



# NEWS LETTER

July 2021

Issue No.46

**ASSOCIATION OF PAST EMPLOYEES OF SINGER**

112, Havelock Road, Colombo 5.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Dear Members,

The Special Memorial Newsletter dedicated to our former President the late Mr. Bertie Fernando was published and distributed to members in March 2021. We thank all the members who contributed Articles for the special issue paying glowing tributes to a sincere friend and a great leader. Copies of this special issue were handed over to Mrs. Fernando and the two children Nadee and Udana who expressed their deep appreciation for publishing a special Newsletter in memory of their beloved husband and father respectively.

We are now back to publishing the normal Newsletter exhibiting the literary capabilities of our members through their articles. I would once again earnestly request members to devote a few minutes of their valuable time to pen a few words for the reading pleasure of other members without leaving the responsibility to just a few members who contribute articles regularly.

Consequent upon the demise of Mr Fernando, the Executive Committee met on January 13th and unanimously elected the Senior Vice President Mr. Nelson Mendis as the Acting President for the year 2021 and Mr. Russell de la Motte as a Vice President. There was yet another change in the Executive Committee. Mr. Kumar Samarasinghe being unanimously elected to serve in the Committee upto the year end.

Even though we are keen to organize a few indoor as well as outdoor activities for the benefit of our members, the restrictions imposed on gatherings as a result of the Corona virus has been an impediment for all our activities. We are indeed very sorry that no social events had been held during the previous year and up to now this year due to the restrictions imposed by the Government to prevent the virus spreading.

Let us hope and pray that this Covid 19 monster will vanish from the country soon to enable all Sri Lankans to engage themselves in their day to day activities without any anxiety and fear.

Wasalathanthri

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE - 2021

Patron : Mr. Hemaka Amarasuriya  
Acting President: Mr. Nelson Mendis  
Vice President: Mr. Chitral Perera  
Acting Vice President: Mr. Russell De La Motte  
Secretary: Mrs. Judith Vannitamby  
Asst. Secretary: Mrs. Kaushaliya Murugadasan  
Treasurer: Mr. Nasser Majeed  
Asst. Treasurer: Mr. John Emmanuel

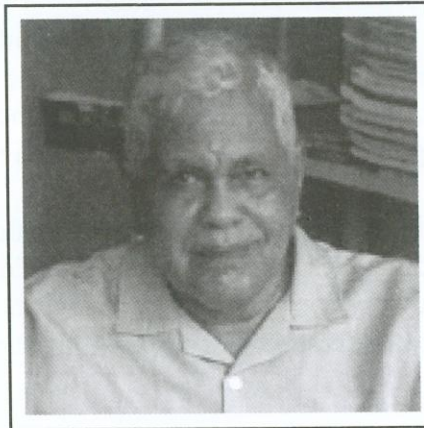
### Committee Members:

Mr. G.C. Wasalathanthri  
Mr. Zubair Hassan  
Mr. Lasantha Perera  
Ms. Kamalangani Perera  
Mr. Ruwan Kasturiaratchi  
Mr. Damith Jayasena  
Mr. Kumar Samarasinghe  
Hony. Auditor: Mr. Priyath Salgoda

## SUB-COMMITTEES - 2021

### Appointment of Sub-Committees

Social & Entertainment	- Mr. Russell De La Motte - Chairman
	- Ms. Kaushaliya Murugadasan
	- Mr. John Emmanuel
	- Mr. Lasantha Perera
	- Mr. Ruwan Kasturiarachchi
	- Mr. Kumar Samarasinghe
Scholarship Fund	- Ms. Kamalangani Perera
	- Mr. Zubair Hassan
Newsletter	- Mr. G.C. Wasalathanthri
	- Mrs. Judith Vannitamby
	- Mr. Zubair Hassan
Welfare	- Mr. Chitral Perera
	- Mr. Zubair Hassan
	- Mr. Damith Jayasena
Membership Drive	- Mr. Russell De La Motte
	- Mr. Damith Jayasena
	- Mr. Kumar Samarasinghe



**RANJIT DAVID**

### LITTLE KNOWN FACTS ABOUT LATE MR. RANJIT DAVID

Mr. Ranjit David passed away on 4th April, 2021 and his last rites were held the following day at the Jawatta Cemetery.

