

Vignettes of the Past

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1. President Rajen Babu's visit to M.B.M. in 1954-55. The great Babu Rajendra Prasad being piloted by his highness Sawai Man Singh Sahib of Jaipur, Rajyapramukh of Rajasthan, folded his hands in namaskar before the bust of Shri Magniramji Bangur and closed his eyes. What humility ? Shri Mathura Das Mathur, the astute politician that he was, used this and persuaded Shri Ram Coowarji Bangur to donate another Rs. one lakh to M.B.M. because the great president of India folded his hands to the founder of the institution!!

During the same visit Babu Rajendra Prasad was witnessing a tension test on a steel bar being conducted by me on the Universal Testing Machine in the Civil Engineering Block. His Highness was rushing him through saying "time nahin hai sahib". Rajen Babu said "Mai is test ko poora dekh kar hi jawoonga" and he did wait for another 10 minutes for the finale of the breaking of the specimen. How humble! How great! The shamiana for the function was personally erected by Shri Hari Singhji Chowdhary, later chairman, Rajasthan Canal Project and we were all his assistants on the field. Chowdhary sahib was in his shorts!

2. The Engineers who remodeled Deoli House in 1953 before M.B.M. moved in from Ugamji's Bungalow in 1954, were Shri Fateh Raj Vyas Executive Engineer, PWD (B&R) and Shri Labdhi Chandra Surana, Assistant Engineer (B&R). Shri Labdhi Chandraji's distinguished son; Dr. Dharam Chand Surana later became the distinguished Dean of our Faculty.
3. The very first hostel warden was Shri Chandra Shekhar Lal Agarwal whose daughter Indira (Agarwal) Gupta later served the J.N. Vyas University.
4. Our first Registrar was Shri Badri Das Purohit who was succeeded by Shri Mandal Dutt Joshi and then by Shri Nihal B. Rai.
5. In 1954, the Institution of Engineers (I) team visited MBM to inspect for recognition. The members were President Er. S.B. Joshi, famous Structural Engineer of Bombay and Dr. Ziauddin Ansari, Principal, Osmania Engineering College. They made Shri P.P. Mowli and myself deliver 30 minutes lecture in room No. A 9 and sat in the very last desks!! They were not sure whether young chaps could deliver the goods. Of course they were impressed.
6. When the Mining block was inaugurated in 1960, Pandit Govind Vallabh Pant, the Hon'ble Union Home Minister was the Chief Guest. Prof. Garde, the principal, in his speech referred to the youth of the staff and wanted funds for getting experienced staff. Pantji, known for his repartee said in his speech "you are able to do so much with such young people, where is the need to get old dodderers ? there is no need for additional funds !
7. Our first Physical Education Director Shri Abdul Aziz Khan, now deceased, was responsible for some decades for maintaining excellent track athletes such as, Pyare Lal Arya, Hanuman Singh, Mahesh Sharma & H.S. Sharma. We should record our gratitude to Azeez Sahib.

8. In 1961, Prof. V.G. Garde wanted MBM to join the Jodhpur University. In a meeting in his chamber Prof. R.D. Singh, Prof. R.M. Advani & myself were present. Prof. Singh and myself pleaded with Garde Sahib not to opt for university! Fate overtakes man !

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