



NEWSLETTER

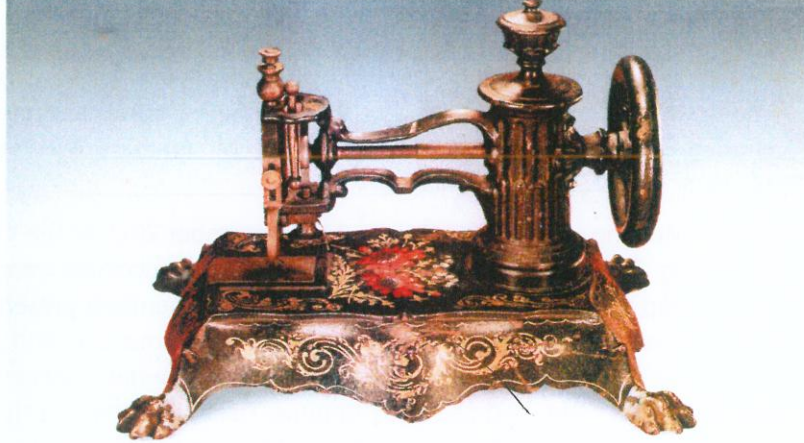
February 2016

Issue No 33

ASSOCIATION OF PAST EMPLOYEES OF SINGER

80, Nawam Mawatha, Colombo 2

THE INVENTION WHICH CHANGED THE LIVES OF MANY HUMAN BEINGS



Reproduced from a calendar printed by Singer Nikko in 1991

Sent by G.C. Wasalathanthri

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

This is the first issue of our Newsletter for the current year. And with it we send you and your families our best wishes for a Bright and Prosperous New Year 2016.

First and foremost, I take this opportunity to offer my sincere thanks to all those past employees who responded to our request for articles to be published in the Newsletter. Your contributions no doubt helped us to publish four issues last year, as promised. A new year has now dawned and we expect many more members to recall their past experiences working for the Singer Group and share them with other members of the Association.

This is your publication, the media through which you can share your past experiences at Singer with the other members. So let us join hands and make the Newsletter more meaningful.

G.C. WASALATHANTHRI

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



The President Addressing the members



A Section of the members who attended the AGM



Trying his luck at the raffle draw - Group CEO
Mr. Asoka Pieris Purchasing raffle ticket



Raffle draw - who is the winner of the first prize?
Our patron Mr. Amarasuriya draws the winning ticket

As planned, the 15th Annual General Meeting was held on Sunday 13th December 2015 at Sea View Hotel, Colpetty. 62 members were present at the meeting. The distinguished invitees who graced the occasion were our Patron Mr. Hemaka Amarasuriya and Mr. Asoka Peiris – Group Chief Executive Officer. Amongst the members present were former Directors Gamani Abeysuriya, Asita Abeyssekera, Nasser Majeed and P. Shivaji. The AGM commenced with our President Mr. Bertie Fernando welcoming the members and distinguished guests. As usual, three minutes' silence was observed by those present as a mark of respect to the members who had departed from us. Thereafter, the President in his address to the membership reviewed the activities conducted by the Association during the year, and also emphasized the importance of members participating in the activities planned by the Executive Committee. The AGM culminated with the usual fellowship and a buffet lunch thoroughly enjoyed by the members present.

OFFICE BEARERS - 2016

Patron

Mr. Hemaka Amarasuriya

President

Mr. Bertie Fernando
Tel: 2715733
Mob: 0724526229

Vice Presidents

Mr. Nelson Mendis
Tel: 2716209
Mob: 0777271375

Mr. Kalyana Dhirasekera
Tel: 2901673
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Secretary

Mr. S. Anton L. Silva
Tel: 2645086
Mob: 0712755667

Asst. Secretary

Ms. Judith Vannitamby
Tel: 2770152
Mob: 0775105299

Treasurer

Mr. A.M.M. Nissar
Tel: 2530680
Mob: 0714222325

Asst. Treasurer

Mr. Janaka Kaluhendiwela
Tel: 5747507
Mob: 0777285759

Hony. Auditor

Mr. Priyath Salgado

Executive Committee

Mr. John Emmanuel
Tel: 2820306
Mob: 0777330577

Mr. Gamini Wasalathanthri
Tel: 2854745
Mob: 0713325035

Mr. Ananda H. Epa
Tel: 2865351
Mob: 0774166676

Mr. Winston Dabara
Tel: 2233957
Mob: 0770295765

Ms. Kaushalya Murugadasan
Tel: 2363205
Mob: 077028389

Mr. M. Zubair Hassen
Tel: 2534836
Mob: 077774963

Mr. Ranjit David
Tel: 2581406
Mob: 0777489253

Ms. Sunethra Vidanage
Tel: 2799077
Mob: 0717727951

SUB-COMMITTEES

The President appointed the following Executive Committee Members to serve in the Sub-Committees in order to plan and implement various activities of the Association in the current year.

