

## **OUR FINEST PATRIOTIC YEARS**

*By Maganbhai B Karadia*

- \* An introduction of our village Karadi and Kantha Vibhag Geographical, Economical and Social Structure.
- \* Gandhiji's Non Cooperation Movement.
- \* "Bharat Vidyalaya Karadi" Our National Independent School.
- \* Karadi Sangathan Mandal UK was founded 1972.

The Village Karadi is situated along the side of the riverbank Purna, and adjacent to the seacoast of Southern Gujarat. The word "Karadi" means cliff. Karadi- Cliff- Bank of river.

Karadi and its surrounding villages are known as KANTHA VIBHAG. The Villages are situated between the West Side of Navsari railway station, and along the coastline of Arabian Sea. This area is called Jalalpur Kantha Vibhag, which is close to Navsari. Navsari is the birthplace of Dadabhai Navroji, who was one of the main founder of National Congress in 1885 and a member of Westminster British Parliament in 1890.

If we go back to our great grandfather's time, you will see that our economical and educational standards were extremely poor. There was no High school in Kantha Vibhag. Most of the villages had primary school with one or two teachers only, and students were mostly boys. The Primary Schools were introduced by the British Government in 1822 but the standard of education was extremely poor. This lack of opportunity for getting any higher further education meant that they could not obtain higher position within the surrounding economy.

The main source of income for the region was agriculture and shipping. As there was insufficient land for every body to farm, some of the villagers took their skills to the ocean, small vessels to transport goods along the Indian coast. These ships were engineless and powered by the wind, as you can imagine this journey extremely treacherous. One needs to remember that we are talking about a period when there were no railways or major roads in India!

With arrival of British rule in 1818, all these changed. They built railways along the West coast in 1850, and the Navigation trade declined, which had great impact on the local people of Kantha Vibhag.

People needed to adopt and change the way of life. Some people started working in construction industry with large companies and other worked in building of railways. These meant that people had to leave home and travel with the companies to find job and support their families. Some people migrated to South Africa and different part of the world. It was in South Africa where they met face to face with Mahatma Gandhi, the original founder of Modern India.

In 1893 Mahatma Gandhi went to South Africa as a lawyer to defend a case. Here he experienced colour prejudice and racial discrimination. As a result, he started a movement for racial equality and human rights, using the principle of non-violence satyagrah. Gandhiji established an Ashram in South Africa where the Indian people joined Gandhiji in many activities. Gandhiji realised and recognised the bravery and the loyalty of our people in fighting the authorities in South Africa, and this was to prove a lasting relationship, which would reflect later during the 'Dandikuch' in 1930.

Gandhiji stayed active in South Africa until the outbreak of the First World War. He returned to India in 1915 at the request of the leaders of Indian National Congress to take the leadership.

Gandhiji Wanted to visit different parts of India before he could start his career as a lawyer or take the leadership. He visited many different parts of India. He was shocked to see poverty and lack of education in most parts of India, and started to address these problems. He came to Jalalpur and met local people, and also met his Satyagrahi, Devotee- Saathi Fakirbhai Patel ("Fakira" of Aat Gam) who gave him support in South Africa; He also founded an Ashram in Ahmedabad.

## **GANDHIJI'S NON-CO-OPERATION MOVEMENT**

During The First World War, The Indian National Congress had helped in the British war affairs. Joining the British Army and proving vital resources. As a result the Indian National Congress expected some concession from the British Government over home rule. However, the concession was not forthcoming, and they faced increasing nationalists demands for the promised concessions. British were then confronted with many disturbances of civil disobedience. One of these acts of protest was the peaceful assembly on 13<sup>th</sup> April 1919. General Dyer a military officer passed the order at Jallianwala Bag, Amritsar, Punjab. To fire guns on people. As a result three hundred lives were lost and wounded over a thousand. Gandhiji was deeply upset this massacre and help to the people were suffering. It was here that the first Non-Co-operation movement console the pain was **launched. Its main principles were:**

- 1, Non-Co-operation with Government Authority.**
- 2, Boycott of courts.**
- 3, Boycotts Government's Education policies.**
- 4, Legislatures to reject foreign textiles.**

In addition, there was constructive programme of communal unity. Abolition of untouchability, adopting Swadeshi Khadi and National Education. This programme was put into force in 1920. Gandhiji held mass meetings in Ahmedabad, and convinced the public for the above four-fold programme.

