

May 2016

ASSOCIATION OF PAST EMPLOYEES OF SINGER

80, Nawam Mawatha, Colombo 2

SECOND IN THE SERIES OF ANTIQUE SINGER SEWING MACHINES



The first Singer Machine especially designed for family sewing was commonly known as "The Turtle Back" and was manufactured in 1856. It had a vibrating overhanging shaft for actuating the needle-bar and a reciprocating shuttle. Motion was given to the mechanism from a rocking treadle through a driving wheel carrying a broad leather belt capable of carrying much greater power than was required for the purpose.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

The Association of Past Employees of Singer was formed in June, 2000. It was the brainchild of none other than our Patron Mr. Hemaka Amarasuriya who was then the Chairman of the Singer Group. Mr. Amarasuriya took a keen interest in the welfare of former Company employees and felt the need to form an Association to look after the welfare of its members.

The primary objectives of the Association were to bring all former employees of the Singer Group under one umbrella and foster the cordial and mutual relationship the members had during their period of employment at Singer and secondly, to help members who require financial assistance in times of need, especially when either they or any member of their family was seriously ill.

BENEVOLENT FUND

During the past 15 years of its existence, the Association has helped 33 members by providing financial assistance to meet urgent medical needs after ascertaining the nature of the illness, scrutinizing the Doctor's diagnosis of the disease, prescription of drugs and laboratory tests etc. in addition to finding out the member's present financial stability. Details of the donations made have been withheld to prevent any embarrassment to the recipients. The total amount paid out from the Benevolent Fund to-date is Rs.549,000/=

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Furthermore, we took a step forward on 20th April 2005 by launching the Scholarship Fund with each Committee Member contributing Rs.1000/= towards this fund. In addition, Mr. Amarasuriya contributed Rs.25,000/=.A few others too contributed to this fund. Since then, we have been actively engaged in discharging our social obligations by assisting children of families to continue their studies as well as participate in Sports and other extra curricular activities uninterrupted. The first recipient of the Scholarship was Randika a Grade VI student of Rahula College, Matara, a son of a fisherman whose house and household items were destroyed by Tsunami. I am pleased to inform you that this boy gained admission to the Sri Jayawardenapura University to follow a degree course in Pharmacology. The amount paid to him to purchase necessary books and meet other expenses was Rs.2,500/- per month during a period of 4 years.

The son of a former employee and a member, Mr. Jayawardena was the recipient of expensive medical books. He has passed out as a Doctor from the Rajarata University and is presently attached to the Kekirawa Hospital.

5 poor girls from Mahiyangana, Dehiattakandiya, Polonnaruwa, Ampara and Negambo who found it difficult to pay for the Embroidery & Dressmaking courses they were following at Singer Sewing Schools were given cash donations and the money was paid direct to the teacher in charge of the respective schools. The total amount paid to the five students was Rs.110,600/-. All five girls have successfully completed the course and are now gainfully employed.

12 students from the poorest of poor families studying for the Grade V Scholarship Examination at the Stanley Thilakaratne Primary School Mirihana, Nugegoda were donated Rs.500/= each monthly for one year to purchase Supplementary School books, Stationery and Shoes etc. The deserving students were selected by the Principal and Vice-Principal of the school after ascertaining the financial status of the parents and the money was distributed to the parents of the students. The amount donated up to May 2016 is Rs.66,000/=

170x Gift Packs of Crayons valued at the discounted price of Rs.21600/= were distributed to the students of the same school who participated in the 2015 English Day Program conducted by the staff of the school. The total amount disbursed from the Scholarship Fund to-date is Rs.338,000/=. The Fund now stands at Rs,14,000/= which is insufficient to continue the program in a meaningful way. We therefore, earnestly appeal to all members and well-wishers to be generous enough to help us enhance the fund, so that we will be able to assist many more deserving students who need financial assistance to continue their studies and finally achieve their ambitions in life.

Please send your contribution whatever you can afford to Mr. A.M.M.Nissar, Hony. Treasurer, 164. Kolonnawa Road, Kolonnawa. Your contribution will be duly acknowledged by him.

DONATE FOR THIS WORTHY CAUSE. IT IS A MERITORIOUS DEED!

