

OBITUARIES

Lucy and Melville Furness

Melville and Lucy Furness both passed away this year. They were two of the very early workers in the field of leprosy rehabilitation, first in India and then among the Aboriginal tribes in the Northern Territories of Australia. Lucy died on the 1st of April and Melville on the 23rd of July, 2001.

Melville Furness had developed lepromatous leprosy in the 1940s, before effective medication was available. He was diagnosed and treated at the Christian Medical College at Vellore, India, and then studied physiotherapy under Ruth Thomas, the first physiotherapist to devote herself to the rehabilitation of leprosy patients. Because he was already well-educated, he quickly became an active and valuable member of the rehabilitation team and an effective advocate for changes in segregation laws in India. Melville's wife, Lucy, served as my secretary and was the organizer of the team.

After about twenty years in this work they both emigrated to Australia in 1971 and joined the staff of the East Arm Leprosarium just outside Darwin in the Northern Territory of Australia. Melville was a very effective speaker and quickly became a leading advocate for rehabilitation back into society for the leprosy patients among the Aboriginal people of the Northern Territory. He and Lucy served together from 1971 to 1983 and contributed a great deal to the campaign for the uplift of the Aboriginal tribes and especially for the leprosy patients. After retirement they continued to live in Darwin until Lucy died. Melville then lost the will to continue living.

This devoted couple will be mourned by many colleagues and by even more patients in Australia, as well as in India.

—Paul W. Brand

September 11, 2001

Dear Robert,

It is a long time since we have been in touch, but I write to let you know that Lucy and Melville Furness both died recently. I also wrote to Paul Brand, who knew them well and worked with them in India in the early days and he said that he would be writing to you. I understand that he was writing you an Obituary. Could I add a few notes from Australia?

Lucy died on 1st April 2001 and Melville on 23rd July 2001. Melville did not have the will to live after Lucy died as they were so close throughout their lives.

They both came to Australia in July 1971 to the Northern Territory and worked with me at the leprosy hospital until it closed in 1982. Lucy worked as my secretary and Melville as the physiotherapist for the hospital. I am sure you know that they gave their whole lives to leprosy and were indeed wonderful people both to know and work with. Both became firm friends with the patients and were loved by all.

I don't know if you were aware that Lucy and Melville adopted an Indian boy with severe leprosy deformity while they were in India. He had grown up by the time they left for Australia but he went on to study and work in leprosy in India in later years. In fact, you may know him—Ramchandra Rao, who, I think spent some time studying at Carville.

Melville also spent a lot of time in the later years in the Northern Territory visiting patients in the rural areas. This was rather rugged from time to time as the Territory is still very much 'Outback' Australia and in many ways an underdeveloped part of the world. He was a fervent teacher and we learned a great deal from him. Of course, his work with Paul in the early days was crucial to his development and he went on

to study in England and to qualify in physiotherapy. Those must have been very difficult times for him, both because of his age and also for Lucy as they were very poor. Melville brought all Paul's principles to Australia and we were most fortunate to benefit from them. I think Paul's inspiration was crucial to Melville's development.

I think Paul will have given you other more important details. I am not very good at writing this sort of thing, so perhaps you would put it in a better way for me.

I do hope you are well yourself. I have had some coronary bypass surgery but am

doing well. I have now retired completely.

Kind regards,
John

—Dr. John C. Hargrave, AO, MBE, MD
(Syd), DSc (Hon), FRACS, DTM&H

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I can think of no better way to express
Dr. Hargrave's feelings.—RCH

Dr. Jal Mehta

It is with profound grief that we have to inform you of the sad demise of our Hon. President, Dr. Jal Mehta, on the morning of Saturday, 13th October, 2001, after a brief illness. Dr. Mehta suffered a sudden massive brain haemorrhage on Monday, 8th October, from which he did not recover.

Dr. Mehta's work in leprosy—medical, social relief, research and rehabilitation—during his tenure of more than 40 years of voluntary and honorary service, brought the Dr. Bandorawalla Leprosy Hospital and its associated rehabilitation and allied projects to national and international fame.

I am sure you are aware that his achievements in the field of leprosy have been nationally and internationally acclaimed:

The removal of the taboo on leprosy patients, starting by calling them "leprosy patients" and not "lepers."

By his rehabilitation work he has raised these leprosy patients (from the weakest of the weaker section of society) to men and women who can stand on their own feet, earn well, and this has increased their self-esteem to that of any other human being.

His dedication and devotion to leprosy will always be remembered and we shall all miss this architect of PDLC.

—Dr. Cyrus Poonawalla

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Dolores D. Goodman



On October 15, 2001, the INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF LEPROSY as well as the entire leprosy scientific community, lost a very dear friend and advocate. Dolores D. Goodman, better known as "Dee," passed away on this date after an 8 ½-year battle with cancer. Dee

was the Assistant Editor of the INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF LEPROSY from 1982 until her death in 2001. When Dee began working for the IJL, she took on the task with unequalled energy, determination and devotion to produce the most professional scientific journal in the field of leprosy. She was exceptionally dedicated to the Journal, the correctness of its content and its reflection upon the authors.

Dee received a B.A. in Fine Arts from the Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and gained experience in many other diversified areas. Some of those fortunate enough to benefit from her talents, professionalism, vitality, and unmatched quick wit, included the McNair Construction Company and the HETRA Computer and Communications Industries, Inc., of Satellite Beach and Melbourne, Florida, respectively; the Graduate School of Business Administration at Washington University and the Missouri Botanical Gardens' Education

Department in St. Louis, Missouri; as well as the Gulf South Research Institute and the Public Affairs Research Council of Louisiana located in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

After being diagnosed with the cancer, Dee realized that if she and her husband, John, were going to fulfill their plans, she would have to make some changes. So, in 1996, Dee and John moved to Florida, where they planned to retire someday; however, she continued her work as the Assistant Editor of the IJL, until her death, with the same self-discipline and devotion she always possessed.

Dee had the perception and the wisdom to see beyond words and actions. She was a "cheerleader" to all who knew her and she encouraged them all to "go for it." She was devoted to life and family. On October 15, 2001, John Goodman, Wendy Goodman Fury, and Tracy Goodman Henry, lost a fabulous mother; Kathryn, Shelby, and Erin Sternberg, and Kendall and Will Henry, lost a grandmother who cherished them deeply; the leprosy scientific community lost an advocate, and many of us lost a dear friend.

Most people come and go in this world quickly, as if with the wind. And live without perceived greatness, without deserved or spoken recognition, but then the wind changes, and they are gone. There are no great statues erected in their honor, nonetheless, they forever leave their mark in your heart.

Dee, your family misses you, the leprosy scientific community misses you, "The Garden Club" misses you, and I miss you. Until we're once again in your presence, may you rest in peace,

—Renee A. Painter