College Magazine; Winner of a number of senior prizes and member of a number of societies and clubs. He was also a member of the Chapel Servers' Guild and President of the Student Christian Movement.

He read History at Wadia College, University of Pune (Poona) on a full scholarship from the Indian Council for Cultural Relations through the University Grants Commission of Sri Lanka 1993-1996 and obtained the Bachelor of Arts degree with a 1st Class.

He proceeded to Ripon College Cuddesdon, University of Oxford, as an Ordinand of the Diocese of Colombo to train for the ordained ministry 1999-2001 and obtained a Post Graduate Diploma in Theology from the University of Oxford in the year 2000 & the Diploma in Ministry for Theology. He Graduated from Ripon College Cuddesdon in 2001.

He was in the Theological College of Lanka from October 2001 to July 2002

He was a Student Teacher at STCML during the 3rd Term of 1991. He was on the Tutorial Staff, of STCML from January 1992 to June 1999 (Taught English & A/L Divinity). He sought Leave of absence for higher studies from 1993-96. Served as a Form Master in the Upper School & College Forms.

Whilst at STC ML he served as Lay Assistant to three Chaplains and was involved in counselling and pastoral care.

He served as Master in Charge of the Student Christian Movement and Senior English Literary and Debating Society; Staff Advisor of the Current Affairs Forum & the Interact Club.

He is a Founder and 1st Staff Advisor of the Society for the Preservation of Thomian Traditions.

Archivist of the College 1993 – 1999.

Member of the Bishop's Education Advisory Committee 1997 – 1999.

Boarding House Master (Miller - Chapman) 1993. Ordained Deacon December 2001 while at the Theological College of Lanka and obtained pastoral experience under the Vicar of the Church of Christ the King, Rathmeewala. Assistant Curate of St. James Church, Egoda Uyana with Christ Church, Horetuduwa & St. Lukes Church, Sarikkalimulla (under the Archdeacon of Galle) August 2002. Ordained Priest December 2002 and continued to serve at Egoda Uyana, Horetuduwa and Sarikkalimulla till December 2003. Vicar, Christ Church, Mirihana January 1st 2004 to May 31st 2007. Coordinator of the Cathedral Institute for Education and Formation 2003 to 2007. Secretary, the Bishops Ministry Advisory Committee 2003 to 2007. Developed the Ministerial Review Programme for the Clergy of the Diocese of Colombo 2004. Chaplain to the Church of Ceylon Youth Movement 2005/2006.

The STCG OBA was very appreciative of the appointment of a Thomian as Headmaster, and who was a Founder of the of the Society for the Preservation of Thomian Traditions and was the Archivist of the College for six years. He is steeped in Thomian Traditions and History. This augurs well for Gurutalawa.

[From the College Web Site](#)

At last we have a dedicated Headmaster, a Thomian, after so many outsiders as it were, and who has not stinted in his efforts to bring the institution back to a level that we can again be proud to call it our Alma Mater. The House Master system, with boys allocated to Houses as in the past and in a single dormitory, is one of the many changes affected, that has brought about a higher level of discipline. He has regular meetings weekly with the Prefects in his bungalow. He visits the dormitories and knows the students individually. The fact that he is resident in the premises during the holidays is another reason that has brought about a sense of continuity throughout, as earlier even security was non-existent during certain holiday times, while one previous Headmaster was not in residence even during weekends.

In as much as this is our Golden Anniversary, it is also a God-given Golden Opportunity to join hands together and contribute whatever we can to improve the College, of course knowing full well that we can never bring it to standards of those glorious years when it was indeed the best among its peers. We have a very receptive Headmaster, who has

spared no pains, for the upliftment of the College, including the physical, when he got back to school on Saturday, November 29, 2008, within a week of a surgical operation, to attend to his onerous workload. There have been many changes in the academic staff and the Headmaster has motivated all staff to deliver the optimum.

An Extract from the Appeal of Mahen Ranasinghe
Senior Vice President
STCG OBA

15. J De S JAYASINGHE (1949-1989)

d) J de S Jayasinghe -An Appreciation

It was with a great sense of sadness that I learnt of the death of Mr.J de S Jayasinghe a few weeks back and I am certain that anyone associated with S Thomas' College, Gurutalawa at any time during the four decades spanning the fifties to the late eighties would feel no different.

'J de S' or 'Uncle J' as he was known to all and sundry (but never referred to by us students within earshot) was one of the first recruits made by that Giant of Education and Thomian Institution, the late Dr R L Hayman. He came to Gurutalawa from Mahinda College, Galle, to 'help out for a few months'. In the event, he stayed on for FORTY years till his retirement in 1989! One of the best sportsmen in the South in his era, he captained Mahinda College in Cricket and Football and won his colours at Athletics.

He really was a noble gift to STC from Mahinda.

I first came to know Mr.Jayasinghe when I entered Gurutalawa into the Lower Fourth Form in 1958 and by that time he was already a Senior master.

He was just appointed Master of de Saram House which itself was a Senior position. (There were just three Houses at Guru during that period plus Winchester which was a dormitory for the sub juniors. (first year students). I do not think it is far from right to say that one would have got to know of Mr.Jayasinghe within a week or so of entering the College – his fame simply preceded him. He did not teach in the L4 but one did come across him very early when one went to the 'book cupboard' to purchase the requirements for that year.

One came across Mr.Jayasinghe in the class room only from the Upper Fourth onwards. He just could not be avoided. He taught Maths, Physics and Biology in the Upper Fourth and Fifth Forms. Maths was taught in Sinhalese and English. The Science subjects were taught in English. Thus the reader would appreciate how one could not have gone through one's stay at Guru even if one stayed on for just two years without being at least in one of his classes.

Likewise, his presence in the sports field was ubiquitous. He was Master in charge and coach of U16 cricket and Football and was in overall charge of Athletics. The sports meets, during his era at the helm, were perfectly organized events.

He was in charge of de Saram House for over 15 years, and was a strict disciplinarian who tackled students in a most kind and humane way.

A versatile actor, he was mainly responsible for the production of two J de Lanerolle's plays, 'Ralahamy Rides Again' and 'The Return of Ralahamy'.

They were superbly produced and performed both in Colombo and Gurutalawa. He played the role of Ralahamy and if I recall correctly, 'Haddjar' was played by another member of the staff, John Marasinghe,

also retired. It was a combined cast comprising students and members of the Staff with J de S J as usual, leading from the front. Off the field of sport and out of the classroom he took an active part in

outdoor activities such as the Social Service Club, encouraging students to voluntarily assist in various building projects at the school.

He was a genial gentleman who always had time; be it a fellow teacher, student or a member of the minor staff who wished to consult him regarding any difficulty. He was a mediator who was respected by everyone and this strength was a valuable asset to the Headmaster and was in his later years, Senior Master. He was a religious man, and I recall him saying in my final year at Gurutalawa, that compulsory Religious studies would have given the students a deeper insight in to their faiths.

He was a dedicated teacher from the Old School the likes of whom we may never see again in this changing world.

Alas, his life in retirement was not to be too long as he was ailing from diabetes which finally overcame him. A doyen among teachers in the finest Thomian tradition, ‘He stood still for us to go forward in life’. – a remark by one of my closest friends at a recent OTALK meeting. True words. We who were nurtured in Gurutalawa, Owe a lot among others such as Dr. Hayman and Cannon Foster, to this stocky, small made gentleman in the green/brown pullover who came for a ‘short stay’ from Galle to the plains of Gurutalawa and did not think of returning for almost forty years – having given a lifetime to education. Mahinda College and STC can be proud of him.