G.C. Wasalathanthri

July

OUR NEW MEMBERS

We warmly welcome the following members who have joined our Association recently.

226 - Mr. Raja Senanayake 227 - Mr. Chitral Perera

NEWS ABOUT OUR MEMBERS

We are pleased to inform you that one of our Committee Members Mr. Janaka Kaluhendiwela has been elected to the Executive Committee of Bloomfield Cricket & Athletic Club for the year 2016-2017. Whilst congratulating Janaka, we wish him every success in his new role.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS FOR THE YEAR

O5th June - Member's Get-together at Shalika Hall. Traditional Sinhala Avurudu Feast followed by Lunch

August - Medical Camp/Lunch (tentative)
 Sept./Oct. - Fund Raiser - A Musical Show (tentative)
 November - Sing-A-long Musical Evening (tentative)

- One Day Outing (tentative)

11th December - Annual General Meeting of the Association (Date & Venue to be confirmed)

BIRTHDAYS

Following members of our Association will celebrate their birthdays in the months of May and June. We wish all of them 'HAPPY BIRTHDAY' and Health, Wealth and Happiness!

MAY				JUNE	
Jasmine Arseculeratne	04th			Salinda Samarakoon	01st
Nihal Gunatilleke	11th			Hugh Samarasinghe	03rd
Vijitha Jayawardena	12th			Anil Samarasekera	03rd
D. Harsha Kumar	14th			M. Zubair Hassen	04th
Lalantha Herat	14th			Irene Indraratne	10th
Premalal de Silva	16th			Irangani Dhanapala	14th
Kalyana Dhirasekera	20th			Wincent Dabara	18th
Eric Hulangamuwa	24th	4)	1	Janaka Kaluhendiwela	19th
Anusha Wijegunaratne	27th			A.J. Pigera	19th
Dilip Wickremasinghe	29th			Priyath Salgado	25th
Sarath Liyanage	31st			W.W.A.R. Ravindra	28th
				Sanath Jayasuriya	30th

ආදි සිංගර් සමාජයේ සියථම දෙනාට ලැබුවාවූ සිංහල හින්දු අලුත් අවුරුද්ද වාසනාවන්න වේවා

ලාංකික ජනසමාජයේ උත්සව අතරින් සිංහල හින්දු අලූත් අවුරුද්දට ඇත්තේ පුධාන තැනක්. දුක් මහන්සිව හැදූ කුඹුරේ ගොයම් ටික කපා පාගා ගෙන වී අස්වැන්න ගෙට ගැනීමත් සමග උදාවන්නේ අලූත් අවුරුද්දයි. සිංගර් සමාගමේ සේවය කළ අපි හැමෝම බලාගෙන සිටියේ කවදා බෝනස් ලැබෙනවාද කියාය. බෝනස් ලැබෙන තෙක් ගෙදර කාන්තාව බලා ඉන්නේ නැත. එතෙක් ගෙදර තිබෙන සුලු මුදලින් ගෙදර වැඩ ටික සෙමෙන් සෙමෙන් කර ගනිති. ඇත අතීතයේ පටන්ම සිංහල හින්දු අලූත් අවුරුද්ද සඳහා නිවසේ කාන්තාවට ඇත්තේ විශාල වැඩ කොටසකි. ඇය නිවස පිරිසිදු කර දරුවන්ට ඇඳුම් පිළියෙල කර කැවුම් කොකිස් අතිරස ආස්මි මුංකැවුම් ඇතුථ රසකැවිලි පිළියෙල කරන්නේ ඉමහත් ආසාවෙනි. මෙම රසකැවිලි දින කිහිපයක සිටම සාදා ආරක්ෂා සහිතව අවුරුදු දිනය උදාවන තෙක් තබා ගැනීමට කටයුතු කරන්නිය.

