

TITBITS

The Grand Piano

On 22nd May 1960, Their Highnesses, the Maharaja and Maharani of Nabha were present to witness the evening entertainment programme staged by Ravi House and they magnanimously gifted a grand piano to the school. It was used in 1960s for the Assembly prayers when Mr. KC Tandon was Music Head. **Digvijay Bedi (Beas,1968)** usually played it under his supervision.



The Coat of Arms of erstwhile Nabha State

Seen on the present “Headmaster’s Office” wall (old “Staff Room”), Senior School.



The Majestic Wood Framed and Marble Fireplaces of Junior School. The three rooms of each house wing probably formed a suite for the guests of state, central sitting room with bedrooms on each side. Many students believed spirits came through the fireplaces at night and did not sleep next to it.



Did you ever see the Senior School with an eagle's eye view?



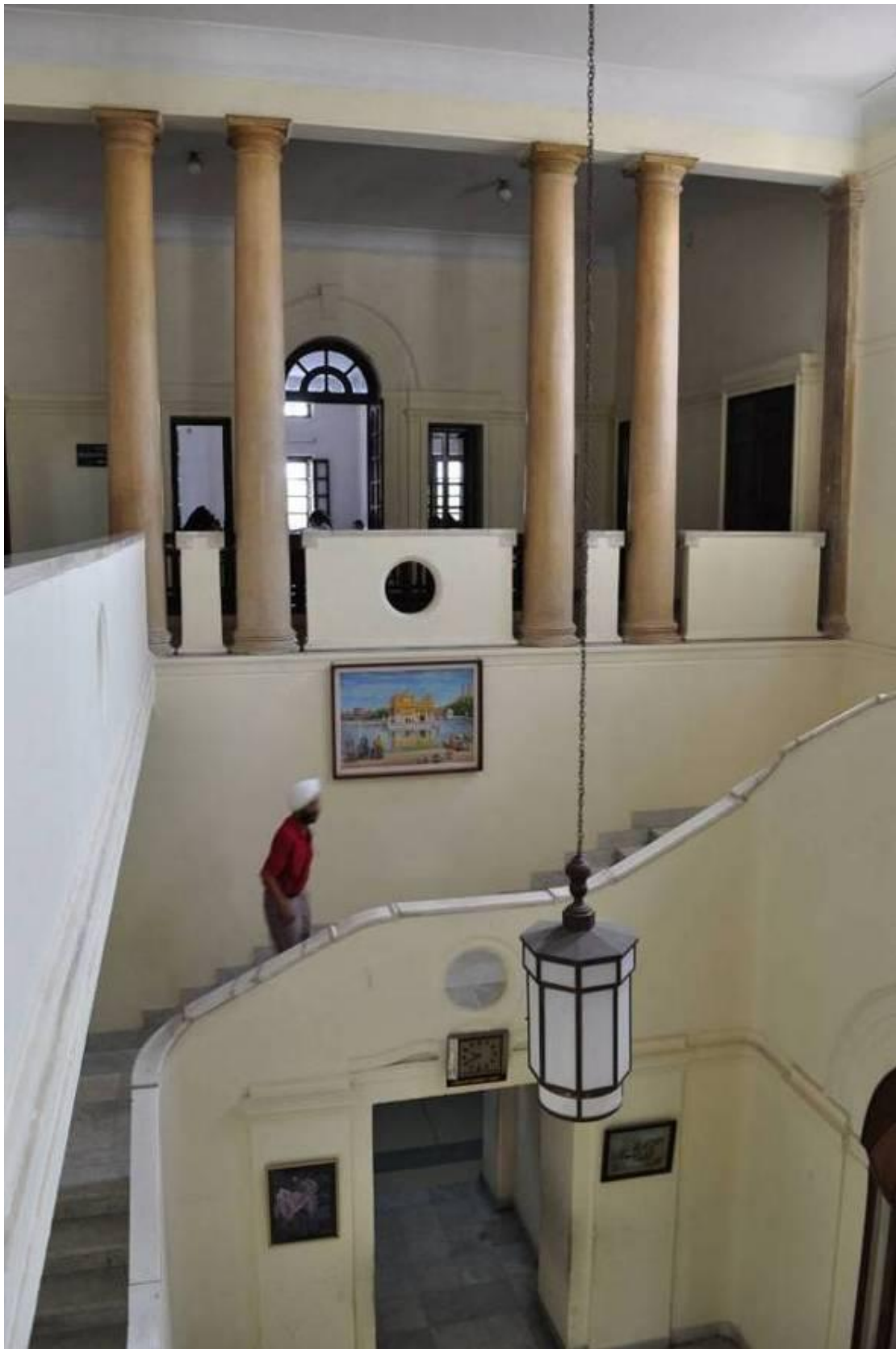
The Burma Teak and the Brass Accessories