Social & Entertainment

Nelson Mendis, John Emmanuel, Kaushalya Murugadasan, Ranjit David & Kalyana Dhirasekera

Scholarship Fund

Sunethra Vidanage, Zubair Hassen & Judith Vannitamby

Newsletter -

Gamini Wasalathanthri & Judith Vannitamby

Membership Drive-

Bertie Fernando

Welfare of Members

Winston Dabara, Janaka Kaluhendiwela & Ananda Epa

NEW MEMBERS

We are glad to state that one new member has joined our Association in November, and Eight Members Have joined at the last Annual General Meeting. We warmly welcome all the members whose names & member number are listed below :

217 - Ms. Dilum Mahawatte
218 - Mr. Samitha Perera
219 - Mr. Roshan Kulasuriya
220 - Mr. Sahen Sonnadara
221 - Mr. Anil Samarasekera

222 - Mr. Rohan Perera
223 - Mr. S.I. Hatharasinghe
224 - Mr. S.H. Kariyawasam
225 - Mr. Anusha Wijegunaratne

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR YEAR 2016 (Tentative)

APRIL - Sports Day / Lunch

MAY - Medical Camp / Lunch

JUNE / JULY - One Day Outing

AUGUST - Fund Raiser – Drama or Musical Show

OCTOBER - 'Sing-A-Long' Musical Evening

DECEMBER - Annual General Meeting (Most probably on 11th December 2016)

BIRTHDAYS

We wish 'HAPPY BIRTHDAY' to the following members who will be celebrating their birthdays in March & April. If any names have been left out, please let us know.



MARCH

Pushpa Fonseka	3rd
Susima Ponnampereuma	3rd
Ranjit David	10th
Thanuja Samaranayake	12th
Janaka Kumarasinghe	13th
Bertie Fernando	16th
D.D.V. Pathirana	16th
Kamalangani Perera	23rd
Sriyani Weerasinghe	23rd
G. Devruvan	24th
Swarna Prematilleke	28th
Delricus Peiris	29th

APRIL

D. A. Ariyadasa	3rd
Deepthi Dissanayake	3rd
Ananda Perera	5th
Ruan Abeyratne	11th
Sanath Wijetunge	13th
Percy Gunawardena	14th
Heen Menike	14th
J.W. Dickman	16th
Anton Abeysekera	18th
Ananda Epa	20th
R. G. Moorthy	20th
Roshan Kulasuriya	21st
Nevin Noyahr	23rd
P. Shivaji	26th

Historic at the Labour Tribunal

The Labour Tribunal was set up in 1959 consequent to the enhancement of the Industrial Disputes Act of 1950. The credit for the establishment of this tribunal is attributed to T.B. Illangaratne who was a government clerk before and was dismissed, allegedly unfairly. This Tribunal does not conform to strict legal principles and considered practice in respect of evidence and awards. The underlined principle is justice and equity as seen by the Labour Tribunal President.

One of the pioneers was W.E.M. Abeysekera who was a President of the Labour Tribunal in 1961 and was considered a famous authority on Industrial Law & Relations. He was also an interesting character, the way he handled cases

One case that came up before him was a workman who was dismissed for addressing his Personnel Manager as "bugger", could well have been a term of endearment, and one cannot be sacked for the use of such a term. As an explanation he told the following story:

Abeysekera said he has a neighbor, a burgher gentleman who works in the Railway. He has no respect for persons and treats all and sundry with contempt. But he knows that I am judge and has some respect for me. As a result, when he sees me in the morning, he says "hello bugger". In his language it is a term of endearment.

That was justice and equity according to W.E.M. Abeysekera, the Labour Tribunal President at the time.

Sent by Ananda M.N. Perera

OBITUARIES

We deeply regret losing our members **K.G. EDMUND SILVA** and **NEVILLE DANIEL** in the month of November 2015. They attended our various events when they were enjoying good health. We hope and trust they will find Peace and Happiness in their New Worlds !

'Sequel to 'Poorer but Happier'

This story is from Pygmalion written by George Bernard Shaw. This book was also made into a film titled "My Fair Lady" starring Audrey Hepburn as Eliza & Rex Harrison as Professor Higgins. My narrative is about Alfred Doolittle. Alfred Doolittle was a smooth talking garbage man. He was a drunk and dead beat dad of Eliza. Doolittle was always in dirty overalls, his uniform for garbage handling and used to sit on the wheel barrow and talk and have fun with his mates, fellow garbage men. In the evenings he used to go to the pub with his mates, have a drink and invariably get thrown out of the pub. He then goes home to the woman he lives with and that was his life. He was extremely happy with this life until Professor Higgins came into his life.