The news of his death brought me immense grief as I had known him for several decades since he joined Singer in 1968 and immediately came under my wing as a District Manager. He was very intelligent and a fast learner who performed his duties as District Manager exceptionally well. When I was promoted as Marketing Services Manager, I had no hesitation in recommending him to be promoted as an Area Manager and thus he was promoted and if I am correct, replaced me as Area Manager - West Area (subject to correction, if I am wrong). Even though Ranjit was promoted on my recommendation, he earned the position by hard work, dedication, loyalty and honesty.

Ranjit was a sincere friend and a perfect gentleman who greeted everyone with a smile. Even though I associated with him very closely, I was unaware of his capabilities as a sportsman until I read an article in the Sunday Times of 4th April, 2021 under the caption 'Versatile Sportsman Ranjit David is no more'. For the benefit of our members, I quote below a few paragraphs from this article:

Quote ": Versatile sportsman Angelo Joseph Ranjit David, passed away at the age of 78 weeks after celebrating his birthday which fell on March 10th. A former national cap in basketball, David was equally talented in cricket and football, though he was popular among all sports circuits for his immense contribution to all three sports.

" A former student of St. Michael's College, Ranjit David mastered his skills in basketball under strict upbringing and went on to captain his school in all three sports. Representing football and basketball teams of 1961 and 1962 he was adjudged the Best All round Sportsman in both years David later represented Eastern Province in all three sports and was instrumental in winning the senior national tournament in 1961, the only occasion Eastern Province won this title, Since 1963 he represented Sri Lanka in basketball alongside greats like Percy Perera and Cosmos Perera.

He joined Singer in 1968 and worked for seven years under the guidance of cricket enthusiast Hemaka Amarasuriya." Unquote

Ranjit was an active member of the Association of Past Employees of Singer and served in the Executive Committee from January 2016 to April 2021 rendering valuable service in organizing the sports events. Ranjit leaves behind his wife Louisa and his daughter Saundari and his son Rajiv. May his sole Rest in Peace'

Gamini Wasalathanthri

## OBITUARIES

October 2020	- Ananda Epa
November	- Additiya de Silva
	- KeerthiWeraniyagoda
December 2020	- Mr. Bertie Fernando – President, Association of Past Employees
February 2021	- P.Manawadu
April 2021	- Mr. Ranjith David
May 2021	- Mr. J.W. Dickman

### NEW MEMBERS

305	Mr. H.G Lalith
306	Ms. Vinal De Silva
307	Mr. Mahesh Mahavithana
308	Mr. ChandanaAmarasinghe
309	Mr. Roshan De Silva
310	Mr. Y.K. SarathLal
311	Mr. Raven Kulendra
312	Mr. R. Vijayakumar
313	Mr. Kumar Samarasinghe
314	Ms. Annemarie Geralyn Andree
315	Mr. KapilaBandara
316	Mr. J.T. Faleel
317	Mr. M.R.J. Bandara

In 1972/73 there was a smart gentleman who was controlling the Credit Division, Mr. Hema de Silva designated Asset & Distribution Manager. He was strict and used high language and we in the Typist Pool scared going to him for dictation. One day, it was my turn to go to him. He dictated a lengthy episode but I managed to take down every single word. In the midst of dictation he uttered "open courts" and later "close courts". (You may not know that in shorthand we take down the SOUND and not the SPELLING). Happy and content that I did not miss anything, I came back to my seat and started typing. Midway, I got stuck as I could not get at the proper meaning of what I had written down. I didn't dare go back to Mr. de Silva. (Here I must say that Judith and I had learnt Pitman's Shorthand while Mrs. Maniam and Shiroma used Gregg's Shorthand). So I called Judith and asked her whether she could help me to read what I had taken down. She too struggled for some time and ultimately said Mr. de Silva had meant "open inverted commas" and "close inverted commas". He had meant "QUOTES" and not "COURTS" which have identical sound. I was greatly relieved as I could complete my typing to Mr. de Silva's satisfaction.

