

They came from near and far for a very special occasion



*Their presence represented the most formidable
gathering of its kind ever witnessed in Perak*

Fathol Zaman Bukhari's report - page 2
Photographs by Rosli Mansor

SLIMMING-LINE®

Experience a wonderful yet effective pampering therapy both face and full body with the most advanced facial and slimming technology ever made alongside other irresistible offers.

Get an instant rebate of **RM 200 *** with any facial or slimming package. Hurry! Offer valid till 31.8.08

 Interest Free Installment Plan
HSBC  **Maybank**
The world's local bank

* terms & conditions apply.

RM 39* only
Reviving Essence Facial or
Intensive Slimming Treatment

from RM 138*
IPL Permanent Hair Removal
(Guaranteed result)

Hotline : **016-422 2148**

No 14, Persiaran Greentown 6, Greentown Business Centre, 30450 Ipoh, Perak.

Business Hours: Mon-Fri (10.30am - 8.00pm) Sat-Sun and Public Holidays (10.30am - 4.00pm)



They were days for remembrance *And events that themselves will never be forgotten*

By Fathol Zaman Bukhari

The central group were all members of the National Malayan and Borneo Veterans Association (NMBVA). There were 55 of them, including spouses and children. They represented the biggest contingent of its kind ever to set foot in Ipoh.

They came to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the start of the Malayan Emergency and, naturally, to pay respects to fallen comrades.

Ages ranged between 59 and 82. The oldest, Tom Turnbull, served with the Police Force here when the Emergency was declared on June 18, 1948. The youngest in the gathering, 59 year-old Steve Toon, was formerly with Britain's famous Coldstream Guards.

He served in Sarawak during Konfrontasi, 1963-65.

Then, of course, there were the many senior diplomatic representatives from Britain, Australia, New Zealand, India and Nepal, not to mention the military attachées.

The NMBVA is an

last year. However, it was a first in Ipoh for John and Maria although they have been to Malaysia on several previous occasions.

Stan, as it happened, lost an item of luggage filled with mementos meant for their Malaysian counterparts in Ipoh. It went missing on the trolley he was pushing at KLIA. How unfortunate it was for in the bag was his jacket and his service medals. "The thief will be very disappointed with the loot," he laughed.

They were accommodated at the Syuen Hotel although a few had picked the Royal Ipoh Club out of nostalgia. Placing them under one main roof allowed for better supervision by local organisers.

A WEEK'S PROGRAMME

The NMBVA's complete programme covered a full week from Tuesday, June 10 to Monday, June 16. Transportation to destinations of interest was provided by two 42-seater buses.

First stop for the programme came on Thursday, June 12 - the



God's Little Acre at Batu Gajah. The last post sounds as British veterans dip the association flag.

one at the Taiping Lakes Garden. "I will raise this matter with the Australian High Commissioner, Mrs. Penny Williams, and request that the Australian Government takes over upkeep of the cemetery from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission," said Brian.

The involvement of Australian troops in the Malayan Emergency began in 1950 by way of Royal Australian Air Force aircraft and personnel based in Singapore. Dakota air-

played in Johore, Sarawak and Sabah to prevent intrusions by Indonesian irregulars and regulars.

SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Remembrance Day service at God's Little Acre in Batu Gajah had its own special significance. Lay buried in this well preserved cemetery are numerous planters and policemen, foreign and local, killed during the Emergency. The service, observed on

the second Saturday of each June is organised by the Malaysian Palm Oil Association. This year it was held on Saturday, June 14.

Several wreaths were laid to honour the fallen heroes. The OCPD Batu Gajah, representing the Royal Malaysian Police, laid the first wreath followed by the High Commissioners of the United Kingdom, Australia, India and Nepal. Lt-Col Fridaus Abdullah laid one on behalf of the military

while Brian Selby did so for NMBVA.

From Batu Gajah the visitors' next stop was Kem Syed Putra (Tambun Camp).

REMEMBERING THE GURKHAS

In the camp is an almost-forgotten Gurkha cemetery where the remains of over a hundred Gurkha soldiers and dependents are buried. They came from

continued page 9



The memorial service at Taiping led by Brian Selby and honouring fallen serviceman Pte Ben Hallard

Adelaide, South Australia, based organisation with branches in all Australian states. It is an integral part of the Returned Services League of Australia. The Association's President, Brian (Snowy) Selby, Secretary, John Plenty and Treasurer, Stan Pjanga were present along with wives. All three men served with the Australian Artillery Regiment in the early 1960s and were stationed at Terendak Camp, Malacca.

John Plenty, incidentally, is married to a Malaccan lass, Maria. Brian and Stan were here

Kamunting Christian Cemetery. Here some 38 Australian soldiers killed during the Emergency are interred. The Association had picked one grave to honour with a wreath.

"Our choice this year is Pte Ben Hallard from Perth. He served with 2 RAR and was killed on June 24, 1957. We dedicate the wreath to his niece," said Brian after a simple ceremony at Ben's graveside.

The cemetery was a little unkempt with overgrown lallang and grass. It does not reflect a true war cemetery like the

craft were used to ferry troops, drop supplies and leaflets.

As the Emergency progressed so did their roles. In 1955, troops from 2 Royal Australian Regiment took part in search and destroy missions alongside local and Commonwealth infantrymen.

The Indonesian Confrontation began with the Brunei Revolt in 1962, two years after the end of the Emergency, and ended in 1966 when President Sukarno was ousted by General Suharto.

Australian and Commonwealth troops were de-



The sons of well know expatriate planter, Dato Carl Bek-Nielsen, lay wreaths in tribute to planters who died during the Emergency



Gurkha Pipers from Brunei prepare to play the lament at Batu Gajah

From the Editor's Desk By Fathol Zaman Bukhari

CLOSING IN ON 100 DAYS *Our MB calls a press conference*

It's most disheartening when your predecessor, besides refusing to acknowledge defeat, refuses to hand over his job as well. Taking on the responsibility as CEO of a state once considered the richest in the country can be a daunting task if you lack support and empathy. What you require is determination, not idealism.

These are the difficulties faced by newly minted Menteri Besar of Perak, Dato' Seri Mohamad Nizar Jamaluddin. He made this revelation to reporters during an interview in the run-up to his first 100 days in office.

The meeting, at his office, on Tuesday, June 17 was devoid of officialdom normally associated with the former administration.

A number of deals with investors had been made. However, the details were kept under wraps. "We'll



reveal the details on July 7, the date that marks the state government's 100 days in power."

Investors had shown interests in the tourism, manufacturing and petroleum sectors. The same investors were turned off by the "hanky panky" of

the previous government. "They have to go under and above the counter to get their deals through," said Nizar.

Reducing the RM40 million budget deficit incurred over the years was one of the promises Nizar made upon assum-

ing the Chief Ministerial post. "We have to spend less," he said. He had done away with new staff cars although approval for replacements had been given by predecessor Tajol Rosli. "Even if the cars are old we can still get to our destinations, a little slow though."

He expressed hopes that the media would treat his administration with fairness.

"They don't highlight our good points. I seldom see pictures of me giving aids to the poor," he sighed. Inadequate coverage had forced him and his executive councillors to give *ceramah* at night in the kampongs.

Perhaps the media and those who still doubt Nizar's sincerity should have a better look at themselves before commenting.

Ipo Echo, as always, will exercise impartiality and objectivity in its reporting.

SID'S TAVERN

20 Tingkat Taman Ipoh 11,
Ipoh Garden South, 31400 Ipoh, Perak.
Tel: 016-546 8649, 016-507 0822

Live music five nights a week



Friday and Saturday
Features
Our seven piece house band
SUPERNOVA

Thursday and Sunday
Features
Brian and Maya
**AS THE
B & M DUET**

Wednesday
**FEATURES OUR SOLO ARTIST FROM PENANG
GEMSTONE**

"SID'S"... IT'S SIMPLY THE BEST PUB IN TOWN

YEAR-LONG MAIL DELIVERY OF THE IPOH ECHO

You can have the Ipoh Echo mailed directly to your house or place of work. All you need to do is deposit RM24 with us and we will do the rest. The amount is postage fee for the delivery of 24 copies of Ipoh Echo for a year. Those interested please call our office at 05-2495936 or 016-553 1092 for more details.

When posting a cheque, it should be made out to 'Ipoh Echo Sdn Bhd' and posted to No 1, Jalan Lasam, 30450 Ipoh, Perak, Malaysia.

SINGAPORE ON LINE

By Andrew Symon

IPOH – A CENTRE FOR HIGHER EDUCATION *There are many good reasons for a local campus*

Ipoh as a university city? Should this be the vision for Ipoh in the decades ahead? For some years now local people have wrestled with the critical question as to how Ipoh might be revitalised.

Historically, Ipoh flourished on riches generated by what at one stage was the world's largest tin industry. But long gone are the days when such natural resources wealth could assure Ipoh's future.

So what might create a new era of prosperity? Some are pushing the tourism industry. Others say that Ipoh and Perak should promote themselves as homes for food processing and niche high technology manufacturing. These thrusts certainly have merit and have been put forward in various documents, such as one prepared a few years ago for Perak by the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies in Singapore.