MAY HE ATTAIN NIBBANA

by Harish Nilaweera

e) Mr. J. De S. Jayasinghe (Uncle Jay)

My eternal indebtedness is due to a hidden personality. A man of few words dedicated and devoted to a particular sport, “Athletics”. Biology in the class and Athletics in the field kept his whole day occupied. He was none other than Mr. J. De S. Jayasinghe better known to students as “Uncle Jay”. During this period I was just another student to him in his Biology class.

The most unforgettable & exciting day of my life :- It has been more or less a traditional event in College to conduct a standard test in Athletics. I was curious to know what this was all about. On making inquiries from a close friend of mine I was told that I had to carry with me a piece of wire, a torch battery and a bulb, this message was given to several other new comers who were not aware of this event, but to have a big laugh at the grounds. However innocently I picked up the items and went to the grounds and walked up to “Uncle Jay”. I said Sir, I brought the items, what should I do next. He held his hips and had a big laugh and went on to say that this must be a “small rag” by the seniors. He ordered me to fold my slacks up to knee level and get prepared to run the 100 meters race. He said run as fast as you can and forget about winning because G.G.A. de Silva the Junior Champion was in my draw. He continued saying “finish the race and light up your bulb with the wire and battery you brought after which you can go back to college”. Ha! Ha! a big laugh.

With my slack folded up to my knee, bare footed, I walked up to the starting point standing right next to the “Burly Black” Junior Champion. I had no fears because I was only interested in completing the distance as I was told. “Uncle Jay” approached me and said “*Ohey Lanthuma ussagena passata duwannada away*”? (did you come to run backwards lifting a lantern?) I didn’t take it seriously as I was aware that I couldn’t match “G.G.A”. However our heat got underway with the sound of the starter’s Gun. I took off in a flash the next few seconds gave me the feeling that I had a foul start and the only one running. The sound of a loud cheer made me look back. I was astonished to find that I was leading the race by a margin of about 5 yards, so I wasted no time in finishing the race and winning it comprehensively. At the finishing point “Uncle Jay” approached me in a flash a look of embarrassment, ecstasy and amazement written all over his face. I

was shocked and speechless too. The manner in which he questioned scared me “*Ohey kauda? Nama Mokakda?*” (Who are you? What’s your name?) I humbly answered the questions. Then he said “prepare yourself for the finals, you will be put against the Senior Champion I.A. Munasinghe” he was another burly black panther, technically perfect sprinter, nick named “Blossom”. As for me I did not change my attire and preferred to run bare feet as before, as running shoes and starting blocks were alien to me. “Uncle Jay” was confident of my victory as my timing was supposed to have been better than “Blossom’s”. However the race was about to begin amongst a large crowd of spectators (students, masters and minor staff). Now I was under pressure to deliver and keep up to the expectations of the one sided cheering squad. The barefooted road runner versus spiked technically immaculate Sprinter. “Bang” the race got underway. Once again I looked back fearing it was a foul start. “No” it was “Flier” start and I led blossom by at least 4 yards. The delight pumped me with more energy ,thus completing the distance with a comfortable victory. “Uncle Jay” ecstatic and stunned came charging at me and hugged me. He said “Junaid, I am gifting you with pair of running shoes and a pair of running shorts.” He kept to his promise and I was the proud owner of an Indian pair of running shoes costing Rs. 35/- brought to Guru a week hence from “Diana and Co.” of Chatham Street Colombo. Vow! What a stepping stone given to me with a pride of place. Instant fame surrounded with unstinted encouragement. I told “Uncle Jay” Sir, I promise I will certainly live up to your expectations and bring glory to our College”. I thanked him immensely for equipping me with the basic needs to get started. Uncle Jay in the meantime had made arrangements with Mr. Laffir (Manager of the Co – op) to provide me with soft drink every evening after practices. I subsequently learnt that the cost of the drinks were to be included in his account. What a magnanimous personality. Father Foster subsequently linked up with Uncle Jay to train me for Long Jump. In the year 1963 I competed in the 220 yards and 100 yards Public Schools Championships, in which events I was placed 1st and 2nd respectively. Uncle Jay and I firmly believed that I was the winner in the 100 meters too. Unfortunately the absence of a photo finish camera and S.T.C. Guru being a lesser recognised College compared to Royal College I was unjustifiably denied of 1st place. We took it up with the Thomian spirit of sportsmanship without lodging any objection.

The only event I was beaten during my successful athletics career in Guru. The most valuable trophy of all trophies I possess to date is the one I received as “Sportsman of the year 1963” in Guru, for my performance at the Public Schools Championship 1962, as a 16 year old competing in the under 19 events, against some of the top class sprinters in the Island, such as the late M.W. Selliah of Royal College, G.H.A. Amarasinghe of Richmond College Galle, D.K. Podimahathmya and several others, in the capacity of a novice. In mid March 1964 I was offered a place at S.T.C. Mt. Lavana by their sports coach Mr. Brookie D’ Silva. My father’s firm decision overpowered my reluctance and refusal, thus forcing me to concede. I must sincerely confess that my reluctance to leave Guru after “Uncle Jay” having discovered my talent and lifting my standard to National Level was felt as an act of hypocrisy. Father Foster and Uncle Jay blessed me and wished me well for my future success. This magnanimity filled with blessings and good wishes and words of encouragement which came from deep inside them helped me to overcome my guilt. I hold these two unique personalities in high esteem expressing my indebtedness to eternity.

Mr.Jabir Junaid

c)Mr. J. De S. Jayasinghe

Headmaster Mr. S C H De Silva was very fortunate to have Mr. J. De S Jayasinghe a much respected and Hayman Loyalist as Deputy Headmaster. He joined the staff in 1949 and had been Senior Boarding House Master since '72. He was an illustrious alumni of Mahinda College Galle and was a leading flag bearer of the traditions of Gurutalawa

P S Duleepkumar

d) Mr. J. de S. Jayasinghe a Mahindian was an institution at Gurutalawa. Hundred of Old Boys passed through his classes of Biology and General Science. He ended up as Acting Head Master until his retirement. He was House Master of De Saram and was loved and feared. He had a good rapport with the minor staff and was known to be a great admirer and supporter of the UNP leaders whose photographs adorned the walls of his quarters. Whenever they passed through Gurutalawa on their campaign trail he would never fail to meet up with them. He also played the role of "Ralahamy" to perfection in the several plays of H.C.N. de Lanerolle which were staged by Gurutalawa. He was in charge of Junior Cricket as well as Athletics. He was always fondly referred to as "Uncle Jay".

An Article by LJ

e) Mr. J de S Jayasinghe A Buddhist Society also another first, was formed in 1966 by Mr. J de S Jayasinghe. A large number of boys observed sil on the Esala Full Moon Poya day.

[From – The First Fifty Years – A History of S Thomas' College Gurutalawa 1942-1992 \(Page 93\)](#)

Mr. J de S Jayasinghe was appointed Deputy Headmaster in 1977. he was Housemaster of Winchester in January 1949, Housemaster of De Saram in 1956, and Senior Boarding Housemaster in September 1972. It was a richly deserved reward for a lifetime of service to the school.