He also founded the Gujarat Vidyapith 'university' in Ahmedabad.

## **Our Rastriya Shala in Karadi was founded in 1921.**

The following five local gentlemen, Shri Unkabhai Makanbhai, Naranbhai Bavabhai, Rambhai Gosaibhai, Kanjibhai Chhibabhai , Vallabhbhai Punabhai who had attended Gandhiji's above meeting in Ahmadabad discussed Gandhiji's programme at general meeting in Karadi and decided to establish Rastriya Shala here. The Shala began its humble life in a private house of Makanbhai Jerambhai at Chotra Faliya with few students. The prime aim was education. Shri Lalbhai Lakhabhai Patel and his colleagues were appointed as teachers. A time went we were able to provide a purpose built primary school, New premise was built in 1926 at middle of the village near Vaniya Talav, the land donated by Shri Premabhai Panchiya. which can still be seen today. Our textbooks and educational curriculum were adopted from the Gujarat Vidyapith. Also in other villages of Kantha Vibhag, Matwad, Bodali, Borifalia and Abrama where Rastriya Shala were started, in 1921 and many in Gujarat. Its whole financial responsibility lay upon the generosity of the local public. The British Government's intention was to close all the National Schools. Local people heavily contested this, but due to lack of funds many schools were force to close down. In Karadi we were fortunate enough to have Acharya Manibhai Patel as a Head Teacher. He was a graduate (snatak) of Gujarat Vidyapith. Coupled with Gandhian vision, he promoted Gandhian Educational philosophy. Also he was a pillar member of Gujarat vyayam pracharak Mandal, a physical educational institute. In addition, he was an editor of a magazine

called 'Yuvak' an youth. This publication was the first magazine printed in Gujarati language for physical education. He trained his students to perform their talents in other schools.

All these actions led to Gandhiji's 'Dandi Kuch' the Salt March in 1930. Gandhiji realised the strength and goal for Independence required National unity, and he soon recognised that a simple but defiant gesture would galvanise the cause. As a result, he came upon the idea to break the hated Salt Law.

The names of few locations in Gujarat where natural salt was found were before placed Gandhiji, and he chose Dandi on the advice of Shri Kalyanji Mehta of Surat District. Influences such as Panchakaka's work and Acharya Manibhai Patel's educational activities in Bharat Vidyalaya together with Gandhij is first hand experience in South Africa played major parts in the decision. So, Dandi was the ideal location. Gandhiji began this historical March on 12<sup>th</sup> March 1930 from Sabarmati Ashram in Ahmedabad with seventy-nine-selected followers-Satyagrahi. The distance from Sabarmati to Dandi was 241 miles. The March arrived at Panchakaka Vadi Karadi on the 5<sup>th</sup> April. Mandap and KUTIR were prepared by people of Karadi. At the evening prayer, acharya Manibhai Patel was able to report on his educational work in Bharat Vidyalaya, and Swamiji-a devotee(Parsee Gentleman) would report on protest against abuse of alcohol, picketing at wine and spirit shops.

In the beginning of the March, some leaders were skeptical about the effectiveness of this action, the Government did not arrest Gandhiji being confident that the March would not be successful. To the contrary, it grew in numbers, and people eagerly awaited its arrival. On the 6<sup>th</sup> April Gandhiji took a pinch of salt from the bank of the Dandi coast and proclaimed that this was the beginning of the end of the British Empire.

This historical event became 'Gate way of freedom' of India. Gandhiji's breaking of the Salt Law awakened the Nation and provoked the rest of the population to break the Salt Law. People from Karadi and Kantha Vibhag gathered in Kharland near AAT Gaam. This attracted the police attention and they arrested Acharya Manibhai Patel, then Swamiji, along other villagers, and placed them all in the jail at Jalalpur.

Acharya Manibhai went to jail four times during the freedom movement.

After breaking the Salt Law Gandhiji stay at Dandi in Shaifi villa. After that he came to Karadi on 14<sup>th</sup> April and stayed in Karadi for 22 days in a Kutir specially built for him with bamboos, and Khajuri leaves(chhatinya). This was built near Rastriya Shala. His followers stayed in the school building. Gandhiji visited and met local people of surrounding villages during this time to explain his programme.

