



NEWSLETTER

Issue No.3

ASSOCIATION OF PAST EMPLOYEES' OF SINGER

320, Dr. Colvin R. De Silva Mawatha, Colombo 2.

August 2001

Dear Members,

We have slowly but surely come a long way from our inaugural meeting held in June 2000 with a gathering of about 35 past employees, and are happy to record a membership of nearly 100 at the turn of the eleventh month and we are determined to achieve our target of 125 or more members when we celebrate our first anniversary which is around the corner in December 2001. It would only be appropriate to take stock of the past eleven months and draw plans for the future. The executive Committee has met every month without an interruption and whatever major events organized, namely the Get-together dinner and Get-together Lunch and Cricket match and get-together were a resounding success, thanks to the untiring efforts of our organizing Committee. It is hoped that the coming events, chiefly the Annual General Meeting celebrations will prove to be second to none.

Cricket match & Get-together Lunch

With the hoisting of the Association flag by the President Mr. Bertie Fernando, the festivities for the day got off to a flying start at the beautiful MCA Grounds. The cricket teams were captained by Bertie Fernando and Nelson Mendis. There were lusty hitting, impressive bowling, spectacular catches held and missed, and finally the match was won by the President's XI. The highest of the match was an aggressive 41 by John Emmanuel, our newest Committee Member.

For some this was a momentous occasion, for the participants at this match comprised generations like Thiagarajah's sons and grandsons and Vincent Dabare and sons. Radhika Vannitamby, daughter of Judy Vannitamby, the only girl competitor at cricket, added much colour to enliven the proceedings. Where else could you rejoice and relive a glorious past and enjoy a feeling of fellowship of the bygone era other than that of a get together of this nature.



The match was followed by some lively taped music picked for the occasion and the hilarious game of musical chairs, which evinced quite a lot of interest and enthusiasm by the ladies and young girls, who added colour and glamour to the event. The winner of the 'competition' was none other than the golden oldie, Mrs. Raman., of the Colpetty Showrooms of yesteryear, who beat all the young and not so young ladies to the crowd. Mrs. Vijitha Jayawardena had unique honour of being called upon to give away some of the prizes. Gamini Wasalathanthri accompanied by wife Malini, carried away the first prize of the Raffle Draw a magnificent 21 piece Dinner set.

The get-together was a dream come true for most of the participants who renewed their contacts with colleagues after a lapse of some 10 to 15 years and all were eager to relive the past and recollect the many interesting memories of the past which would have lapsed into the annals of the forgotten past if not for the timely decision of some of the enthusiastic and far sighted past employees in organizing the Past Employees Association of Singer Mr. Hemaka Amarasuriya, our amiable Patron and Chairman of Singer Group of Companies too made his presence felt, and was seen chatting with many a friend and

colleague sharing pleasantries and reminiscences of yesteryear. Mr. Amarasuriya's presence was a great inspiration to all of us.

There were numerous gifts and prizes won by the participants, thanks to the generous contributions and donations offered by members of the Executive Committee and well-wishes. We will be failing in our duty if we do not mention the display of Banners by well-wishers which boosted our finances and eventually helped us to end with a profit balance.

The day's proceedings came to an end after a sumptuous lunch with the hope that there will be many more gatherings of this nature so that the spirit of brotherhood of the Singer family will go on from strength to strength.

We thank the organising Committee members, kaushaliya Murugadasan, Nelson Mendis, Bertie Fernando and Judith Vannitamby for having spared no pains to make this event a memorable one.

Our future strength lies in an enhanced membership and appeal is once again made to all members, and past employees of Singer to contact your colleagues and invite them to join the Association so that we can be proud of a membership of 125 by the time we reach our first Anniversary.



News in Brief - Changes in the Executive Committee/Meetings

We welcome Mr. John Emmanuel who has joined the Committee in place of Mr. Dehan Seneviratne who is unable to attend committee meetings regularly.

The monthly meeting of the Committee which was held on the first Saturday of the month was changed to the first Wednesday for the convenience of the members but it has now been reverted to Saturday once again as members found it more convenient.

Diary of Coming Events

It is proposed to have the Annual General Meeting and the celebrations to mark the First Anniversary of the Association in December, of which the necessary details will be coming your way in due course.

😊 WIT AND HUMOUR

There were a total of 11 people hanging precariously onto a rope that dangled down from a helicopter. Ten were men and one was a woman. They all decided that one person should let go of the rope and fall down because if they didn't the rope would break and everyone would fall down and die.

No one could decide on who should let go of the rope and fall down, and so the only woman decided to give a really touching and moving speech, saying that she would volunteer to let go of the rope and sacrifice her own life to save the lives of all the others, all men, because women were used to giving up things in life for their husbands and their children and were always giving in to men. When she finished her speech,, all the men started clapping loudly and let go of the rope and.....The rest is history. What more can we say about men and women of the world.....

