



NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2014 2014

ASSOCIATION OF PAST EMPLOYEES OF SINGER

80, Nawam Mawatha, Colombo 2

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

We start this issue of the Newsletter quoting a well known idiom "If there is a will there is a way".

Our repeated requests to members for articles to be published in the Newsletter have finally paid dividends. 06 members have sent 10 articles to be published in the Newsletter which is indeed very encouraging. Due to the length of some articles, we may have to withhold some for the next issue, but that does not in any way mean that we have given them 'a step motherly' treatment.

We only hope this trend will continue and more members will find some time to share their past experiences at Singer with other members of the Association.

"If it is important to you, you will find a way, if not you'll find an excuse."
G.C. WASALATHANTHRI

Life in 1959

What I am about to relate may appear to be from the pages of a fairy tale, but this was the year 1959 and I was only 19 then. Today I am 75. Singer main office was at 83, Chatham Street in the former Ceylon Bakery premises. I lived in Hulftsdorf near the Supreme Court. It cost only 5 cents to travel from Technical College to Fort. On days to avoid coming late I hired a Morris Minor taxi which cost 90 cents to come to Fort. I paid Re.1/- (10 cents being tip).

Office opened at 8.00am and closed at 4.30pm with a lunch break from 12.00 noon to 1.00 pm, with 2 tea breaks, one at 10.00 am and the other at 3.00pm, each break being 15 minutes. For tea we cross Chatham Street to the Marketing Dept. tea shop across the road. Tea cost 10 cents a cup and two slices of buttered bread (cut diagonally) also cost 10 cents. 10 String Hoppers & dish of dhall cost 50 cents. A massive racket (commotion) and stampede takes place at both tea brake due to time constrain. M/s John M. Courtney and/or J.M. Rajaratnam in order to avoid this situation decided to supply tea only, on company account. Being used to have a bite with the tea caused displeasure. This was rectified when a bun was also given with the tea. This continued even today.

More to come, but enough for now. If readers are not bored, please let me know.

පැරණි වින ආපතෝපදේශයක්

- සංහිදියාවෙන් සිටීමට ඔබම මොහොතක් වෙන් කර ගන්න.
 - අනුවණ කමින් එහෙ මෙහෙ දූව පැන ගියේ කොහොමද යන්න ඔබට අවබෝධ වනු ඇත. නිහඬව සිටීමට ඉගෙන ගන්නග
 - ඔබ වැඩියෙන් කථා කර ඇති බව ඔබට තේරෙනු ඇතග කරුණාවන්ත වන්නග
 - අනුන් පිළිබඳව ඔබ බැස ගත් නිගමනයන් තද වැඩි බව ඔබට තේරුම් යනු ඇත
- ථේනුකා ගුණසේකරගෙන්

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- 'Sing-A-Long' Musical Evening - Saturday 15th November (FIXED)
- Annual General Meeting - Sunday 14th December (FIXED)

SINGER STENO-TYPISTS OF YESTERYEAR

Rani de Silva was the first Secretary to Mr. Hartley, General Manager. Subsequently she served six(6) G.Ms namely, Mr. J.M. Courtney, Mr. J.M. Rajaratnam, Mr. Paul C. Lewis, Mr. L. Namasivayam, Mr. V.P.A. Perera and Mr. Hemaka Amarasuriya (Chairman). She was the first lady I had ever seen smoking, and I got a shock when I first saw her smoking. She smoked cigarettes even in her bosses' presence. Whatever said and done she was very kind hearted.

Dulcie Podisekera (later Mrs. Maniam) did typing for all other Managers, and Mr. P. Subramaniam (known to all as Mr. Maniam) did Office Manager- Mr. Taylor's typing and latterly was appointed as Assistant Office Manager. At that stage several other stenographers joined the Company, and a Typists Pool was formed headed by Constance de Valliere, other members including Dulcie Maniam, Christine Keyt, Piyaseeli Peiris, Vijitha Jayawardena, Petite O'Hara, Shiroma Fernando (Peiris) and Judith Bastian (Vannitamby). With Connie de Valliere's resignation Dulcie became Head of the Pool. Hot tempered Christine (who often got angry with boss and walked out), and also Petite migrated to Australia almost at the same time..



Shiroma got married and left for London in 1980, Vijitha took up a Secretary post at S.I.C., and was later transferred back to S.S.L and was Secretary to Finance Director until her retirement in 1996. Judy found greener pastures. Piyaseeli died in 1983 and few years later Dulcie followed. Afterwards the typists pool consisted of younger stenographers like Indrani, Subadra, Gwendalin, Bavani and the rest.

