

Ong Sek Pek – Exemplary Icon

By Chin Yik Kuen



I HAVE known Ong Sek Pek for more than 60 years and he remains remarkably the same person as when I first encountered him as a classmate at the Malacca High School. His appearance has not changed much up to this day – immaculate as expected.

His calm and quiet manner combined with his enthusiastic and ecstatic attention in whatever he does, reflects a man of great depth in accomplishing many things.

That Sek Pek has all the attributes of a successful man is without doubt. In this context, I need only mention two significant episodes of Sek Pek's devotion to his *alma mater*.

The High School Old Boys' Association (HSOBA) established in 1921 mooted a building fund in 1953 and it was Sek Pek as its president who eventually managed to build an impressive clubhouse within the school compound. He was a prime mover in the building of the grand school hall known as a "monument of gratitude" which was opened on March 7, 1981.

While at school (1945-48), Sek Pek, a top student, was a tower of strength as he was the school captain, editor of *The Optimist*, an outstanding scout and a sportsman representing the school at badminton and tennis.

After leaving school, Sek Pek was deeply involved in a host of activities of his *alma mater* – first as a scoutmaster and later as chairman of the school's Board of Governors. He also donated musical instruments and equipment to the school brass band in 1971. It can be truly said – Sek Pek's devotion is Malacca High School's glorification!

Sek Pek is one who will go all out to pursue his objective. He gets full support from all those who work with him and he never makes things complicated for anyone to misunderstand him. He has matured into being a jovial and loving gentleman who likes to remain in the background, enjoy a fruitful and happy life and guard his private life jealously.

Sek Pek is a gracious man – unremitting in using his critical intelligence and having a true moral stature. His charm,

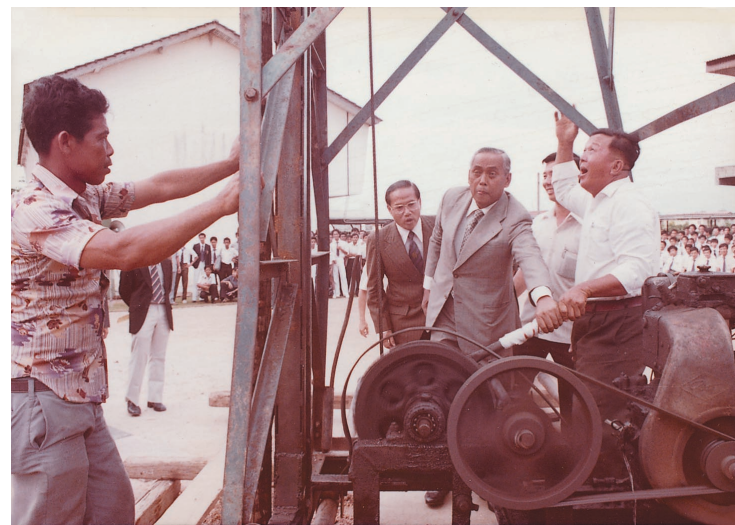


Photo: Chan Ying Tat

Sek Pek (right) and Mahsopa President Tun Abdullah Salleh launching the groundbreaking project for the Grand Hall, witnessed by principal Chan Ying Tat.

cheerfulness and wit, have contributed much in fostering friendship and comradeship. Now he is much involved in overseeing his business enterprises.

I would like to devote this ode to him:

*May your projects succeed all in good time,
May your pockets fill with coins of various kind,
May the sun shine bright on your window pane,
May the rain wash away all your aged strain,
May friends be around to support your noble call,
May your happiness be as vast as the Great Wall.*

Meliora Hic Sequamur!