Entrance Door to Junior School, view from within

Objective of PPS –Educating children to face the world outside



The elegant royal marble stairway of Junior School leading to first floor, note the unique hanging light fixture that illuminates the winding stairs. Gurinder Chhachhi (S-76, 1 967) on the steps recently

The most social couple



Mrs Keerat Tandon (Pannu) and Mr Kamlesh Chander Tandon who joined PPS almost at inception in 1960, and who were joined in marriage by being at PPS, are the most social couple- invited and present at almost all Old Nabhaite gatherings; maybe because they are based in and around Punjab, or maybe because between the two of them they have many Old Nabhaite students who respect and enjoy them. Here they are seated with Old Nabhaite Kanwar Sandhu



Always First

Lt Gen Om Parkash Nadrajog (B-1, 1963,) one of the first to join PPS, and of the first batch of Old Nabhaites to join NDA (the first to hold an appointment there) and the first to become Lt Col. Will be remembered in PPS history for being the first Old boy from PPS to pick up each next senior rank till Lt Gen and Army Commander.

Trekking or Adventure have always been a part of PPS life starting from this trip to Rohtang led by Mr MN Tankha (Geography) in 1960-61



R-1, Prithipal on the left; J-1, Surinder Gupta second from right



Parminder Nagra S-1 on the left and S-34, late Jeevan Kate on the right (son of JK Kate)



And this Manali trip has mix of 1965-66-67 batches



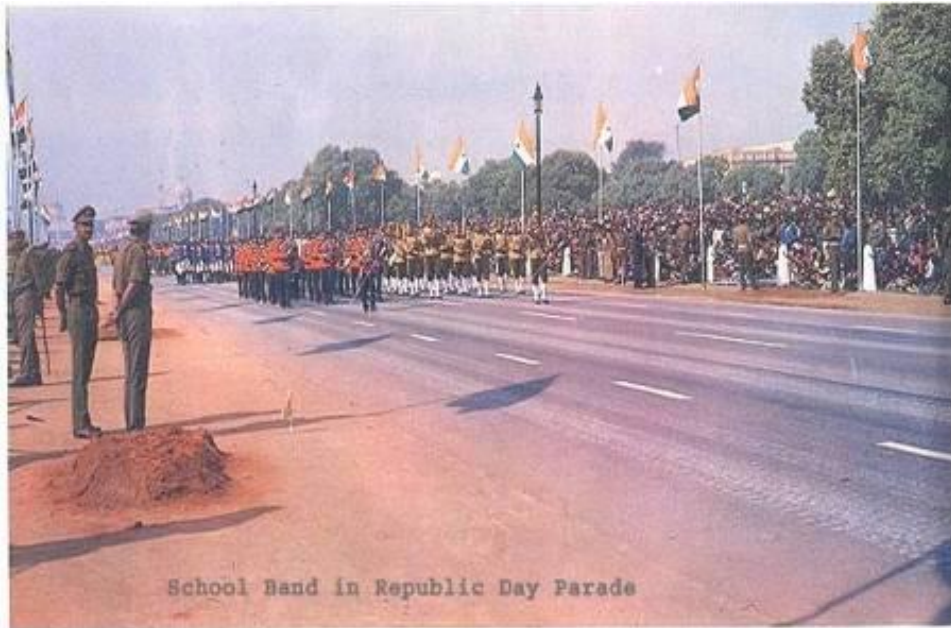
The teacher with the maximum tenure in PPS from 1960-2000: Mrs Keerat Tandon (Pannu). One of those who started it all.