[From – The First Fifty Years – A History of S Thomas' College Gurutalawa 1942-1992 \(Page 117\)](#)

There were many changes on the staff. The one which was the occasion for much sadness and regret was the retirement of Mr. J de S Jayasinghe, Deputy Headmaster at the end of June 1989 after a period of long and faithful service lasting forty years.

Mr. J de S Jayasinghe first joined the staff in 1949 after his schooling at Mahinda College, Galle. He began his career as a teacher of General Science and Biology in the middle and upper school. The transition from English as a medium of instruction to Sinhala and Tamil was being made at the time. It was very fortunate that the school had in Mr. Jayasinghe, one who could make the transition very easily. The private schools did not have many teachers who were fluent in English and Sinhala at the same time. Mr. Jayasinghe pioneered the teaching of science in swabasha at Gurutalawa.

He was also a fine sportsman who shone at Cricket and Athletics. He coached the Cricket and Athletics teams until age forced him to give way to younger men.

He was also a kind and understanding Housemaster who was in charge of De Saram House. All sorts and conditions of boys and minor staff confided in him and sought his

advice. His departure at a time of great trouble and stress for the school and the country, was at irreparable loss.

[From – The First Fifty Years – A History of S Thomas' College Gurutalawa 1942-1992 \(Page 132- 133\)](#)

In 1949 Mr.J de S Jayasinghe took over the coaching and was in charge till 1976. He trained and nurtured some very promising athletes like P Rajeswaran, D Seneviratne, P C Munasinghe, Spence Herft, Mr.Padmaperuma, Jabir Junaid, D Algama and I A Munasinghe.

[From – The First Fifty Years – A History of S Thomas' College Gurutalawa 1942-1992 \(Page 161\)](#)

I first got to know “Jaye,” (or Uncle Jaye) as he was affectionately known to all, when I joined the staff of STC, Gurutalawa in January 1954. Jaye had joined the staff five years earlier in March 1949 and in 1954 he was house master of Winchester House and (later of De Saram House), taught Biology and General Science in the middle and upper school and was cricket and athletics coach in addition to his other duties. It was evident that at this time he was one of the Senior masters in whom Dr.Hayman placed a lot of trust.

This was a period in which there were several outstanding members of the staff who worked as a team under the leadership of Dr.Hayman and Rev. Foster. Some of them were Messrs. F L Amarasinghe, A K Chapman, Gerald de Alwis, Bradman Weerakoon, (for a short period), Mr.and Mrs.E Scott,R Pegler, Oswin Wright of Trinity College fame,and George Pillai.

As a teacher, housemaster and sportsman Jay easily held his own with the best of them. He was a product of one of the great Buddhist schools of the South, Mahinda College, Galle,and it speaks volumes for the Buddhist tradition of tolerance that he, one of its best products, spent forty years of his life in the service of S.Thomas' , a Christian school.

He was an outstanding sportsman in his day. A contemporary, Dr.W G WImaladharma writing about him in the “Island of 7.6.1991 says “He was the eldest of four brothers, all of whom attended Mahinda College. He excelled in cricket, football, athletics and cadetting. He captained the Mahinda College cricket team in the years 1944 and 1945. The 1944 match against Richmond with Mahinda ably led by J de S Jayasinghe was memorable, with J de S Bowling extremely well to return a match bag of 13 for 53.

That Saturday afternoon “J de S” trying to stop a powerful drive from Christie Karunaratne split his palm and was rushed to hospital, only to see him return an hour later with a bandaged hand to take three more wickets and demolish the Richmond side for a resounding innings victory.

Jaye was very versatile. He was well known for his big hitting as a batsman and the small boys expected “fireworks when he went out to bat; he was also a fine bowler who could get

considerable pace off the pitch with a short run up. He could also move the ball both ways with no difference in his bowling action, hence he was very difficult to “read”.

As athletics coach he took a lot of interest in the latest developments in athletics and attended a professional course in India at his own expense. Drama was another of his interests, and the “Ralahamy” plays he produced, in which he played the leading role at Diyatalawa and Badulla will long be remembered by those who saw the plays. He was also at various periods in his career, Secretary and Committee member of the school’s Co-operative Society, master-in-charge of the Buddhist Society, and for a time even interested himself in the cultivation and sale of vegetables. All this in addition to being a very popular and competent teacher of General Science and Biology.

S. Thomas’ was very fortunate to have him as a teacher of Science in the early fifties. This was the time when the change in the medium of instructions from English to Sinhala and Tamil in the Arts and Sciences was being made. There were not many teachers at this time, who could handle both languages equally well. Those who could do were an asset. Jaye was equally proficient in both languages. Some of the boys to whom he taught Science and Biology became specialist surgeons and physicians in later life. Among them were L K Amarasuriya, L R Dias, H D Jayasundera, Milroy Fernando, the late N R P de Silva, D M de S Jayasinghe, N S Jayasinghe, P K K Dias, Nihal Heenatigalla, C R L Wattegedera, Ravi Jayasekera, and M N D P Jayatilleke.

He was always accessible to everyone – boys, staff, minor staff and others. All sorts and conditions of men and boys used to go to him for advice and no one was ever turned away. Like Rev. Foster he saw the good in everyone, even the most hardened breaker of rules. I shall remember part of a song that was composed by a member of De Saram House and sung at a House dinner; it went like this;

“Mr. Jayasinghe, our House Master,

Thank you for coming here, sir, You are our father.....” etc. He was truly a father, ‘in loco parentis’ to them all.

The best years of Jaye’s life at Gurutalawa in my opinion were from the beginning of the fifties to the end of the sixties when he worked under the leadership of Dr. Hayman and Rev. Foster, men who he admired and respected.

I remember many things about Jaye with gratitude; the long, rambling conversations which we used to have in his rooms after dinner along with his great friend Laffir and other bachelor members of the staffs, the trip to Dambana and Veddah country in the holidays, the visits to Nuwara Eliya on Saturdays, the occasional dinners at Welimada when we got tired

of College food, the cricket matches and the discussions on politics and on everything else. Jaye was a very loyal UNPer; the only photographs he had in his room were those of D S Senanayek and Dudley Senanayake having a swim in the college swimming pool.

Oswin Wright told me how thrilled Jaye was when he (Oswin) brought Sir John Kottalawela to Jaye's room after Sir John had finished addressing a meeting at Gurutalawa in the 1956 General Election.

Jaye was later appointed Deputy Headmaster in recognition of his services to the school. He also acted as Headmaster for a period of four months when Mr.Patrick Gunewardena was out of the island and made a very good job of it.

He retired in May 1989 after forty years of devoted service. The Old Boys Association hosted him to lunch at the B M I C H on his retirement. He died barely eleven months after his retirement in April 1990. the large gathering of old boys, staff, parents, minor employees and friends at Talangama testified to the high regard in which he was held.

After life's fitful fever' may he sleep well.

Oliver de Soysa

[From – The First Fifty Years – A History of S Thomas' College Gurutalawa 1942-1992 \(Page 371-374\)](#)

Mr.I De S Jayasinghe must be thanked for his rare quality of combing firmness with fairness and a sense of detachment in his dealings with the boys and the staff.

[STCG MAGAZINE- 1985- \(Page 17\)](#)

I am thankful to the Deputy Headmaster Mr.J De S Jayasinghe who with great humility and competence shared some of my administrative duties and tendered valuable advice when it was sought.