THE BENEFITS

But strangely, no one seems to have embraced the idea of Ipoh as an education centre for students from all over Malaysia and the wider Asian region. Ipoh would partner with a foreign university and also technical training in-



A good example of heightened educational activities locally are the developments taking place at the Ipoh International School.

stitutions (the importance of technical training for trades, health and other industries is often overlooked) to set up campuses in the city.

The benefits would be enormous, not simply for say, food, hospitality and other retail business. Other industries could be stimulated through new availability of trained graduates. Longer term, there could be R&D spin-offs for industries from a strong research orientated university.

Of course, the idea of becoming an education

hub has not been ignored elsewhere.

Singapore leads the region in terms of its ambitions and the extent to which it has gone down the track in realising them. Singapore has attracted an array of prominent foreign universities, especially from the US, which partner local institutions for the offering of various courses.

But while Singapore Inc always does these things well, the island state's high and ever increasing cost structure must be working against

it. Singapore's very high rental and other living costs must be a disincentive to students. If they can even find accommodation at the moment, they would be doing well!

This is where Ipoh has clear advantages. Cost of land and accommodation and other living costs would be low. The central geographical focus for the education hub should be the old central city area. This area has enormous character – the Padang, the old imperial buildings and the old China town. But it is crying out for restora-

tion. There can be no better way of rejuvenating the centre than having a campus and student housing in its heart.

Ipoh geographically is very well placed. It is easy to reach from other parts of Malaysia and further afield. And while having a quiet location where the quality of life is high and costs low, it is far from isolated. When compared, say, with successful American university cities, which are often in the middle of nowhere in the mid - west of the US, Ipoh is just a matter of hours by road from the beaches of Penang and the major business (and airport) centres of Kuala Lumpur and Singapore.

TRUMP CARD

Ipoh's trump card in a campaign to fashion the city as an education and training centre is the community's long held and deep regard for education. Ipoh has the right culture for a university city. And there is a reservoir of good will that could be tapped

Ipoh has a strong educational base and tradition. Ipoh boasts some of the best primary and secondary schools in Malaysia – which are a legacy of the city's earlier wealth, popu-

lation and religious diversity and tolerance. Ipoh itself would provide a good part of student demand in its own right.

If you are introduced to Malaysians - doctors, lawyers, financiers, business leaders, teachers, academics and journalists - in the US, Australia, Singapore as well as elsewhere in Malaysia, there's more than a good chance that they are from Ipoh but left for their university studies and careers. Many of these expatriate Ipohites would no doubt jump at the chance of helping foster their home town as an education and training centre. They would act as advisors, and influential lobbyists, linking and promoting Ipoh's ambitions with relevant organisations, companies and government agencies, and providing bequests and endowments.

Some might even return as teachers, lecturers and researchers!

Andrew Symon is a Singapore-based writer and researcher/consultant. From Australia, he has been working throughout Southeast Asia since 1992 for both business and government as well as writing for a range of newspapers and magazines.

PUBLISHER

Ipoh Echo Sdn Bhd
(Regd No 687483 T)

No 1 Jalan Lasam
30450 Ipoh Perak Darul
Ridzuan
Tel: (605) 249 5936
Fax: (605) 255 2181
Email: ipohecho.ndr@gmail.com

EDITORIAL

Fathol Zaman Bukhari
Nisha Devina Roy

GRAPHIC DESIGN/
PHOTOGRAPHY

Rosli Mansor Hj. Ahmad
Razali

MARKETING &
DISTRIBUTION
MANAGER

Ramesh Kumar

PERMISSION AND RE-
PRINTS

Materials in Ipoh Echo may
not be reproduced
in any form without the
written permission of the
publisher

PRINTER

Konway Industries Sdn
Bhd
Plot 78, Lebuhraya Kam-
pong Jawa
11900 Bayan Baru, Pulau
Pinang
Tel: (604) 644 7507

Useful contacts

Perak Main Police Station
05-245 1222
999 (emergency)

Ipoh Main Police Station
05-253 2222

Ipoh General Hospital
05-253 3333

Ipoh Ambulance
05-522 2506
993 (emergency)

Ipoh Fire Brigade
05-547 4444
994 (emergency)

Tenaga Nasional Berhad
15454

Lembaga Air Perak
1800-88-7788

Directory Service
103

Rakan Cop
05-240 1999

Perak Women for
Women Society
012-521 2480
012-505 0547

EDITORIAL

HANDLING MATTERS OF PUBLIC CONCERN

For almost nine months we have been trying to elicit a formal response from Ipoh's Police department concerning reports that one of its officers has allegedly been caught red handed in the act of bag snatching. Malaysia Crime Watch, a prominent website, claimed on September 11 last year that "Perak police chief, Datuk Zulkifli Abdullah, confirmed the suspect was a policeman."

On November 21, when we first formally inquired about these reports, we were told by a senior officer: "Better you don't interfere. Investigations are still underway." We reported this exchange in our May 1-15 edition emphasising that the *Ipoh Echo* had never in the past, nor would it ever in the future, interfere in police investigations.

But we went on to make the point that, as a community voice, this paper had a duty to pose to the various authorities questions of legitimate public concern. We argued that allegations of a Perak policeman being questioned as a suspected snatch-thief was indeed a matter of substantial public concern. Still no statement was forthcoming from the police.

Again, in our June 1-15 edition, we raised the same

issue of the alleged bag-snatching suspect when discussing the vital requirement for police transparency. Once more, our enquiries were rebuffed by the authorities with the suggestion that investigations were still underway.

This sort of approach by the police is simply not good enough.

Perhaps that department has missed receiving the message that times are changing.

If the police refuse to provide legitimate information to the public, we feel we must.

A young rookie policeman attached to the Manjoi Police Station has indeed been charged with bag-snatching.

The officer concerned is now currently under suspension. His case is due to be heard at an Ipoh Court hearing in the near future.

Regrettably, this information did not come to us through the Ipoh Police press office.

The process now calls for a fair and open trial to establish the guilt or innocence of the suspect.

Meanwhile, the police department has only itself to blame for the damage it has incurred over this issue.

**We are Ipoh's most
effective voice.**

Ipoh Echo is an independent community newspaper published by Perakians for Perakians.

It is distributed free of charge. Our costs are defrayed by advertisements placed by businesses and private individuals within the state. They see the big advantage in dealing with us – our fortnightly publication gives their ads **more mileage at less cost**. So, next time you want to buy or sell a house, a car, a dog or a cat, please call our Classifieds at:

**(05) 549 5936
or 016 553 1092
Ramesh Kumar**

THINKING ALOUD

CREATING A PERAK TOURISM CENTRE
THAT ACTUALLY GETS RESULTS

The bureaucrats fuzzed and fumbled with the idea before and – predictably – did nothing

The new Perak State Government has identified Tourism as an activity it intends to promote for the state's economic growth. This is not surprising considering the wealth of tourist attractions that exist here and the lack of effort applied to promoting them in the past.

Hopefully, concrete steps will now be taken to turn good intentions into reality.

During the tenure of the last government, the Perak Tourism Association made a proposal to establish and operate a Perak Tourism Information Centre in Penang. Sadly, there was no response to the idea.

CREATING A
RALLYING POINT

It is hoped that the new administration will seriously re-examine this highly imaginative suggestion that, like so many other good tourism ideas over the years, has fallen by the wayside.

The fact is that the creation of a Penang rallying point for Perak visitors could readily be achieved with existing resources, little effort and a most modest outlay. Properly delivered and managed, such an establishment could result in significant tourist traffic for the state.

The rationale for the proposal is anchored on two factors – firstly, the lack of direct access to Perak for world travellers; secondly, Penang's position as a long established major destination for the international tourist mar-

ket.

The concept requires substituting our current strategy of promoting Perak ad hoc through participation in one or two-day exhibitions targeting an undefined, elusive market. This approach has consistently generated negligible results for us in the past

9.1 billion in receipts and provided employment for 132,000 people. And all this potential lies just across Perak's border.

The suggestion is to market Perak in Penang by creating awareness of all the tourist products and experiences that our state has to offer. In furtherance

Penang makes a point of visiting the Batu Ferringhi strip.

What has been proposed – and ignored – is the development of a complex of buildings set in a landscape of tropical flora representing Perak's 130 million year old rainforest. The complex itself

The personnel who will manage the centre would be articulate, well trained and knowledgeable in all that we have to offer. They would act as Perak's ambassadors. In addition to promoting our state they would also assist the visitor with travel and accommodation arrangements. A return bus service could operate from this location which, of course, would be geared to tourist traffic requirements.

The objective is to entice the visitor who is already in Penang to take a day or two to visit the several attractions in Perak. Taiping is an hour's drive with K. Kangsar a little further and Ipoh less than a two-hour journey.

The centre could also organise regular events focusing on a variety of state themes – the aim being to publicise Perak and keep it constantly on visitors' radar screens.