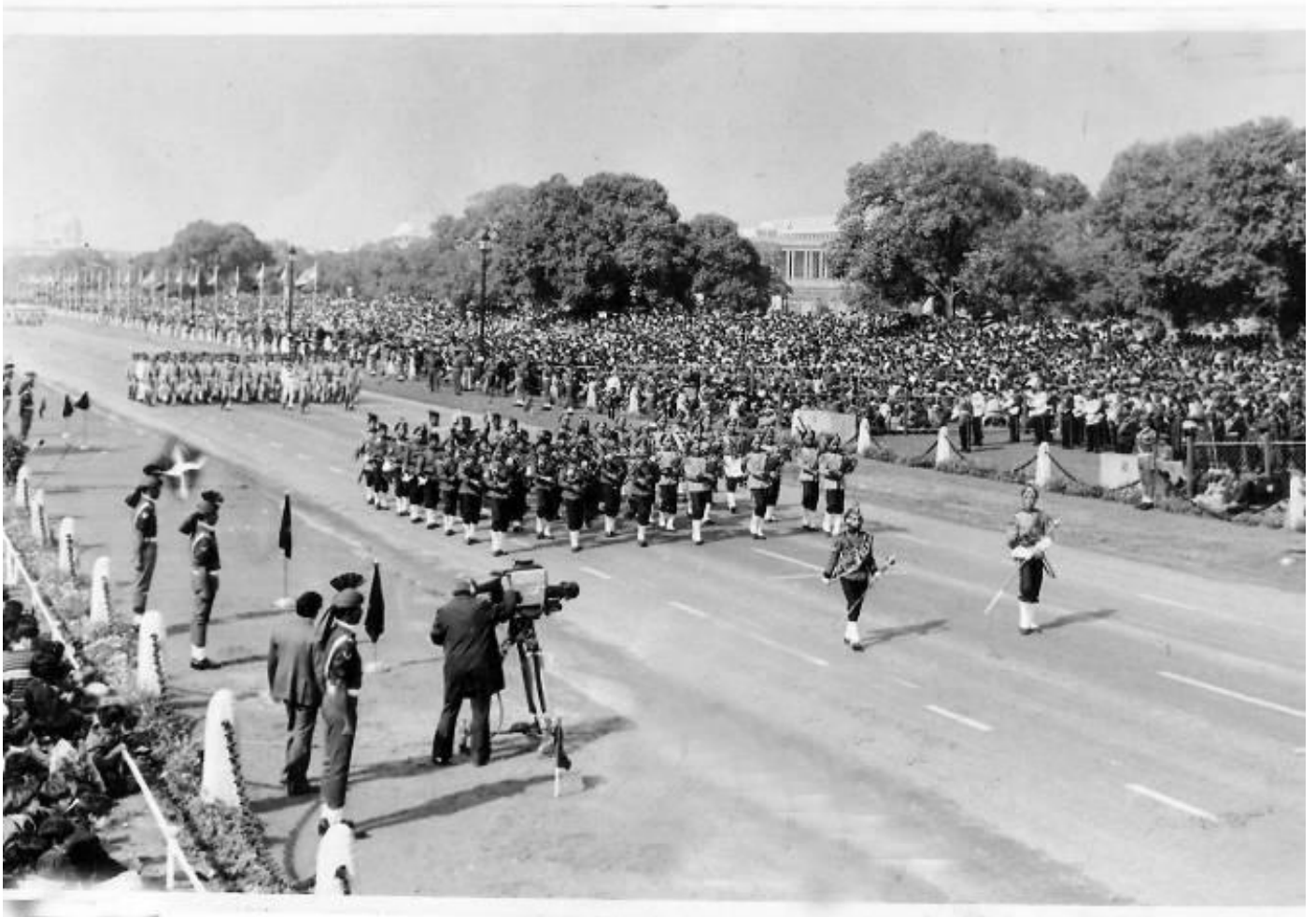
Khilji, the popular , long serving waiter of PPS. His son now works in PPS



The Band on Rajpath, 26th Jan parade



Second time around: coloured version and below, black and white



THE BANDMASTER



Band Master Sohan Singh (on extreme right) responsible for high standard of PPS Band in 1960-70s: Popularly known as “Bandy”, whose contribution has gone unsung and unhonoured.