[STCG MAGAZINE – 1983 - \(Page 26\)](#)

16. A K CHAPMAN (1947-1975)

- a. I remember very vividly Mr. A.K. Chapman respected and feared as a no-nonsense House Master of Garnier who took the subjects of Maths and Chemistry. He also acted as Headmaster when Dr. Hayman was absent. He was a pioneer Old Boy of the first batch of 1942 who came back to teach at Gurutalawa and spent his life-time doing so ending up as Acting Head Master. I remember him on his way to play Tennis each evening with Mr & Mrs. F L Amerasinghe and their children.

An Article by LJ

The school suffered a great loss in 1972 with the departure of Mr A K Chapman for Australia. A legend at Gurutalawa, he served the school for twenty five years. He taught Chemistry and mathematics in the upper classes, although Physics was his forte, was Gurutalawa his second home. He was a skilled technician. Members of the staff and boys used to get their watches and radios repaired by him. He was a skilled technician. Members of the staff and boys used to get their watches and radios repaired by him. He was greatly missed by all those who had the good luck to be associated with him. The OBA honoured him for his services with a farewell dinner at Colombo.

From – The First Fifty Years – A History of S Thomas' College Gurutalawa 1942-1992 (Page 104)

- b. In 1975 the School suffered a great loss with the departure of Mr. A.K.Chapman to Australia. A legend at Gurutalawa he had been one of the first batch of students and served the school for 25 years teaching Chemistry and Mathematics. He earned the highest respect of everyone.

P S Duleepkumar

17. Mr. F.L. AMERASINGHE (1947-1968)

- a. Mr. F.L. Amerasinghe retired in 1968 from the staff on reaching the age of 55 after two decades of untiring service to the school. He was a rock of discipline and a most conscientious teacher. His interest was not confined to academic matter and he was for sometime in charge of Hockey, Cadetting and Tennis. The departure of these two stalwarts was badly felt, as apart from their all round contribution to the School in the classroom as well as the playing fields, more so as they were married, the presence of their families added greatly to the social life of the small community which was Gurutalawa.

P S Duleepkumar

- b. Mr. F.L. Amerasinghe was also a tough man who brooked no nonsense from anybody. He would give 6 of the best to any boy who was at fault. His wife and daughter together with him would walk from the Keble end of the Campus to the Tennis Court end each evening to play their game of Tennis. Mr. Amerasinghe was the Cadet Master, Tennis Coach and was considered a strict disciplinarian. All kept their distance from him.

An Article by LJ

- c. [Mr.F L Amerasinghe](#) retired from the staff on reaching his 55th birthday after over two decades of untiring service to the school. He joined the staff in 1947 as a teacher of Botany but he switched over to English and Geography which soon became his forte. His interests were not confined to academic matters. He was for some time in charge of hockey, cadetting, and tennis. Tennis, however, was his favourite game and he continued his interest in it till he retired. He was the editor of the Gurutalada section of the schools magazine till 1956 and was also an able administrator who knew the educational regulations backwards. He supervised the Middle School. After his retirement he took up a teaching post in the USA. The staff guild gave him a farewell which the boys made him a presentation at the school assembly.

[From – The First Fifty Years – A History of S Thomas' College Gurutalawa 1942-1992 \(Page 95\)](#)

Tennis was begun in the late forties with the arrival of Mr and Mrs F L Amerasinghe. Owing to their enthusiasm for the game it developed rapidly and club membership grew.

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When Mr and Mrs.Amarasinghe left after a period of 21 years the standard of tennis declined.

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STAFF

Mr.F L Amerasinghe, retired last April after 21 years of service at Gurutalawa.

Mr.Amerasinghe joined the school in the very beginning 1947. he has watched the school grow and he has contributed his share to this growth. Going through his past records I find that he has at various times contributed richly to the life of the school. At one time he was in charge of Cadetting and the Rifle shooting club. It was he who introduced Hockey to Gurutalawa. He had coached the Cricket team, and he was the master in charge of Tennis for a long time.Mr.Amerasinghe was one of the finest teachers I have ever met. English was his forte and he has a large number of pupils of whom he could be proud. He was the supervisor of the middle school and was of assistance to me personally in a number of ways. We as a school are grateful to Mr & Mrs. Amerasinghe and wish them a blessed life of retirement and all the best for the future.

[STCG MAGAZINE - 1967 – 1968 \(Page 59\)](#)

58. Mr.O E J de SOYZA

- a. An Old Thomian, Mr. O.E.J de Soysa also left the staff in 1967 to take up an appointment with the Department of Education. He was at various times in charge of cricket and under 16 hockey in which he excelled when he himself was a student both at Gurutalawa and Mount Lavinia. His Contribution to improve the School Library deserves Special Mention. The departure of these two stalwarts was badly felt, as apart from their all round contribution to the School in the classroom as well as the playing fields, more so as they were married, the presence of their families added greatly to the social life of the small community which was Gurutalawa.

P S Duleepkumar

- b. [Mr. Oliver de Soyza](#) was another pioneer Old boy of 1942 who returned to teach at Gurutalawa spending most of his life in the service of College. He was well known as a master of English Language and Literature and was also the Librarian. He too spent his evening on the Tennis courts or playing Squash. Whilst doing Julius Ceaser for English Literature he would take the students to his quarters and seated on his bed, make us listen to his I.P. records of the version of Julius Ceaser which he had lovingly maintained. He was the House Master of Winchester which was then the dorm in which the new Admissions to the Lower 4th of Gurutalawa were accommodated. He accompanied the under 17 and under 15 Hockey Teams which toured South India from December, 1959 to January 1960.

An Article by LJ

- c. [Mr. O E H de Soyza](#) also left the school in 1967 after over a decade of service. He was at various times in charge of senior cricket and under 16 hockey, editor of the school magazine from 1957 to 1967 in charge of the Library and House Master of Winchester. He left to take up an appointment in the Ministry of Education as a Circuit Education Officer (English).

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59. Mr. BENJAMIN FERNANDO (1942-1978)

Together with Mr. Benjamin Fernando, Bursar, who had been a Thomian from the days of the Mt.Lavinia orphanage, and Mr. A.C.M.Lafir, Prefect of Games, who had joined the staff from the day he left school, they kept the flag fluttering aloft even as the school showed signs of being cast adrift from its Thomian moorings. Mrs. Benjamin Fernando also was on the college staff and served as Assistant Matron and she together with Mr. Fernando and Mr. Lafir completed their Silver Jubilee in 1978. Mr. Jayasinghe had done so, four years earlier.

Mr.S B Fernando left to go to Mt. Lavinia and left a void that seemed impossible to fill. He was a Gurutalawa pioneer. He had served in the College office and there was nothing he did not know about the School. He was appointed Bursar in due course and was a tower of strength to every Headmaster of the College. Moreover he was also very closely connected with the running of the Chapel where Mrs. Fernando also helped out performing in addition a multitude of duties. All the above were excellent examples of the secret of Gurutalawa's standing. They performed 24 hour jobs and took on any responsibility to help out in a crisis. Personal gain was never in

their equation of service. Love and dedication were their watchwords. In short, they were imbued with the Hayman – Foster spirit.

