

# Memories linger in Jalan

## Government quarters and a famous school dot the street

Story and photos by **DEBBIE CHAN**

debbie@thestar.com.my

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**J**ALAN Cochrane is known for two reasons, the famous Cochrane Road School and the rows of government quarters that sit along the road.

Huge trees and a tight-knit community give the road a very cosy ambience, from the fresh milk delivery guy to the security guards at the school who's constantly on the look out for the safety of the local community.

The road was named after Charles Walter Hamilton Cochrane who was the British Resident of Perak from 1929 to 1930 and the chief secretary of the Federated Malay States from

1930 to 1932. Cochrane was born in 1876 and passed away in 1932. Most of the roads in the surrounding area including Jalan Shelley take after the names of chief secretaries who have served the Federated Malay States.

Cochrane Road School was established in 1957, the same year our country gained independence and became the life and soul of the road. When it first started, the school was only a small shack surrounded by a Sikh temple and cow barns, which later become symbolic icons in the school's history.

**«It's a small area and I don't think we can find something like this anywhere else»**

JACKY OOI

The school had since moved to a nearby location and is now known as SMK Cochrane Perkasa and the old structure is now called the Cochrane Youth Sports Centre dedicated to the development of young talented sportsmen. The move re-ceived many objections initially as many old boys of the school firmly believe that the location of the school and the huge football field that surrounded it embodied the true spir-

it of the education institution.

"The football field is a place where not only the students gather to play but also children who live in the surrounding government quarters. It was a place for the community to bond and although it was not encouraged, most of us would climb over the fence and make friends with the local kids after school," said Jacky Ooi, a former student of the school.

Other than the school, the government quarters that spotted decades-old designs also defined the soul of Jalan Cochrane.

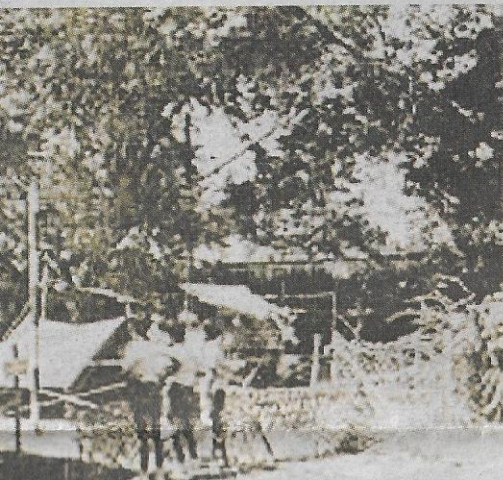
"Most of the homes here still look the same as it was twenty years ago when I went to Cochrane Road School. The quaint designs give it a rustic charm and most of the civil servants who live in this area are Indians so you can see a lot of Hindu influenced designs at their homes," Ooi said.

Sadly, as years went by, most of the government quarters started showing signs of wear and tear and some had been abandoned when the civil servants relocated elsewhere.

However, on a recent check by Star Metro, workers were seen repainting the houses and construction works were carried out to repair the few houses.

The houses were being restored to the original design of the quarters as it was first built some half a century ago.

"I really hope that the local community as well as the authorities can help keep the cosy atmosphere because it's a small area and I don't think we can find something like this anywhere else," Ooi said.