Late Indira Surjit Singh (S-33), the first girl student of PPS who sadly passed away in 2009, daughter of first SM, Dr Sujit Singh (a PhD, who was on deputation from Punjab govt. and retired as Principal, Sports College, Jalandhar), and sister of Madanjit (S-32) winner of Nao Sena Medal for bravery in 1971.



Balbir Singh, Peon, guard, caretaker, driver and Man Friday of all Junior School Staff and lastly Turbanator for small Sikh children as he taught them their first lessons in tying the turban



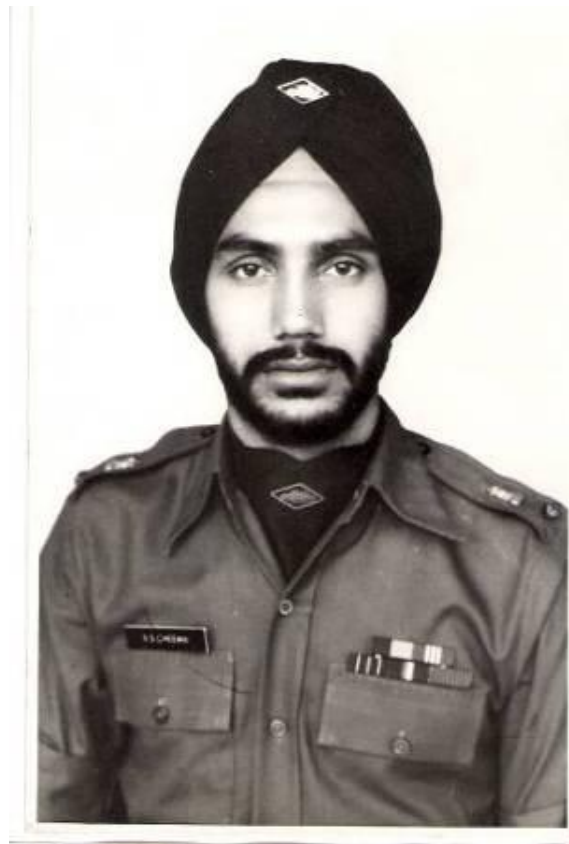
Everyone knows there was a “Staff Club” in 1960s. What the boys may not know is probably of a Ladies Club of PPS. Here they are! The ones I can recognise, from right: Mrs Kakkar, Mrs Kumar, Mrs Macmillan, Mrs Punia, Mrs Vodden, Mrs Tankha (last two in centre), Miss GB Malkani, Mrs Nirmala Kate, Mrs Singh at the end. Seated from right Miss Keerat Pannu (Tandon), Miss Lila Kak (Bhan) Miss Jasbir Lamba (Butalia)



Digging for Gold? Mr Kate makes the first dig for the Swimming Pool. Among the onlookers at the back is Miss Lila Bhan Kak on the right.



A date with a popular Chairman of the Board, Gen Jacob (ONA hosted the dinner)



The only Veer Chakra winner, Late Major Rajwinder Singh Cheema(R-8)

Rajwinder Singh Cheema(R-8), second from left below on Rohtang trip (1960-61), with Gurmukh Singh Bawa (B-44) on his right and on extreme right is Raj Kumar Huku (R-48).



Citation Copy Of Major Rajvinder Cheema

Ashoka Chakra
Indian insignia

Government of India
Ministry Of Defence
New Delhi

**Citation in respect of
Lieutenant Rajvinder Singh Cheema (IC-23379),
Armoured Regiment, awarded Vir Chakra.**

.....

On the 6th December 1971, Lieutenant Rajvinder Singh Cheema led his troops for the capture of certain areas in the western sector. He showed great skill and determination in crossing a Bund and undeterred by enemy fire, he lobbed grenades into the enemy bunkers and captured an enemy post. Even when isolated at night, he stuck to his position and repulsed enemy counter attacks.

In this action, Lieutenant Rajvinder Singh Cheema displayed gallantry, determination and leadership of a high order.

Sd/-
(Govind Narain)
Secretary to the Government of India
,Ministry of Defence.
7-8-1974



General Harbaksh Singh in the background with temple at his back, while Gen JN Choudhary, Army Chief, shakes hands with Mr GS Punia. He (**Harbaksh Singh**) was the only Board member who confronted the bureaucrats for mismanaging the PWSR Fund away from its original objective for providing Ex-Servicemen's children with scholarships in PPS



One of the earliest ONA gatherings at Founders Day, with Headmaster JK Kate and Air Chief Marshal Arjan Singh and his wife. Some of the Old Nabhaites in this picture are no more.