P S Duleepkumar

A long-standing member of the staff, Mr. Benjamin Fernando, the bursar, left the service of the school in this period. He had been with the school since its beginnings in 1942 and had now decided to move to the parent school in Mt. Lavinia. He was one of the many pioneers who came to Gurutalawa from Mt. Lavinia in 1942 and helped to establish the office. Together with Dr. Hayman and Mr. Torrington Jayawardena he formed the nucleus of the office staff. He worked his way up from the ranks and was appointed bursar after the departure of Mr. George Chellappah.

He was very closely connected with the running of the College Chapel. In the early days he used to walk round the chapel ringing the small hand bell, which eventually ended up on Rev. Foster's table after the chapel bell was installed in the belfry. He used to prepare the chapel for the daily communion service and do all the work of the sacristan. Later, after he got married, Mrs. Fernando used to help in the chapel and faithfully arranged the flowers for the Sunday Services. Mrs. Fernando also performed a multitude of tasks. She was in charge of the boys' laundry checked the boys' clothes and helped Mrs. Jayawickreme in the kitchen in many ways. Their departure was greatly regretted by all and marked another break with the past.

[From – The First Fifty Years – A History of S Thomas' College Gurutalawa 1942-1992 \(Page 117-118\)](#)

Mr. F B Fernando, bursar, who was an institution in the school completed twenty five years of service. Mr. Benjamin Fernando was one of the founder members of the office staff who first came to Gurutalawa from Mt. Lavinia in 1942.

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60. Mr. JOHN MARASINGHE

[Mr. John Marasinghe](#) was Dr. Hayman's trusted aide running the office and helping him with the administration of the school, another old boy who had returned to serve his alma Mater, now retired from school and living with his family at Ratmalana, still very much interested in College and the OBA. His two daughters belong to the unique select band of old girls of Gurutalawa who have had, almost their whole school career in a boys school. Mr. Marasinghe with Dr. Hayman was very much involved with Scouting and also Swimming; the two main activities Dr. Hayman undertook.

An Article by LJ

The departure of Mr. J W Marasinghe was another great loss to the school. Like many others he was an old boy who had joined the school in 1948 and left in 1954. he came back to

Gurotalawa in 1957 as Personal Secretary to the Headmaster. His duties, however, did not end with the close of school. He assisted Dr. Hayman with the swimming and scouting and took charge of those activities when Dr. Hayman left in 1963. He continued with these activities for well over two and a half decades and had the distinction of serving every Headmaster in Gurotalawa except Mr. C H Davidson. In addition to these duties he was also the popular house master of Keble House. With his departure another link with the Hayman era was gone. His cherubic face and rotund figure would be missed by future generations of Kebleites.

[From – The First Fifty Years – A History of S Thomas' College Gurotalawa 1942-1992 \(Pages 142-143\)](#)

I must not forget to say how thankful I am to Mr. J W Marasinghe, the Office Secretary, and to the clerical and accounts staff who have contributed greatly to the enrichment, advancement, welfare and financial stability of the school, and for their help to streamline the administration. The office is like a switchboard of a complicated electrical system and it is from here the remotest corners of this 50 acre campus is controlled.

[STCG MAGAZINE - 1983 \(Page 27\)](#)

61. Mr. C.M. CHINNIAH

[Mr. C.M. Chinniah](#) was another tough and exacting House Master in charge of Reid House. While he spent his evenings on the Hockey field, he too accompanied the first ever Squad of Sportsmen from Gurotalawa to leave the shores of Sri Lanka when the Senior and Junior Hockey Teams did a 2 week tour in South India. He took some Tamil Language Classes.

That was a time when all sports were played with gusto and in many fields Gurotalawa excelled. In Tennis we carried away the "Laing Tennis Shield and the Perera Cup" for best outstation school at the Public Schools Meet. In Swimming the Gurotalawa Team carried away the Public Schools under 16 4 x 100 meters free style relay record in 1963. In Hockey, Mr. Sunil Watawala together with Mr. Sarath Suraweera two of the Vice Presidents of the current Ex-Co of the OBA were part of the Uva Province Hockey Team which played in the Nationals whilst Sunil Watawala captained the Uva Team. Sunil was and still is a great organizer and is supposed to have been referred to by Dr. Hayman as his best Head Prefect. It is known that Dr. Hayman relied heavily on Sunil in various administrative matters during his tenure as Head Prefect. His organizing capabilities and commitments to a cause were well witnessed at the resounding success of the Dinner Dance organized by a Committee headed by him on the occasion of the 60th Anniversary of the School which prompted the OBA to organize the Diamond Jubilee Dinner Dance.

[An Article by LJ](#)

b. Mr. Chinniah who joined the staff in 1955 left in 1976 to take up an appointment in Colombo. He was house master of Read and under 14 hockey coach. He rendered invaluable service to the Co-op when he functioned as hon. treasurer for many years. He taught in the Tamil medium and also taught Practical Tamil to Sinhala students who wanted to offer this as a subject at the Ordinary Level Examination. He edited the school magazine. He was a Grade 2 special post holder and senior master when he left.

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62. Mr. P.B.A. ABEYKOON

Mr. P.B.A. Abeykoon was a Sinhala Scholar. He lived with his family in the married quarters at the Keble end of the Campus, the only Master who wore National Dress at that time, was known for his book, "Maina Sandesaya" His son was in our Class.

[An Article by LJ](#)

63. Mr. GEORGE PILLAI

a. Mr. George Pillai was a Master taking Maths and was also in charge of boxing. He took a few English Classes too. On one occasion he questioned Dr. Hayman with regard to certain matters in the management and the running of the Co-op Stores and a vote had to be taken at a meeting. It was found that the entire school naturally voted with Dr. Hayman whilst Mr. Pillai had the support of his brother Patrick, who was in the final year at College.

[An Article by LJ](#)

b. Mr. Pillai left us to join the staff of Hill School, Nuwara Eliya. He was one of the most indefatigable members of our Staff and there were few aspects of school life which he did not interest himself in. The junior scout Troop was his creative e and generations of school boys will be grateful to him for his Scout Camps at Yala and Wilpattu, which awakened in them at interest in Wild life. He was also in charge of Junior Soccer and Cricket. In addition he coached the boxers for a short time.

He taught English and Mathematics in the lower forms and his teaching was distinguished by its thoroughness, method and attention to detail. His departure was, indeed a great loss to the school and we wish him and his family all the best in the future.

[STCG - MAGAZINE – 1964 - \(Page 16\)](#)

64. Mr. OSWIN WRIGHT

Mr. Oswin Wright a Trinitian took our Latin. His emphasis of the Latin pronunciation still rings out in my mind. His classes were conducted in the Old Dining Hall. He was a chain smoker and his fingers which held the cigarette were heavily stained. It was very difficult to do well in Latin. Most students did not take the subject seriously and any way the subject was taught only in the Lower 4th and Upper 4th . A poem that was made up and recited went thus.

" Latin is a dead language
As dead as dead could be
First it killed the Romans
And now its killing me "

[An Article by LJ](#)

At the end of the year Mr. Oswin Wright and Mr. G A Pillai left the Staff after ten years of service. Mr. Wright came to us from Trinity College after thirty-seven years of service. He taught Latin and English and he will always be remembered for his unfailing good humour and cheerful personality. His health compelled him to retire to a well earned rest. We wish him all the best in his retirement.

[STCG MAGAZINE - 1964 \(Page 16\)](#)

65. Mr. S.K. GNANMUTTU

[Mr. S.K. Gnanamuttu](#) a teacher of English Language had previously been at Dharmaduta College in Badulla. He was a quiet and simple man. Every Friday he left for Badulla where he resided and returned on Monday morning. From Monday to Friday he resided in College. He was very fond particularly of the East Coast of Sri Lanka and encouraged us to visit that area and learn to admire what nature had to offer.