Professor Higgins took a bet with his friend Colonel Pickering that he would transform a gutter snipe woman into a real lady. He picked on Eliza, a cockney girl for this project. Eliza was selling flowers in very dirty clothes and had an atrocious accent as in "The rain in Spain stays mainly in the plain" for "the rain in Spain stays mainly in the plains". Alfred Doolittle got wind of the fact that Eliza has been taken on by Professor Higgins for this assignment and she had moved into the Professor's house. Thereafter Doolittle used to scrounge five pounds from the Professor for his booze every now and again.

One one occasion, when Doolittle was asked a question by the Professor, he replied with his musical cockney accent saying, "I'll tell you governor if you only let me get a word in. I am willing to tell ya, I am wanting to tell ya, I am waiting to tell ya." This type of talk greatly impressed Professor Higgins.

Consequently, to cut a long story short, Alfred Doolittle came into a lot of money. He had to get out of his job as garbage man, had to dump his mates and get into a tuxedo and a top hat in keeping with his present status. Pubs that threw him out welcomed him with open arms. He even had to get married to the woman he was living with (I am getting married in the morning.....get me to the church on time...) He called this the "middle class morality" and was extremely unhappy with this new life. Doolittle never forgave Professor Higgins for causing him to lose the happiness in his life.

There is a spiritual side to this too. It is said in the Bible that "It is easier for a camel to pass through an eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven". So I am appealing to my fellow ex Singer employees (I presume that most of you are retirees) not to strive to be rich and lose your happiness.

Sent by Ananda M.N. Perera

පොඩ්ඩක් හිතන්න

මනුෂ්‍යයෙක් වී ඉපදීමත් පෙර පිනකිග මනුෂ්‍යයෙක් වී ඉපදීමත් හොඳ කෙනෙක් වී ඉපදීමත් ශරීරයේ සියළු අවයව සහිතව අඩුපාඩු නොවී ඉපදීමත් පිනකිග හොඳ ගතිගුණ සහිතව ඉපදීමත් ප්‍රිය මනාප රුමන්ව ඉපදීමත් පිනකිග ඉපදීමත් ලමා වියල ගැටවරවියල තරුණවිය පසුකර පීච්චයේ සැඳෑ සමය ගතකරණ හැමෝම මේ හැම පියවරන්ම පසුතර පැමිණ ඇතග මේ අතර ලෙඩවීමල ආබාධිතවීමල එක්තැන්වීම යන පියවරයන්ටද සමහරු මුහුණ දෙයිග හොඳ ලෙසෙක් වීම නොයෙක් අංශ වලින් දක්ෂවීමල ජනප්‍රියවීමල ලෝගතුවීම යනාදිද පීච්චයේ දකිනට ලැබෙන දේවල්ය.

මේ සියල්ල අප සංසාරය සුරා රුගෙන එන අප විසින්ම එකතුකර ගත් දෙවල්මයග එහෙත් අප එකතුකර ගත් මිල මුදල්ල ගේදොරල වතුපිටිල යාන වාහන කිසිවක් අප සමග පැමිණ නැතග අපේ රුමන් බිරිඳල ස්වාමියාල දරුවෝල නෑදෑයින් හා වෙනත් අය අපව අමතක කර අපව අයින් කර දමා අපගෙන් සියල්ල ලබාගෙන තනිකර දමා අපව හිස් අතින්ම එලවා ඇතග මෙම තත්වය සැබෑවකි යථාර්තය එයයි.

සිංගර් සමාගම රටේම පිලිගත් සමාගමකිග එවනේම වැදගත් ලෝකය සුරා විසිරි පැතිරී ඇති සමාගමකිග මෙවැනි ආයතනයක සේවය කිරීමට ලැබීම පෙර පිනකිග නැතිනම් සංසාර සුරුද්දකිග ලංකාවේ ජනගහනයෙන් සිංගර් නම නොදන්නේ සුංචි පැටව් පමණකිග මුල් ජනගහනය සමගම බද්ධව ඇති සිංගර් නවත් වසර 2500ක්ම පවතින බවට සැකයක් නැතග සිංගර් සමාගමේ විවිධ අංශවල විහිදී විසිරී සිටි අපි අද එකට එකතුවී පැරණි දේවල් සිහිපත් කරමින් සංතෝස වෙමුග මේ හවයේදී අපි නැවත එකට එකතුව ඇතග සංසාරයේ අපි හැමෝම එකම පවුලක දරුවෝ වගේ ඉන්න ඇතිග මෙම ධර්මතාවයට ගරු කරමින් පීච්චකවන අපි හැමෝම තමන්ගේ ආගමට දහමට අනුව අන් අයට කල හැකි උපකාරයක් කරමින් උදව්වක් කරමින් නැති බැරි අයට පිහිට වෙමින් තමතමන්ගේ මරණයට පෙර පින් කරමුග එය මානසික සතුටකිග මරණය තෙක් හිතට ගෙනදෙන සැහැල්ලුවකිග එවිට නැවත නැවත අපි හමුවෙමු ඇතග නැවත සිංගර්ම විය හැකිද රී මේ ගැන පොඩ්ඩක් නැවත හිතන්නගබබට යහපතක්ම වේවා තිරෝගි සුවයම ලැබේවා

