
From: P Ramakrishnan
Sent: Thursday, 31 October 2019 5:20 PM
Subject: R.I.P. Oi Pi Tek 53-55: 31-10-2019

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The sad news of Oi Pi Tek's passing came as was imminent at 9.15 this morning. This was conveyed by his daughter Kathryn.

On his 86th Birthday on 24-5-2019, I wrote, "Pi Tek is indeed one of the nicest Kirkbyites: very polite, caring and friendly." That's how we will cherish him in our memory.

His presence is always felt. He cannot be missed in the midst of all the Kirkbyites. He is the only one with the Confucius white-flowing beard and stands out in the crowd!

There was also something else about Pi Tek which was striking.

What struck me about Pi Tek's name was the spelling. It is different from the normal spelling. Let me show the difference by including in brackets what seems to be the norm: **Oi** (Ooi) **Pi** (Phee) **Tek** (Teck).

I had mentioned this to him and he explained on 25-5-2017:

"Dear Rama, let me explain about my name. My parents are Christians. They named me Peter. Then they used the Chinese name in Hokkien which is Pi Tek (as in the Romanised Hokkien version of the Bible.) As to my surname Oi, it should be Oh. When my father was taken to Anglo Chinese School in Ipoh, his father being semi literate in Hokkien, told the clerk that his name was. Oh Ah Kow but the clerk wrote down Oi Ah Kow. This name was written in his Junior Cambridge certificate which he used as

an official document as he had no birth certificate. Interestingly, the telephone directory has a number of people with surname Oi.”

It was only in 2017 that I announced Pi Tek’s birthday for the first time as his birthday was not known to me. On the night of his birthday on 24 May, suddenly after 10 pm, Satish from his batch texted me that it was Pi Tek’s birth day. Immediately I wished him by sms.

I emailed Pi Tek asking his help for some background information which he did the next morning for which I’m very grateful to him.

In his own words:

“

I went to Kirkby in 1953, one of ten from Anderson School, Ipoh. I stayed in Block 11 and my Option was Woodwork/Metalwork. Seven of us from this option were picked for a third year Supplementary Handicraft Course: two sent to Chester Teacher's College and the other five to Shoreditch Teacher's College, Surrey.

While in Kirkby, I represented the college in Cricket and Rugby and when I was in Shoreditch, I played hockey, badminton, table tennis and cricket for the college teams.

When I returned to Malaya in 1956, I was posted to the Government English Secondary School, Tapah, Perak. I had to set up the metalwork workshop in the new secondary school when it was ready in 1958.

It was in Tapah that I got married to a fellow teacher. She went to Brinsford College in 1956 and was posted back to

GES School, Tapah in 1959. Both of us moved to Kajang in 1964, my wife was placed in Yu Hwa Secondary School and I in Kajang High School which was Satish Bandari's first posting.

By now Handicraft changed to Industrial Arts and I was made the head of I.A. Department. Then at the end of 1970, I was transferred to San Peng Road Secondary School (1) KL as Headmaster. There were two schools sharing the same premises. This created a host of problems and it was such a relief when I was transferred to the Selangor Education Department at the end of 1977.

When Selangor Education Department was split up, I was placed in KL Federal Territory Education Department in 1982. I looked after a number of jobs, starting with Further Education, then on to Statistics, finally Special Education.

When I reached my 55th birthday on 24.5.1988, I just called it quits. My wife took optional retirement at the same time. Both of us have been spending our time with our seven grandchildren who are all in KL .”

Additional information on request:

“ Punithavathy's (53-55) husband the late. Kuladeva was a Tapah boy. When I was posted to Tapah, Kula was just finishing his Normal Class training. I used to give Kula, Richard (Rahim) Seenikatty of the 4th batch (54-56) and

his wife Leoni Fernando of the 5th batch (55-56) a lift to KL on Fridays after school in 1963.

Kula would then rush to Seremban to be with Puni. They were not married then.

Lee Hien Yin, my cousin, who is of the 5th batch, was first posted to Kelantan. He got a transfer to Tapah in 1963.

We were together for a year before I left for Kajang. ”

(It was through Pi Tek that Lee Hien Yin (Dicky) was discovered in 2016)

Pi Tek had lived a rich life academically and had contributed his best to the development of education. He was a proud product of Kirkby.

Pi Tek had attended all the biennial Kirkby Reunions starting with the 2014 Penang Kirkby Reunion.

We will miss him as a friend, a brother and a Kirkbyite.

Wake services: Tonight (Thursday) and Friday night at 8.30pm.

Funeral: Saturday morning at 11.00am

Venue: Room 2, Xiao En Centre, 1, Jalan Kuari, Cheras.
(Opposite Taman Mindah)

Contact persons:

Kathryn (Daughter) : 012 223 6691

Oi Thian Soo (Son) : 016 212 0335

Yours in sorrow,

RAMA

31-10-2019