[An Article by LJ](#)

[Mr.S K Gnamamuttu](#) retired at the end of 1969 after nine years of service. A teacher of English who demanded a very high standards, a disciplinarian and the supervisor of the Upper School it was not easy to replace him.

[From – The First Fifty Years – A History of S Thomas' College Gurutalawa 1942-1992 \(Page 103\).](#)

66. Mr. A.C.M. LAFFIR

[Mr. A.C.M. Laffir](#) was the master who looked after the swimming pool and the farm. He would take the horses out riding. He was an all round sportsman and had won several college colours whilst a student and had come back to serve College. For a long time he was the last link Old Boys of an Old era had with College. He excelled in Soccer, Hockey, Squash, Badminton, Tennis etc. etc.

[An Article by LJ](#)

Mr. A.C.M. Laffir, who joined the staff of Gurutalawa soon after he left College and remained on the staff till his retirement. For us Old Boys he proved to be a resilient thread which kept the crumbling fabric of the school's traditions from complete disintegration. Also, so long as he was there, he was a common bond between Old Boys of successive generations and a catalyst of their own bonding, specially noticeable during the Reunion day celebrations.

[P S Duleepkumar](#)

I am specially thankful to Mr.A C M Laffir, Prefect of Games, for the marked contribution he made to the sporting tradition of the school by helping to raise the standard in several sports as well as helping me in my efforts to provide facilities and resources as varied and abundant as the school can afford in the field of sports.

[STCG MAGAZINE1983 \(Page 26-27\)](#)

67. Mr. L.M. FERNANDO

[Mr. L.M. Fernando](#) another old boy who returned to teach was another Master in the Arts Stream taking Geography. He was a good Tennis Player and coached the College Team to great heights to perform well. He has now retired but is still engaged in coaching Tennis at Panadura.

[An Article by LJ](#)

[Mr.L M Fernando](#) who started tennis at STC Gurutalawa, later represented STC Mt.Lavinia and reached the Senior Finals at the Public Schools Tennis Tournament in 1954 and in the same year was also in the Sri Lanka Tennis Association Juvenile Finals. John de Vos, W J Ondaatje, C Van Cuylenberg, A P Jayaisnghe and Mrio Fernando are some of the other players who come to mind. C R L Wattedgedera was one of the best of them. He played in

the highest fight of competitive tennis in Sri Lanka and represented the country in international competitions.

In 1960 the school team coached by Mr.F I Amarasinghe and I M Fernando won the C A Laing Challenge Shield for Junior Public School Tennis, the only time this CChallenge Shief has been won by a school outside Colombo. In the deciding Doubles Match, the Gurutalawa pair of W J Ondaatje and A P Jayasinghe beat the STC Mt.Lavinia pair coached by Rupert Ferdinands.

L M Fernando is an internationally recognised Tennis umpire holding an ITF qualification and is the Secretary of the Sri Lanka Tennis Association.

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68. Mr. AMBROSE

[Mr. Ambrose](#) a Master who had his ties with South India was the Curator of the Gardens of Gurutalawa. He lovingly tended the plants and foliage. He handled the teachers of Tamil Language. He was also a good artist.

[An Article by LJ](#)

69. Mr. R.T KULARATNE

[Mr. R.T Kularatne](#) the cigar smoking woodwork Master made carpentry very interesting Many were the useful items we took home at the end of the term turned out in the Carpentry Shed during the classes. He was also in charge of the Co-op stores at one time. He was perhaps the only Master who lived outside the College Campus as his residence was a mile or so away. He was naturally nicknamed "kulta".

[An Article by LJ](#)

Mr.Kularatne retired in 1975 after a long period of service. An old boy, he succeeded Mr.Torrington Jayawardene as farm manager in the early forties, and since then served as the manager of the co-operative store, the wood work teacher and the being coach, at various times. With his retirement another link with the school's earliest period was broken.

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70. Mr. SELWYN GUNAWARDENE

[Mr. Selwyn Gunawardene](#) a burly figure was the Master in charge of Junior Hockey. He took Latin and Sinhala Language Classes. He could not accompany his students on the Indian Tour.

[An Article by LJ](#)

71. Mr. G.T. CHELLAPAH

[Mr. G.T. Chellapah](#) was the Bursar. He had a small car which the stud bull of the farm once rocked around. After his departure Mr. Benjamin Fernando took over his duties.

[An Article by LJ](#)

72. Mr. DAYA JAYASURIYA

Mr. [Daya Jayasuriya a Richmandite](#) was in the Arts Stream, took Civics (or Government) a superb athletic figure, well known for his prowess in sports. He used to play soccer and cricket in a big way, was a feared fast bowler, chain smoker and was known to have a fondness for alcohol. We used to stay up to enjoy some fun when the Old boys finished their Fellowship and Dinner and were dispersing thereafter. Of course it could never be said that any student had any adverse effects by seeing any one of their Masters or Old Boys behaving in an inebriated manner on one day in the College Calendar. We looked forward to the event and truly loved them more for providing the entertainment.

[An Article by LJ](#)

73. Mr. NIMAL BHARETTI

Mr. [Nimal Bharetti](#) who joined towards the latter stages of our stay at Gurutalawa was a mild and popular teacher who took Arts subjects mainly History. He was one of the few Masters of our vintage who are still alive. Presently he is a member of the Diocesan Council in the Anglican Church.

[An Article by LJ](#)

74. Mr. B.J.H. BAHAR

Mr. [B.J.H. Bahar](#) a Master who spent a short while at Gurutalawa was in charge of the English Literary and Debating Society. He took English Language. He was instrumental in getting his nephew Ishan Bahar to give a performance to the entertainment starved students of Gurutalawa. He was also responsible for an operetta " A lad in and out " which was also staged at N'Elia.

[An Article by LJ](#)

75. Mr. D.U.V SAMARANAYAKE

Mr. [D.U.V Samaranayake](#) a Trinitian a Master in the Arts Stream was a fine orator. He took some English Language Classes too. He was in charge of the Senior Debating and Literary Society. He eventually left to study law and subsequently was working with the Tourist Board. He was in charge of Badminton. .

[An Article by LJ](#)

76. Mr. SHELTON KOTTAHACHCHI

Mr. [Shelton Kottahachchi](#) was a Master in the Arts Stream, who took both Civics and Geography. He was an Old Boy, had been Head Prefect in his time and a favourite of Dr. Hayman as he had been captain of Swimming too.

[An Article by LJ](#)

77. Mr. T.G. PEIRIS

Mr. [T.G. Peiris](#) was another young Master who taught for a short while and left to take up employment under the State.

[An Article by LJ](#)

78. Mr. R. WIJESINGHE

Mr. [R. Wijesinghe](#) a giant of a man but very gentle in his character, was a Musician specializing on the Keyboard. Very often we used to see him with the Piano accordion hung across his torso playing to his hearts' content. He would also be found in the Chapel playing the organ beautifully. He took Chemistry classes.

[An Article by LJ](#)

79. Mr. A.K. de ALWIS

[Mr. A.K. de Alwis](#) was a Master handling Arts subjects in general, took a few Sinhala Language Classes, was an Artist and had fine hand-writing. He was responsible for putting on the Boards a Sinhala Ballet by the name of "Bahirawa" which was staged outside College too. He was also responsible for the play "Handahana".