SELF-SUSTAINING

Measures could be taken to ensure that the centre is financially self-sustaining. Sources of revenue could be obtained from the manufacturers and producers of products exhibited there, players in the tourism industry (hotels, transport operators, tour agents, restaurants), and those operating food outlets at Perak's Batu Ferringhi tourist HQ.

All that is needed for realisation of this project is for the State Government to allocate the vacant piece of land in front of Perak House for this purpose and either provide the finances to establish the Centre or con-

continued on page 11



The Rumah Perak in Penang. An excellent rallying point to showcase Perak attractions that should entice visitors to include the state in their itineraries.

and will continue to do so for as long as we persist with it. In its place would be a permanent exhibition promoting Perak's tourist attractions in a location where there already exists a sizable captive market of international travellers.

In 2005, Penang had 3 million tourists with a per capita expenditure of RM 1,890 and its forecast for 2008-2012 is 17.4 million tourists with a per capita expenditure of RM 2,000.

Penang is also the tourism hub of the Northern Corridor Economic Region (NCER) where, in 2005, tourism generated RM

of the suggestion, the PTA proposed the establishment of a Perak Tourism Information Centre on the vacant piece of land that is located in front of Perak House along Batu Ferringhi in Penang.

PLUS POINTS

The location enjoys the island's highest tourist traffic both day and night. Several beach-side hotels cater to the visitors and the whole area is abuzz with restaurants and tourist-oriented shops. Whether they stay in the vicinity or not, every tourist who goes to

will house and showcase all the tourist attractions in Perak with photographs, videos and accessories that deliver an emotive feel of our state. Exhibits will include indigenous arts and crafts (labu sayong, pottery, ceramics, aboriginal carvings etc) and products that have provided Perak wide recognition (white coffee, pomeloes, peanuts, noodles, etc)

Included in the complex could be an outlet that serves Perak beverages (coffee, tea, pink guava etc) which will also provide literature on our people, culture and heritage.

Advertise in
IPHO ECHO
Your Community Newspaper

**Classifieds
Appointments**

Call:

Ramesh Kumar
Marketing Manager

Tel : (605) 2495936
Fax : (605) 2552181
Mobile: 016 5531092

THUMBS UP

PEP SHOULD PERK UP YOUR LIFE

Felicia Alexis learns about a programme where young people are taught how to prepare themselves for the competitive world

"Seven times out of ten, people do not get the job based on their first interview." This is the assessment made by Ms Pushparani Thilaganathan, one of the chief facilitators of the Personal Enhancement Programme (PEP), a training scheme aimed at empowering young people. "Self esteem coupled with 'preparedness' does the trick." And here, she reckons, is where PEP comes in.

Ms Thilaganathan is also the Principal Organiser for Miss MalaysiaIndian Global (MMIGLOBAL).

EMBEDDED IN CULTURE

The pageant is seen to be socially empowering. It targets young Malaysian women of Indian or part Indian descent. Unlike other conventional contests, the Miss MalaysiaIndian Global pageant's primary thrust is the personal and professional enhancement of Indian women in Malaysia. Ms. Thilaganathan ex-

plains that as Indians "we are too anchored by culture, as culture interferes in every aspect of our lives. However, we have to adhere to different roles in society — at home, we are mothers, wives and daughters, outside the home, we are career-driven women."

Then she goes back to her pet theme: How to make a good impression that will get you that job or that prize.

On the principal belief that first impressions count in every aspect of our daily lives, those involved with MMIGLOBAL founded the Personal Enhancement Programme (PEP). It started out in Kuala Lumpur in the year 2000 and so far has benefited more than 7000 participants.

The programme encompasses vital ar-

as such as grooming, enhancing confidence and self esteem. Participants are given guidelines in composing an effective, impressive and comprehensive resumé. The honing of interview skills is also part of the training scheme. Moreover, tips on poise and posture, as well as issues relating to reproductive health have been incorporated into the programme.

According to the or-

ganisers, the success of previous PEP workshops allowed for the programme to be taken to various states. The first PEP gathering in Ipoh was held last June 15 at the local YMCA. In this instance, MMIGLOBAL joined forces with the Greentown chapter of Rotary Club and the Perak Society for the Promotion of Mental Health.

The Ipoh programme was opened to both males and females, between the

ages of 16 – 30 years. Skilled trainers from Kuala Lumpur and guest speakers from Ipoh were the facilitators. The speakers were Ms. Pushparani Thilaganathan, Ms. Adeline Chan, Ms. Mohanapriya Sina Raja and Dr. Jeyabalan.

Mr Francis Vijayaselan, director of vocational services of the Rotary Club, Greentown, told *Ipoh Echo* that the response for the first workshop was encouraging. About 60 participants attended, 40 of whom

were students. According to Vijayaselan, the PEP plan is another important stepping stone for young people who need to learn to how to present themselves in society. The PEP prepares the young for what the job world has in store for them, he added.

On June 14, 2008, MMIGlobal organised a charity screening of *Dasavatharam*, the award-winning movie by reputa-

ble director, actor and producer, Kamal Hassan.

DIFFERENT ROLES

The screening of *Dasavatharam* was symbolic of/to MMIGLOBAL and their principal beliefs. The movie required director, actor and producer Kamal Hassan to play ten different roles on screen. Thilaganathan pointed out, again, and rightly, that many of us do the same in our everyday lives.

He explained that there are many roles we are called upon to play and we are expected to be good, if not excel, in each.

Other grassroots projects which are carried out regularly by MMIGlobal include: the 'Gift Her with Life' programme which provides cancer screening and mammograms for needy women; the Get Real! HIV/AIDS campaign which encourages youths to accept responsibility and adopt safe sexual practices; the Cross-Culture Education programme and Festive Cheer programmes for kids in shelters.



Ms Mohanaapriya (extreme right), Miss MalaysiaIndian Global and Ms. Joanna (extreme left), the First Runner up of the Miss MalaysiaIndian Global 2007, pose with special guests Dato Haji Thasleem and his wife.

OFF TO A FLYING START

The aircraft maintenance industry is gaining another 63 certificated graduates, eight of them women



Future graduates in the audience cheer their friends' achievements

The Advance Aeronautics Training Academy has thus far seen 300 graduates pass through its doors. Another graduation ceremony took place on June 19, 2008 at the training academy situated at the Sultan Azlan Shah Airport.

The airplanes were moved from the hangar to make way for what was to be an unforgettable moment in the lives of Class 2008.

The buzzing of excited graduates and proud parents filled the air. It was indeed a special day.



Chief (Nig.) Dr. Tharuma Dorai Ratnasingam (above) wished all the graduates well and congratulated them in his speech.

He said rather point-



Six of the eight. Left to right: AATA graduates Salbiah bte Abdul Wahid, Noor Hidayah bte Rohizat, Noor Baity bte Ishak, Nor Farizan Ruzaini bte Mamat, Faedah Nor bte Zulkuply and Khairun Nasihah bte Huda

edly, "There is more to achieve, the world is your oyster."

In a class of 63 students who completed the aircraft maintenance course specialising in pis-

ton and turbine engines, eight were female.

In a world where engines and power tools are usually associated with men, it was remarkable to watch young women come

forward proudly to receive their passing certificates.

When asked what it was that made them wish to pursue careers in aircraft maintenance, one of them spoke up and said,

"I love engines, planes and anything to do with the aviation industry."

"I plan to take the skills I have picked up much further — I am so glad I can do something I love."

Cost Little And Gain All !
One of the most popular intelligent
GSM Alarm System !

The advantages :-
Easily to operate (remotely)
Arm or Disarm by
phone or remote controllers
No messy and expensive
wiring required

Personalized:
program the system to notify
who ever you choose
Based on GSM communication
network (highly secure)

For more information
or demo call :-
Y.W Wong at 016-555 5967

MARTIN FOOD CATERERS
THE BEST IN IPOH CITY
SPECIALIZED IN
Chinese, Malay & Indian Cuisine
Western Cuisine (Halal)
(Vegetarian / Non Vegetarian)

WE CATER FOR
Weddings, Birthdays
Opening Ceremonies
Other Occasions

WE ALSO PROVIDE
Banquet Facilities, PA System,
Bar Service, Music Machine, Band

Contact:
53 & 55, Jalan Silibin,
30100 Ipoh, Perak.
for enquiries
H/P:
019-558 2462
012-506 5133
TEL: 05-5274184
FAX: 05-5273992

Nothing Special
Artis 艺术空间 Antiques

Art Antiques & Collectibles Picture Frames

No. 11, Lorong Cecil
Rae, Canning Garden,
31400 Ipoh, Perak.
tel: 05-546 3326
h/p: 016-550 7155

Distribution of
flyers in ipoh areas
-3 sen (A4/A5)
Distribution of
flyers outside Ipoh
areas-6 sen (A4/A5)
We also provide
printing of flyers at
affordable prices.
Call -Sam at :
012-586 6112

House For Sale



Spacious single-storey bungalow within 15-20 minutes drive from Ipoh City Centre.
Lot size 4600sq.ft (25ft X 60ft)
Price RM 165,000(neg)
Interested please call:-
Theva at
017-579 0575

OXYGEN PLUS OXYGENATED WATER SYSTEM

300% More Oxygenated water that no one has experienced

Ultra Super Trading Sdn Bhd
(136757-M)
47 & 49 Jalan Medan Ipoh 2
Bandar Baru Medan Ipoh
31400 Ipoh, Perak
Tel 605 5466 568
<http://www.sc88.com.my>

FOR SALE



**HILLCREST
3-STOREY BUNGALOW**
Location: Meru Valley

Lot size **10,764 sf**
Built-up **5,496 sf**
4+1 bedrooms
5 bathrooms
Price **RM938,800**

Interested,
please call
012 - 500 8018
019 - 513 3315

KINTA
PROPERTIES GROUP

Car For Sale

Mini Car Enthusiasts
33 year old Austin Mini 1000cc
Price **RM 5000.(neg)**
Call:-
019-741 3320

FROM MY ALBUM

SORTING OUT WORLD'S EARLY MAIL CONFUSION

Straits Settlements join international postal union

By Quicksilver

In my last column, I mentioned a chap who had a huge influence in the world of stamps and in the postal system we now take for granted.

