



NEWSLETTER

September
2009

ASSOCIATION OF PAST EMPLOYEES OF SINGER

From the Editor's Desk

Hello Friends,

We are back with you for the third Newsletter of the year and trust you were waiting with abated breath to receive it, after all it brings News about your Association and its happenings.

Firstly, we would like to share with you the two grand Social happenings of June and July, particularly with those who were not fortunate enough to make it for these events.

The 'Sports Day' that was held at the MCA grounds, where we usually have this event, On June 21st, Sunday was a great happening. Over 80 Members, their families and Singer invitees graced the occasion and were welcomed by the President and the hoisting of the flags. The events of the Day got off to a great start with the 20 Over Soft Ball Cricket match between the Association Members and the current Singer Employees (Invitees). The match was thoroughly exciting as most '20 Over Matches' are, and was won by the Invitees, although we gave them a good run with the 'Scorer' being in the runs. This was followed by Musical Chairs for children and Ladies. A 'mixed' Netball match followed and was another tumultuous affair. The children had a great game finally in 'Blowing Balloons' until they burst. Although a Walking race was planned for Members, the exhilarating day's programme and the nectar from the surrounding environment made it virtually impossible for this event to be held.

The ample beverages and delectable Buffet Lunch, coupled with the great music supplied by Janaka, rounded up a very enjoyable day for all, including Lasantha who ensured that his stentorian vocal chords were exercised to their fullest. Thank you to Janaka and Lasantha for your great contributions.

And thereafter the 'Musical Evening-Sing-a-long' was held at the 'Lions Secretariat Hall' Vidya Mawatha, Colombo 7 on Saturday, 25th July from 6.30 p.m. This event turned out to be another rip roaring affair particularly after the throats were quenched and the "Calypso Quartet" got tuned up. We had over 50 Members and their families who sang lustily into the night led by the baritone voices of Jackie Gunasekera and Ranjith David while the Baila dancing hero was none other than the President's grandson who was the hit of the evening.

The gathering enjoyed the ample supply of delectable food and drink, both hot and cold most generously supplied by members. The singing of English and Sinhala Oldies by all those present was a great happening and enjoyed by all.

We are experiencing more participation at our recent Social Events which is excellent and do look forward to more of you doing so at our forthcoming events.

And now for contributions from some of our Members:

A story related by a former Distribution Manager (Warehouse) Mr. J. Sadique recounting a lively field experience he had at Ingiriya.

"I was instructed by Mr. Gamini Abeysuriya to return immediately to Head Office from Vavuniya where I was working, after the main road culvert was bombed by the LTTE in the year 1985.

On returning to Colombo I was posted as a relief D/M to Ingiriya where Mr. Liyanage was the A/D at that time. The two of us, I recall, went one day on a arrears drive and visited an account fairly close to the A/D point to collect some arrears. The Lady of the house, whom we met told us that she was not in a position to settle the arrears, so we had no option but to revert the machine. Whilst in the process of removing the Machine Head a man whom we believed to be her husband, came and shouted at us saying he will cut off our hands if we did not stop attempting to remove the machine. I began shaking with fear when I realized that the man was drunk and could easily carry out his threat. But our man Liyanage unconcernedly continued removing the Machine Head. The man then went inside and came out with a huge 'Manna Knife' shouting "Thowa Mang Kapanawa Machine eka gathoth!" I was now thoroughly flustered and asked the A/D to drop everything and let's get out quickly. So we left everything and started towards our vehicle, but the man chased us waving the 'Manna' and shouting 'Thopila Maranawa'. As we now couldn't get into the vehicle, fearing the worst we started running towards our shop which was not far off. Mr. Liyanage who was much older than I, scampered past me like a bat out of hell and reached the shop much before I did. Thereafter we proceeded to the Ingiriya Police Station and with Mr. Liyanage's influence got the man who chased, down to the police Station.

What a changed person he was, after the Police threatened to put him into the lock ups for attempted murder. He went down on his knees and asked Mr. Liyanage for mercy. We then returned to the man's house with a police escort and removed the machine.

Ed Note: Good for you Mr. Sadique, that you and Mr. Liyanage lived to tell the tale, all in the interest of the Company. We look forward to more of your field tales!



Wit & Humour

Rohan Goonetilleke comes up with the following anecdote and asks the question: Could this be the solution to the Global financial Crisis? Read on!!

"It is August. In a small town on the South Coast of France, Holiday Season is in full swing, but it is raining so there is not too much business happening. Everyone is heavily in Debt. Luckily a rich Russian tourist arrives in the foyer of the small local hotel. He asks for a room and puts a Euro 100 note on the reception counter, takes a key and goes to inspect a room located on the

third floor. The hotel owner takes the Bank note in a hurry and rushes to his butcher to whom he owes E100. The butcher takes the money and rushes to his wholesale supplier to pay his debt.

