

The Mrs. Lee that I know

It is with great sadness that my wife and I farewell our late principal Mrs. Anne Marie Lee who died on 24 March 2002 in Erina, New South Wales, Australia.

Mrs Lee was the third principal at Shau Kei Wan Government Secondary School. She served during the years between 1971 and 1978.

When Mrs. Lee came to Shau Kei Wan in 1971, both my wife (Elita) and I were studying in Form III. Many of our fellow students soon realised that Mrs. Lee was full of energy and totally devoted to improving the education standards at the school. I remember that she asked teachers to write comments on each student's report. She personally went through the report book of each and every student in the school and wrote a remark on it. Her energy and dedication became very clear to us when Elita and I served as Head Prefects under her in 1975. Her door was always open to the students. She would help students with any problem, from having a medical condition to needing advice to get into university. The students at Shau Kei Wan like her very much. She retired and left the school in 1978.

I heard that she spent a few years after retirement in Cyprus before moving to Australia to be close to her only son Dr. Charles Lee.

Mrs. Lee originally came from Scotland. When she was young, she met a handsome young man from China by the name of Lee, who was studying in Scotland to become an eye surgeon. Dr. Lee brought her back to China and she found herself married into a wealthy family, in Nanjing. In about 1951, Mrs Lee left for Hong Kong with their son Charles. Charles studied in King George V School in Hong Kong and in England. Like father like son, he too became a specialist medical practitioner.

We met Mrs. Lee again in the late 1980s after we moved to Australia. She was as energetic as ever. At that time, we already had quite a few of SGSS old students living in Sydney and other part of Australia. When the Sydney folks had our gatherings, we would invite Mrs. Lee to join us or we simply gathered at her place. She was delighted every time she saw big crowd of us with our families and children. She had a notebook that

she wrote down all the names and details of everyone, including the children.

A couple of years ago, Mrs. Lee met another group of old students when we invited her to a fund raising dinner to assist the Alma Mater to install air-conditioning to the school hall. It was a

very successful event organised by Mr. Chan Wing-kwai who taught in Shau Kei Wan many years ago. Many of these old students visited her couple of times afterwards. She was absolutely delighted for our visit.

Mrs. Lee travelled quite extensively in Australia and overseas. Once she travelled by four-wheel drive to remote parts of northern Queensland. She had also been to the 'outback' of central Australia where there were mostly deserts. Mrs Lee would travel back to Scotland to attend her school re-union. She would travel to Canada and USA, visiting old students and ex-teachers of Shau Kei Wan. She would also travel to China to teach English and learn Mandarin herself. On the way she would catch up with the relatives of the late Dr. Lee.

She went back to teach in China again in late 2000. However, she had to return prematurely because she had fallen ill with pneumonia. She stayed in a hospital for a while after she returned to Sydney. However, I suspect that she had not quite recovered from that illness. We were shocked to hear in October last year that she had lung cancer. She remained strong through her will to fight on, but the disease gradually overcame her and sadly she passed away on 24 March 2002. Charles had been taking good care of her throughout her illness.

Mrs. Lee has always shown great courage and was very positive about life and people. She has been very inspirational to us and to many old students of Shau Kei Wan who are lucky enough to have known her. She will be greatly missed by all of us. ■

Chan Tai Chee (SGSS Class of 1976)

Recent Outing in Sydney

The second one in the group photo (some children help to take photos) - (Back row from left) Chan Tai Chee (1974), Wan Tai-on (1974) and wife Celia, Jimmy and Irene Au Yeung (1974), Betty Cheung (1967) and husband Pierre Lam (1967), Mr. and Mrs Peter Cheung Hon Chung (1968), Mrs. and Mr. Chan Wing-kwai (an ex-staffer of Shaukeiwan). (Front row from left) Richard Li (1973), Helen and Elita Chan Wong Po Cheung (1974), Ada Chan Kin-yee (1973), Mrs. Lee, Angela Ng (1973, Rechard's wife), Joseph Pang (1974) and his friend Jenny.



The Late Mrs.A.M. Lee
SGSS Principal (1971-1978)