The Oldest Couple that still rocks! **Mrs and Mr GS Punia** dance at a gathering in PPS. They are a permanent feature at any PPS do in Nabha. I think he had a daughter elder than us (Minna) when I was in School. Gosh!!! What does he eat?



Landscaping in PPS is much better than it used to be in earlier years. A view of Kairon Block from the rear with the Headmaster's green spread out like a green carpet and a row of trees. An initiative of Ex-Headmaster, **Gp Capt AJS Grewal**.



This one is for keeps. The boys who went to Rohtang bumped into Nehru at Manali. Here he is signing an autograph. Jeevan Kate is in centre. Raj Kumar Hukku (with cap) is on Nehru's right. When Nehru visited Nabha, Hukku ran to his cavalcade and got this picture autographed and that photo is part of PPS treasures. Can you bump into a Prime Minister today?



The dome on the right and front when you face Kairon Block: Its arches are walled off and shows windows on octagonal sides. It is the only one of this type. **Did you ever notice it?** This was the **first ONA office** in 1980s (Courtsey, **Gp Capt AJS Grewal**). Entrance was from a stairway concealed on the left of the dome.



A School Picnic in 1960s (mostly at Rohti bridge and Irrigation Rest House) Mr KC Tandon, Mr Tankha with ?Monty (son) and Miss Lila Kak Bhan (partly seen in the fore fornt group). Boys playing in the background



ONA NEWS BULLETIN

Vol. II No. 1

MARCH 25, 1982

For Private Circulation

Though this is the second issue of our paper we have not yet decided what it should be called. Some of you might ask with Shakespeare, 'What's in a name, a rose with any name shall smell as sweet'. Yet a name is a symbol of a paper's aims and objectives. Moreover, life is for a generation but a good name is for ever. Therefore we would like to get the majority opinion on this vital issue. A few names have been suggested; 'The Eagle', 'THE ONAITE', 'NABHAITE', 'ONASONIC', 'THE ECHO', 'THE SATELLITE', 'REVERIE', 'ONA'S VOICE', 'THE ONA LINK' to list a few. If you have any new name to suggest or if you prefer any one of the names listed here, do write to us.

You might find this 'news letter' a bit prosaic but with all these lists of ONs who visited the school, got appointed or promoted to various jobs, got married, or left for their heavenly abodes. Yet I am sure you will find in it some thing that might let loose a flood of fond memories and might make you curious to know what happened to the little boy or girl you knew at school. An address in the newsletter might spur you to visit an ON living in your town without your being aware of the fact. The ONA and the News letter can become a channel to keep us all in tune with each other.

To make our magazine more interesting please send us 'stories' about your days in school or any other incident after leaving school that you might want to share with ONs. If you have any interesting ideas we welcome you to write about them in the ONA News Bulletin.

It requires nearly Rs. 2000/- to bring out one issue of the News letter and to post it to the ONs. If we can finance it well enough, we can publish it more frequently. But as things stand the office bearers of the ONA are driving themselves crazy trying to collect enough money to bring out this issue. We know that the ONs are not apathetic and shall rise to the occasion as they did to raise a fund for Mr. Kete. So if you are in a position to buy space in the News letter whether it be by way of an advertisement or donation of space, kindly do so and help in keeping this life-line of ONA alive.

—EDITOR

Aims and Objectives of ONA ✓

(From the constitution of ONA)

The main purpose of this association is to know each other in life and to keep all Old Nabhaites in constant touch with each other, to help each other and the school, so that all those associated with PPS shall remain closely knit and involved with each other like a family.

The Aims and Objectives of the O. N. A. can be summarised as following :—

1. To keep the Old Nabhaites closely knit and in constant touch with each other by bringing out a directory, holding meetings, cultural programmes, conducting dinners and get togethers etc
2. To keep the family spirit of the school community going strong even after passing out.
3. To help the Old Nabhaites who are in distress. (Those in distress will be decided by the board of executive)
4. O. N. A. News Letters.
5. Badges, neck ties—mementos etc.
7. To help the development of school and to develop the cause of education.
7. To help the needy students in the school. The needy students will be identified by the House Masters and the Head Master, (Subject to the decision of executive committee).
8. Cultural activities.
9. To encourage talent among the youth.
10. Directory of old boy/girls.