වත්තේ සමාජයේ කැවුම් සෑදීම වෙනුවට වෙළඳපලෙන් කැවුම් කියා මොනවා හරි සල්ලිවලට ගැනීමට සහෙරු පූරුදු වී සිටිනි. එහිදී සමහර කාන්තාවෝ කැවුම් සෑදීමට දන්නේ නැත. නැතිනම් කම්මැලිකම නිසා හෙන්සි වීමට අකලෙති නිසාය. අනික් පැත්තෙන් බලනවිට වත්මන් සමාජයම ඉතා කාර්ය බහුලය. අතීතයේදී නිවසේ කෙසෙල් කැනක් ඉදවීමට පුරුදු වී සිටියද මේ වන විට කාබයිට් ගැසූ කෙසෙල් වලින් අවුරුදු මේසය සරසා ඇත. නිවසේ කැවුම් බැදෙන විට නිවස සිසාරා ගලා යන අවුරුදු සුවඳ මොනතරම් අගේද.

අවුරුදු වාරිතු විධිමත්ව සිදු නොවන තහවයක් උදාව ඇත. අවුරුද්දට මුල් තැනක් ලැබූන බුලත් අත අද කොල දහයට පහලොවට සීමාවී ඇත. දෙමාපියන්ටවත් බුලත් අතක් නොදෙන දරුවන් සිටින සමාජයක අනාගතය අතිභයංකරය. කොයි පැත්තනට තල්ලූ වී වීසිවෙයිද දන්නේ නැත. නාගරික සමාජයේ සමහර පිරිමින් නිවසට මුලින්ම ගෙන එන්නේ අරක්කු බෝතලය නම් තමන්ගේ දරුවන් දකින්නේ එයනම් වැඩිවියට පත්වනවිට ඔහු සිතන්නේ අවුරුද්දට මුලින්ම ගෙන ආ යුත්තේ අරක්කු බෝතලය කියාය. නිවසේ කැවුමක් බැදෙන්නේ නැතිනම් දියනිය හිතන්නේ කොහෙන්හරි කැවුම් ටිකක් ගෙනවින් අවුරුදු මේසයට තිබ්බාම හරි කියාය. කිරිබනක් උයන එක බොරු වැඩක් ඒ නිසා කඩෙන් හෝ අල්ලපු ගෙදරින් කලින්ම කිරිබන් ටිකක් ගෙනවාම හරි කියාය.

තමන්ගේ දහඩිය මහන්සියෙන් උපයා සපයා ගත් මුදලින් හා තිවසේ පිලියෙල කරගත් කැවුම් කිරිබත් ටික මේසයට එන විට ඇතිවන්නේ මොනතරම් සතුටක්ද. එයින් ටික ටික අනුහව කරනවිට ඇතිවන අවුරුදු සිරියාව කිසිවෙකුට සොරකම් කල නොහැකිය. කෙසේ වුවද තවමත් වල්මත් නොවූ ලාංකිකයින් සිටින සමාජයක අපට දැනගතහැකි සමහර දේවල් ඉතා අගේය. ඒ අතරින් සමහර නිවාසවලට අවුරුදු උදාවීමට දින කීපයක සිටම මස් මාලු ගෙන එන්නේ නැත. අවුරුදු කෑම මේසය නිර්මාංශ කර ඇත. අවම තරමින් එදිනටවත් මත්පැත් පාවිච්චි කරන්නේ නැත. එවැනි තත්වයක් ලාංකික ජනසමාජයේ ගොඩ නැගීමට හැකිවන්නේද අපේම උත්සාහයෙන්යෙ. ඒ සදහා අපි කැපවෙමු පුරුදු පුහුණු කරමු.

මංගල වේලාරත්ත

OBITUARY GOOD-BYE RANJAN

We are deeply grieved to announce the demise of our colleague Ranjan Dissanayake. During his tenure of service he was loved by the entire staff, He was a popular entertainer, and all office activities never missed his 'Baila' session.

We wish him Eternal Rest!