I must add that we - all of us enjoyed our Pool Life and helped each other where necessary, shared jokes and even family matters when all of us were free. I still enjoy thinking of our GOOD OLD POOL DAYS (1965-1978)

**Vijitha Jayawardena**

## **Continuing..... THE CASE OF THE WOOD WORK FINISHING**

BY T.V. PERERA

Short necked Meema Kariyawasam who owned cows, buffaloes and paddy lands had a dry, wrinkled skin, being exposed continuously to the sun. Department Manager Thanikasalam who came into the section one morning enquired of Charge Hand Wijetunge as to whose pair of legs were protruding from under the work bench. Wijetunge awoke Kariyawasam who had worked a rare whole night and crept to snatch forty winks. Kariyawasam habitually took excessive days off work to attend to the tilling and harvesting activities of his paddy lands during the seasons and had to pay the penalty for same. Another senior workman with piercing eyes and a loud vile mouth Seemon, although poked himself into everything wanted and not, was a perfectionist in the craft of assembling cabinets. Along with Heen Banda, Seemon accepted the first VRS offer of Rs. 4000 in 1970 and both left to take to agriculture.

Lacquered drawers and bent covers were completed once fitted with knobs and locks by Wilfred Samarawickrema who during his schooling at Lumbini Maha Vidyalaya followed oriental dancing guru Heen Baba Dharmasena's classes and acquired the walking style of Sabaragamuwa dancers, swaying his arms across his body and walking on toes even during work hours. When a man in the land across the factory committed suicide by hanging himself from a breadfruit tree, Samarawickrema who visited the scene seemingly developed an instinctive feeling plus a mental sensation which he very enthusiastically demonstrated giving a vivid narration of the incident to individuals and groups of eager listeners, gesturing and motioning continuously with his fingers the round shape of breadfruit, which immediately earned him the nickname Del.

Following the country's economic revival in the mid 1970s the Finishing Section was allocated additional job operations when orders of cabinets to Male and Chittagong were executed. The export items were polished mirror-like using buffing compound, and one could see his image in them. Maila Ranasinghe known thus due to his bear-like hairy body and one time trade apprentice Lucian Murcott were assigned to perform the compounding jobs. The latter resigned subsequently to take up an executive appointment at the Pfaff Sewing Machine Company Ranjith Dharmakeerthi alias Attidiye Raja claimed to be an exponent of Cheena Adi. A notorious character, he had been involved in several gang fights and brawls in and around Attidiya and spent time in police cells. During the 1972 excursion, we billed for the night at the Polonnaruwa Pilgrims Rest and Dharmakeerthi proffered to demonstrate to me his art of defence and attack.

Hardly had he begun on the deserted side road when I alerted him of two police patrolmen in the distance. Subsequently, both of us calmly sat on the parapet wall that ran along the boundary of the Rest. It was a period when although the JVP insurgency was over, the police took into custody any suspicious character especially loitering youth. Dharmakeerthi bravely said that he will deal with the policemen and that we should not at any cost get off the wall. No sooner the policemen stopped in front of us, Attidiye Raja in a flash slid off the wall. The policemen authoritatively questioned us as to what the hell we were doing on the wall intimating that we could be taken into custody.

The polished and assembled cabinets were ultimately packed in wooden crates which gave way for the more economical cardboard cartons, by the slight stammering Shirley Wijeratne whose heavy eyelids giving him a sleepy look, was nicknamed Nidimathaya. Of the three Tamils in the section, Balasubramaniam worked his way to Germany, while Subramaniam and Selvaraja went home to Manipay and Chavakachcheri respectively, at the outbreak of the LTTE campaign.

