

advertisements, the catering at the Thomian Tent as well as the Prefects tent, the prefects' positions and duties and the prefects transport to and from the venue, which was the Tamil Union Oval. The Police were in attendance. In 1958, a huge crowd of mainly "recent" Old Boys, stormed the main gate where Errol Jacotine was on duty, knocked him down to the ground and then stormed the Thomian tent, at the entrance of which I was on duty, a brand-new Prefect! They knocked me down and entered the tent. I do not remember what the issue was! That was the year, I think, that barricades were set up around the ground and Army and Navy personnel were on duty. I think it was because of the unrest in the country over the anti-shri campaign which led to the racial riots later in the year.

Racial Riots - 1958. College was closed down. A select group of about 30 boarders, chose to stay back, to guard the college. I was one of them and I had the most traumatic experience of my life, when, with 3 other prefects and Canon de Saram, Warden, I attended to a dying Tamil man who had been bashed and set alight with petrol. I have written about this experience elsewhere.

We cycled round Ceylon in 13 days 1958. "Jockey" de Zoysa and I set off at the end of the 1st Term. I cycled on my own from Wellawatte to Jockeys home in Boosa. His account of our trip can be found elsewhere. This was a life experience!

We hiked through central Ceylon, 22 days, at the end of Term 1, 1959. Jockey's account appears elsewhere. This was also a life experience. We went through incredible feats of bravery and endurance.



Maurice Fairweather and I. We cycled upcountry, in December 1959, first stop was his Uncle Mano and Aunt Daisy's beautiful tea plantation bungalow, in Matale. That Christmas, in their home, along with Maurice, was the most beautiful in my teen years. That cycling trip was also a life experience!

The Inaugural Inter-house Drama Competition 1960

There was not a lot of time. I asked a chap in Miller A, Wijewardane, an Arts student, to come up with something suitable for us to stage. A few days later he came to me with a draft of a play he had written. I did not think it was good enough, so I took on the responsibility. I rewrote the "Assassination" scene from "Julius Caesar". I selected the cast, involving as many boys as possible. I designed the costumes - bed sheets as togas, thongs with straps up to the calves and a strap

around the fore head. Wijewardane, Leslie Brainerd, another chap whose name I do not remember and I, played the main parts. I conducted the rehearsals. The judges were :- Mr. R.F.L. Mendis (Rifle); Fr. Yin; Mr. F.J. Seneviratne; Victor Walatara. Held in the college hall, the entire Upper school was the audience. **We won**, beating De Saram House under the direction of Shanthi Paranavitane.

Drama Society. The Master-in-charge was Mr. "Rifle" Mendis. Shanthi Paranavitane and I played the main characters in his production of "The Merchant of Venice", staged in the college hall. The public and students from other schools attended. I think this was in 1957. I think it was in the same year that the choristers supplemented a cast of professional actors in the public performance of "Dido and Aeneas" at Ladies College Hall.

Prize Giving Day. A day looked forward to by all the winners each year and I count myself among them. But more importantly it was a day looked forward to by every student, because at the end of the Head Prefects address, he would request the Chief Guest to ask the Warden to declare a school holiday on the Monday following, which was granted to a thunderous cheer. In 1960, as Head Prefect, I delivered the address. **Prizes** I won the choir prize, servers prize and the chapel Readers prize. I won the Senior Biology Prize in 1956 and the Senior Oratorical Prize in 1960.

The Annual Carol Service It was very special to me. In 1954, I sang the entrance carol "Once in Royal David's City". In 1960, my final Carol Service, I sang all the Tenor solos. I have a tape recording of the Service, which I treasure with pride. The party after the Carol Service, at the Wardens bungalow, for the choristers, was much enjoyed. The congregation each year was enormous, spilling out onto the front steps.

Old Boys' Day Celebrations. The various matches between Old and Present boys were interesting to watch - Cricket, Hockey, Water-Polo, that I remember! It was invariably, a gathering of the most famous, the most powerful, the richest and the best men in the country! I have no doubt they all enjoyed the traditional lunch of rice, beef curry, parippu curry and pol samboll

The Annual Dorm Feed With the amalgamation of the houses in 1956, they became competitive between Miller-Chapman and Copleston- Cloughton. Up to 1955, my contribution to a low-key, much enjoyed Dorm-Feed in Chapman House, was a large tin of Marshmallows made by my two sisters!

Duck Pond. I was thrown in a few times as a "fresher" in Term 1, 1952, in my pyjamas!

Christening In January 1952, I was one of about 5 "freshers" in Chapman Junior. It seemed like I was the focus of a special group of about 10 veterans, with a

“hard core” of 4, who were the “administrators” of the ritual and I can only guess the reason why. During the term and at the end of it, I was subjected to the worst they could think of and it drove me to becoming suicidal. But by the end of the second term, it was all forgiven and forgotten.

Lavos. There were never enough tins for water. It was a matter of knocking on a closed door and calling out “Tin after you, I am in No:3”. It became a bit of a rush, if the tin had a leak!

The Turd in the Pool. One Saturday, in the early '50s at a 4.00 pm swim, the pool was crowded with junior boarders, when someone spied a “**turd**” floating atop the ripples at the shallow end and shouted out. There was a panic-stricken scramble out of the pool and we all stood at the edge, gazing in disgust at this ugly evidence of the total disregard that someone amongst us had for the rest of us. The atmosphere changed dramatically when a “joker” commented aloud “Thank God it is hard!” and we all laughed.

Nude Bathing. As Juniors, we wore shorts when we had a bath in the cisterns. But as Seniors, we bathed nude, In 1956, 1st Term, about 20 juniors went up to the senior dorms. The second day of “senior life” happened to be a Saturday. That afternoon, a senior from Copleston A, rounded up all the “freshers” in the senior dorms and ordered us to go to the senior cisterns, in our towels, for a bath. We were all very shy and embarrassed. I remember David Jonklaas, from Copleston B, being the first to be ordered to take off his towel and get under the tap-- and so we were “broken in” to nude bathing at the senior cisterns. The senior who organised this event was the late Tassie Seneviratne, a great and very popular Thomian.

Tuck Shop—the lady in charge [I do not remember her name], Samaris and Sirisena, were such good people, unsung service providers! The lime juice, the mas pang on Wednesdays, stringhoppers, beef curry and sambol—how I enjoyed them!

Miscellaneous There was the affable public drunk, **Julius Perera**, an old Thomian, on the street and at the big match, in the early '50s, a contemporary of some of the Thomian elite in the VIP stand. There was the “mad” vagrant, an old Thomian, name forgotten, who occasionally parked himself on weekends, overnight, outside the last classroom at the Chapel end of the main classroom block, in the early '50s. As juniors, we were scared of him. There were our wonderful teachers, the office staff, the caretakers of the grounds and swimming pool, the dining hall, kitchen and dormitory “servants”, chapel boy, class room peon and bell boy, Chemistry lab, Physics lab: and Biology lab: assistants, life in the boarding, being a Prefect. So much more is remembered, but so much for now.



Lynwood Stork

Lynwood was at STCML (1952-1960) and was in the boarding (Chapman Jnr and Miller House) throughout his time at College. He was the Head Prefect in 1960, Captain of Basketball and won colours in both Basketball and first XV Rugby; and also represented College in Diving and Debating. Lynwood was a Senior Chorister and Choir Leader. He migrated to Australia with his family in 1976 and has been a member of the OBA for many decades. Since his retirement in 1993, he and his family now live in a 20-acre property in Ravenswood,