His name: Sir Rowland Hill.

In 1840, Sir Rowland introduced the process whereby postage on letters had to be prepaid. This led to him being credited as the inventor of the world's first postage stamp.

Hats off to Sir Rowland!

Not surprisingly, nearly every government in the world thereafter jumped on the bandwagon of issuing postage stamps for their



any form of reliability. Delays were horrendous! Order and simplification was needed to overcome the appalling postal mess.

ENTER HEINRICH VON STEPHAN

For many years in the mid-1800s a German, Heinrich von Stephan, had been working to unify postal arrangements in his home country.

By 1874, as head of the German postal service, he became instrumental in organising that year's international postal conference in Berne, Switzerland.

During this gathering he pushed for the internationalisation of his ideas for standardizing the approach to handling mail. The result: the establishment of the Universal Postal Union.

Henrich was undoubtedly a man of vision and history has rightly recognised his extraordinary contribution to the world's postal scene.

Numerous countries have issued commemorative stamps honouring him. Germany, natu-

rally enough, has done so on several occasions. Chile has also recognised Henrich's historical importance.

Formation of the General Postal Union was a great idea but it soon required refining. Members found that demands being made on their initial organisation quickly surpassed its ability to cope. By 1878 the General Postal Union was replaced by what became known as THE UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION.

This unified country-by-country postal services and regulations into a single postal entity for the reciprocal exchange of letters.

It tore down bureaucratic barriers and enabled the free flow and growth of international mail we enjoy today.

The Universal Postal Union still functions and celebrates its birthday every October 9 – World Post Day. The Straits Settlements became a member of the Universal Postal Union on April 1, 1877. As with any new international membership, it

was necessary to mark the occasion by issuing stamps.

Thus stamps of five cents value became available on May 20, 1879 and those of seven cents were issued a day later. Both these stamps were introduced for use by releasing stocks of the 1st permanent issue's 8 cent and 32 cent designs. In each case a surcharging arrangement was applied.

This entailed an overprint affecting the value of each stamp – five cents on the 8 cent value and seven cents on the 32 cent value.

These particular stamps – from my album – are featured below.



Isn't this a grand way of taking a peek back in time and discovering the wealth of history in our development towards nationhood?

MEMORIES OF THE JINRIKISHA... OR THE LANCA

Dato Seri Haji Yang Rashdi on the happy years with Nek, Nyang Abas and Tok

When I was a little boy, I had the privilege of having two sets of grandparents. Thus, I enjoyed two other homes to visit and in both I was doted on and made to feel that nothing could go wrong in the world.

My maternal grandparents lived in Talang, a small village approximately three miles north of Kuala Kangsar. My father's family resided in Padang Rengas. Throughout my childhood, I perceived jealousy between the parties and this became apparent during the festive seasons and the long school holidays. Somehow, one or the other would perceive that I was overstaying in either house and I got chided.

The suspicion that I preferred to spend more days at Talang was, I sup-

pose, both logical and well-founded. Kuala Kangsar, after all, was what my elders then referred to as "a coming-up town." It had some big buildings like the Malay College, the Clifford School and, of course, there was the Istana Iskandariah at Bukit Chandan. There was also the Mesjid Ubudiah.

THE EMPIRE THEATRE

There was the Empire Theatre, the only timber structure with zinc roofing I well remember to this day. It was very popular among us kids because it fed us an entertainment feast – Tarzan, Captain Blood, Laurel & Hardy. We went there and had a good afternoon laughing at slap-stick comedies. What



The favoured vehicle of Dato Seri's childhood

a bargain it was at the time – 30 cents for the back seats, 20 cents for the middle rows and ten cents for the front seats.

In contrast, Padang Rengas was a very rural and very quiet kampong.

Its chief attraction (or consolation for me as a child) was that it was home of Tohmahraja Indera's clan. Tohmahraja Indera was my paternal grandfather.

I loved both my grandparents but like all children, I wanted a lively break and it was very interesting in Talang. I always looked forward to going to town with Nek (Nenek, my great grandmother) to shop for the Hari Raya festivities.

There were very few taxis plying the roads in those days but we were happy to be ferried by the

continued on page 9

Ipoh Facts and Fancies



Eu Tong Sen

To say that Eu Tong Sen and Chung Thye Phin stood out from the general run of Ipoh's early tin miners would be a gross understatement.

They were as conspicuous among their fellows as two white ducks among a flock of mottled mallards.

Both were born with silver spoons in their mouths. This was in stark contrast to the vast majority of miners who came from China with only the shirts on their backs and dug their way to riches.

Eu and Chung were English-educated Anglophiles with English tastes, as opposed to the China-oriented outlook of the rest. Each rose to social prominence in a colonial society that valued social niceties.

INHERITED WEALTH

Eu Tong Sen was the only son of Eu Kong, the principal miner and holder of the opium monopoly in

A GRAND RESIDENCE IN A GRAND ERA

The combined driving spirit of two friends

Gopeng. When he attained his majority in 1898 he inherited a substantial part of his late father's vast estate.

Chung Thye Phin, on the other hand, was the fourth son of the famous Capitan China Chung Keng Kwee of Taiping, and was the ablest of his father's nine sons.

Thus he was the one anointed to manage the Capitan's business empire. In 1900, at the age of twenty-two, he was appointed to his father's seat on the Perak State Council, which the Capitan had vacated on account of old age.

COMMON INTERESTS

Eu Tong Sen and Chung Thye Phin had common interests – motorcars, racehorses, country houses, etc. They were "sworn brothers" and in 1903 when the Ipoh Gymkhana Club was founded, decided to enter their thoroughbreds regularly in the Ipoh races. They jointly built a

weekend retreat at Gopeng Road with a large stable.

"Forest Lodge" became famous for both the sumptuous entertainment given there to important visitors to Ipoh, and for its impressive stable of thoroughbred champions.

In 1911, Eu Tong

He was invited to the homes of the rich and famous, attended the Coronation of King George V and met old friends, including Sir John Anderson, Sir Ernest Birch, Sir Frank Swettenham and Col. Walker, at the fashionable FMS Dinner in London.



Eu Tong Sen fashioned his country house after the magnificent examples he saw in England.

Sen went on an extensive tour of England. As the Chinese Member of the Federal Council (acting for the permanent member, Leong Fee, when he was on leave), and one of the best known of Malaya's millionaires, he was treated with great courtesy and kindness everywhere.

He came home loud in his praise of the English.

EU BUYS OUT CHUNG

In April 1912, on Leong Fee's death, Eu Tong Sen was appointed the permanent Chinese Member of the Federal Council, and thus the only Chinese in the

FMS to have the honour of being addressed as 'the Honourable'. He decided to have his country house at Forest Lodge in the style of the great country houses of England that he had visited. Chung Thye Phin sold his half-share to him, and bought Drummond's Hill in Taiping, a 50-acre estate and the former Residency of Sir Hugh Low, as his own country house.

The *Times of Malaya* reported in 1913:

Quite the biggest building being put up in Ipoh today, next (in splendour) to the railway station, is Mr. Eu Tong Sen's new mansion in Gopeng Road.

This will be a magnificent mansion fit to compare in style and luxury with some of the finest country houses in England. It will contain a smoking room, library, gymnasium and other appurtenances of the up-to-date dwelling place of a modern man of

By Ho Tak Ming



Chung Thye Phin

wealth. The house is built immediately behind Mr. Chung Thye Phin's present residence, which is to be pulled down and the carriage drive will go over the site.

Built at a cost of \$60,000, "Forest Lodge" was the finest private residence in Ipoh, a majestic mansion set amidst acres of wooded grounds. It was used as the place to entertain visiting dignitaries to Ipoh, often by the Government, courtesy of the kindness of the Honourable Mr. Eu.

During the Japanese Occupation it was used as the residence of the Japanese Governor of Perak, Mr. Kubota. In 1949 it was sold and was used as the centre for the Perak Islamic Mission Association. With a prominent crescent moon and star, symbolising Islam, on the main gable wall, it was known as the Bulan Bintang Building. It is now a medical centre.