A PASSAGE THROUGH DAMBANA

කිමද සුමිහිරියේ මෙ අරුමේ - මහද පිබිදෙන්නේ ඔබගෙ දෑසේ නැගෙන කැල්මේ රහස නැත දන්නේ

Nelson Mendis, claiming that this was the only song he knew, sang in a deep resonant voice and Gamini de Silva took the mike next, when all SIC excursionists in the bus gave individual performances. It was the final lap of our 1988 excursion and we were returning from Mahiyangana. On the second day, the party toured Soraborawewa but a hang-over caused me to stay back, yet paved the way for the adventure designed for me as on most excursions. As I rested in the Pilgrims' Rest, I heard the unmistakable veddah lingo being spoken and rushing out, saw the rest hall keeper with two veddas, Gama Aththa and Rathanala Aththa, a grandson of veddah chief Tissahamy, squatted under the porch. On sudden impulse and seeing a window of an opportunity to meet the Adivasi all-time great, I tried to induce the veddas to take me to him and when met with flat refusal succeeded by bribing my way, however was warned of the long journey to Dambana and a tedious six mile walk through thick jungle to the chief's abode. An hour later, we got off the bus at the Dambana junction and began to trek in the sizzling heat along the narrow winding path through the eerie forest pierced now and then by the shrill unfamiliar sounds that only the jungles could produce.

Gama pointed to fresh elephant dung, evidence that the honda bataya from the Maduru Oya reserve had been there and said it is the hota bariya (bear) that veddas dread. Among the jungle inhabitants came across were red monkeys, talagoyas, a rabbit and a snake with an expanded hood in our path. After an interminable long minute during which the only movement was the flicking in and out of a quivering forked tongue, the snake closed its hood, lowered his head to the ground and turning, made off. After a wearisome walk, we reached a style at the adivasi border where Rathanala gave a loud halloo signaling our approach. Out of the jungle in open ground now were iluk thatched huts, the first which was Tissahamy's. I was so dog-tired that I flopped on the floor with outstretched legs and revived after gulping a can of water brought by one of the veddah children gathered around. Some elder veddas stood in their doorways watching while the kekuli peeped through openings of their huts. Tissahamy Aththo accompanied by his two wives arrived from his chena and stood before me. His thick silvery hair fell below his shoulders and his grey beard, to the middle of his chest. He wore a blue striped sarong tucked in at the waist. Although age had wrinkled his skin, his eyes gleamed brightly and he walked upright. Here was the great chief, the respected leader of the wanni aththo tribe of whom we had heard and read much and whom I had privilege to meet! The chief extended to me the tribal welcome and I presented him and the children the gifts I had brought. Tissahamy then disappeared into his hut to emerge with a bow about four feet in length and an arrow with a sharp metal head and a hawk-eagle feather tied to its end which he handed me.

Tissahamy's son Kalubandala Aththa pointing to a tree stump, challenged me to shoot at it. My mind raced to my boyhood when we played with ekel bows and arrows like vedda children in Martin Wickremasinghe's novel Madol Duwa but there was nothing to predict that the vedda chief's very weapon would be in my hands one day. I faced the target squarely, stretched my left hand in which I held the bow to its fullest, drew the end of the arrow as far back as possible took careful aim before releasing the arrow in the absolute stillness that reigned, watched by a dozen adults and children. On such occasions one is privileged to accomplish the seemingly impossible. Shooting at a range of 60 feet at a small black mark with a bow and arrow for the first time in my life, there did not appear to be one chance in a hundred that the shot would come off and yet the arrow cut through the air and hit the stump dead right in the centre. It had not been deflected by a hair's breadth and had gone true to its mark. I heard the exclamation of the gathered knot. I had scored a bull's eye. Tissahamy came up to me and placed his hands on my shoulders in admiration. His eyes seemed to say "excellent man, excellent'. It was the tribe's best archer Kalubandala's turn now. Taking quick aim in characteristic fashion he shot the arrow, but to everybody's dismay it got carried away by the wind.

I left the hamlet walking on air, taking a different route and came across a stream. Demonstrating the art of fishing, Gama sprinkled some crushed pusvel berries into the water which instantly turned inky-black. When it cleared, an intoxicated fish floated atop. A splash sound made me pivot on my heels to see Rathanala in the waters beckon to Gama who lost no time in plunging. Their loin cloths were on the bank.

Once again out of the jungle and in proximity to the main road now, was a well at which thankfully, I quenched my thirst. A young vedda woman who came with her son to fetch water surprised me by speaking in Sinhala. She had attended the village primary school and mentioned that her cousin Dambane Gunawardena had qualified to enter the Peradeniya University. Having bought them some food at the only boutique available, I boarded a bus and returned to the Rest to await the return of the others. Back at the factory, I displayed photographs of the trip on the notice board and was beseeched for copies of Tissahamy with his bow. Although it is 28 years since the event I can still picture my boss Gamini de Silva and Nelson Mendis singing to their hearts content.