Indeed the Wood Work Finishing Section continued to be an integral cog in the wheel of the factory's economy that was a demonstration of the resilience that the Singer Industries' engine of growth was renowned for. What it finally needed centred on the strength, stability and fair play of the engine's driver.

### WORDS OF WISDOM

When a bird is alive, it eats ants,  
 When bird dies, Ants eat it,  
 One tree can be made into a million matchsticks,  
 But one matchstick is required to burn millions of trees  
 Circumstances can change at any time,  
 Don't devalue or hurt anyone in this life,  
 You may be powerful today,  
 But time is more powerful than you

### MEMORIES OF THE GLORIOUS PAST THROUGH CAMERA LENSES (CONTINUED) MERCANTILE 'A' DIVISION TRIPLE CHAMPIONS HOCKEY IN 1986- LEAGUE, KNOCKOUT AND 7 A SIDE



Sitting (LefttoRight) Damith Jayasena, Ravi Hewathanthri, Mr.Hemaka Amarasuriya (Chairman) M. Mahesharatnam (Captain), Shyam Ramanathan (Secretary), M.S.M.Ifham, S.Thiyagarajah.

Standing (Left to Right) S.Krishnaratne,T.Mohanraj, Manjula Wijemanne,T. Pathmarajah, Indika Gunawardena and Ananda Silva

(In 1986,the team was the first foreign Sports Club to tour Singapore and Malaysia. Our Chairman Mr.Hemaka Amarasuriya is the key person who made arrangements for this tour by coordinating with Singer Malaysia and Ceylon Sports Club in Singapore)

## After the Thathagatha

The Bo-tree so shady its coolness spread  
The vehera with its sweet scent of flowers  
Clear path to nirvana we are able to see  
**After the Thathagatha our island did visit**  
With daham rays was Anurapura flooded  
When Devanampiyatis his arrows laid down  
Bloomed as flowers free thoughts and minds  
**After MihinduThero the dhamma did preach**  
Temples sprang up, buddhist thoughts protected  
Sprinkled wide as fresh water was compassion  
Moulded were people in cultured Aryan ways  
**After SangamithTherini the Bo sapling did bring**  
Driven away was the darkness of ignorance  
The hearts of thousands breathed in peace  
The voice of the dhamma spread in all directions  
**After the daladawa to Kandy did come**

T V Perera

### CRICKET QUIZ – ANSWERS AND RESULTS

Question; Who were the former WEST INDIES batting legends born within 18 months and within three miles of each other and delivered by the same Midwife

ANSWER;- Frank Worrell, Everton Weeks and Clyde Walcott

We received answers from two members namely ChitralPerera and Nelson Mendis. Chitral's answer was partly correct.

He had missed Everton Weeks, Nelson submitted an answer with all three names. Congratulations Nelson. It appears that apart from coaching kids to play cricket the correct way, you read a lot on cricket and cricketers, Editor

### CRICKET QUIZ - ANSWER IF YOU CAN

Who was the famous Australian Cricketer, a Fighter Pilot by profession, who played under Don Bradman? If you know the answer, please email to the editor. The answer will appear in the next issue with the names of the members who submitted the correct answer.

### MONEY

How interesting.....I never thought Money has different names!

In temples or church, it's called \*donation\*

In schools, it's \*fee\*

In marriage, it's called \*dowry\*

In divorce \*alimony\*

When you owe someone, it's \*debt\*

When you pay the government, it's \*tax\*

In court, it's \*fines\*

Civil servant retirees, it's \*pension\*

Employer to workers, it's \*salary\*

Master to subordinates, it's \*wages\*

To children, it's \*allowance\*

When you borrow from bank, it's \*loan\*

When you offer after a good service, it's \*tips\*

To kidnappers, it's \*ransom\*

Illegally received in the name of service, it's \*bribe\*

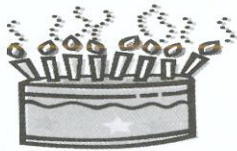
The question is, "when a husband gives to his wife, what do we call it?"