RATES OF ADVERTISEMENT

Back Page (Full)	Rs. 500/-
.. .. (Half)	Rs. 300/-
Inside Page (Full)	Rs. 400/-
.. .. (Half)	Rs. 250/-

Front page of "The ONA News Bulletin" which was started in 1981 (read Vol II, No 1 on the top left and 1982). This was the predecessor of "The Eagle" The cost was met by advertisements. See the rates at right bottom. First paragraph is devoted to what should be the name of this "ONA News Bulletin" second section gives Aims and Objectives of ONA as given in its constitution.



A Man for all Seasons

Iqbal Kooner (R-19, 1967Hr Sec). He joined PPS in 1960 and left PPS after 1967 for only five years to do his graduation and Postgraduation (St Stephen's College) and is still at PPS. A fast bowler, he once bowled out YPS for less than 20 runs. Even Goldstien, the German Headmaster of YPS praised him in his Annual School Report of YPS. "While my boys were ducking in the ponds of Nabha....." (PPS had fish ponds then and many YPS boys were out for a duck). Here he is seen with a very popular teacher (history) and a great sportsman who played Ranji and also Kooner's mentor, **YP Bharadwaj** at "**Rendezvous 2000**" organised by ONA.



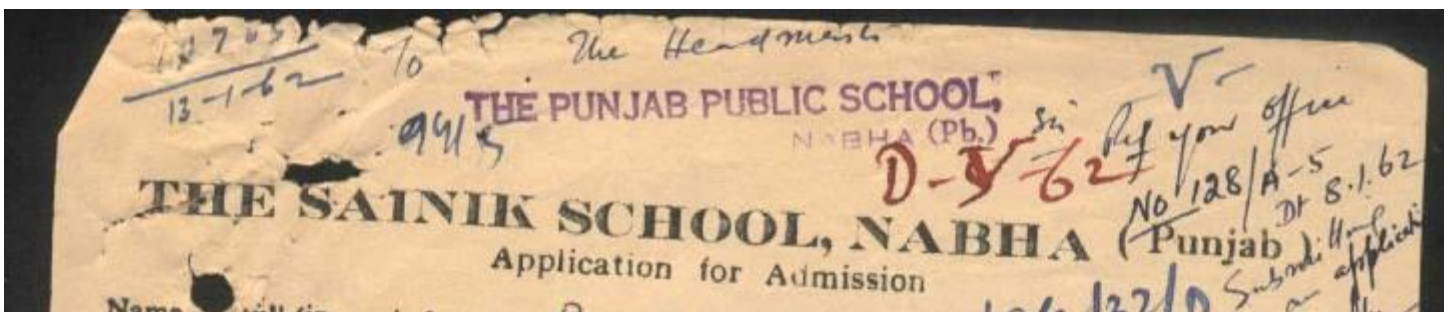
The Junior School Dining Hall got finished in **Col Dr DS Khera's** time. For the first time there was an attempt to match the new construction with Main Building.



The Burmese Teak panelled Durbar Hall of New Secretariat of erstwhile Nabha State is the seat of PPS library now. Photographs of Founder Members and one of Inauguration, adorn the wall on the left.

The way it was in 1960: The School Letter Head

Below is a scanned copy of an admission form printed for The Sainik School, Nabha in 1960. Though it carries later date entries on top. The name was changed to “THE PUNJAB PUBLIC SCHOOL” in July, 1960. The original letter head then started carrying a **rubber stamp of new name** on top of old letter head (Mr Kate would not have wasted any thing). If anyone ever has a doubt about School name please refer to this document. Note both names were written in capital letters and the word “THE” included.



Courtesy Komal Sharma, PA to Headmaster, 2010)

CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION OF SOCIETIES

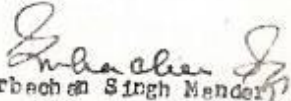
(Act XXI of 1860)

No. 72 of ~~1969-70~~ 1969-70

I hereby certify that " THE PUNJAB PUBLIC SCHOOL (NAH A)
SOCIETY." has this day been registered under
the Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860 and as amended by Punjab
Amendment Act 1957.