සෙවනැල්ල වගේ ඔබ එන විලසේ මට දැනේ තිතර රහසේ මුදු තොල් පොපියා කිසිවක් නොකියා ඇයි යන්නේ පැන විගසේ

ඇසට පෙනෙන රූපය හා වෙනස

ඇසින් දකින්නේ රූපයයි රූපය තමන්ට පියමනාපනම් තමන් දකින රූපයට ආසයිනම් එය තමන්ට හිමිකර ගන්නට කැලැතිනම් සිදුවන්නේ තමා සතුකර ගන්නට උත්සහ ගන්නවා. එයින් පැහැදිලි වන්නේ තමන්ට දැක්ක රූපය කෙරෙහි ඇතිවූ තන්හාව ආසාව වෙනත් අයෙකුට නොවිය යුතු බවයි. වෙනත් අයෙක් ඒ රූපයට ආසාවක් ඇතිවුනානම් තමන්ට ඔහු සමග ඇතිවන්නේ තරහකි. ඊර්ෂෲවකි වෛරයකි තුෝධයකි එවැනි තත්වයක් ඇති වූ විට සිදුවන්නේ ගැටුමකි.

අදාල රූපය පිළිබඳව අපි හොඳින් යථාර්ථවාදීව බැලූවහොත් දකින්නේ කුමක්ද අපි හිතමු එම රූපය කොටස් වලට වෙන්කර වෙන්වූ කොටස් කෙරෙහි අපිට ආසාවක් ඇතිවෙයිද එහෙම කොටස්වලට විතරක් ආසාවක් ඇතිවන්නට පූථවන් කමක් නැහැ. අපි සියථම දෙනා මනුෂායෝ ඒ නිසා අපි හැමෝම එකිනෙකාට ඡූාදරය කරනවා පේම කරනවා ලෙන්ගතු වෙනවා. පිරිමි අය ස්තුීන්ටත් ස්තුීන් පූරුපයිත්ටත් ආදර කරනවා විවිධ වයස් වලදී මෙවැනි ආදර හැගීම් වැඩිදියුනු වෙනවා.

තරුන වයසේදී මේ ආදර සිතුවිලි වැඩිදියුනු වෙනවා එහෙන් උදාහරනයක් ගමු යම් තරුණයකු ලස්සන තරුනිකට ආදරය කරනවා හමුවෙනවා කතා කරනවා නොදැක ඉන්න බැරි වෙනවා කොටින්ම ඔහු කෙල්ලට පිස්සු වැටෙනවා ඇයි ඇයගේ ලස්සන රූපයට වශීවෙලා ඇගේ ඇගපතට වහවැටිලා කතාවට හින ඇදිලා එහෙන් ඇයගේ ශරීරයේ අතක් වෙන්වුවහොත් මුහුන අවලස්සන වුනොත්.

එම තරුනයා ඇයට ආදරය කරයිද එසේත් තැත්තම් ඒ තරුනිය හදිසියේ මිය යනවා ඇගේ මලකඳ හමුවන්නේ දවසකට පස්සේ නැතිනම් දෙකකට පස්සේ අර තරුතයා ඇයව වැලඳගතීද හොඳයි දවස් දෙක තුනකට පස්සේ මලකඳ හලු වෙනවා ඒ වන විට මලකඳ ඉදිමිලා සමහරවිට තරක්වෙලා තරුනයා වැලඳගතීද.

මේ නිසා අපි දකින රූපය මොන තරම් ලස්සන වූනත් එය සදාකාලික නැහැ වෙනස් වෙලා දිරාපත් වෙනවා දකින වෙලාවේ පවතින රූපය සදාකාලිකව එසේ පවතින්නේ නැහැ ඒ නිසා දකින රූපයට ආශාාවක් ඇතිකර ගැනීම මූලාවකි එය තමන් සතුකරගන්න උත්සාහ කිරීම නිශ්ඵලය තමන් සතුකර ගන්නට කරන යම් මේ දේ නිසා සිදුවන අවාසනාවන්ත සිදුවීම්වලින් පස්සේ තමන්ගේ හිතම්තුරත් නෑදෑයින් නැතිවත්නට පුථවනි.