Shiroma calls me from London once in a way and also wishes me on my birthday. I am in constant touch with Vijitha and communicate with her at least four days a week. We had been train friends (traveling from Moratuwa to Fort from 1961) before she joined Singer, and I am proud to say I was directly responsible for her joining Singer in early 1963.

I still remember how Farouk got excited when Jasmine's letter of appointment was misplaced at the dispatch desk, and got Mr. Taylor to send her a fresh one.

These sweet memories I will carry unto my death.

Sent by Mala Abeysuriya.

PRAGEETH RAMBUKWELLA – BEST UMPIRE S.L.C.

Ex-Singer employee and member of our Association PRAGEETH RAMBUKWELLA was chosen the Best Umpire Premier Panel 'A' of Sri Lanka Cricket at the DIALOG-S.L.C. AWARDS NIGHT held recently at Waters' Edge.

Prageeth joined Singer (Sri Lanka) in 1995 and was attached to the Inventory Control Department. He represented Singer 'A' Team at M.C.A. tournaments with distinction giving many a good performance behind as well as in front of the stumps.

He entered the Umpires fraternity in 2004, and distinguished himself by being promoted to the highest level, and so far, has officiated in one Test Match and five O.D.I.s. In 2010 he was chosen to represent Sri Lanka at the Umpires' Reciprocal Programme of I.C.C. between South Africa and Sri Lanka and officiated in a couple of First Class games in South Africa.



Prageeth learnt his basics in cricket under Nelson Mendis at Ratmalana School of Cricket in 1986, and later represented Nalanda College 1st XI during 1992-1995. He was also the Vice Captain of the College Team to Mahela Jayawardena in 1995.

Prageeth, a Graduate of University of Colombo, presently serves Union Bank of Colombo PLC as an Executive.

We wish Prageeth All the Best in his future endeavors

1. A SHORT ONE

Passenger in 1st Class, to a sexy gorgeous Air Hostess : What is your name ?

Hostess : Angela Benz, Sir !

Passenger : Lovely name, Any relation with Mercedes Benz ?

Hostess : "Yes Sir, Same price."

2. THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Peace comes not from the absence of conflict ! But from the ability to deal with it.....

3. TIME IS LIKE A RIVER You cannot touch the water twice, because the flow that has passed will never pass again. ENJOY LIFE NOW – IT HAS AN EXPIRY DATE !

4. ART OF LIVING

o Husband comes home from ART OF LIVING session. He greets his wife and lifts her and carries around the house with a smile.

o Wife is so surprised and asked "did Guruji preach something about being romantic today?"

o Husband said "no Guruji told us that "We must carry our burden & sorrows with a smile" !

Sent by Rohan Goonetilleke

සිංගර් ජීවිතයේ අතීතයෙන් බිඳක් - මාලා අබේසූරියගෙන්

' I'M FINE, THANK YOU'
(An Old Man's Glory – An Extract)

* වසර එක් දහස් නමස්සිය පනස්
විසි එක ජූනි මස අමතක නොවේ
සිංගර් ආයතනයේ රුකියාව
ලැබුණේ එදා හිටි සතුටු කියත්

අට
මට
මට
නට

හතර දෙනෙක් සුදු මහතා
Hartley, Schenkan, Webster සහ Smith
Smith මහතා කියූ බි. මට තේරුනේ
'B' දෙර බල්ලා තේරුම් කර

සිටියෝය
මහතාය
නැතිය
දුන්නාය

තව සුදු මහත්වරු ආවා පස
කලකදි නීතියක් ආවා මවුනට
ඒ සැම යද්දි අපි ගියා ගුවන් තොටු
Courtney මහතා යද්දි හැඩුනා අප

ඊට
යන්ට
පලට
සැමට

සුදු මහතා වුවන් හිටි කරුණා
මුහුණේ රුදි තිබුණේ පෙම් හස
මගේ සිතහවට සැම සිත් පිනා
'Voice of Sri Lanka' කියලා කතා

වන්නය
රුල්ලයි
ගියයි
කලයි

පලමු ඇමතුම ආවේ උඹුඵුර මහතා
වචන තේරුම් ගත්තේ මම හිටි
මගේ කට හඬ ඇසුන විගසින් හිටි
'Is that you Mala' කියලා ඇහුව