The wholesaler grabs the cash and rushes to the farmer to pay E100 for pigs he purchased sometime ago.

The farmer takes the money and goes quickly to the hotel as he owed E100 to the Hotel, since he used a hotel room for a family function previously.

At that moment the Rich Russian is coming down the stairs to the reception and he informs the hotel owner that the rooms are unsatisfactory and takes his E100 note from the counter and departs.

There was no profit or income. But everyone no longer has any debt and the small town folk look optimistically towards their future.

Rohan writes again:

Thoughts from a Man's Heart:

Thought (1) When we are born, our Mothers get the compliments and the flowers.
 When we get married, our Brides get the presents and the publicity.
 When we die, our widows get our life Insurance
 WHAT do women, want to be liberated from

Thought (2) The average Man's Life consists of:
 Twenty years of having his mother ask him where he is going
 Forty years of having his wife ask the same question
 And at his life's end the Mourners are wondering where the hell he went.

Thought (3) Everyone at the wedding was watching the bride as she was walked down the aisle by her father. They reached the alter and the groom; the Bride kissed her father and placed something in his hand. Everyone was wondering what the bride gave her father.

"Ladies & Gentlemen" Today's the luckiest day of my life My daughter, finally...finally...returned my credit card to me"

The whole church including the Priest burst into Laughter... EXCEPT the poor Groom!

Thought (4) and the Best one (He says!!)

A man was walking down the street when he heard a voice from behind "If you take one more step, a brick will fall on your head and you will die" the man stopped, and with a thud, a brick fell right in front of him. He was astonished.

The man went on further and when about to cross the road once again the voice said "Stop Stand Still, do not cross, a car will knock you down"

The man stopped and did not cross and next moment a vehicle whizzed passed him.

“Who are you?” the man turning around and asked, although he saw nothing.

“I am your Guardian angel” the voice replied.

“Oh yeah? And where the Bloody Hell were you when I was getting married? The man lamented (SIC).

Health Notes

- To lengthen your life, lessen your meals.
- Breakfast however is the most important meal of the day. Don't skip it even if you have a fight with the wife.
- Reduce the intake of two white poisons: Salt and Sugar

And here's one for all you guys and gals who need to re-look at yourself!!

Self Appraisal

A little boy went into a drug store, reached for an empty soda pallet, pulled it over to the telephone, climbed on the pallet and began punching a phone number. The Store owner observed and listened to the boy's conversation:

Boy : Lady, can you give me the job of cutting your lawn?

Woman: (At the other end of the line) I have already got a person to cut my lawn

Boy : Lady, I will cut your lawn for half the price of the person who cuts your lawn now.

Woman: I am very satisfied with the person who is presently cutting my lawn

Boy : (With more perseverance) Lady, I'll even sweep your curb and sidewalk, so on Sunday you will have the prettiest lawn in all of Palm Beach

Woman: (Insistently) NO THANK YOU!

With a smile on his face, the little boy replaced the receiver and the pallet. The Store Owner who was listening to all this, walked over to the boy and said “Son, I was listening to your conversation and I like your attitude; I would like to offer you a job because of your positive spirit.”

Boy : No Thanks Sir!

Store Owner: But you were really pleading for one weren't you?

Boy : No Sir, I was just checking my performance at the job I already have. I am the one who is working for the Lady I was talking to.

This is what we call Self Appraisal and should be practiced by all of us to ensure our performance is of the highest order!

Memories from an old "SINGER" (Anonymous Member)

Someone asked me the other day "What was your favourite fast food when you were a kid?" I replied, "We didn't have fast food when I was growing up," and added "All the food was slow".

"C'mon seriously," the youngster persisted "Where did you eat?"

"It was a place called "Home", I responded. "Mum cooked everyday and when Dad got home from work, we sat down together at the dining room table, and if I didn't like what she put on my plate, I was allowed to sit there until I did like it and ate it."

By this time the young guy was laughing so hard I was afraid he was going to suffer serious internal damage.

After he had stopped laughing I told him a little more about my childhood and the childhood of most children of our times:

We never wore Levis, never had credit cards. I went to school on an old bicycle which had one speed – slow. We didn't have a TV in our house, until I was 19 and that too it was a Black and White. It went off the air at 11 p.m. after the National Anthem was played. I told him I never had a t'phone in my room. I had never eaten Pizzas till I was well into my 20's and they were Never delivered to our home... but milk was.