[An Article by LJ](#)

80. Mr. M. THIYAGARAJIAH.

[Mr. M. Thiagarajah.](#) joined towards the latter stages of our life at Gurutalawa. He was Mr. Chinniah's brother and assisted a great deal in popularizing Basket Ball. I remember coming up to Colombo with him by train to participate in the Basket Ball Nationals, then played in the Echelon Barracks, (adjoining the then Parliament and the present Presidential Secretariat) presently where the Hotel Galadari stands.

[An Article by LJ](#)

81. Mr. N RATNASINGHAM

[Mr. N Ratnasingham](#) was the Master in charge of cadetting. He was also in charge of Rifle Shooting. He took a few Maths Classes in Tamil. He also was the Master in charge of Basket Ball. He prompted students to create a jingle owing to his association with that game.

[An Article by LJ](#)

82. Mr. J M P BANDARA

[Mr. J M P Bandara](#) was a Sinhala Master whose home town was close to College. He was a chain smoker and a strong supporter of the UNP Leadership and did not make a secret of it. We had the sad duty of attending his funeral whilst students when he died of a heart attack. He was very proud of his up-country heritage, and his temper would rise if any reference was made to same, in any disparaging manner.

[An Article by LJ](#)

83. Mr. LANKANESAN NESIAH

who was on our staff till he left us to join the University of Ceylon, this term, is an interesting 'link' in the history of the staff. His father Mr.K Nesiah presently, the Senior lecturer in Education, University of Ceylon. Served on the college, staff during the short period, Mr.Nesiah (Jnr) was with us, he certainly made his mark in the life of Gurutalawa, and we wish him all success at The University of Ceylon.

[STCG MAGAZINE1961 \(Page 127\)](#)

84. Rev. Fr. GOODCHILD

The Rev Goodchild who served the school loyally for two decades left in the course of the year. The Rev. Harold Goodchild first came to Gurutalawa to act for Rev. Foster when he went on six months leave in 1964. He soon made his presence felt;

not only was he a spiritual mentor to everyone, Christians and non Christians, he also threw himself with zest in to the activity he loved most, scouting. He also coached the juniors in football and hockey. Having come from the Ashram at Batticaloa his life was a model of simplicity and devotion. When Rev. Foster died in harness in 1965 he was an ideal choice as successor. One of his most valuable contributions to the spiritual life of the boys was the singing of Sinhala and Tamil hymns in chapel and the reading of the Lessons in the national languages.

Apart from his duties as chaplain, scouting and wild life were his chief interests. Scouting was a serious business with him. First aid was not only taught but practised in the sick room. On many occasions he helped as a male nurse in the sickroom to set broken bones and attend to twisted ankles.

He took over Hayman House in 1967 and a generation of Haymanites benefited from his care and kindness. He was also he supervisor of studies in the Lower Fourth. He left in 1969 but fortunately came back again in the mid seventies to serve the school for another fifteen years. His loss will be felt in the years to come.

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We, acknowledge with gratitude the valuable services rendered by our College Chaplain, Rev. Harold Goodchild, in his spiritual ministrations as well as counseling of the boys, both Christian and non-Christian entrusted to his care. He is an excellent Hockey coach in addition to being a dedicated Scout Master.

[STCG MAGAZINE 1985 \(Page 17\)](#)

In Rev. Harold Goodchild our Chaplain we have a warm hearted friend and counsellor, and above all the dedicated servant of Jesus Christ. His unstinted labour in the class-room and in the playing field and his complete identifications with the interests of the school are his characteristic virtues.

[STCG MAGAZINE 1983 \(Page 26\)](#)

85. Mrs. ALTENDORF

[Mrs. Altendorf](#) was the Matron in charge of food. We were never satisfied with what she offered us, and so she was most unpopular. She had a Dashund as a Pet who seemed well fed naturally. The great thing about almost all these Masters was that all of them were resident on the Campus, did not confine themselves to teaching in Classrooms and were actively involved in so many activities after classes relating to Sports, Drama, Debating, Scouting etc.

[An Article by LJ](#)

86. Mrs. JAYAWICKREMA

Mrs. Jayawickrema, the matron in charge of the food, left in 1976. She had served the school for seventeen years, ' a very hardworking and efficient lady whose cheerfulness and helpfulness was at all times a blessing to many children who had difficulty in adjusting themselves to life at school'.

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(Page 111-112)

87. Mr. L A M CHANDRASEKERA

Master-in- Charge of studies worked with unflagging energy and meticulous care in dealing with the Time Table and the numerous problems of administration and even mundane matters which have enabled the school to be run smoothly and well.

[STCG MAGAZINE 1985 \(Page 17\)](#)

Mr. L A M Chandrasekera, Master-in-Charge of studies, must also be thanked for the meticulous care with which he dealt with the Time table, Term Tests, and numerous mundane matters which have helped the school to be run smoothly and well.

[STCG MAGAZINE 1983 \(Page 27\)](#)

88. Mr. T R NIRODHAWARDENA

I must give full credit to our Prefect of Discipline, **Mr. T R Nirodhawardena** for the tough, ruthless and often uncompromising stand he always took in dealing with disciplinary matters among the students.

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I must thank Mr. T R Nirodhawardana, Prefect of discipline , who with unflagging energy exercised firm disciplinary control over the students.

[STCG MAGAZINE 1983 \(Page 27\)](#)

89. Mr. CYRIL PERERA

I must appreciate the work of **Mr. Cyril Perera**, the Supervisor of the Lower School, for the care and concern he showed to the little children in his charge and his efficient and successful administration of his section of the School.

[STCGMAGAZINE 1985 \(Page 17\)](#)

I greatly value and appreciate the assistance of Mr. Cyril Perera, the Supervisor of the Lower School who has kept the Primary Department humming. He has taken a big load off my

shoulders by running this Department all by himself and displaying conspicuous qualities of drive, initiative and tact in dealing with the 100% female staff in this section of the school.

[STCG MAGAZINE1983 \(Page 26\)](#)

90. Rev A M DHARAMARAJ

The Senior Maser, worked both as a teacher, clergyman and Sectional Supervisor with great devotion. I always valued his unobtrusive manners and wise counsel.

[STCG MAGAZINE 1985 \(Page 17\)](#)

b. the Rev.A M Dharmaraj, our Senior Master, must be thanked for overlooking the work in the Tamil Stream of the school and for giving the boys in his charge the benefit of his maturity and spiritual guidance.

[STCG MAGAZINE1983 \(Page 26\)](#)

91. R P SIMON PERERA (BELL SIMON)

Amongst those on the minor staff who were institutions are Bell Simon who rang the College bell for ages. Students were expected to be in the Dining Hall for Prep (i.e. preparation of studies and home-work for the next day as well as revision) before the last stroke of the bell was rung for that purpose. Prep was had for about 40 minutes before Breakfast and also for about 1 ½ hours after games and before Dinner. It was a common feature for the stragglers whilst sprinting from the Dorms to the Hall to signal Bell Simon to continue to ring the bell thus permitting the would-be offender to take his seat without punishment. Naturally Bell Simon would always oblige and he was hugely popular. Perhaps he considered it a part of his mission in life. His son and grandson now serve College.