Following the success at Dandi, Gandhiji concentrated his next move to Dharasna, to work raid on the Salt heaps. He wrote to Lord Irwin, the Viceroy of India. Informing of his intentions. This time the Government quickly realised the major implications this would cause and ordered for Gandhiji's arrest. On 5<sup>th</sup> May 1930 at midnight the police Superintendent armed with a warrant, proceeded to arrest Gandhiji, local people quickly gathered in large numbers to see what was happening, they tried to resist the arrest and in keeping with the aims of non-violent movement, started to sing patriotic songs to keep up the public spirit. Gandhiji was taken to Yeravada Jail in Maharastra.

Although Gandhiji's arrest did not prevent the march from taking place, the mantle was taken up by Abbas Tayabji with Sarojini Naidu on 15<sup>th</sup> of May. Satyagrahis were prevented from reaching

their goal, and soon violence erupted and many were hurt by the violent police action. Many local youths and ladies rescued a number of Satyagrahi.

Gandhiji's release from Yeravada jail on 26<sup>th</sup> January 1931, Gandhiji received news that Pandit Motilal Nehru was ill, so he proceeded to Alahabad to see him. It was here that Gandhiji acknowledged the significance of the Dandi Kuch as a landmark event. In a letter written on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 1931, Gandhiji stated that '**My permanent address is Karadi**, 'this is the unique award for Karadi, or pride of struggle fought for freedom.

Action of this nature had changed the political landscape and this allowed a moral and social revolution to develop, which was eventually going to lead to the downfall of the establishment. Many of our villagers who protested against the British Government, went to serve jail sentence for the rights of fellow Indians. This protest was not in vain and the authorities gave some ground, and allowed peaceful picketing and accepted the unfairness over the Salt Law and granted Home Rule in 1936.

In 1935 we named our Rastriya Shala as **BHARAT VIDYALAYA**.

**Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel** became honorary President of our School in 1935. He forecast that the school was going to be an important force in the future of Kantha Vibhag and Gujarat.

Many of our people participated in administration and preparation of the movement throughout the decade. In 1938, the Indian National Congress held a General conference at Haripura, Surat. In which some of volunteers came from Karadi. Veer Pancha kaka and his team took the responsibility for the logistics, and Shri Rameshbhai collaborated with the artist Shri Nandlal Bose. Veer Pancha Kaka took this opportunity to discuss the land revenue tax the British Government had imposed. Gandhiji wrote in his magazine an article honouring and praising Panchakaka's strong determination not to pay land revenue until independence.

During the Second World War, Gandhiji and the Congress party requested the people not to participate with Government, reminding them of the inaction from the Government after the First World War. Unfortunately, the relationship between the British Government and the Congress Party deteriorated. On 8<sup>th</sup> August 1942 the All India Congress committee passed a resolution for British Rulers to quit India. and Gandhiji gave ultimatum to British rulers, "Do Or Dies". As a result the Viceroy arrested all the leaders of Congress Party which led to violent protest throughout country. Acharya Manibhai Patel made sure that the protest was non-violent. Students and teachers would gather each morning during the assembly, and afterwards a procession would go through surrounding villages to garner the support. The main purpose for this was to create unity and fight collectively for freedom.

Protest would often start early morning Prabhatfery. On 19<sup>th</sup> August 1942 the protest (prabhatfery) started at 5-00a.m. from Bharat Vidyalaya, Karadi. Mature students took part in this under the guidance and observation of the teachers. They sang patriotic songs and shouting slogans whilst making their way to the local police station in Matwad. There the police tried to stop the protest, but the march continued. Police took action by Lathi charge, trying to disperse the crowd. Many students were injured along with their teachers who tried to protect them. All though this, they tried to remain calm to the principles of non-violence. During the struggle, our school was closed from August 1942 to March 1944 and many of the teachers were arrested and imprisoned for up to three years in some cases.

