



# NEWSLETTER

Issue No.2

## ASSOCIATION OF PAST EMPLOYEES' OF SINGER

320, Dr. Colvin R. De Silva Mawatha, Colombo 02.

December 2000

Dear Members,

Judging by the numerous congratulatory and complimentary messages reaching us in respect of our maiden newsletter, it is heartening and encouraging to see the enthusiasm evinced by the rank and file and creates the atmosphere for many more newsletters to look forward to in the future. This solely depends upon your active participation by making lively and interesting contributions. With your vast Singer experience you could reflect back on your life at Singer which bring to life unforgettable memories which hitherto lay buried in the forgotten past. If one were to reflect on the past of your association with Singer, you could unearth a wealth of information - you are bound to cherish these memories, the ups and downs, the sweet and sour experiences, the times of depression due to the imposition of import restrictions enforced by the Government, the threat of retrenchment staring at our faces, the birth of the Regnis machines, our commitment to Sports and Union activities where we were a force to be reckoned with and a host of others, to rekindle your memory. You are welcome to contribute periodically any such articles, humorous situations and items of interest that would make the newsletter a feature to look forward to.

### The 'Ole Singer' Dinner

The first ever Ole Singer Dinner was a resounding success, thanks to the untiring efforts of the Entertainment Committee comprising Lucky de Chickera, Ranjith David and Kaushaliya Murugadasan. Within the short time at their disposal the events were worked off well and the organizers were thoroughly congratulated.

The Dinner was well attended numbering over 65 participants. For most of the participants who were meeting after a long period, it was a thrilling experience. It was more of a family get-together where one and all were eager to get a glimpse of each other, present and past. The venue was Shalika Hall, Narahenpita and the time was 7 p. m. onwards. The day's business commenced with an address of welcome by the President Mr. Bertie Fernando, followed by the address by Mr. Hemaka Amarasuriya, Chairman of Singer (Sri Lanka) Ltd., our Chief Guest. Mr. Amarasuriya was full of praise for having launched such laudable project and was thoroughly impressed with the objectives laid down in our Constitution. In winding up his speech he expressed the hope that the Company would render all the assistance needed to further the success of the Association.



Mrs. Amarasuriya seemed thoroughly impressed with the ladies having got an opportunity to mingle freely and reliving the many interesting episodes of the past. The ladies in the company of Mrs. Amarasuriya had an enjoyable time and would have carried away many interesting and unforgettable memories of the past and looking forward to many more such opportunities in the days to come. The cultural interlude was followed by the adjournment to the "Water Hole" and a sumptuous dinner. A rollicking time was had by one and all present and also expressed the desire to organise many



more get-togethers so that the feeling of comradeship and fellowship can be fostered from generation to generation.

Valuable gifts were given by Members for the Raffle Draw and Entrance Ticket, hand-out gifts, drinks, short-eats etc. Well-wishers made donations by way of Banners, cash etc. which went a long way in keeping our expenses under control.



### News in Brief - Changes in the Executive Committee

In view of Mr. Nelson Mendis' intended tour abroad to take up a cricketing appointment, Mr. Ananda Epa was elected as Hony. Secretary and his position as Asst. Secretary was filled by Mrs. Vijitha Jayawardena. However, since Mr. Mendis' departure is delayed for sometime, it has been proposed to appoint him to the vacancy so created. The Executive Committee was of the unanimous opinion that Mr. Nelson Mendis with his leadership qualities would be of immense value.

### Activities Planned for Year 2001

A day's programme with a soft ball Cricket Match and Lunch is one of the activities planned for the coming year.

Other activities are also on the calendar, which will be notified from time to time.

The success of all such ventures, however, will solely depend upon the results of our membership drive. The support of every member is required to meet our membership target by December of at least one hundred. Start right away, do not slacken!

### A Singer Experience !

This happened seventeen years back during the 'Black July' incident in 1983.

Mr. Hemaka Amarasuriya was away from the island, attending the annual Singer Marketing Convention, the week when the ethnic trouble took place in the

entire country. He would, however, have read and seen the incidents through the foreign media and also would have heard all about the communal riots which prevailed in that particular week, through his relatives and friends in Sri Lanka.

On Monday the first August, Mr. Amarasuriya was back at the Management Office at 83, Chatham

Street and was surprised to see me in Office and he said "what are you doing here, you should have been at home. Don't risk your life". The words that he told me are still ringing in my ears. The reason for him to come out with these words was that I was from the affected minority community. This clearly indicates his impartiality as he loves all castes, races and religions alike. Many of us have understood him very well and this is another plus point of his humanity. Guess who !