Definitions (in the lighter vein)

- Doctor: A person who kills your ills by pills and you with bills
- Politician: Someone who shakes your hand before election and your confidence after.
- Yawn: An honest opinion openly expressed
- Committee: Individuals who can do nothing individually and sit to decide that nothing can be done together. Sitting there is just like sitting on a commode, then finally you drop the matter.
- Worry: Interest paid on trouble before it falls due.
- Tears: The hydraulic force by which masculine force is defeated by females.
- Diplomat: A person who tells you to go to hell in such a way, that you actually look forward to the trip.
- Miser: A person who lives poor so that he can die rich
- Atom Bomb: An invention to end all inventions
- Committee: A body that keeps minutes and wastes hours.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT!

That best portion of a good man's life, His little nameless, unremembered acts Of kindness and of love
Wordsworth

Ah, fill the Cup: what boots it to repeat How time is slipping underneath our Feet

Unborn TOMORROW, and dead YESTERDAY
Why fret about them if TODAY be sweet!
Omar Khayyam

Excerpts from 'The Echo of Life'

"Life always gives you back what you give out! Life is a mirror of your actions. If you want more love, give more love! If you want more kindness, give more kindness! if you want understanding and respect, give understanding and respect! If you want people to be patient and respectful to you, give patience and respect! This rule of nature applies to every aspect of our lives"



USEFUL INFORMATION

Microwave warning!

A useful safety warning. Scientists at CSIRO have verified the content (it was published in a CSIRO mailing some time ago along with an explanation of why and how it occurs) and it is a phenomenon that has caught a number of people out.

"Microwaving Water to Heat it up"

"I feel that the following is information that anyone who uses a Microwave oven to heat water should be

made aware of. About five days ago, my 26 year old son decided to have a cup of instant coffee. He took a cup of water and put it in the microwave to heat it up (something that he had done numerous times before). I am not sure how long he set the timer for but he told me he wanted to bring the water to a boil. When the timer shut the oven off, he removed the cup from the oven. As he looked into the cup he noted the water was not boiling. Instantly the water in the cup "blew up" into his face.

The cup remained intact until he threw it out of his hand but all the water flew out onto his face due to the buildup of energy. His whole face is blistered and he has 1st and 2nd degree burns to his face, which may leave scarring, and he has lost the sight in his left eye. While at the hospital, the doctor who was attending to him stated that this is a fairly common occurrence and water (alone) should never be heated in a microwave oven. If water is heated in this manner something should be placed in the cup to diffuse the energy such as a wooden stir, stick, tea bag, etc. It is however a much safer choice to boil the water in a tea kettle."

Here is what a Science Teacher had to say on the matter.

"I have seen this happen before. It is caused by a phenomenon known as super heating. It can occur anytime water is heated and will particularly occur if the vessel that the water is heated in is new. What happens is that the water heats faster than the vapor bubbles can form. If the cup is very new then it is unlikely to have small surface scratches inside that provide a place for the bubbles to form. As the bubbles cannot form and release some of the heat that has built up, the liquid does not boil, and the liquid continues to heat up well past its boiling point. What then usually happens is that the liquid is bumped or jarred, which is just enough of a shock to cause the bubbles to rapidly form and expel the hot liquid. The rapid formation of bubbles is also why a carbonated beverage spews when opened after having been shaken."

QUIZ COMPETITION

All Members are encouraged to participate in our first Quiz Competition.

Three valuable Prizes will be awarded to the first all-correct (or nearest) entries. please send in your answers on a separate sheet to reach us by 30 September 2001, addressed to

Mr. P. S. Maniam,, 24, Block 'N', Government Flats, Colombo 4.

Questions

1. *When was the Singer Company established by Issac Merit Singer?*
2. *In which year did Singer Company commence its operations in Sri Lanka?*
3. *The first Singer Shop was opened in 1877 in the City of Colombo where was it located?*
4. *In which year did the Singer Company commence local assembly of sewing machines?*
5. *A major change took place in the structure of the Company in Sri Lanka in 1975. What was it?*
6. *Who was the expatriate General Manger who died in Sri Lanka whilst sea bathing in Trincomalee*
7. *Who was the first Sri Lankan General Manager of the Company?*
8. *An expatriate sales Manager of the Singer Company was popularly known as the 'Flying Dutchman'. Who was he?*
9. *In which year did Mr. Hemaka Amarasuriya assume duties as Chairman of Singer (Sri Lanka) Limited?*
10. *In 1988 Singer set up a Factory in Ratmalana to manufacture refrigerators. What is the name of this factory?*
11. *With the launching of the diversification program in Sri Lanka, Singer introduced a non Singer Refrigerator and an Audio to the local market. What are the brand names of these two products?*
12. *Before the local assembly of sewing machines in Sri Lanka, Singer imported fully assembled sewing machine heads, cabinets and stands from Singer factories located in other countries. The location of the factory was denoted by a letter following the model number, e.g. 201K. What are the factories denoted by the following letters-K, U and M?*
13. *In which year did Singer (Sri Lanka) Limited move its Head Office from 83, Chatham Street, Fort to its present location?*

Members are invited to make contributions towards the Newsletter by way of articles of interest, memorable moments at SINGER or towards our 'Wit and Humour' column. Please send you contributions by 30 September, 2001, for the next Newsletter to be published in December 2001, to the Newsletter, Calender & Pubilty Committee, C/0. Mr. P. S. Maniam, 24, Block 'N', Government Flats, Colombo 4.