ගෙන්
අමාරුවෙන්
සතුටින්
මගෙන්

'Sweet sweet voice it is very
එලෙසට කිවා මහු මා හට දුර
මට ඇති වූ සතුට එවදන ඇසු
වචන නැතිය ලියනට මෙහි මගේ

ස්විටි'
කතනෙන්
සැතීන්
පැනෙන්

සුදු මහතා දුටුවේ සිංගර් එකෙදි
කතා කලේ ඒ අයටත් මෙහෙදි
වචන ශබ්ද කලේ එක එක
අමාරුවෙන් වූව මම තේරුම්

තමයි
තමයි
විධියටමයි
ගත්තයි

ගිය පසු සිටි ලකෙන් ඒ සැමදෙන
අමතක නොකර දුරකතනෙන් ඇමතුවා
'Voice of Sri Lanka' කියලා
අමතක නොකල අය දැන් පත්ව ඇත

මෙමට
මට
අමතන්ට
මරණයට

ඊට පසුව අපේ සිටිලක්
පින පැදුනා එන්න ලොකු තනතුරු
සිංගර් එකේ ලොකු පොඩි සැමදෙනා
සේවය කලා සැම සිත් තුටුවන

මහතන්ට
වලට
හට
ලෙසට

රුකියාවට එද්දි මට හිටියට
සේවය තවත්වන විට වයස හැට
සිංගර් සැම දෙනා මට හිටිම
දැනටත් මගේ දුක සැප ගැන

විස්සයි
දෙකයි
ආදරෙයි
විමසනවයි

කවි S.M.S. යවනව මම
පිලිතුරු එවනවා හිටි සතුටුයි
මැතිණිය පැමිණි දින මා සිටි
මරුවා පැමිණ සිටියට අනෙ මගේ

මැතිණියට
සිතට
රෝහලට
ලගට

එක ඉල්ලුම් පතයි එක ඉන්ට්විව්
සේවය කලේ එකම එක කාර්යාලය
සේවා කාලේ අවුරුදු හතලිස්ම
ඒ සේවය කලේ සිංගර් එකේ

එකයි
කයි
දෙකයි
පමණයි

මට ඇති ලෙඩේ ගැන මතලට
වූටිටක් ඉඩ දෙන්න මෙහි එය
Heart Attack/failure යකඩ නැහැ ලේ වල බැහැ
පෙර හවයකදි වද දෙන්නැති

කියන්නට
ලියන්නට
ඇවිදින්නට
සන්නන්ට

ආ දින මාරයා මා අරගෙන
මැතිණිය සමත් වුණි පලවා
සැකයක් නැත නැවත එයි මා ගෙන
යෙන් පැන් ඉසින්නකො මත මගේ

යන්ට
හරින්නට
යන්ට
දේහයට

සිංගර් යනට යෙහෙලියෝ මා
ආවා ගොඩක් මා හට ඇති
සදිකල බණ්ඩාරල ශ්‍රියානිල සුබදාල හිමානි මේ
මුදල් පිටිකරක් දුන්නා මා

බලන්නට
ආදරෙට
නිවාසෙට
සිහිවෙන්නට

මාලා අබේසූරිය
චාල්ස් රණසිංහ වැඩිහිටි නිවාසය
132 හයි ලෙවල් පාරල කොට්ටාව (0755441692)

1. There is nothing the matter with me
I'm as healthy as I can be.
I have arthritis in both my knees,
And when I talk, I talk with a wheeze.
My pulse is weak, and my blood is thin,
But I'm awfully well – for the shape I am in.

2. Arch-supports I have for my feet,
Or I wouldn't be able to be on the street.
Sleep is denied me, night after night,
My memory is failing, my head's in a spin,
But I'm wonderfully well – for the shape I'm in.

3. The moral is this – as my tale I unfold
That for you and for me, who are growing old.
It's better to say "I'm Fine" with a grin
Than to let people know the shape We are in !!

4. How do I know that my youth is all spent?
Well my "Get up and Go" has Got Up and Went
But I really don't mind, when I think with a grin
Of all the grand places, my "Get Up" has bin.

5. Old Age is golden, I've heard it said
But sometimes I wonder as I get into bed,
With my ears in a drawer, my teeth in a cup
My eyes on the table until I get up,
Ere sleep overtakes me, I say to myself
Is there anything else I could lay on the shelf ?

6. When I was young my slippers were red
I could kick my heels right over my head
When I was older my slippers were blue,
But still I could dance the whole night through !