Given under my hand at Chandigarh this 26th
day of September, One Thousand Nine Hundred and
Sixty Nine.

Fee Rs 50/-


(Gurbechan Singh Mander)
Registrar of Firms and Societies, Punjab.

Although The Punjab Public School was functioning since 1960, it was formally registered as a Society under Punjab Societies Act XXI of 1860 on 26th September 1969.

of his staff who have been here since 1 Jan and have been assisting him, ^{all his time} to get the show going. I know the amount of work he has put in, to start with single-handed, to start the school. ^{For example} He has had to get each and every bit of furniture that we are using today. I would like to thank him very much indeed for what he has achieved in such a short time with a limited number of staff. ^{Thank you, Mr. Kati.}

Now the Aim of the School. It is to provide a Public School education to deserving sons of ex-servicemen, serving personnel of the Defence Services and civilians, with a view to developing them in body, mind and character and preparing them academically for entry to the National Defence Academy or for any other suitable career. Another object of the School is to instil in its students a spirit of loyalty, devotion and patriotic service to the country, and to inculcate qualities of leadership, personality, discipline and team-spirit.

^{In addition to this, I would like to thank the Headmaster & his Staff for their help & assistance in the development of CHARACTER.}
Military bias is intended to indicate that joining the NCC is compulsory for all boys. We will prepare you to take your place among leaders of the future and will try to equip you for the Battle of Life. You, my young friends, are free to choose a Military Career if you want to. ^{but there is no compulsion}

^{And we} You, my young friends, especially those who have been awarded scholarships, must work hard and take full advantage of the opportunity, you have been given. In our country there is a great requirement for young men to come forward and help in the development plans being initiated by the ^{our} Government.

^{We have given as per the Headmaster's report} I hope you will have a comfortable and pleasant stay here and you will take full advantage of the facilities being made available not only as far as studies are concerned but also hobbies, games, and outdoor activities.

^{For only a host of advice to the Staff. You} I wish you all every success.

^{Must all work together as a team for as}

*I educate a train every day
and in this individual
character*

*35 Scholarships
I would have
been more
Scholarships
two parts
are limited
I No cannot
at present
increase the
number of
on a trial*

The scanned copy of a page of hand corrected speech of General Kalwant Singh delivered on the 14th April 1960, the first formal day of PPS in School Assembly Hall.

THE PUNJAB PUBLIC SCHOOL

(ORIGINALLY KNOWN AS THE SAINIK SCHOOL)

NABHA (PUNJAB)

A RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL FOR BOYS

PROSPECTUS

JANUARY 1961

PRICE RE 1

The 1961 Prospectus for Re 1.

PPS as it is today



The biggest change is intake of girls as residential students.



They are doing well and bringing a good name to PPS. I wonder how many Old Nabhaites wish they were back in school now.



Malkani Hall (Originally Assembly Hall) with its Burmese teak wooden flooring is buzzing with activities for girls. **Don't miss the antique Chandelier and GB Malkani's portrait.**



The other Hall meant for Dining is now Junior School Library. Again note the antique Chandelier and beautiful POP work on the walls and ceiling.



Junior School Lawns and Driveway as seen from the terrace over the Porch



The Junior School, Guest House of the erstwhile Nabha State as it is today.



Kairon Block as it is today (New Secretariat of the erstwhile Nabha State). Any Picture of Kairon Block is incomplete without the historic tree in foreground. Many great events have taken place in this lawn and under the tree, including School Plays , Plays by Shakespearana Company of Kendall Family and First Founders Day Function in 1961.



The new block, behind Junior School kitchen, to accommodate more class rooms



The new Tuck shop for Junior School close to Swimming pool on the left of the driveway as you exit.



The Squash Court at night with its back to Hira Mahal Colony (Senior School). Built during the tenure of Ex Headmaster **Mr MS Bedi**. The architecture resembles the Main building to some extent, unlike other earlier new buildings.



The stables at the back of the Junior School



The biggest advertisement or show case or laurel winner of PPS today is The Horse riding team ,whose trick riding is comparable to the best in Indian Army. The man responsible for it is Risaldar Major Saudagar Singh.