### WIT AND HUMOUR

The story is told of a pastor who was frustrated because of one man who always seemed to fall asleep during the sermon. So the pastor devised a trick, a way he thought he could embarrass the man so as to get him to break this habit. Near the end of a sermon concerning "hell", the Pastor, in a normal voice, said to the congregation, "Anyone here today who wants to go to hell" - then he raised his voice to a much louder volume - "PLEASE STAND UP !"

Of Course this woke up the sleeping parishioner who quickly jumped to his feet. After collecting himself for a moment, the man then looked at the pastor and said, "Preacher, I don't know why I'm standing, but it appears that you and I are both in this boat."





The little boy was attending his first wedding. After the service, his cousin asked him "How many women can a man marry?"

"Sixteen." The boy responded.

His cousin was amazed that he knew the answer so quickly. "How did you know that?"

"Easy." the little boy said, "All you have to do is add it up, like the preacher said: "Four better, four worse, four richer, four poorer."

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The drunk gets on a bus and asks the driver how long the trip is between Limerick and Cork

"About two hours," says the drunk "then how long is the trip between Cork and Limerick?"

The irate driver says to the drunk "It's still about two hours. Why would you think there'd be a difference?"

"Well," says the drunk, "It's only a week between Christmas and New Year, but it's a long time between New Year and Christmas."

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A Kansas Cyclone hit a farmhouse just before dawn one morning. It lifted the roof off, picked up the bed on which the farmer and his wife slept, and set them down gently in the next country.

My wife began to cry, "Don't be scared, Mary" her husband said, "We're not hurt." Mary continued to cry. "I'm not scared," she responded between sobs, "I'm happy' cause this is the first time in 14 years we've been out together."

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT!**

At twenty man is a peacock, at thirty a lion, at forty a camel, at fifty a serpent, at sixty a dog, at seventy an ape, at eighty nothing at all.

I expect to pass through this world but once. Any good therefore that I can do, or any kindness that I can show to any fellow creature, let me do it now. Let me not defer or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again.



**MANAGE YOUR TIME AS YOU  
MANAGE YOUR MONEY**

Do you know,  
Generally how a 70 year Life is spent?

On an Average

Yrs.		Hrs.	%
25	In Sleep	219,000	35.7%
12	In Effective work	105,120	17.2%
08	In Study & Education	70,880	11.4%
06	In Rest & Illness	52,560	08.6%
07	In Holiday & Recreation	61,320	10.0%
05	In Commuting	43,800	07.1%
04	In Eating	35,040	05.7%
03	In Transition	26,280	04.3%
(i. e. Getting ready to do all the above activities)			
70		613,200	Hours
Yrs..			

Charles Schwab - An American Millionaire paid a consultant US \$25,000 in 1936 to advise him how best he could use this precious, irretrievable resource.

His advice "*Start your day with a To Do List and prioritise the vital few, after picking them from the trivial many.*"



## ABC of Managerial Relationship with your subordinates

- A - Always be honest with them.
- B - Be there, when they need you.
- C - Cheer them up.
- D - Don't always look for their faults.
- E - Encourage their dreams/ambitions.
- F - Forgive them, when they make minor mistakes.
- G - Get together often.
- H - Have faith in them.
- I - Include them to share responsibility.
- J - Just be there, in time of sorrow and distress.
- K - Know them - their strengths and their weakness, their capabilities and their limitations.
- L - Love them - Unconditionally - Not hate them.
- M - Make them feel special to the Company.
- N - Never forget them.
- O - Offer to help in times of distress, sorrow or any functions like weddings etc.
- P - Praise them honestly and openly when they have done a good job.
- Q - Quickly disagree with them if you have to, but do not shoot at them
- R - Really listen to their problem and solve it quickly.
- S - Say you are sorry, when you hurt their feelings.
- T - Talk to them frequently as communication is an important tool in managerial functions.
- U - Use good judgement.
- V - Verbalize your feeling.
- W - Wish them good luck in their endeavours
- X - 'X' amine your motives before you "help" out.
- Y - Your words as Managers, use them Wisely.
- Z - Zip your lips, when they tell you a secret.

NEWSLETTER, CALENDAR AND  
PUBLICITY COMMITTEE



*THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS  
OPPORTUNITY TO WISH ALL  
MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION.  
A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A  
BRIGHT AND PROSPEROUS NEW  
YEAR, 2001 !*

Members are invited to make contributions towards the Newsletter by way off articles of interest, memorable moments at SINGER or towards our 'Wit and Humour' column. Please send in your contributions by 28 February, 2001, for the next Newsletter to be published in April 2001, to The Newsletter, Calendar & Publicity Committee, C/o. Mr. P. S. Maniam, 24, Block 'N', Government Flats, Colombo 04.