Kinta Notes



Perak Pioneer
Established in
1894
'The oldest and
most widely
circulated
newspaper in the
F.M.S.'

THE WAY IT WAS ...
100 YEARS AGO

Mr W. Fenton, the well-known jockey and trainer, has started a new idea so far as a journey to Sungei Rais (a town situated about half way to Gopeng) goes.

He is running a distinctly well equipped bus, drawn by Australian horses, to and fro daily at a price of 6 cents per mile per person.

The conveyance is to run in connection with the local train service, and as soon as it gets regularly known to passengers, should most certainly pay handsomely.

He is thinking of starting another to Tambun next week, but the road is so bad in some places, it would be next to impossi-

ble to get through without something smashing.

Local & General

The following case is reported from Singapore:

A small Chinese lad and a coolie appeared before the Third Magistrate, Mr E. E. Colman, on Saturday, on a charge of theft of sixty cents from under the rug of a ricksha. There was another boy implicated, but he escaped.

The man was sentenced to three months rigorous imprisonment. The lad was sent to the Reformatory for five years, and in addition, was given five cuts with a light rattan.

It is much against our

will to comment on sentences passed by magistrates, and which we may say we very rarely do.

We cannot but think, however, that those passed in the above case are harsh and unnecessarily severe. In our opinion the principal party to blame was the puller himself. Why did not he keep his money inside the rickshaw, in the receptacle, instead of under the mat? Had there been no temptation there would have been no theft.

* * * * *

Towkay Loke Yew has just concluded a motor trip of inspection of his properties at Bentong, Tanjong Malim and Serendah.

* * * * *

Says the 'Straits Echo':- A Chinese bride was to-day seen to visit her husband's parents in a motor-car instead of the usual carriage and pair.

* * * * *

A Mismanaged Sale To The Editor 'Perak Pioneer'

Sir,- I beg to state that the Auction Sale of found and unclaimed property advertised by the Traffic Manager of the F.M.S. Railways, to take place at the Goods Station, Taiping, at 2 pm on Saturday, was held by the auctioneer at 9 am.

Every one believed

in the notice signed by the Traffic Manager and published in the 'Perak Pioneer' from 11th to 29th. Those who went at 2 pm found that most of the things had been sold at 9 am. The prices obtained were therefore poor.

A quantity of rubber weighing about 20 cattie fetched only about \$6. Had the auction been held at the due time it is quite probable that the total sale proceeds would have exceeded the amount realised.

I therefore write you these few lines in the hope of realising justice and fair play.

Yours etc.
Observer
Taiping,



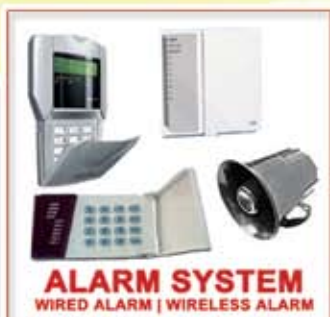
AlgoMinda

AlgoMinda Sdn. Bhd. (670774-A)

Your Total Security Solution
We help you protect the people
and things you value most.
We give you peace of mind.



CCTV SYSTEM
CAMERA | DVR | PC-BASED DVR



ALARM SYSTEM
WIRED ALARM | WIRELESS ALARM



Security Systems Specialist For House and Commercial

For more information do not hesitate to call or visit us at:-

No 12, Jalan Lau Ek Ching, 30300 Ipoh, Perak. Office :- **605-254 8546** Mobile:- **012-507 2938**



Kafe Paprika's



Kafe Paprika

Mediterranean and European Cuisine

Fine Dining



9, Jln. Medan Ipoh 10,
Bandar baru Medan Ipoh,
51400 Ipoh Perak.
Opening hours:
2pm-11pm closed on wednesday.
Tel: 05 5459778
H/P: 012 598 8697
www.kafepaprika.com

Moroccan Prawns With Spices

The prawns can also be butterflied (use scissors to cut them lengthways almost in half, leaving the tails intact), then marinated in the spice mixture before grilling for 3-4 minutes; brush with any remaining marinade during cooking. Serves: 4

Ingredients

500 g (1 lb) raw tiger prawns in their shells
4 tbsps olive oil
2 garlic cloves, crushed
1 tsp ground cumin
½ tsp ground ginger
1 tsp paprika
¼ tsp cayenne pepper
Leaves from a bunch of coriander, finely chopped
Salt
Lemon wedges, to serve

Method

1. Remove the shells, legs, heads and entrails from most of the prawns, leave a few whole as they look attractive. Cut along the backs with the point of a sharp knife and remove black thread.
2. Heat the olive oil in a frying pan, add the garlic and cook until it becomes aromatic. Stir in the cumin, ginger, paprika and cayenne pepper, heat for about 30 seconds, then add the prawns. Fry quickly, stirring, until they turn pink. Stir in the coriander and season with salt, heat for about 30 seconds, then serve the prawns with the cooking juices spooned over couscous, steamed potatoes and accompanied by lemon wedges.

Fathers' Day at the Ipoh Club

Fifty couples celebrated in a quieter fashion, in contrast to Mothers' Day



Coaxed by the emcee, Juliet, a few couples took to the dance floor and competed in the balloon dance contest.

About fifty fathers and their spouses celebrated Fathers' Day at Royal Ipoh Club. The Band played oldies, praising fathers.

The highlight of the night was a belly dance performance by Nancy,

an Egyptian belly dancer who is currently performing in KL. She asked for "audience participation". A couple of senior fathers accepted her invitation and danced with her.

The evening's celebration included lucky

draws and games such as a beer drinking competition. There was also the balloon dance contest where few couples participated.

Dr. Christopher was voted Father of the Year.

A. Jeyaraj



The founder of SuperStar Butik Pengantin Melayu, Mr. Teo, studied in Taiwan and then ventured into the photography business locally and overseas. This was 20 years ago.

Now, his expertise is shared by SuperStar photographic team. They have learned from him the best ways of capturing great moments for



that One Special Album. Mr Teo is a relentless and effective teacher. The team says he is more exacting than the clients!

Mr Teo's selfless approach to teaching and business has resulted in an ever expanding creative enterprise. The Chinese/Western type wedding house today incorporates Malay weddings. SuperStar is doing better

than any of the old players in the industry.

If you are interested in photography, make an appointment with the bridal house and explore the possibilities of starting a new career.

SuperStar welcomes enthusiastic additions to its staff. Its Malay wedding division will be moving to a bigger showroom in the Greentown area.

Musings by See Foon Chan-Koppen



See Foon

Recently, I watched an interview on television where some celebrity chefs were asked to name some of their favourite foods. Expecting to hear them mention gastronomic delights like foie gras with black truffles or Beluga caviar (sadly now no longer available), I was most surprised to hear one chef say, "peanut butter".

She had to be American, of course. Only the Americans eat peanut butter sandwiches when they feel peckish. I still remember being offered this doubtful treat (embellished with jelly) when I was a teenage student living with a host family in the United States. I had it then and on many other occasions to satisfy my hunger, all the while yearning for some meat and other savoury temptations.

"MOTHER'S COOKING"

Which led to me thinking about childhood tastes and how our palates are programmed at an early age. Watching Jamie Oliver in Italy confirmed my suspicions. Here he was, this celebrity chef who, in my books, is one of the most innovative chefs on TV, cooking Italian dishes in different small villages in Italy. He was bringing regional cuisine from one area of the country to another. Widening the local horizons so to speak. But he never got the approval of the crowd until he cooked according to the local Mama's recipe. Then he was lauded as a great chef!

In everyone's mind, mother's cooking is always best. "Mother" could be grandmother, aunty, maid or whoever did the cooking. The critical years for conditioning of our taste buds begin the moment we're weaned from the bottle and have our first taste of solids. If peanut butter and jelly sandwiches were what you were fed as a child, you're going to be craving peanut butter as an adult. Even if you're a celebrity chef.

How simple life

A Taste of Childhood

Why we may never get away from food cravings others might consider far out

would be if we could all be satisfied with a peanut butter/jelly sandwich. I grew up with a highly developed palate. The kitchen was my nursery and with my grandmother doing all the cooking, I learned about food by osmosis. From the time I was a toddler, I knew the difference between stewed vegetables or simply fried greens, the juiciness of chicken drumstick versus dry breast.

There were simpler pleasures too. Freshly cooked rice, mixed with a raw egg, soya sauce and a spoonful of oil which at the time before the cholesterol scare was home rendered lard.

back to a simpler time, a time when we were not so spoilt in our eating habits and not so susceptible to the hypnosis of the mass media. And we need to pay heed to the fact that we are raping the planet.

Our insatiable appetites are also accountable (and I include myself) for many culinary sins such as the near extinction of sturgeons because of our penchant for caviar, the inhuman force feeding of geese to fatten their livers, the physical restraining (as in being kept in a narrow cage in the dark) of calves which are slaughtered very early for their tender light colored meat. The list goes



Wannabe chefs have made even the once simple and pleasurable nasi lemak into a complex and definitely more expensive item on the menu.

