

Headline	BACK TO WHERE IT STARTED		
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Victor and Patsy with the wedding dress she wore in 1956, which is now on display at the hotel gallery. — Picture by Sayuti Zainudin

BACK TO WHERE IT STARTED

WHEN Victor Oorjitham and Patsy Addington got married on July 9, 1956 at the ballroom of the E&O Hotel, they did not imagine that they would be back at the iconic hotel to celebrate their 60th anniversary.

They met in 1953 when Patsy was teaching under the US Peace Corps contract at the Lady Teacher Girl's School in Taiping while Victor was teaching in Parit Buntar, Perak.

"It was at a youth fellowship conference in Taiping where we first met and our friendship grew and we kept in touch frequently.

"Things were very different then as there were many expatriates from England and Australia in Penang. The Australians were mainly attached to the air force base in Butterworth," said 86-year-old Victor.

He added that he used to moonlight as a vocalist with Joe Rozells and his Hawaiian Rhythmics band at social gatherings in Ipoh and Sungai Petani, Kedah.

"There were no nightspots or clubs for people to gather and the social gatherings were the place for people to meet and and mingle.

"I used to belt out songs from Nat King Cole like *Unforgettable*, *Embraceable You*, *When I Fall In Love*, *Sweet Lorraine* and *Too Young*.

"Actually, I had to plan for the wedding on my own as Patsy had to go off to the US

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for a year.

“Our wedding was held at the Penang Tamil Methodist Church in 1956 and Patsy wore a wedding dress sewed by her and her mother,” he said, adding that the dress was on display at the hotel gallery.

“Sadly, there was no one to give away the bride as Patsy’s parents could not make it to the wedding.”

This was followed by a tea reception at the hotel where about 150 guests gathered. They were treated to a simple spread of sandwiches, curry puffs, roti jala and cakes.

Patsy said the hotel ballroom had a open entrance facing the sea and had rattan chairs for the reception.

“This time around 50 friends and family from as far as the US, UK, New Zealand

and Australia are expected to attend our anniversary celebration. Two of Victor’s classmates are also coming,” she said.

Victor said his classmate Yeoh Seng Hong kept the wedding invitation all these years.

“Yeoh showed it to me during one of my visits to Penang and we decided to showcase the items at the request of the hotel.”

In 1957, Victor travelled to the United Kingdom to study law and returned to Kuala Lumpur to practice for another 10 years.

“I was later appointed legal adviser for an insurance firm till 1997 when I retired. My wife was teaching in an international school,” he said.

The couple, who have two daughters, celebrated their golden anniversary in 2006 at the hotel’s Farquhar Suite with family and friends.