7. Now I'm old and my slippers are black,
I walk to the store and I puff my way back
I get up each morning and dust my wits,
And pick up the paper and read the 'Obits'
If my name isn't there, I know I'm not dead,

So I have a good breakfast and go back to bed !!

Sent by Vijitha Jayawardena

NEW MEMBER

One new member has joined the Association
Mem.No. Name



211 Mr. V.G.K. Vidyaratne- Life Member

We hope to release the Next Newsletter in January 2015. Please therefore send in your contributions for publication to the following address before 20th December 2014.

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

E-mail: gwasalathanthri@gmail.com

SMILE!

When I was at Singer I used to smile with everybody, irrespective of all differences, with a genuine heart.

Smile can do wonders. A genuine smile at the correct time can make a vast difference in the life of a person, perhaps a smile can save a life.

You all may remember the glittering smile of our beloved 'Mala'. When she was at Singer, our reception was full of smiles, love and compassion. She managed to give a good first impression of the company to any customer who entered Singer, with her lovely smile.

Mala's smile was an amazing welcome to any customer at our reception. She smiled – always smiled amidst the ups and downs life brought her. So, why can't we ?? Smile – Smile and Smile – it doesn't cost you anything.

Sent by : Renuka Gunasekara

STEPHEN COVEY'S SEVEN HABITS OF HIGHLY EFFECTIVE PEOPLE

Habit 1. Be proactive

This is the ability to control one's environment rather than have it control you, as is so often the case. Self determination, choice and the power to decide response to stimulus, conditions and circumstances.

Habit 2. Begin with the end in mind

Covey calls this the habit of personal leadership – leading oneself that is, towards what you consider your aims. By developing the habit of concentrating on relevant activities you will build a platform to avoid distractions and become more productive and successful.

Habit 3. – Put first things first

Covey calls this the habit of personal management. This is about organizing and implementing activities in line with the aims established in habit 2. Covey says that habit 2 is the first, or mental creation; habit 3 is the second, or physical creation. (see section on time management).

Habit 4. Think win-win

Covey calls this the habit of interpersonal leadership, necessary because achievements are largely dependent on co-operative efforts with others. He says that win-win is based on the assumption that there is plenty for every one, and that success follows a co-operative approach more naturally than the confrontation of win-or-lose.

Habit 5. Seek first to understand and then to be understood

One of the great maxims of the great age. This is Covey's habit of communication, and it's extremely powerful. Covey helps to explain this in his simple analogy 'diagnose before you prescribe'. Simple and effective, and essential for developing and maintaining positive relationships in all aspects of life. (See the associated sections on 'Empathy, Transactional Analysis', and the Johari Window).

Habit 6. Synergize

Covey says this is the habit of creative co-operation – the principle that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts, which implicitly lays down the challenge to see the good and potential in the other person's contribution.

Habit 7. Sharpen the saw

This is the habit of self renewal, says Covey, and it necessarily surrounds all the other habits, enabling and encouraging them to happen and grow. Covey interprets the self into four parts: the spiritual, mental, physical and the social/emotional, which all need feeding and developing.

Stephen Covey's Seven Habits are a simple set of rules for life – inter-related and synergistic and yet each one powerful and worthy of adopting and following in its own right. For many people, reading Covey's work, or listening to him speak (now in recordings, videos etc.), literally changes their lives. Covey's thinking is powerful stuff indeed and highly recommended.

G.C. Wasalathanthri

BIRTHDAYS

We take this opportunity to wish 'Happy Birthday' to our friends who are celebrating their birthdays in the months of November and December. We request members who have not given us their birthdays (day & month), to send same to us for our records.



NOVEMBER

DECEMBER

Ranjith Liyanage	1st	W.L.D.S. Wijetunge	16th	W.M. Kumarasinghe	1st	Gunasekera Banda	14th
Ajith Aponso	4th	Jude M. Joseph	18th	Shiroma Peiris	2nd	Mano Chandraratne	17th
Indika Gunawardena	6th	D. Wijendra	19th	J. Sadique	3rd	Sunethra Vidanage	18th
Jayantha Samarakoon	9th	Tilak Galabada	22nd	Chandrika Mendis	3rd	Kaushalya Murugadasan	24th
Anton Nelson	10th	M.H.M. Nuhmaan	30th	Nadira Udugama	6th	W.A. Perera	27th
Rohan Goonetilleke	11th	Ranjith Udugoda	30th	K. Sivasubramaniam	9th	George Anthony	28th
				Muditha Wijekulatilake	10th	D. Aron Silva	29th
				Romesh de Silva	11th	Asiri Priyanga	31st