This violent incident provoked the local villagers into calling for some action and on 22<sup>nd</sup> August a mass meeting, consisting of all the villages in Kantha Vibhag near Pancha kaka Vadi, was

held. Acharya Manibhai Patel and other local leader of Kantha Vibhag were adamant that all action to be taken would be non-violent. At the end of the meeting the villagers from Samapur and Dandi were advised to avoid any conflict as they passed by the local police station on their way home. Most of them did heed the advice of Acharya Manibhai, however one of the students was wearing a badge with the slogan 'Do or Die' which the police noticed and tried to confiscate. Whilst rushing towards the student, they became violent and confrontational, hurling abuse towards the villagers. During the melee gunshots were fired into the air to disperse the crowd. These shot could be heard in Karadi ,Matwad, Machhad and Bodali. As the villagers rushed to see the conflict, the police started shooting at them and many were wounded as a result. Two young men and a middle aged man were seriously hurt and died in hospital in Navsari;one police man also died during the protest.

After the conflict, Government sent Kitcher's rough army to Karadi and Matwad to arrest freedom fighters. Their action was very heavy handed and involved a great deal of brutality. They took some men to jalapur police station and imprisoned them. the following day a regiment of Balluchee soldiers came to the villages and began house to house search for freedom fighters, based upon the information given to them by the VETHIAS. Many of the suspected people fled to villages across the river Purna to Delwada, Bhinar and Tavdi as these villages was under Gaykawad rule. The warrants were issued against some people who kept hiding from one to next- making it difficult for the authorities to arrest them. Unfortunately, some were captured and imprisoned. During the imprisonment many were tortured. The authorities tried to bring criminal charged against them, but they were unable bring charges due to lack of evidence.

These three freedom fighter, who gave their lives for the achievement of independence of our Nation are still remembered today, and we honour them as martyr- shahid, they are:-

**Shahid veer Morarbhaj Panchabhai Patel**

**Shahid veer Ranchhodbhai Lalabhai Patel**

**Shahid veer Maganbhai Dhanjibhai Patel**

After independence, a memorial was erected as a mark of respect to the martyrs and on the anniversary of the protest 22 August a remembrance service takes place.

Gandhji advised freedom fighters that had warrants to give up struggle and surrender voluntarily. so, our Teachers who had the warrants, they surrendered in 1945. Karadi had the highest number of freedom fighters imprisoned in whole of Gujarat in comparison with villages and our Rastriya school, Bharat Vidyalaya Karadi was seen as a pioneer.

**Since The an Independence movement started in India, Bharat Vidyalay Karadi had given valuable contribution,**

Going back to 1920, Mahatma Gandhi had put together a four fold programme before the Indian public. Firstly non-Co-operation movement, the boycott of courts, Government's Educational institutions, the Legislatures and foreign textiles. Together with these, there was also a constructive programme of communal unity, the abolition of untouchables, Swadeshi Khadi and National Education. Many Rastriya shala were open in Gujarat and throughout the Country. In 1921 our village leader founded the Rastriya shala, Bharat Vidyalaya.However most of schools were forced to close due to financial difficulties and Government pressure. Luckily our shala managed to stay open with the determination of Acharya Manibhai and his staff, help of local people, our mandal in South Africa.

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's prediction became true in 1948 when acharya Labh Shanker Vyas set up first High School in the region. and a educational mass meeting was held in Karadi, and **Gujarat Nae (New) Talim Sangh** was established in 1948. Now the School is in procession of conversion in to English Medium. so, surrounding villages going to be benefited.

We have talked about the defining moments that has created modern Karadi. We also need to know the individuals who have had direct impact in shaping our Rastriya school or rigion. Those individuals Teachers or Acharyas but we also prepared ground for achievements in respect women's Mahila Mandal Karadi.

### List of Acharya-principals

- 1) Shri Lalbhai Lakhabhai .....}  
Shri Vallabhbhai Poona.....}1921 (Incharge in beginning)
- 2) Shri Vasatjibhai Desai..}.....}
- 3) Shri Dayaljibhai Desai..}.....}1921--to-----1928
- 4) Shri Rutu Prasad Bhatt..}.....}
- 5) Shri Manibhai s. Patel..... 1928--to-----1943 \*
- 6) Shri Indra Shanker Rawat.....1944- to-----1945
- 7) Shri Labh Shanker M.Vyas.....1946--to-----1951 \*\*
- 8) Shri Chimanbhai Patel.....1951--to-09-11-1951
- 9) Shri Batukbhai Nayak.....10-11-1951--to-14-06-1954
- 10)Shri Ramchandra Upadhyay..15-06-1954--to 06-06-1958 \*\*\*
- 11)Shri Harkant Pathak.....07-06-1958--to 31-07-1959
- 12)Shri Prabhubhai C.Patel...01-08-1950--to 31-05-1985 \*\*\*\*
- 13)Shri Mansoobhai S.Patel...01-06 1985--to 31-05-1991
- 14)shri Manharbhai B.Joshi...25-07-1991--to 31-05-1995
- 15)Shri Prabhatsinh R.Thakor.01-05-1995-----Continue.. \*\*\*\*\*