I delivered newspapers to the neighbourhood. Movie Stars kissed with their mouths closed and there were no movie ratings. We had pant leg clips for bicycles without chain guards. All vehicles used hand signals, there were no light signals. We had gramophone records of 45 and 78 RPM's, Cameras had flash bulbs which we threw away after one flash... The young 'un shouted out 'Stop, stop, I don't wanna hear anymore, you must have been real, real, square, how did you manage!

I smiled and picked my grandson up but didn't tell him that those were the best memories we had of our childhood, Didn't you?

Editor's Note: Thank you 'Old Singer' you certainly did revive childhood memories.

'DAFFINITIONS'

Cigarette	:	A pinch of Tobacco Rolled in paper With fire at one end And a fool at the other
Marriage	:	It's an agreement Wherein A man loses his Bachelor's And a woman gains her Masters
Lecture	:	An Art of transmitting information From the notes of the Lecturer To the notes of students Without passing through the minds

- Of either
- Compromise : The art of dividing a cake
In such a way that
Everybody believes
He got the biggest piece.
- Tears : The Hydraulic force by which
Masculine will power is
Defeated by
Feminine Water Power
- Dictionary : The only place where Divorce
Comes before Marriage
- Ecstasy : A feeling when you feel
You are going to feel
A feeling
You have never felt before!

Social Events Calendar

The Events planned for the rest of the year are as follows:

- August 30th, Sunday : Members Day Out – This has been cancelled due to unavoidable reasons. Regret any inconvenience.
- September : ‘Handling your Financial Resources’ Complimentary
A presentation and open forum followed by Lunch & Drinks
Either Saturday 19th or 26th, 10.00 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Venue and confirmed date will be notified with other details
- October : ‘Dorakada Marawa’ – Fund Raiser
Saturday, 10th October 5.30 p.m.
At Elphinstone Maradana
Tickets: Rs.500/- Balcony, Rs.250/- elsewhere
- December : AGM – Sunday, 13th December (Venue to be
Notified)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

We take this opportunity of wishing the following members who will be celebrating their Birthdays in September, all the Very Best. Have a great Day and May the year ahead be a prosperous, healthy and a peaceful one. Have a drink on our A/c it will lower your cholesterol!

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|----------------------|---|------------------------|
| Mr. T. Vanniasinkam | - | 6 th Sept |
| Mr. S.C. Rajapakse | - | 7 th Sept |
| Mr. Neville Daniel | - | 7 th Sept. |
| Mr. Crishan Fernando | - | 13 th Sept. |

Mr. Lionel Perera	-	17 th Sept.
Mr. Ranjith Fernando	-	17 th Sept.
Mr. K.L.D.N. Nishantha	-	19 th Sept.
Mr. Viraj Mahapatuna	-	19 th Sept.
Mr. N.H.A.D. Wijesena	-	19 th Sept.
Mr. John Emmanuel	-	22 nd Sept.
Mr. Dehan Seneviratne	-	22 nd Sept.
Ms. Lilian Silva	-	28 th Sept.

Scholarship Fund : We await recommendations from Members for the above fund for Financial Assistance.

Benevolent Fund : A reminder for contributions to the above fund from Members who can make such contributions. All donations will be duly acknowledged. Members who need financial help to meet their medical problems may also write in making requests for consideration and due assistance.

A Special Moment

Singer Chairman Mr. Hemaka Amarasuriya has served the Organisation for 35 fruitful and energizing years and in recognition of his untiring and unstinted service he was the proud recipient of a long Service Award. A special moment in time at this year's Service Awards Ceremony was when the Finance Director, Mr. Priyath Salgoda made the award presentation to Mr. Hemaka Amarasuriya. We, from the Past Employees Association of Singer's extend our Congratulations and Best Wishes to Mr. Amarasuriya on his long and illustrious innings at Singers!

Singer No.1 Public Brand: For the Fifth consecutive year Brand Finance adjudged Singer Sri Lanka the Number 1 Public Brand in Sri Lanka and awarded an AA + rating to the Company. Congratulations Singer!!

And here's a message for all our grandparent members and I am sure there must be quite a few!

"Grand children are your bonuses for all the heartaches and pain you went through as parents"

And remember,

'The time you spend with your grand children TODAY, gives them memories that will live FOREVER!

So long for now dear Members, we trust you enjoyed reading your newsletter. Remember to send in your stories, poems and anecdotes of your "days of yore" both at 'SINGER' and elsewhere whatever they may be.

You NEXT and Final Issue will be out in December 2009 and the cut-off date 10th Nov. 2009. Till then adios, and keep smiling.

Newsletter & Public Committee

Mr. G.C. Wasalathanthri,
6A, 6th Lane, Pagoda Road,
NUGEGODA.