මංගල වේලාරන්ත

අළුත් අවුරුදු සුඛ පැතුම්

ආදි සිංගර් සමාජයේ සමාජිකයින්ට ලැබුවා වූ අලුත් අවුරුද්ද ඉතාමත් වාසනාවන්ත නිරෝගිමත් සියළු සිතූම් පැතුම් ඉටුවන සාමයෙන් සපිරි අවුරුද්දක් වේවා කියා පනමි.

අපේ හිතමිතුරුකම් ඇතිවූ ජීවත්වීමට උපකාරයක් වූ අපට ආඩම්බරයක් වූ අපේ සිංගර් සමාගමටත් එහි සියළුම දෙනාටත් වාසනාවන්ත අවුරුද්දක් වේවා යයි ප්‍රාර්ථනා කරමි.

ශ්‍රී ලංකාවාසී සියළුම ජනතාවගේ ජීවිත යහපත් වේවාල සියළුම වැඩිහිටියන්ට නිදහසේ ගෞරවනීය ලෙස තම තමන්ගේ ජීවිතය පවත්වා ගෙන යාමට හැකි පරිසරයක් ගොඩනැගේවාල සියළුම දරුවන්ටත් කාන්තාවන්ටත් ආත්ම ආරක්‍ෂාව ලැබේවා අප සැමදෙනා අතර එකමුතුකම සහෝදරත්වය ශක්තිමත් වේවා ලෝක වාසී සියළුම මනුෂ්‍යයන්ට යුධ බියෙන් තොරව සාමයෙන් සපිරි නිදහසේ ජීවත්වීමේ වාසනාව තව වසරේ උදාවේවා.

සැමදෙනාටම තෙරුවන් සරණයි සියලුම දෙවියන්ගේ පිහිටයි සියළු දෙනාටම දීර්ඝායුෂ පනමි 2016 අලුත් අවුරුද්ද සැමට ජය.

මංගල වේලාරන්ත
නුගේගොඩ

THE GENERATION GAP & HOW TO FACE LIFE

Old age is the climax of life. When we were young we lived in the future with many ambitions to achieve. However, when we are old, we live in the present. Elderly people do not have to bother about the future much and waste their precious time. Young people want to make the best use of their time. They are always in a hurry to have their desires fulfilled thus running a rat race.

Only people must always realize these contradictory attitudes and try to understand and tolerate the behavior of The young generation. Then you can avoid unnecessary arguments and unpleasantness. When young people become old they too will understand the utter futility of certain desires and would begin to see the beauty of the world from a different perspective. They will learn to accept old age as a calm day that follows a storm.

I believe that best activity during old age is reading and learning. Young people have to cope with many distractions and they may neglect studies. But when old people are engaged in learning, they begin to radiate, and their disciplined minds see everything very clearly and objectively not emotionally, not sentimentally. Even though elderly people are more prone to be victims of diabetes, heart diseases or any other incurable diseases, they should not give up hopes. While taking treatment they must try to stay cheerful – without brooding over their sicknesses because constant sulking in self pity is worse than death.

To sum up I would like to state that the secret of happy, successful living is to do what needs to be done now, and not worry about the past or the future. We cannot re-shape the past nor can we anticipate everything in the future. We have to learn to adjust ourselves to the circumstances. We must remember that we are living in a world of constant friction and change. Although peace is the desire of our hearts it is not the ruler of our lives. So we should know that we must be good, be just and be right before we say 'Good-Bye' to life and 'Hi' to death. It won't be easy but let us try to cultivate such qualities.

Sent by Pushpa Fonseka

NEXT NEWS LETTER

We propose to release the next Newsletter in May 2016. Please therefore send in your articles for publication to reach the Editor by 20th April 2016. Post or e-mail your articles to:

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