**Veer Pancha Patel (Panchakaka)** He is the first person in our region to put in practice the four fold programme that Gandhiji has addressed to the Nation. He refused to pay land revenue to government in 1921. He starts spinning and Weaving activities and convinced to other and they followed him. He had taken part in protest against the Government's law at Nagpoor Zanda Satyagrah in 1924. He joins in Bardoli Satyagrah in 1928. As a result of this he was sentenced to custodial imprisonment for six months. Gandhiji had praised his defiant action and many followed Panchakaka's footsteps and all of them served jail sentences. Gandhiji was assassinated on 30<sup>th</sup> jan-'48. His ashes were brought to Karadi, and kept where for 12<sup>th</sup> days after his death, and huge procession marched to the Dandi seashore, going in to deep water and Panchakaka scattered the ashes in the sea water.

\***Acharya Manibhai Patel** was a graduate from Gujarat Vidyapith, the university Gandhiji founded in 1920. After his graduation, Manibhai joined Rastriya Shala Karadi in 1921 as a Acharya(Head Teacher) Manibhai has made fundamental changes. He changed dress of Boys Specially for Girls. He changed odd names of boys and girls, he improved our language, and he kept us away from alcohol and tobacco. He encouraged and introduced National and cultural activities in school, he developed educational theory of Rabindranath Tagore, Mahatma Gandhi and Mahrshi Aurobindo for local use. During his time many students from surrounding villages join our Rastriya Shala. Manibhai was a follower of Sri Aurobindo, Manibhai was an author of some books regarding YOGA and Sri Aurobindo. He was instrumental in lifting the standards for the Kantha Vibhag's community. Acharya Manibhai was a freedom fighter, he was jailed four times during period of 1930 to 1942, his remarkable influence on event of Dandi Kuch; the historical March to break Salt Law. The people of Kantha Vibhag has voluntary accepted his

leadership. Hence we refer to him as the 'Gandhi of area'. Manibhai was an active member of Gujarat Vyayam Pracharak Mandal, the first institute for physical education in Gujarat, founded by two brothers, Shri Chhotubhai Purani and Shri Ambubhai Purani. Later Manibhai was appointed as secretary of this institute and an editor of 'YUVAK', the first Gujarati Sports magazine. He set up Sarvajanic Vyayam Mandir, Karadi, is the Institute of sports and physical education was founded in 1929 and it was the first of its kind in the region. Later on he adopted name with significant meaning, there two bright young students called Gulab(Gulam) and chaman, who died at a very early age, the institute was named after them in their memory, Known as Gul Chaman Vyayam Mandir Karadi

**GUL CHAMAN VYAYAM MANDIR KARADI**. was a popular physical education college and famous for winning competition. Many of the sports were Deshi games but these games have now disappeared and replaced by Cricket and Volley Ball. Three cricketers who have participated In Ranjee Trophy and volley ball players have represented Gujarat in National competitions.

Many of former students and their children who are now residents in foreign countries have participated at the highest levels of games for their respective countries. Some of them played for New Zealand in the Montreal Olympics and came away with a Gold Medal! The daughter of Dr.Kanu Patel and Shanta Patel currently living in New Zealand Won a Gold Medal at a water surfing competition in Mexico (World) Olympics. Not only did we make progress in sports.

**Darbari Sadhu-Swamiji:** Darbari Sadhu-Swamiji was born in Dastur family at Surat. In Parsi community, "Dastur" status is as similar as "Brahmin" in Hindu. His original name was 'Dhanjishah'. His father's name was Baheramshah. His mother died when he was very young. His family- Surname was 'Darbari.' His forefather has served for 'Darbar', so, they adopted 'Darbari' surname.

