

Keith Shaw-Ashton, who now owns an Advertising Agency, worked at Keffolds in the 1960s, and later wrote an article for the READERS DIGEST about Ockenden. This letter from India came in response to that article.

"Madame,

We in India have a saying "Be staunch and the Himalayas will kiss your feet". When I read Mr Keith Ashton's article on the Ockenden Venture in the Reader's Digest I felt that if ever the Himalayas kissed anyone's feet, they would be yours.

On behalf of my nation and myself, I extend a humble tribute to a woman, who did not know the meaning of defeat, who with sheer faith and perseverance, carved out a new way of life for thousands of children relegated to a life of misery and squalor.

In a world of cruel inhumanity of man to man, your Institution will stand forth as a memorial to man's essential goodness; for as long as kindness and compassion stir the human heart, humanity will never die.

By the way, I am a teenager living on the island of Bombay, in India. I would be very much obliged if you can persuade a boy and a girl from your institute to become a pen-pal with me. In this way I can know something more about your venture and also develop a friendship. I will await a reply eagerly.

Thanking you,

Yours sincerely,

Dinyar D. Darnwalla

(NB: As far as can be seen from the postmark the letter is dated 22.7.67. There is no record of a reply (which I suspect was in JP's own hand) or of whether the young gentleman found a pen-pal!)

Copy sent to NRJ for Newsletter on 6.1.88