Taste was paramount. The seed of dependency on what the Japanese call "Umami" (the taste sensation on the tongue which is synthetically duplicated today using MSG instead of natural ingredients - which cheaper food establishments use) was sown in my taste buds at the tender age of one.

BACK TO A SIMPLER TIME

Over the years, alas, the simple gastronomic pleasures have eluded me, having been seduced by the lure of the exotic, the glamorous, the faddish and the new. And they were made even more alluring by the "Umami" appeal, especially when accompanied by the label: "No MSG added".

I became a serious "Foodie" on a culinary odyssey to seek out the best in dining experiences.

All these pleasures of the palate are seductive when food is abundant and the economy is thriving. But given the state of the world financial situation, oil prices and the current food crisis, perhaps, it is time for all of us to go

on.

I remember when nasi lemak was a simple banana leaf packet of rice with a dollop of sambal, half a boiled egg and few ikan bilis. Today, while it is still possible to buy the occasional small packet, most stalls overwhelm you with a choice of beef or chicken rendang, squid, prawns and other delectables. All embellishments which we don't need, neither for health nor our purses.

I used to think that there was no way I could ever become a vegetarian. I'm beginning to feel differently.

Having discovered that it takes the same amount of water to raise one kg of beef for our table as the equivalent of one year's daily showering, I'm preparing myself to slowly wean myself off meat. Fish will be a lot harder to give up but with the rate of pollution of our oceans, that too may come off my shopping list.

I'm ready to atone for my culinary excesses and along the way, I have discovered a few excellent vegetarian restaurants in Ipoh. Join me in a new gourmet journey anyone?

Remembrance . . . continued from page 3



Britain's military attache to Malaysia, Colonel P.A. Edwards, MBE, lays a wreath at a Gurkha grave in Kem Syed Putra, Tambun.

the various Gurkha battalions which were once billeted in the camp also known as Sulva Lines. The memorial service at this site began in 2004. Initially it was an extension of the Batu Gajah service. However, since 2006 it has assumed its own identity and signifi-

cance. The presence of the High Commissioners line-up this year lent credence to the occasion.

Remembrance Day services in Taiping, Batu Gajah and Tambun will grow in strength and stature. Therefore, it is imperative that the state government takes heed of the

importance attached to these recent commemorative events. Perak's tourism authorities must take note as well.

Assistance, in all available forms, should be given those who have taken the initiative to organise such a memorable series of gatherings.

AMBUSH ON IJOK ROAD IN SELAMA

Tom Turnbull recalls a 57-year-old amazing bluff that saved five brave men

Police Lieutenant G. Mundy and his driver, Special Constable (SC) Mat bin Man, were killed instantly when Communist terrorists opened fire on them in an ambush near Stoughton Estate on May 23, 1951. Sergeant Wahab bin Osman and four SCs comprising the escort were wounded. Under heavy enemy fire, the wounded Wahab brought his Bren gun into action, covering his men while they sought cover, before joining them.

On the other side were members from the 9th Independent Platoon based at the Kedah border. They were experienced, well armed and also cocky. With reasons, of course, for earlier they had ambushed and killed Sergeants Webb and Wernham in the Bintang Hills behind Kg Masjid. They once again made good use of the ground. The ambush was sited along a stretch of road with a high bank on one side and a marsh on the other. The position offered a good view of the killing ground.

Back at the Selama Police station, Police Lieutenant Ernie Kilford was informed by a Malay villager from Ijok that terrorists had been sighted

near Stoughton Estate.

Ernie Kilford was nurtured and seasoned



Sir Henry Gurney

in the Navy during the Second World War. He served as a boatswain, a job that required him to land on shores or to board ships.

On these occasions he would lead the party brandishing a cutlass, a weapon few of us in the Police Mess realised had survived sail. Ernie drew guffaws from his listeners. Ernie was quite a raconteur.

AMAZING BLUFF

At Selama, Ernie quickly mustered three men, the only available at the station and drove down Redang Panjang Road until he came close to the am-

bush position. The firefight was still intense. Ernie and his men scrambled up the slope. He carried no cutlass but what followed was a masterly example of how to lead a landing party. He moved rapidly towards the enemy roaring orders to phantom forces encircling the enemy. There were no less than 15 guerrillas in the fight and they swiftly dispersed into the swamps. Wahab and his besieged men were pleased when relief came.

UNLUCKY DIPLOMAT

Ernie Kilford was posted shortly after the incident while Sgt Wahab and his men were admitted into the Taiping Hospital to recuperate and later returned to their posts at the Selama Police Station.

Wahab was posted out as an Inspector and the aide-de-camp to the Police Commissioner.

I left for the United Kingdom for a break on October 7, 1951. Two other police officers, also returning to the UK, boarded the train at the Ipoh Railway Station that evening when the appalling news reached us that Sir Henry Gurney, the British High Commissioner, was killed in an ambush on the road to Fraser's Hill.

NEVER TO BE FORGOTTEN

In memory of the 2,478 civilian victims of the Malayan Emergency, 1948 - 1960

**Smokehouse on smokehouse burning bright
On plantations in the night
Slashed trees as far as the eye can see
Strategy in an Emergency**

**Children calling, cries and wails
Trapped in train blown off the rails
Families search amid debris
To rescue in an Emergency**

**Buses, cars and trucks ablaze
Glowing in the smoking haze
Travellers need to pay the fee
On roads in an Emergency**

**Wires are cut towards Lenggong
Ask the linesmen to go along
Night or day whatever may be
They'd go in an Emergency**

**Victims taken in the night
Others too must view the sight
Terror was to be the key
To rule in an Emergency**

**We would gather here each year
Remember them within our prayers
They stood naked unlike we
Well armed in an Emergency**

TOM TURNBULL



Memories . . . continued from page 6

The jinrikisha is part of our heritage. Somebody should do a more in-depth study touching on the lives of the men who earned their living pulling it . . .

lanca, a mode of transportation that was said to have originated in China or Japan. The Colonials called it jinrikisha. In Kanji, *Jin* signifies man; *riki* means strength while *sha* is a cart, thus, "man labour cart".

UNIQUE INNOVATION

The lanca was a very good example at man's talent at unique innovation. It had a seat for two on a shaft attached to two huge slim steel wheels. Each wheel could easily have been four or five feet high. The lanca had a collapsible canvas cover and the cart had a foot rest and a small area for one's shopping items.

I truly enjoyed *Nek's* preparations for Hari Raya. I always asked to be brought along when she did her marketing. For these special shopping expeditions, *Nek* required two lancas. She used two pullers – one tall (*Panjang*) and the other short (*Pendek*). *Nek* was always courteous to them but to their chagrin she addressed them as *towkay* – she did not know any better. The return trip for each lanca did not cost *Nek* more than a dollar. Each way took 45 minutes or more, depending on the weight of one's purchases.

On the "drive" to town and back, *Nek* invariably admonished me not to be restless and give our lanca man a harder time pulling our "vehicle". We returned home laden with bags of rice and flour and all the other things that were needed for a proper Hari Raya celebration. We had sugar, milk and coffee. For everything, *Nek* would spend between 10 and 12 dollars! In time, I was to learn that my great grandfather, *Nyang Abas* (a retired *penghulu*) received a pension. It was THIRTY TWO DOLLARS per man sem!

Over the years, I was in and out of Talang and witnessed the gradual demise of the lanca. We had relatives in Kota Lama Kiri, 3 miles south of Kuala Kangsar and on the way there was a dilapidated shack where rickshaw pullers gathered. To this day I retain the vivid picture of lancas being repaired or gathering dust while the men smoked their weird-looking pipes.

PART OF OUR HERITAGE

I feel very nostalgic when I think of the lanca. It would be good, I think, if somebody could study the subject matter further – the rickshaw pullers and their difficult lives as immigrants, the provinces in

China where they came from, their dialects. They are part of our heritage.

As a teenager, I had gone to thriving Ipoh, this time with *Tok*, my Padang Rengas grandfather. He was buying a new Morris Eight for the princely sum of EIGHT HUNDRED DOLLARS! But, of course, this was 60 years ago! We went to Ipoh Motors which, I understand, still exists.

I recall that day. The roads were busy – there were different makes of car to observe, some of them plying as taxicabs. There were few lancas.

The cars now intrigued me more. I was proud of the fact that I could tell the difference from one model to another. There were the Austin Seven and Austin Eight from the UK; there was the American Overland Whippet and the Fiat Orlando imported from Italy. Cars from Japan and Korea would dominate only 50 years later.

In later years, I would overhear conversations about new millionaires in the motor business being probably descended from lines of hardworking immigrant rickshaw pullers. And my thoughts would once again stray back to the days of *Nek's* shopping trips and her favourite *towkays* – *Panjang* and *Pendek*.

