



NEWS LETTER

October-November 2020

Issue No.45

ASSOCIATION OF PAST EMPLOYEES OF SINGER

Singer Sri Lanka PLC 112, Havelok Road, Colombo

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Dear Members,

With almost all the proposed activities for 2020 abandoned due to the Coronavirus pandemic and the curfew imposed thereafter islandwide, I was wondering what to write from the Editor's Desk except say "MAN PROPOSES, GOD DISPOSES". If 2019 was a dismal year as far as the activities of the Association was concerned, 2020 is worse with none of the events planned from March to-date (October) could be implemented. Only the Sing-A-Long (November) and the AGM(Dec.13th) remains open in the Calendar of Events for 2020. What a disastrous year for the Association of Past Employees of Singer as well as many other similar organizations.'

"No dark cloud can forever prevent the sun shining ' - Murat ildan. Likewise, all the disappointments and setbacks we have experienced during the past two years should end soon, providing the new Committee to be elected at the forthcoming AGM ample opportunities to organize many events of entertainment for our members as in the past. For the moment, let us keep our fingers crossed.

Wasalathanthri



Mr. Ananda Epa

Mr. Ananda Epa, ex Branch Manager of Singer at Mawanella and Warakapola passed away on 15th October and the last rites were conducted at the General Cemetary, Borella, Kanatte on 16th October 2020.

Mr. Epa was one of the founder members of the Association of Past Employees of Singer and was the Assistant Secretary during the first two years of the formation of the Association and thereafter took the responsibility of the General Secretary for the next 15 years and relinquished his duties due to ill health. Mr. Epa was dedicated and committed and did his best in any task entrusted to him. He was a very humble personality with good human qualities. We appreciate and value the contribution he made towards our Association.

May his journey be short and attain the bliss of Nirvana.

EVENTS – NOV. – DEC. 2020	
Sing-a-Long	- November
AGM	- 13th December 2020

MEMORIES OF THE GLORIOUS PAST THROUGH CAMERA LENSES

MERCANTILE 'B' DIVISION RUNNERS-UP - 1986



Front Row (left to right) S.Mohan Muthutamby, Hemaka Amarasinghe (Capt.), Gamini Wasalathanthri (President- Sports Club), Kumar Samarasinghe and Viraj Mapatuna
 Back Row (left to right) Prasanna Dissanayake, Panduka Jayasinghe, Shyam Ramanathan, Janaka Mendis, Sujith Ariyapala, and Chandana Amerasinghe.

MERCANTILE OVER 35 - CHAMPIONS 1990



Left to Right; Neville Peris, Bertie Fernando, Nelson Mendis (Capt.), Hemaka Amarasinghe, Sriyan de Silva and Addithiya de Silva.

NEW MEMBERS	
277	Mr. A.K.A. Weraniyagoda
278	Ms. Dilanthi Gunasekera
279	Mr. R.D.N. Kamal Kumara
280	Mr. M.F. Sunil Gomis
281	Mr. R.D.S. Somachandra
282	Mr. W.A.N.D. Perera
283	Mr. N.K. Jayaratna
284	Mr. Ajith Winiarachchi
285	Mr. B.J.N. Fernando
286	Mr. R.P.W. Vithanage
287	Mr. Thisarase Naviratne
288	Mr. Siril Hemantharathna Weera
289	Mr. Sunil Wakista
290	Mr. J.A.K. Jayaweera
291	Mr. B. Ariyaratne
292	Mr. Sanjeevaliyana
293	Mr. Wasantha Ekanayake
294	Mr. Ruwan Singhabahu
295	Ms. Ranmali Rajasinghe
296	Mr. D.L. Ranasinghe
297	Mr. N.W. Konara
298	Mr. T.G. Sajindrapera
299	Mr. Manoj Udumana
300	Mr. Ananda Weerasuriya
301	Mr. P.G. Lalith
302	Mr. Upali Seneviratne
303	Ms. Nisan Kalsunnie de Silva
304	Mr. R.N. Jayasinghe

'SINGER CRICKETERS STRANDED IN KUALA LUMPUR AIRPORT, MALAYSIA'