තන්හාව නිසා දේශපාලන වශයෙන්ද සිදුවූ විනාශය අපගේ මේ සමාජයේදීම දැකගන්නට හැකිය. අන් සතු දේවල් බලයෙන් හෝ නොයෙක් නීතියට පිටිත් හෝ ලබාගැනීම ඉතාම පාපකාරීම කියාවක් බොරුව වංචාව හොරකම අන් අය තලාපෙලා දැමීම රැවටීම සඳහා බොරු කීම හා වෙනත් අය ලවා කියවීම වැනි දේ පාපයේම කොටසකි. මේවා මිනිසුන් අතර තැනිවත්නේ නැත. එහෙත් අපි අපේ ආගම දහමට අනුව මේවා ගැන හොඳ අවධානයෙන් මෙන්න අවබෝධයෙන්ම තමන්ගෙන්ම විමසා බැලීම පාපයෙන් මිදීමේ මාර්ගයකි තමන් මරණින් පසුව හොඳ උත්පත්තියක් ලැබීමට අපි ඇත්ත ඇති සැටියෙන්ම හා කසිවකුට හිංසාවක් පීඩාවක් කරදරයක් නොකරම ජීවත් වෙමු. ඔහු සැබෑම මනුපායෙකි ඔහුට හොඳ ආත්මයක් ඇත.

මංගල වේලාරත්ත

LOVING KINDNESS

Recently I heard over the radio an unbelievable story. It went on like this –

A couple who had a sweet three year old daughter was thrilled to have another baby boy on the way. However, he was born with serious sickness and was lying unconscious in a cot in the Intensive Care Unit. Doctor allowed only the mother to peep once in a way. The baby girl on hearing about the arrival of a tiny brother pestered her father to let her have a look at him.

After much persuasion he received doctor's 'Green Light' to let her in with him for a little while. Touching the baby's hand softly, the girl murmured "Hello my dear brother, I love you a lot. Please come home to play with me. I'll give you all my toys". The baby who was motionless all the time wriggled a bit and started to breathe heavily. The doctor who came in got puzzled and asked the girl what she did. Father explained how she spoke to the baby with a loving touch. When they were sent out of the room again the baby took his last breath.

This incident was quoted to show that loving kindness can do wonders! Through experience I know the truth of this. When I was seriously ill once, my near and dear relatives and friends rallied around me and cared for me so deeply that I regained my strength to fight back. If not for their love, it wouldn't have been possible.

So my message is 'Pour loving kindness to the sick' and make them feel wanted, whenever possible. It costs nothing but soothes the affected person. If we can extend this compassionate love to all in general, we will never come across gruesome stories that appear in the newspapers nowadays.

I also take this opportunity to express my appreciation of the Singer Employment Pattern which paved the way to create a cosmopolitan atmosphere leaving room to foster loving kindness, goodwill and harmony among the employees.

THE INEVITABLE

GROWING OLD STARTS AT BIRTH
DAYS TO MONTHS AND THEN TO YEARS
NO STOPPING ON THE WAY OR TURNING BACK

YOU CAN" T HOLD BACK THE DAWN
NOR THE DAY BEING FOLLOWED BY NIGHT
YOU CAN'T KEEP A ROSE FROM WITHERING
NOR A HUMAN BEING FROM AGEING
TIME CANNOT BE HALTED OR PAUSED
OLD AGE FOLLOWS YOUTH LIKE NIGHT AND DAY

AND WHEN YOU GET THE FINAL CALL
YOU JUST HAVE NO SAY, AND....THE
THEORY OF KARMA & VIPAKA COME INTO PLAY

AT EIGHTY FOUR, ONE IS PRIVILEGED TO REALIZE THAT PURSUIT OF FUN AND PLEASURE HAVE DISTANCED HIM/HER FROM THIS TRUTH.

HENCE THE RESOLVE TO CHANGE THE LIFE STYLE AND LIVE IN HARMONY WITH NATURE,

READY TO DEPART !!
THOUGH STILL 'YOUNG AT HEART' !!!

VIJITHA JAYAWARDENA



NEXT NEWS LETTER

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

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