

INTERVIEWS

Recalling 15 August, 1947, has evoked mixed responses from the people who lived in Hyderabad during that time. While some of them are saddened by the fact that they could not see the Indian flag being flown in Hyderabad, others were saddened by the way Hyderabad was forced to join the Indian Union.

According to Badrivishal Pitti, Industrialist, he went to Bombay to see the excitement of Independence since in Hyderabad there was nothing happening.

Mr. Srinivas Iyengar, Trustee, Sarojini Naidu Memorial Trust and nephew of Sarojini Naidu said, "On August, 15 we were sitting by the radio listening to celebrations everywhere. We secretly flew the India flag in our homes. I remember clearly the time my wife and I went to Tarbund road to watch the Indian army marching into Hyderabad after the Police Action."

Mrs. Lakshmi Reddy, former lecturer in History, Nizam College said, "I was only 13 years old, but I remember my family sitting around the radio to listen to Nehru's speech at midnight." Her father Gopal Reddy was a Zamindar. According to her "Kasim Razvi's father was a moulti and he taught my father Urdu. I remember I went for the trials of Kasim Razvi in the Chanehalguda jail. He was a brilliant speaker and defended himself so well".

All these people were interviewed by Rama Rao Shekhar and excerpts of it appeared in Deccan Chronicle, August, 15, 1997, p.16.

Mr. H.Thyagarajan.

I was a student of Nizam College at the time of Police Action. All of a sudden on hearing the news of the invasion of Indian army, our very good Muslim friends turned hostile towards us and felt that they now belonged to another group.

As the Police Action progressed the Razakkars kept announcing through the Hyderabad Radio that the Hyderabad army was doing very well and we would soon reach the Red Fort! It was only in the dark cover of our hostel rooms, in the lowest volume we heard the news on the All India Radio about the real scene in Hyderabad and were so relieved that we would soon be part of the Indian Union.

Sri E. Thyagarajan IRS. Retired as Assistant Collector of Customs and Central Excise.

Mr. Azhar Hussain

Mr. Azhar Hussain's father, Syed Iqbal Hussain was the secretary of the SarfeKhas lands during the Nizam Osman Ali Khan's rule. According to him, the Nizam's rule was very good. He did not show any partiality and the Jagirs and Samasthans were given to both Hindus and Muslims. They had to pay a part of the revenue to the Nizam.

The Nizam was very keen on receiving gifts, nazrana, and he expected all the prominent Hindu and Muslim subjects to visit him on every important occasion. At least one Ashraf was given as a gift to the Nizam by every visitor on every occasion.

Though the Nizam did not approve the Razakkars in a moment of weakness he came under their influence and this led to his image being tarnished.

Mr. Hussain played for the club Deccan Blues and was a prominent Rajni trophy cricket player till 1962.

VANAJA IYENGAR

Stating her experience during the Nizam's rule she writes that she went to college in Purdah. She states that what was paradoxical about Hyderabad was that while it was an Islamic tehcocratic state and the Nizam was autocrat committed to orthodoxy, the atmosphere it self was liberal. The Muslim girls of the aristocracy and the upper middle classes came to schools and colleges in large numbers. She studied in the women's college. They had an active students union and Princess Durr- e- Shewar. Princess of Berar and the older daughter-in-law of the last Nizam was its President and Patron. The Princess according to her was very beautiful and dignified. She has also visited the Princess home in Bella Vista which is now the Administrative College of India.

Mrs. Iyengar retired as the principal, Koti Women's College.