Left to Right;- H.Chandrawansa, D.L.Ranasinghe, Kithsiri Fernando, Priyantha Fernando, Wasantha Perera, Bertie Fernando (Manager), K.D.C.L. Kuruppu, C.W. Rnasinghe, D. Keith Gunaratne (Capt.), Nelson Mendis (Asst. Manager) cum Player), Mahinda Ratnasuriya, H.D. Chandrasiri, Hemas Thilakasiri (V.Capt.), Niranchanaka, Keerthi Weraniyagoda (w/k) and A.C. de Alwis

The young cricket team of Singer Industries, Ratmalana, the double winners of Mercantile Cricket Association (M.C.A.) "F" Division (1985) and "E" Division (1986), was honored by the management of Singer, led by the sportive Chairman, Mr. Hemaka Amarasuriya, and Mr. Bertie Fernando, President, Singer Sports Club, when the team was granted a cricket tour of Malaysia and Singapore in 1987. The team left for Kuala Lumpur by air on the 11th April, 1987. The tour was very successful and eventful too. We played matches with Royal Seangor Club and Kelab P.J. in Kuala Lumpur, Ipoh Club in Ipoh, and Royal Malaysian Navy in Lumut. We also flew over to Singapore and played Ceylon Sports Club at the Singapore Padang. Our champion team, led by former Nalandian Cricketer Diyunuge "Keith" Gnanaratne, won all matches on tour, displaying great team-work, and enjoyed the warm hospitality of Malaysians and Singaporeans.

Our last engagement was in Singapore, which was reduced to a 30 over match to enable us to catch the connecting flight to Sri Lanka from Kuala Lumpur on the same evening. Having reached Kuala Lumpur Airport in high spirits after a victorious record of five (05) wins, the players were deeply anxious to make the flight back home. Our manager Mr. Bertie Fernando, who had to attend an official Singer business conference in Singapore, after handing over the responsibilities to yours truly (Assistant Manager), bade good-bye to all, and took a flight back to Singapore. Next came the shock of our lives! When we proceeded to the ticket counter at the airport in Kuala Lumpur, the officer at hand, after perusing our group ticket, informed me that there is no room for all of us, but could carry only eight (08) of us in the flight to Sri Lanka. The reason he gave was that we had not duly re-confirmed our journey. I insisted that our Manager did re-confirm, but he was adamant, and we were asked to wait. Finally, the flight took off and we were physically and mentally stranded at the Airport. Next flight to Sri Lanka, was in two (02) days' time.

I managed to contact the Sri Lankan Embassy, and fortunately the Second Secretary happened to be a friend mine, Mr. Gamini Moonesinghe – Thankfully, he brought an Embassy van, and took us to the Embassy and provided us dinner and bed for the night. The following morning I contacted Mr. Singham, the Finance Director of Singer, Malaysia and he came to our rescue by re-arranging our stay at the hotel. I also contacted Mr. Bertie Fernando, in Singapore and briefed him about our plight. He promised to come back to be with us, soon.

Everyone of us, by then had expended all our monies, except for a few dollars kept to be used at the duty free shops in Katunayake. Some of our players had found the Buddhist temple close by and had gone there to find solace to their worried minds and to worship. There, the High Priest, having heard about their sorry plight had served them with sweets, fruits and soft drinks etc.

First day at work ended with full content
 One following the other like needle and thread
 Later, one went down alone, may be to powder her nose
 Not realising what was ahead for her to face

Men who were cleaning the pipeline down the corridor had
 Not cared to close the manhole to end the task
 Our friend stepped right into it by an oversight
 But luckily, it had been cleaned and dry
 And she was taken out without even a scratch

Although this happened 48 years back
 These two have kept their friendship intact
 May be only exchanging Birthday and New Year wishes
 Once in a way(3 - 4 years) when the other comes to Sri Lanka
 The three of us arrange to meet for a lunch and a chat

Only the three of us out of the then Pool, still remains alive
 I think it's great that we are still together and keep in touch
 I don't like to mention names but those of who were in service
 in 1972 could make your guess.

Vijitha Jayawardena

BIRTHDAYS



Following members will be celebrating their birthdays in October and November and December
 We wish them 'Happy Birthday' and a bright future. Trust we have not missed anyone.