He was employed in railway as a clerk. But his conscious was deeply demanding for "Sanyas" so, he left the service and put on "Bhagva Vastra" and join in Balaji Temple in Surat. Durring 'Bardoli Satyagrah' in 1928, he influenced by Gandhiji's Non co-operation and Non-Violence movement. Gandhiji advised him and encouraged regarding his belief.

He came Karadi in 1929 with Acharya Manibhai. He wandered in all villages of Kantha Vibhag. He noticed the abuse of alcohol in this region, and its grievous consequence. so, he realized that, prohibition of alcohol is the solution! So, his mission become "picketing" at pitha of Daru-Tadi and to convince the people. The people have supported him and his tactics of picketing.

Swamiji Played active part Durring Dandi Kuch in 1930. Swamiji's conscious was merely spittitual, he lived solitary life, during dry season, he stayed in a field near Bharat Vidyalaya and in monsoon, he slept in veranda of the school. Due to heavy frustration, he lived solitary life in Dandi for short period before he set up for Himalaya in 1935. He did not return again. In his memory; we built a Hostel named "Darbari Chhatralaya" in 1939. When we built new Educational 'Sankul', We demolished the building. So, I put proposal in B.V.K.Mandl's AGM, to rename 'Darbari Chhatralay' to the old building of High School which we have converted in to hostel.

According to Acharya Manibhai, Swamiji was the first person who united whole Kantha Vibhag

### **Shri Dilkhushbhai B. Divanji, A devotee of Gandhiji**

Shri Dilkhush Balsukh Divanji was a true follower (devotee) of Mahatma Gandhi, He born on 11-12-1899. His Grand Father Kirparam was a Divan (Secretary) of Surat, so, they adapted family surname as Divanji.

While he was student at Alfficient college in Mumbai, He was reading Gandhiji's magazine, namely "Navjivan". He deeply impressed by Gandhiji's idealism for welfare of India. So, After achieving B.A. Degree in 1921, He joins Rastriya-independent School in Mumbai (Bombay) as a teacher. The School being forced to closed. Protesting Government's ordinance Law, so, the British Government imprisoned him twice during 1932 to 1934. He came Karadi with his companion Shri Mavjibhai in 1934 and join with Panchakaka's Spinning and Weaving activities. He spread skilled teachers all over Gujarat. He expands this activities on vast scale. He was in constant touch with Gandhiji. He lived in Karadi 58 years and died at the age of 93. He was unmarried.

**\*\* Acharya Labhshanker M. Vyas:** was an Educationist and also he was a freedom fighter and served jail sentence in 1942, He appointed as acharya in our Bharat Vidyalaya in 1946, the year of school's 25 years Anniversary. So, school committee has decided to celebrate silver jubilee. Committee has requested Acharya Labhshanker to visit Tata Nagar and Bahrampur to raise funds, where our people were working in steel plants. This visit became significant, Acharya Labhshanker observed our people working in steel plants are highly skilled, but lack of Education, they left behind. Also he realized that the people of this region going in foreign countries, so, they should have knowledge of English language. Owing to these requirment, we need a high school. even though facing financial difficulties; he set up first high school in the region in 1948. The jubilee celebrations continued for three days . It began with speeches of guests. Followed by sports events and finally entertainments in the evening. Many National leaders, MPs, Dignitaries attended this function. so every year the school had celebrations of annual Utsava.

He organized a Educational SEMINAR in karadi, to establish an institute base on Gandhian theory of Education for Gujarati Primary Schools, and he succeeded, he elected as secretary of newly form '**Gujarat Nae(Navi) Taleem Sangh**'.

After leaving Karadi, he has established a D.T.C.College in Nargol, a P.T.C.College in Bhilad and four English medium private Schools. He was also a follower of Maharshi Sri Aurobindo.

**\*\*\* Acharya Ramchandra Upadhyay;** Very active person, he was not strikly Gandhian but enthusiastic. In his short time, he was able to construct very economical building in open land of Vavla, [A piece of land own by Government which land given to Harijan(Vethias) for their Veth(unpaid service). The land belong to Nanabhai Rathod. There was no straight road joint with Dandi Road. It was a narrow footlane without any foundation, so, during mosoon season, it was hard to walk on the muddy path, Acharya Ramchandra has persuaded local people for help to widden the narrow lane upto enough size for four wheeler vehicles. The local people has done the job voluntary in good spirit.