YOUNG PERAK

Students from participating schools are invited to write about or photograph things/events outside their respective institutions of learning. E-mail articles to: editorial@ipohecho.com.my attn: Peter Khiew

D Vine
Asian & Western Cuisine



D Vine Cafe Serves Up value for money Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner in the most relaxing family environment

• fish & chips • hand made pizza • pasta • roast lamb

3, Tingkal Taman Ipoh 7, Ipoh Garden South, 31400 Ipoh, Perak Darul Ridzuan. **Tel : +605- 548 8446** Business Hours: 10am - 10pm

ILTI
Since 1994
IPOH LEARNING & TRAINING INSTITUTE

English For Everyone


CAMBRIDGE ENGLISH™ @ ILTI

23 years track record in teaching English

1st institute in Malaysia to conduct University of Cambridge ESOL Examinations in 2001

For more information, please contact:
Tel: 05-255 3067 Fax: 05-255 7136
www.ilti.edu.my email: english@ilti.edu.my

PRESTAVEST
crematorium & memorial park



PRESTAVEST BERHAD (249253-M)
Lot 8517, Jalan Taman Semarak, Pokok Assam, 34000 Taiping, Perak.
Tel: 05-807 6868 05-807 6688
www.prestavest.com.my

IPOHecho
Your Community Newspaper

Advertise in

Classifieds Appointments

Call: Christine Tang Executive

Tel : (605) 2495936
Fax : (605) 252181
Mobile: (016) 5450320

AN INSIGHT INTO THE WORLD OF JOURNALISM

Peter Khiew reports on the first Ipoh Echo and Media Masters Publishing Sdn Bhd - sponsored Young Perak Writers' Workshop

Photographs by Rosli Mansor

Eleven students from three secondary schools had an exceptionally noteworthy and memorable morning on the first day of their mid-year school holidays. Equipped with their writing instruments, examination pads and enthusiastic spirit, Fourth and Fifth formers from SMK Ave Maria, SMK Raja Perempuan and SMK St Michael, definitely made the right decision to participate in the inaugural *Ipoh Echo's* journalistic workshop, themed "How to Spot a Story". The programme is co-sponsored by Media Masters Publishing Sdn Bhd.



Ms Bulbeer Kaur

Two outstanding and prominent speakers, Singapore-based writers and former Australian journalists, Mr Ian Ward and Ms Norma Mirafior were invited by *Ipoh Echo* to conduct the workshop. The participants were introduced to *Ipoh Echo* editor, Mr Fathol Zaman Bukhari who sat with them and answered questions during the tea break. Chief reporter Nisha Devina Roy gave the teenagers a tour of the editorial offices and explained to them the intricacies of publishing a community newspaper.

EXCHANGING THOUGHTS

The first session was remarkably inspiring with Norma leading the discussion and making the students talk about what made them anxious when called upon to write compositions in their respective classes.

The students opened up and volunteered that "the panic button got pressed" by various factors. The anxiety was almost always associated with concerns about "getting good grades". They said each writing assignment came (rightfully) with "admonitions about getting the grammar right". Worries about tense

consistency were raised by the attendees and discussed. Both Ward and Mirafior gave illustrations how the problem could be surmounted. They explored the subject of a broad and extensive vocabulary.

"Recognise the importance of language and its correct usage," Norma said. "Conduct a closer association with the dictionary. Pay attention to the corrections made on your writing attempts. In time, your work will improve. Good writing gives much pleasure, to you and to your recipients."

Norma categorically stated that while it is imperative to stress the conventions, being overanxious about rules could impede the process of producing a creative and natural piece of work. She emphasised that other variables contribute to the production of powerful and effective compositions.

Choose a subject matter that suits you best, she advised. Then, she added, the writer needs to be both organised and focused: "Gather your thoughts and bring them to heel before you start scribbling away." In the beginning, she pursued, an outline of the logical sequence of thoughts is essential. She gave illustrations. Otherwise, she warned, one could either overwrite or be repetitious.

"OBSERVE. BE ANALYTICAL."

"There are so many things you can write about your school - think of the aspirations, achievements and the sentiments of your classmates and your teachers. Listen. Observe. Pay attention. Try to analyse situations. Read. Look around you, there must be an item, an issue, that can make it to the next issue of *Ipoh Echo*," counselled Norma who was Group Editor of M P H



Workshop participants learning the importance of a community newspaper.

Publications for 16 years and was founding editor of *Female*, *Living* and *Silver Kris*, SIA airline magazine. She also co-authored *Faces of Courage*, detailing the life and times of the Malayan World War 11 heroine, Sybil Kathigasu and her family.

A RESPONSIBILITY

Mr Ian Ward, a retired war correspondent who wrote for the Daily Telegraph, London, reported on Asia for 27 years. In total, he covered 13 wars and conflicts, including the India-Pakistan war, Vietnam and the second Emergency. He shared some of his harrowing experiences with his young audience and through his talk imparted his deep passion for good journalism. He spoke to them about 'spotting a story'.

Ward, author of Singapore-published historical tomes "The Killer They Called A God", "Snaring the Other Tiger", and "The Battlefield Guide to the Fall of Malaya and the Surrender of Singapore", advised the participants always to endeavour and learn a strategy that should bring greater focus to their writing. He expounded on this

and gave examples. He stressed the importance of research. He also spoke on the need to be organised and focused.

Ward exhorted the teenagers to start remembering that good writing sets an objective, be it informative or entertainment, and therefore is a responsibility.

RESULTS

SMK Ave Maria teacher Ms Bulbeer Kaur praised the workshop highly. She said *Ipoh Echo* has successfully reached out to the educational institutions by launching the writing workshop.

She later told Young Perak that the students from her school learned much and were producing more effective and livelier articles after attending the workshop.

"This is one workshop my colleagues and our students are looking forward to eagerly in future", added Bulbeer, who teaches English.

A student said that other outfits impose hefty fees for such programmes. He remarked that *Ipoh Echo* has truly proved itself to be a community newspaper by conducting such a useful and beneficial workshop without charging a fee.

Additionally, the participants were encouraged to visit the Reading Room which *Ipoh Echo* and Media Masters have started.

Ipoh Echo would like to express our sincere gratitude to Mr Ian Ward and Mdm Norma Mirafior for their excellent presentations. Their passionate and inspiring nature to writing left a lasting impression on the youthful participants at the workshop. We hope both can continue to assist future programmes for Young Perak.



Participants from SMK St Michael examine a title in the Reading Room

SINGING THEIR WAY TO THE TOP

Talented teenagers from Ipoh International School emerge champions in April competition

Ipoh International School emerged North Zone Champions in the Pesta Kokurikulum held by the Ministry of Education last April 21 at the Institut Latihan Perindustrian, Kepala Batas, Penang.

The competition was organised specially for the private schools of Perak, Penang, Kedah and Perlis. The IIS choir members are students from the international and KBSM streams. They are trained by Mrs Judy Louis and Mrs Ann Kong as part of a year-long co-curricular programme. For the recent competition, the choir's and their teachers' efforts were further fine-tuned by the coaching given by Mr Lee Shiak Yao. Mr Lee was on hand for every Thursday choir



Gennieve M. Macam deftly conducts the youthful choir from IIS.

training session.

The IIS choir gave a superb, heart-rending performance of the Malaysian patriotic song "Tanah

Pusakaku". They followed it up with by an international piece of their choice – "We Are the World". Ms Gennieve M. Macam was

the student conductor. Mr Emile Dominic Xavier gave the piano accompaniment.

CHORAL SPEAKING RUNNERS-UP

Runners-up attest to the wonderful bonding that resulted in harmony



"A United World At Peace - Through Education" - the theme the IIS group explored from January 2008 and presented in the April 21 contest in Penang.

Yet another feather was added to the cap when the Ipoh International School's Choral Speaking Team was named North Zone Runners-Up at the Pesta Kokurikulum organised by the Ministry of Education last April 21 at the Institut Latihan Perindustrian, Kepala Batas, Penang.

"It was a truly enriching and meaningful experience for our students because they helped bring to life our school's vision - A United World At Peace - Through Education," said their coach, Ms Anne Marie Jesudason. It was the theme of the choral script they had been ex-

ploring, experiencing and expounding from the third week of January 2008.

"We enjoyed every moment of the training sessions and the competition," reported Emmavathie Ravi, the student conductor. "It was a wonderful bonding experience for all of us. We had to submerge self to create a harmonious overall effect."

"It was truly English brought to life," commented Abdul Kareem Jaafar. "Pronunciation, articulation, rhythm and fluency - we polished all of these for a shared purpose."

"We left Ipoh at 5 am in order to reach the competition venue by 7.45

a.m.," recounted Victor Tyng. "Everyone turned up on time. It was a day of full attendance and concentration - without fail."

"It attests to the strong school spirit that has been nurtured in all of us through team-building."

Again, the teachers who devoted much extra time and effort into orchestrating the truly impressive entry deserve praise.

Ms Nurulashkeen Md Anis and Ms Ann Marie Devadason were ably assisted by Ms Jane Looi and Mr Daniel Prakash.

Mr Lee Soo Mee led the IIS contingent (Choir and Choral Speaking teams) to the Pesta Kokurikulum.