OCTOBER		NOVEMBER		DECEMBER	
Ms. Rajanayagam Beeta	02/10	Mr. Liyanage K.R.P.	01/11	Mr. Kumarasinghe W.M.	01/12
Mr. Yusuf M.M.M.	02/10	Mr. Aponso H.A.	04/11	Mr. Wasantha Ekanayake	01/12
Mr. De Chickera Lakshman	04/10	Mr. Gunawardena Indika	06/11	Ms. PeirisShiroma (UK)	02/12
Mr. De Silva K.T.G.R.	06/10	Mr. Samarakoon Jayantha	09/11	Mr. Sadique J.	03/12
Mr. MendisJaminda	08/10	Mr. Nelson Anton	10/11	Ms. Chandrika Mendis	03/12
Ms. Keerthi Wijekulasuriya	14/10	Mr. Goonetillake R.A.C.	11/11	Ms. K.T. Manel Sugandika Kulatunge	04/12
Mr. Shyamasundar Ramanathan	15/10	Mr. Madawela A.A.M.	11/11	Ms. Udugama Nadira	05/12
Mr. M. Mahesharatnam	16/10	Ms. Ratnamalie Perera	12/11	Mr. K.K. Lasantha Sudarshana	07/12
Mr. M.B.R.A. Fernando	19/10	Mr. Thisaru Seneviratne	14/11	Mr. K. Sivasubramaniam (Canada)	09/12
Mr. Abeywickrema Keerthi	22/10	Mr. Wijetunge WLDS	16/11	Mr. Wijayakulathilake Muditha	10/12
Mr. AjithWanniarachchi	22/10	Mr. Joseph Jude M.	18/11	Mr. De Silva Romesh	11/12
Mr. Joshua Edwin	23/10	Mr. Wijendra D.	19/11	Mr. H.M.G.Gunasekera Banda	14/12
Mr. Fernando S.R.	24/10	Mr. D. Fernando	20/11	Ms. Chandraratne Manonmany	17/12
Ms. Perera Damayanthi	25/10	Mr. GalabadaTilak	22/11	Ms. Vidanage Sunethra	18/12
Ms. Gangodage Maya	27/10	Mr. U.B. Dissanayake	23/11	Ms. Murugadasan Kaushalya	24/12
Mr. Upali Seneviratne	27/10	Mr. Channan Pathirana	24/11	Mr. KodagodaNihal Jayantha	24/12
Ms. Perera Yamuna	31/10	Mr. Nuhmaan M.H.M.	30/11		
		Mr. UdugodaRanjith	30/11		

CONTENTMENT

It is a pity to note that many people, especially the young, have never ending desires which are difficult to manage within their means, especially with Credit Card facilities freely available they are tempted to do impulse buying and lead a superabundant life. They hardly realise the value of saving a portion of their income to be used during an emergency. It will be of great service if religious leaders can educate and guide them during their sermons not to fall prey to such extravagant lifestyles which will hinder their true happiness and lose their peace of mind in the long run. BE WISE AND MONITOR MONEY IS MY MESSAGE.

Pushpafonseka

THE CASE OF THE WOOD WORK FINISHING

BY T.V. PERERA

Work in the Wood Work Finishing Section in the Singer factory centred around producing machine cabinets for the Kotahena warehouse. Cabinets came in piece form from the Wood Work White and under-went the process of staining, sealing, and lacquer-spraying before being assembled and packed in wooden crates for delivery. Job functions here comparatively were hardly laborious, and the toiling reality was that the workmen needed roughness because they had wallowed too long in vicious softness.

With his forte in lacquer spraying, Wilbert, with all-round work knowledge was a Charge Hand. On collecting his weekly overtime earnings on Thursdays, he never failed to pay his courtesies at Magi-lin's illicit liquor den at Gonakovila. During the unofficial morning break, he would sink to the washroom corridor area and share his Navy Cut cigarette with others who converged there for a smoke. In contrast, Charge Hand Wijetunge maintained his respect, handled all documentary work and like someone feeling the pangs of sympathy for the rest of God's creation, assisted subordinates accomplish their daily 'count'. He seemingly had the foresight and energy to walk the talk unlike the perennial talk and no walk, and with an effervescent and charismatic personality, knew every nook and cranny in the Singer factory's history more than I ever did.