PPS riders have excelled and represented India in Polo many times over in the past two decades. Here are two of the stalwarts: Above: **Col Ajay Ahlawat(S-546, 1986)** in action, and, Below with Indian team that played against Pakistan





In Action!!! Col Pinka Virk (S-428, 1977)



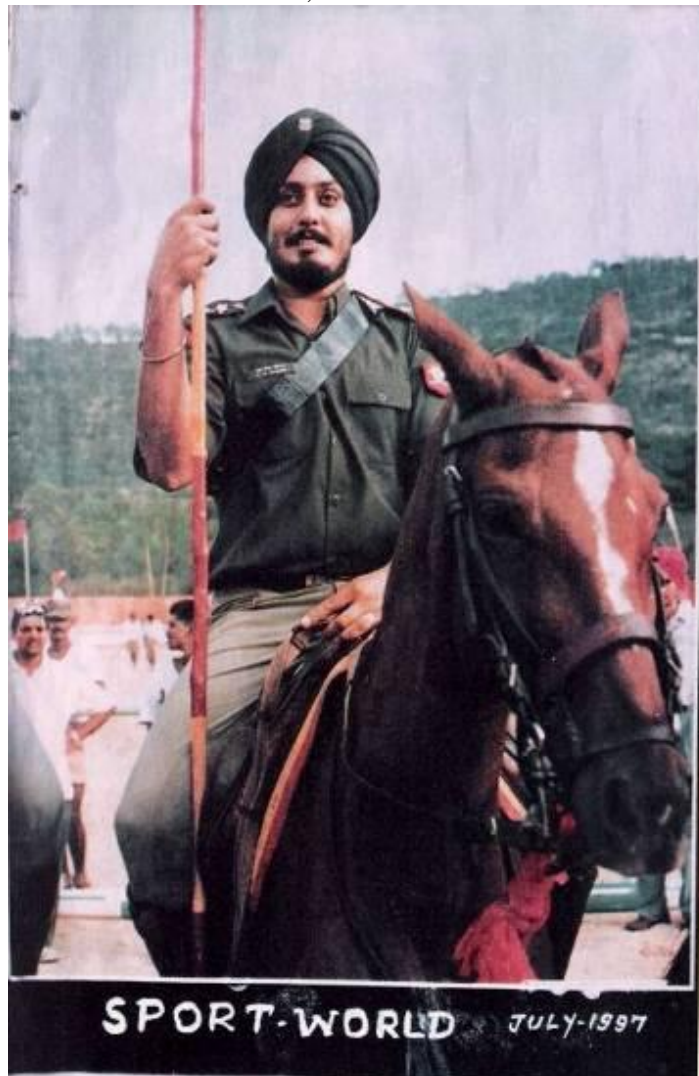
With the Queen



With Princess Diana



Pinkie Virk, with Prince Charles



India's Best Rider Late Maj Manjinder Singh Bhinder

Polo Players/ Riders of International Repute

Late Maj MS Bhinder : India's best Horse Rider, selected for Bangkok Asian Games.

Col JS Virk (Retd). Three World Cups, and represented India in over 20 countries; Commanded the 61st Cavalry; Awarded the title of Dato [Sir] by Malaysian Govt.

Col Ajay Ahlawat, Veteran. Four World Cups and represented India in over 30 countries; First Indian to be awarded the title of Dato [Sir] by Malaysian Govt.; Advisor for Polo to the Sultans of Malaysia and Brunei/ Founder of the First Polo Club of India - Rissala Polo Club, located at ITC Classic Golf Club.

Late Capt Balbir Singh Yadav was the youngest handicap 4 Polo player in his days.

Respect for the Teachers!



A photographer's delight!!!

Jatinder Randhawa (J-60, 1968) pouring out his respect and affection for **Madam Keerat Pannu Tandon**. Symbolic of Old Nabhaites love for their teachers

Let us end on a mouth watering and palatable note

I am sure all of us know what Dining out is all about. But here is a picture of Dining in.... sent by **Guranspal Singh Mann (R-0436, ICSE'07)**. Remember the familiar trays, *dongas*, *puris*, *aloo sabzi*, the familiar dress and the looks that are Complete Innocence!



Have I taken you back to your school days? I really hope I succeeded!!