Creating a tourism . . . continued from page 4



A permanent exhibition at Rumah Perak featuring tourist attractions such as Gua Tempurung (top left), Belum Forest (top right) and the Sam Po Tong (above) should tempt international travellers already in Penang to drive down and spend a few days in the state.

struct the structure themselves. In either case the Perak Tourism Association has offered to participate in the planning, development and operation.

The previous administration had plans to establish tourist information centres at the north and south entry points of Perak. We hope this is not implemented. These centres would generate little or - more likely - no returns whatever. Travellers on the highway are either already coming to Perak or rushing to pre-planned

destinations with little time or interest in receiving promotional information.

In either case, it will serve no purpose. It may be more prudent to apply the resources to establish centres similar to the one proposed for Penang in other locations - Kuala Lumpur, for instance - where there already exist high volumes of tourist traffic.

In the meantime, however, nothing offers better prospects for boosting our tourist traffic than development of the Batu Ferringhi location.

On June 19, at a workshop on tourism organised by the Perak Tourism Association, the State Secretary of Perak gave his assurance that he would support the project outlined in the above article.

A series of talks entitled "Learning Beyond Schooling-Bringing out Children's True Potential" Organised by Kelab Bakti Gunung Ledang
Date: Saturday, July, 5, 2008
Time: 9.00am - 12.00pm
Venue: Hotel Seri Malaysia, Ipoh
Admission: F.O.C
For enquiries and confirmation before 3/07/08
E-mail: kelabkeledang@yahoo.com
SMS: **016-5536515** or **016-4140810**



CAMBRIDGE
EDUCATION FOR LIFE
TOWARDS MASTERY of ENGLISH

YOUR SEARCH FOR A LANGUAGE CENTRE ENDS HERE

Cambridge English For Life™ provides high quality, practical, academic, vocational and professional English language training.

Cambridge English For Life™ administers the University of Cambridge ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) Exams, which are known

throughout the world and recognised by universities and corporations worldwide.

*Junior English
*Young Learners English
*The Cambridge Main Suite English

To find out more, please call 05-5469 398 or visit our centre at No 7A, Jalan Medan Ipoh 3, Bandar Baru Medan Ipoh, 31400 Ipoh, Perak.

Immediate Vacancies for : **English Teachers**

Send your applications with full resume current and expected salary and recent photograph to: ipohgarden@cambridgeforlife.org or contact us at **05-5469 398**

Perak Koshiki Karate-do Open Championships - 2008

Date: August 17, 2008

Venue: Wisma Majlis Sukan Negeri Perak

Those interested in participating, please contact Shihan Neoh Then Hock (**012-5783822**) or e-mail neohthenhock@yahoo.com

Closing Date June 15, 2008

Sport

SHOULD WOMEN COACH WOMEN?

Steve Darby explores a delicate issue

by Steve Darby

The female participation rate in football is growing rapidly, a tangible example of this being the 64% growth rate in female players in both football and futsal, the indoor version, alone. The questions must be posed however with this growth - are female coaches more suited to coaching female players than male coaches? If so, are there enough female coaches? The football's dilemma is only a reflection of sport and society in general in Malaysia. The contents of this column can be related to other sports and transposed to many areas of life.

The above questions are, of course, complex. Any male author has to be wary of being either accused of being patronising or being politically and culturally incorrect. Of course, any view from a male author will have been influenced by an upbringing in the male conservatism of sport. As Hay 1993 states: "Sport was, and remains an extremely conservative social institution."

THE ELITE LEVEL

If the game of football is analysed into its components of technique (Biomechanics) and fitness (Physiology), male and female players, particularly at the elite level, enjoy the same approaches. The International Female Player works to physiological training programmes devised by FIFA programmes and the performance indicators are comparable to those of elite males. The techniques of the game are skill-based and the timing of a strike of a ball is more important

than the power factor. (As any golfer will tell you). Tactical awareness and "vision" in the game are mainly learned through playing as often as possible.

However, at the elite level, the psychological approach would seem to differ, and, at times, be confusing. In interviews, International Female Players claim they want to be treated in the same manner as elite male players and in fact want to be coached by males. Yet, interviews with male coaches of International Female Football Players (from a number of countries) also reveal that these players react differently to criticism - they take an observation on play as personal comment. Also, it has been suggested that directions to tasks are interpreted differently. Directions are followed rigidly and often without creative intuition from the player. These responses are not criticisms, but perceptions and cause behaviour modification of the coach.

As coaching gender equity programmes evolve in Malaysia the present few elite female coaches are given opportunities; female players will eventually have the choice of picking the best person to coach them. It is therefore essential that the elite female football players are targeted, encouraged to enter into the coaching system, then supported and nurtured to reach the top. Semantics will dictate if this is called fast tracking or positive discrimination.

nation.

The world evolution

ticipation

continues

through both development



of the female game and its political acceptance and encouragement by the International governing body, The Federation of International Football Associations, (F.I.F.A.) has led to a growth in the self esteem and ambition of elite players. There's the World Cup and an Olympic medal to play for; also, they now have a career path to follow. In Europe and the USA, many females are professional. This was the male football scenario in the 1970s and there is no reason to suggest that this trend should not continue.

If the growth in female par-

programmes and through raised awareness of the game, a new and more important problem may occur. This growth will be at the beginner level. Quite often, as research will reveal, the beginner female participant is at the teenage adolescent stage of development. Therefore, the role and attitude of the coach at this stage in the player's life.

If the influx of new female players is quite likely to be at a low skill level and be at a stage where self esteem is a vital factor, then the right type of coach is vital. The traditional authoritar-

itar-
ian
task
orien-
tated



coach would be a disaster for the inexperienced adolescent female player. Fortunately, research is showing that coaching styles are also evolving. Improved coach education programmes emphasise people orientation as a more prominent philosophy than task orientation.

HER GAME

The player must be made to feel that she belongs to the game of football - she must feel that it is *her* game, as opposed to a female playing a man's game. This shift in the perception or attitude of the female player is vital if the sport wants these new participants to stay in the game and reach the elite level.

A key coaching factor in this scenario is the role modelling effects of the coach. It would seem essential the adolescent female sees a successful female as the role model coach. Many young females are hindered by the belief that they cannot improve, when they see a talented male player demonstrating a skill.

In an objective analysis the gender of a coach for the beginning female player is irrelevant. All that matters is that they are sensitive to the specific needs of the player and have the patience to ensure that skill development is allowed to progress at the appropriate

pace. Also they should have intelligence to understand that self esteem plays a vital part in skill development.

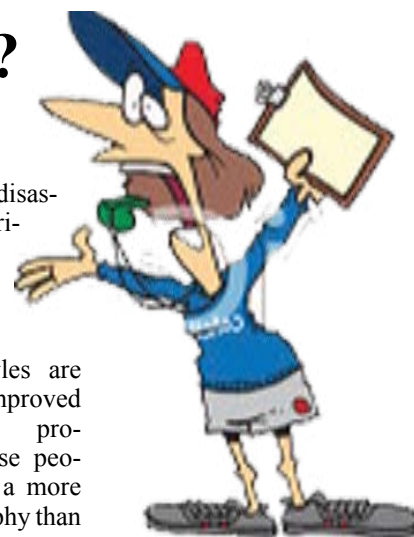
The role modelling influence however adds a different perspective to this argument, for this is a major influence on the continued participation of the player.

Identify talented female players and encourage and assist them to participate in coach education programmes. Henny Oldenhove, an elite female hockey coach, described the lack of female coaches in predominantly amateur sports being due to it being often their third priority . . . after work and their home.

Should women coach women? A definite, Yes! At all levels of the game. It leaves the perceptive reader with another ongoing question - should elite women coaches go on to coach elite male players? Immediately, a range of cultural and historical influences are raised.

This reveals, once again, that coaching is a mirror of society in general and once again emphasises the importance the role and the style of the coach is to sport in general.

Coaching educationalists in football and, in sport in general, must constantly evaluate philosophical questions and produce the answers that are appropriate to a constantly evolving society.



**Living Amidst
Pristine Nature
Gated Community**

Lakeside Ipoh

**Show House
Open For Viewing
From 10am - 6pm**

SUNWAY CITY IPOH

Connect with loved ones.
Grasp the beauty of the outdoors
all year round by taking advantage
of the integral landscaping
such as walkways and plantings...
by walking or jogging a deux; catching up with
friends or neighbours in the park or take a long,
lazy ride, rowing on the serene lakes. If you are
in the mood for a rush of adrenaline,
choose the heart-stopping fun of the theme park.
Whatever suits your fancy, fresh air haven
is yours, right at your doorstep.

Double Story Cluster Bungalow 30 units 5 bedrooms/5 bathrooms
Lot size: 40'x80' RM433,000 onwards

Jess 012-511 6003 Karen 012-562 8811
Noor 019-553 9983 Sherry 012-562 8811

Developer: Sunway City (Ipoh) Sdn Bhd(219749-M) a subsidiary of Sunway City Berhad(87564-X)
No 2, Persiaran SCI 2/1, Sunway City Ipoh,
31150 Ipoh, Perak.

Tel: 605-548 6668