White products were given the wood colour by stain sprayer Suranimala who despite a big bulk and the name of one of King Dutugemunu's warrior chieftains overcame with terror, threw away the spray gun in hand screaming, "ginnak, ginnak" and fled when the spray booth caught fire at the time a wire mesh was being welded from the outside. The fire was spotted yards away by Sathiyamoorthy nicknamed Siam Pol due to his coconut shaped head who raced to the fire cart, jerked out the hose and pulled out the safety pin simultaneously squeezing the lever. Before you could say 'Jack Robinson' a stream of 5000 kgs chemical powder gushed out and rained down, covering Siam Pol from head to foot converting him into a virtual ghost in white. The cart eventually wheeled to the scene of the fire, was totally empty. Stained items were coated with wood filler by Delicous Peiris who in private life was the base guitarist in the Los Flamings group, and the Secretary of the Moratuwa YMCA before becoming its Director. Sprayer Wilmot with assistant Claude De Hoednext took them over for spraying sealer. De Hoedt, the lead guitarist of the Los Caballeros, performed till midnight at the Mt. Lavinia Cabanas and to catch up for breaking rest slept on a cardboard spread over empty barrels behind the spray booth. The lacquer spraying phase was completed by a class sprayer Patrick Nelson with Hugh Samarasinghe as helper, and the highly lacquered items were conspicuous and outstanding. However one quality that quick tempered Patrick clearly failed to impart was toleration for human frailty.

The sanding operation was performed by 4ft 5ins tall Heen Banda and Linton Fernando who completed the job in half the time. Linton, whose skin was abnormally thick by regular consumption of tortoise flesh, would spread the racing sheet on the floor and pick his horse on which the first fly settled. Need it be mentioned that he only ended a loser the following morning?

The flimsy jobs of R.N. Fernando were mirthfully, cutting gum tape, cutting paper, checking runners, wrapping drawers and wrapping bent covers. A nurse at the Lunawa hospital, his wife Sriyani, evidently took authority upon herself when Fernando became a charge hand. Seeing DeemonPeiris of the Finishing enter the hospital premises, she approached him querying if he had obtained her husband's permission to visit the hospital: "Apeymahattayatakiyaladaaway?" but she had not reckoned with the ubiquitousness of modern philanthropy.

Ruberu, Esubius and Kurera were among those who came from the Peliyagoda Singer factory. One time postal employee, a simple reserved character, Kurera continued to wear khaki shorts like the olden-day postman during his entire period at the factory. When workman AsokaSoysa confided in him that he could not find a marriage partner, Kurera led him home to introduce the eldest of his three daughters whom Soysa married shortly thereafter.

Assemblingcabinets was a skilled job executed by Sirisoma who ended up as a Quality Controller. During the lunch break, he relaxed with novels by his favourite authors KarunasenaJayalath and Edward Mallawaratchchi. When Factory Director Sriyan De Silva wanted to purchase a sewing machine, Sirisoma produced a cabinet, the veneer grains which were of a beautifully formed rosette pattern like those on a leopard, the likes of which had never been seen anywhere, insisting that the Singer Factory Director should be the proud owner of a beautiful and unique cabinet. Thirty years later, at the time of writing this story, he revealed that he had been reserving the cabinet for himself.

To be continued in the next issue.....

HEALTHY HEALTH TIPS FOR PRE-ELDERLY MEMBERS

A study in the United States says more than 51% of elderly people fall due to climbing stairs. Experts advise that after 65 years of age to exercise GREAT CAUTION or NOT TO DO the following actions:

(Also when using medication that may have side-effects)

- 1: Climbing up or down using the stairs/ladder
2. Turn too fast or turn around.
3. Bend over feet
4. Putting on pants while standing
5. Sit Ups
6. Turning the waist left and right
7. Step backwards
8. Bend to lift heavy items
9. Standing up suddenly when getting up from the bed.
10. Straining too hard.

ALSO BE AWARE OF THE HAZARDS THAT MAY FOLLOW——

1. Food Choking 2. Wrong Pillow 3. Leg Cramps & Tingling Feet(Numbness)

P.Shivaji

CRICKET QUIZ - ANSWER IF YOU CAN

Who were the famous WEST INDIES batting legends born within 18 months and within three miles of each other and even delivered by the same Midwife?

If you know the answer, please email to the editor. The answer will appear in the next issue of the Newsletter with the names of the members who submitted the correct answer.



Mr. G.C. Wasalathanthri,
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NUGEGODA.

Next Newsletter

We propose to publish the next Newsletter in February 2021 subject to availability of sufficient articles to fill in at least 6 x A4 pages. Therefore, please send your articles for publication not later than 28th January 2021 to the following address:

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Pagoda Road,
Nugegoda.

Email: gwasalathanthri@gmail.com