ANSWER - Money given to your wife is called DUTY, and every man has to do his duty because wives are not \*DUTY FREE\*

Ranjit David

(Note: The above Article was received by me for publishing in the Newsletter on 1st April 2021. Ranjith passed away three days later.)

**BIRTHDAYS**



Following members will be celebrating their birthdays in June, July, August. We wish them 'Happy Birthday' and a bright future. Trust we have not missed anyone.

JULY		AUGUST	01/08	SEPTEMBER	
Mr. Abeyssekera A.I.	01/07	Mr. Farouk Khalid M.	01/08	Mr. Ariyasena E.D.	01/09
Mr. Fernando Vipula	02/07	Mr. Nandāsiri D.J.	04/08	Mr. Vidyaratne Vidya	02/09
Mr. Jinadasa M.A.D.	06/07	Mr. Rajapakse Upul	07/08	Mr. Vanniasinkam T.	06/09
Ms. Anoma Padmini Ariyaratne	06/07	Mr. T.G. Sajindra Perera	08/08	Mr P.G. Lalith	06/09
Mr. Amarasekera Mahendra	09/07	Mr. Mahesh Mahavithana	09/08	Mr. Rajapakse S.C.	07/09
Mr. Ghouse M.H.M.	11/07	Mr. P.A. Dissanayake	09/08	Mr. Fernando Chrishan M.	09/09
Ms. Gunaratne Mala	11/07	Mr. R.D.S. Somachandra	11/08	Mr. Kithsiri Fernando	09/09
Ms. Gunasekera Renuka	11/07	Mr. Abeyratne Ruan	11/08	Mr. Fernando Ranjith	17/09
Mr. Majeed A. Nasser	11/07	Ms. Sagarika Varuni	11/08	Mr. Perera J.A.L.	17/09
Mr. Perera Chitral	12/07	Mr. U.S. Dissanayake	13/08	Mr. Mapatuna Viraj	17/09
Mr. N. Wasantha Konara	14/07	Ms. Fernando Vimercia	13/08	Mr. Nishantha K.L.D.N.	19/09
Mr. Gunasekera J.A.C.	16/08	Ms. David Gwendalin	17/08	Mr. Wijesena N.H.A.D.	19/09
Mr. Mendis Gemunu (Canada)	17/07	Mr. Prakash Murali ( Aus)	18/08	Mr. R.D.N. Kamal Kumara	21/09
Ms. Rajasuriya Himani	19/07	Mr. Y.K. Sarath Lal	21/08	Mr. Emmanuel John	22/09
Mr. Nissar A.M.M.	20/07	Mr. De S. Wijeratne Suren	21/08	Mr. Seneviratne Dehan	22/09
Mr. Nizar M.I.M.	22/07	Mr. Ananda Weerasuriya	22/08	Mr. Oscar Dias Amaratunga	22/09
Mr. Sekeram Mano	24/07	Ms. Chintha Wickramasinghe	23/09	Mr. G.P. Katugampala	23/09
Mr. Dissanayake Srinath	25/07	Mr. Katugampala G.P.	24/08	Ms. Silva Lilian	28/09
Mr. Gunaratne Senarath	27/07	Mr. Hettiarachchi George	25/08		
Mr. Paranavithane Ajith	28/07	Mr. Wasalathanthri			
Ms. Palihawadana Nilanthi	29/07	G.C 2854745H	28/08		
Mr. N.K. Jayaratna	31/07	Mr. Bandara K.V.M.S.S.	28/08		
	31/07	Ms. Gunawardena Chandrani.	28/08		
		Mr. S.M.P. Indu Upashantha	30/08		
		Ms. Nisanka I. de Silva			

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## Next Newsletter

We propose to publish the next Newsletter in October 2021 subject to availability of sufficient articles to fill in at least 6 x A4 pages. Therefore, please send your articles for publication NOT LATER THAN 20th September 2021 to the following:

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

Email: [gwasalathanthri@gmail.com](mailto:gwasalathanthri@gmail.com)