# Cochrane

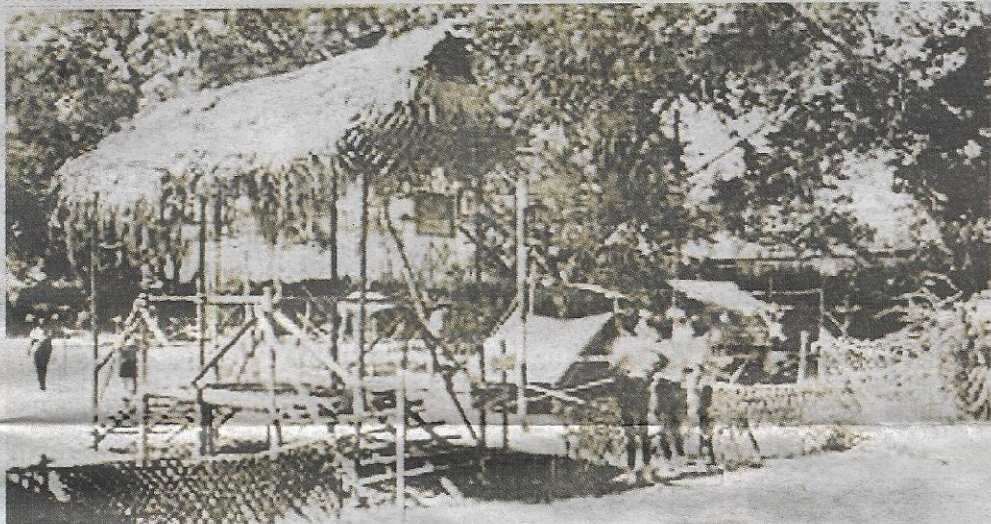


**Charming neighbourhood:** Big trees and the close-knitted community give the road a very cosy ambience.

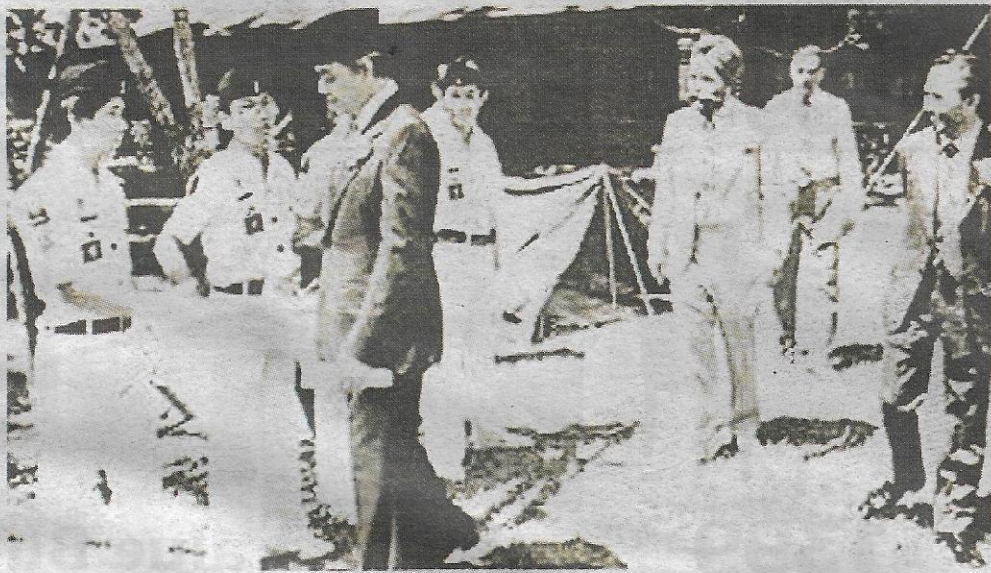


**A facelift:**  
Some of the  
quarters have  
been repaired  
and repainted.





Pengskap



Pasukan St. John

**Back then:** An old picture of the iconic scouts house in Cochrane Road School.



**Never too old:** Some still feel the government quarters add a certain rustic charm to the area.



**New role:** What used to be Cochrane Road School is now the Cochrane Youth Sports Centre to help develop young sports talent.

PECEMERLANGAN SUKAN COCHRANE (PKSC)  
(SEKRETARIAT MALIS SUKAN SEKOLAH-SEKOLAH MALAYSIA KUALA LUMPUR)  
JALAN COCHRANE, 68100 KUALA LUMPUR  
TEL: 03-9200 1288 FAKSIMILI: 03-9223 3617  
E-MAIL: [mskm@ipwld.com](mailto:mskm@ipwld.com) / [psk@psk.com](mailto:psk@psk.com)