



Mr. V. Thampoe, B. Sc. (Principal of Golden Era)

Late Mr. V. Thampoe who had the office from **1950 to 1963**. He was an excellent administrator and academician. Selection of new site for the College, foundation and opening new buildings, introduction of G.C.E A/L classes, activities in sports and cultural competitions and inviting scholars had been done by him. Mr. V. Thampoe and vice Principal Mr. Sivagnanam had visited each and every house in the surrounding areas for the betterment of the College.

The College has upgraded during his period. Informal education on textile, carpentry, agriculture had been introduced. Inter-house sports meet held regularly and inter-college matches between Jaffna based schools had been conducted. He was very happy when old students of the college had come there as teachers. He maintained high standard of discipline and aimed at the production of active, flexible personalities with wide cultural interests, and imaginative. This was his dream and it came true. He was also very happy when the students entered University from the College during his period and this has been continued. It has to mention here that Late Prof. S. Balachandiran (Former Dean, Faculty of Arts, University of Jaffna) and Mr. V. Sivanathan (B.Sc.) were the very first students who entered University directly from the College in 1963.

He personified in every way the personality of an ideal teacher and school head. He worked with a vision, mission, and a mandate and piloted the school through various vicissitudes and set in motion an educational tradition worthy of any school. His period was the **Golden Era** in the history of our college. A grand farewell was given by his staff and students in Velanai and by old students in Colombo as well to appreciate his yeoman service to the school and the people of the Islands belong to the Kayts electorate. Also, his old students Mr. R. Sundramurthy (Retired Deputy Director of Customs) and Dr. Saba Kulathungam started a trust well known as "**Principal V. Thampoe Memorial Scholarship Fund**" to help poor students for their education.

He passed away in 1981. The Velanai Central College administration declared leave for the school in order for the staff and students to participate the funeral. Mr. Thampoe's body was covered by the bi-color (Velanai central college) school flag and carried by the staff of the same institution. This showed their love and gratitude after almost 20 years he left from the school. His generosity to the school's development was un-matched to this day.

The centenary celebrations of him held in his native village Myliddy in the year 2012. We, the Velanai Central College Old Students' Association-Canada (VCCOSA-Canada) named our annual get-together ground in the same year as **Messrs: A. K. Kandiah and V. Thampoe memorial ground** in remembrance and appreciation of their yeoman service in the early stage at our college.

By: S. Elancheliyan