[An Article by LJ](#)

92. SIMON RANASINGHE (VAN SIMON)

Van Simon drove the College van for long years, the daily trip to Welimada for purchases, taking students in the van to the Wangiakumbura Government School which was the center for public exams, taking the students to Haputale or Nanu Oya to board the train for Colombo for various school matches or home for holidays.

[An Article by LJ](#)

93. P A PIYASENA

[Thatta Piya](#) as he was fondly referred to was the chauffer Dr. Hayman employed to drive his Lanchester Car. In or about 1959, Dr. Hayman purchased a new Holden Car Thatta Piya's importance grew in leaps and bounds. He would remove all 4 wheels whilst washing the under carriage of the car even after a short trip to Welimada not content with washing the mudguards in a show of his effervescent exuberance. He would navigate the vehicle in such a deft and smooth manner along the narrow winding up-country roads, that a passenger in the rear seat would not feel the change of transmission from one gear to the other. I was able to scrounge a few lifts home from Dr Hayman and can vouch for Thatta Piya's excellent driving skills. Thatta Piya also played the role of the College Electrician and was quick to run to Dr. Hayman and report that he found a One Cent coin placed in between the bulb and the holder by a mischievous boy in order to create some diversion. This would often result in a special announcement being made by Dr

Hayman's sudden entry interrupting evening Prep or Dinner that there would be school on Saturday as a punishment. This would be greeted by a loud hum from the entire student population to show displeasure. In view of Thatta Piya's sneakish conduct he was naturally not very popular amongst the student population and all gave him a wide margin. He was very loyal to Dr. Hayman.

[An Article by LJ](#)

94. J A M ARIYADASA

[Ariyadasa](#) assisted Mrs. Hayman in the sick room administering cough and cold mixtures and dressing cuts, bruises and wounds which were a regular occurrence, considering the sports activities students were engaged in. He also handed out the opening dose to be taken on holidays which used to be a form of punishment particularly when students were apprehended raiding the pantry or orchard. Ariyadasa was also the one man mopping up Brigade which followed Dr Hayman on his night visits to the Dorms.

[An Article by LJ](#)

95. J A M KARUNADASA

[Karunadasa, Ariyadasa's](#) brother was the Ground Boy who efficiently managed the Sports Pavilion and Grounds situated almost one mile away from the main campus. He handed out all the sports equipment, was responsible for placing the matting wicket for cricket, the goal posts for hockey and ensuring that the long jump and high jump pits were in readiness for those events. Many were the occasions he would be engaged to massage the cramps on Athletes' legs with Wintogeno.

[An Article by LJ](#)

96. MANNIS APPU

[Marnis](#) was responsible for all activities connected with the kitchen, pantry and dining hall. He would mobilize his assistants in the preparation and serving of food as well and the cleaning and washing up. He would of course feel sorry and accommodate the few hungrier versions of those who were never satisfied with what was served and always wanted more.

[An Article by LJ](#)

97. E K RAMAN

Who has been our Head Cook since the school was founded in April 1942, has had to leave us in order to return to his home in India. He was one of the most reliable servants we have ever had, and is greatly missed by all who had to deal with him. It has been no small achievement to produce on time, four meals a day over a period of more than nineteen years. It is all the more remarkable that he was able to do this when the cooking involved not only rice and curry, but also European dishes, and sickroom food.

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THE TRIUMVIRATE

The contribution of Dr. R.L. Hayman, Rev. A.F. Foster and Canon R.S. de Saram to S. Thomas' College, Gurutalawa.

1942 was a traumatic year for the Warden and Sub Warden of S. Thomas' College – the late Canon R.S. de Saram who in 1932 had become the first Ceylonese (now identified as Sri Lankan) Warden and the late Dr. R.L. Hayman who had come to the island in 1929 to serve as an assistant master and had been made Sub Warden in 1935. With the entry of Japan into the Second World War in 1942, the Government decided to take over all the buildings of S.T.C. Mount Lavinia for conversion into a military hospital for the British armed forces that poured in to defend the country. Warden de Saram immediately decided to relocate the main school in Getambe, a suburb of Kandy, while branches were opened at St. Paul's Girls School, Milagiriya and Girls High School, Mount Lavinia, on the basis of afternoon schooling. At this juncture the late Mr. Leslie de Saram, a cousin of the Warden, made a truly timely and munificent gift to S. Thomas' College in the form of his farm at Gurutalawa in the idyllic hills of Uva near Welimada. The gift was unconditional as to the use to which the farm was to be put, except for the expressed wish that some form of agricultural instruction and training should be conducted there. Warden de Saram and Dr. Hayman seized this heaven sent opportunity to open a fourth branch of the school at Gurutalawa. The decision was both momentous and dauntless. Momentous because it resulted in the permanent addition of a branch which was nurtured from a fledgling to a sound school in the Thomian tradition, though in a rural setting, to attract boys from the upcountry areas as well as elsewhere, usefully complementing the main school by the sea. Dauntless in the context of was time Ceylon which faced a highly uncertain future when even food supplies were not assured and almost everything was either rationed or unavailable while rumours were rampant of an imminent Japanese invasion.

Warden de Saram quite naturally turned to Dr. Hayman, his loyal and indefatigable colleague and right hand man, who had done so much for S.T.C. Mount Lavinia in deed, thought and word, as well as with his private wealth, to set up S. T.C. Gurutalawa and become its first headmaster. This team of Reggie de Saram, surreptitiously referred to as "Kunji" by the boys, and the giant of a Rollo Hayman, affectionately nick named "Bullo" forged a long and fruitful partnership that created a school of great repute which has withstood the vicissitudes of a Sri Lanka that became an independent political entity in 1948. The third member of the partnership which may be described more accurately as a Triumvirate, was the outstanding chaplain and teacher, Rev. A.J. Foster called "Fossy" for short, who had joined S. Thomas' in 1932, and was chosen by the Warden for his steadfast contribution to S.T.C. Mount Lavinia in his endearing, unobtrusive and self effacing style.

S.T.C. Gurutalawa opened in 1942 with 57 students on its roll, using the existing buildings of the farm. The contribution of this triumvirate in setting up and running S.T.C. Gurutalawa as a school second to none cannot be readily grasped in today's context. Gurutalawa, at that time, was an isolated sleepy hamlet without any communications with the outside world, with the exceptions of the solitary rickety bus that went out to Welimada

once a day. The only means of useful communication with the outside world was the post and Dr. Hayman's motor car. It was the confidence and trust that Warden de Saram had in Dr. Hayman and Rev. Foster that made it possible to make Gurutalawa a reality. But Warden de Saram contributed more than confidence and trust in his team. He organized the necessary finances and the required supplies that were scarce in wartime Ceylon, to give effect to the decision to set up the school. The success of Gurutalawa as a school, thanks to the dedicated efforts of Dr. Hayman and Rev. Foster and the staff, gave Warden de Saram the confidence to make another bold decision. In 1944, Warden de Saram took the decision to move the main school in Kandy to Gurutalawa. Again the organizational tasks fell on Dr. Hayman to have the necessary buildings constructed with rough hewn stone, using lime plaster for the walls, gum trees for timber and mana grass to thatch the roofs. Thomians who were in Gurutalawa in those pioneering years will no doubt recall with pride how they were initiated to "shramadana" by Dr. Hayman and Reverend Foster, who led and galvanized the boys by joining in to dig the foundations for the dormitories after school hours . it was a red letter day for S.T.C.