**\*\*\*\* Acharya Prabhubhai C. Patel** He was a consciously gentleman, very practical. He was teaching Mathematics and Science. He kept the educational standards high, prepared many students for collage (government has some educational system) In his time higher Secondary section set up for students of Arts and Commerce. (After S.S.C. standard 11<sup>th</sup>&12<sup>th</sup>)

**\*\*\*\*Acharya Prabhatsinh R. Thakoe:-** He is very energetic and foresighted. He is very popular person known as 'PRT', He is a convener of Union, Who represents to the Acharyas(principal) of this region.

In 1997 we were able to celebrate 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary-"AMRIT MAHOTSAV" of our school, in presence of Shri Narayan Desai and a Government Minister. Shri Narayan Desai is a scholar and he is a son of Mahadevbhai Desai. Mahadevbhai has served as a private secretary of Mahatma Gandhi. This event helped us raise 13 Lacs Rupees.

In 2006 We had School rebuilding project, Land was donated For this Project by Premabhai Panchiya's family, and Girishbhai Dayalji Patel. we need huge financial help to complete this project, Again we able to raise 2.3/4 carore, collaborate with foreign Mandals. Construction of the new building is unique. Primary and secondary sections in two divisions, in between reception room where we lay a model of old school building, which recollect historical memories; including Dandi Kuch. Fully equipped computer room and huge library; both are with fitted carpet and air conditioning.

The opening ceremony of new Educational SANKUL was held in presence of chief Minister Shri Narendra Modi. He unveiled plaque with tremendous applause. Speeches an entertainment Programme lasted for two days.

Procedures of English medium school with Kindergarten and Hostel were set up in 2006. Acharya 'PRT' carrying all this extra responsibility voluntarily.

**Temple of Lord Krishna, called Ranchhodji Mandir** was also first the in the region. It was built 150 years ago and since then has been renovated twice, in 1912 and in 1980. Another revolution in Karadi society was the acceptance of the Harijan (the untouchable) in our Temple in 1936. As part of Gandhiji's four fold programme, one of them was abolishment of untouchables. Gandhiji saw the caste system as root of India's downfall and praised the event and published an article commending the steps taken by Keishna Temole.

Moving on to the present days, The Karadi Sangathan Mandal UK. This was founded on 8<sup>th</sup> August 1972. Shri Somabhai Makanji Patel as its first President. Somabhai was a freedom fighter and served a jail sentence in 1930. Our second president was Shri Ramjibhai Fakirbhai Patel who was also a freedom fighter and served jail sentence in 1942. He was also a former Teacher of Bharat Vidyalaya. And had led the Mandal for more than twenty-five years, raising and carrying out many projects. Our present president Shri Babubhai Ramabhai Patel is bachelor of science and is the most successful businessman. Under his Presidentship, we able to collect good amount of money for construction of new school building. He will continue to take our Mandal in the right direction. We are very fortunate to have hard working people who in their joint efforts made the Mandal what it is today. We shall continue in the same spirit and enthusiasm as we have done in past. We started to organise and celebrate 'Sneh Sammelan' a family gathering day every year since 1977. Mostly respective hosts funded the cost of celebrations and we never had the need to use Mandal's funds. We have awarded our 17 U.K. resident freedom fighters, giving them Gold Medal and "Sanman Patra". We are also grateful for the input from ladies and younger members of our community, with their high standards of entertainment. All the participants were awarded with trophies.

We have published five Editions of Karadi Sangathan Mandal UK. Directory, listing the up to date addresses our members in UK.

In 1997 we were able to Celebrate our 75th Anniversary; “AMRUT MAHOTSAV”, in presance of Shri Narayan Desai, a scholar who played in Gandhiji’s arms, and a son of Shri Mahadevbhai Desai who served as Gandhiji’s secretary. This event helped us raise 13 lakhs Rupees.

We have talked about the defining moments that has created modern Karadi. But we also need to know the individuals who have had direct impact in shapinour Rastriya school or region. those individuals Teacher or Acharyas but we also prepared ground for achievements in respect of women’s issues with the Mahila Mandal.

**MAHILA MANDAL** This was an organisation led by Narmadaben M. Patel, Pushpaben I. Rawat, Ganuben F. Patel, Niruben B.Patel and others run for benifit of women. Again this was the first of its kind in the region. The aim of the Mandal is to uplift our female population.