



NEWSLETTER

ASSOCIATION OF PAST EMPLOYEES OF SINGER

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

From the Editor's Desk

Issue No.8

November 2004

Dear Members,

Mr. Hemaka Amarasuriya

It is with great pleasure that we give pride of place in this Newsletter to announce the appointment of Mr. Hemaka Amarasuriya, our Patron and Chairman of the Singer Group of Companies in Sri Lanka, as Vice President of Singer NV, the parent Company of Singer Worldwide. While continuing to be Chairman, Singer (Sri Lanka) Limited and its subsidiaries, he will be responsible for key activities in Singer Asia and Jamaica. He will also continue to be a member of the five-member Singer NV Management Committee.

In his new position, Mr. Amarasuriya will assume responsibility for career development, management succession and training for all of Asia and Jamaica. He is also the head of Singer World Business Council which is responsible for implementing Singer's global operational policy.

As we all are aware, Mr. Amarasuriya richly deserves this appointment due to his determination, perseverance and commitment to make Singer a household name in Sri Lanka and his exceptional contribution made towards the progress and prosperity of Singer (Sri Lanka) and its subsidiaries.

Whilst offering our heartiest congratulations to Mr. Hemaka Amarasuriya, we wish him

every success in his future endeavours here as well as abroad.

MR. AMARASURIYA, WE ARE PROUD OF YOU!

This is the final issue for the current year. The Newsletter and Publicity Committee is satisfied that the objectives of publishing a Newsletter have been realized at least to a certain extent. The success of this Newsletter depends solely upon your active participation by making lively and interesting contributions. We are pleased that since of late, members have begun to reflect back on their life at Singer and transfer their unforgettable memories to paper. This new trend is really very encouraging and should spur many more to send us their contributions for publication.

We no doubt feel confident that with your unreserved co-operation, we could put out a better and colourful Newsletter in 2005.

Forthcoming Event

The Annual General Meeting will be held on 12th December 2004 at the SEA VIEW HOTEL, 15, Sea View Avenue, Colpetty, commencing at 11 a.m. Members are kindly requested to keep the date free and be present at the venue on time.

BENEVOLENT FUND

The Benevolent Fund launched to raise funds to help needy members stands now at Rs.336,066.75 as at 8.10.04 having helped two members who were very sick and were in need of financial assistance for Drugs and Laboratory Tests.

MEMBERSHIP

As at end September, the membership has risen by one to bring the total up to 133 with Mr. Jackie Gunasekera joining the Association. We welcome Mr. Gunasekera and look forward to his support and co-operation.

A POSTHUMOUS TRIBUTE

*THOUGH VERY SHORT
YOU WERE SMART
PLAYED A GREAT PART
AT SINGERS IN THE PAST*

*YOU ARE NO MORE
THAT WE ALL KNOW
BUT I'D LIKE TO SHOW
HOW MY SYMPATHIES FLOW*

*SORRY I MISSED YOUR FINAL CALL
TO BID GOOD-BYE TO ALL
MAY YOU ATTAIN THE SUPREME GOAL
WITH NO SUFFERING AT ALL!*

In Memory of the Late MR. MANIAM
By **PUSHPA FONSEKA**
(**NEE WIJEPALA**)
(17-8-2004)

Health Watch.....



How much Sleep do we need ?

The amount of sleep each person needs depends on many factors, including age.

Infants generally require about 16 hours a day, while teenagers need about 9 hours on average. For most adults, 7 to 8 hours a night appears to be the best amount of sleep, although some people may need as few as 5 hours or as many as 10 hours of sleep each day.

Women in the first 3 months of pregnancy often need several more hours of sleep than usual. The amount of sleep a person needs also increases if he or she has been deprived of sleep in previous days., Getting too little sleep creates a "sleep debt," which is much like being overdrawn at a bank. Eventually, your body will demand that the debt be repaid.

We don't seem to adapt to getting less sleep than we need; while we may get used to a sleep-depriving schedule, our judgment, reaction time, and other functions are still impaired.

.....Courtesy: National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke.

**"The great thing
about a computer
notebook is
that no matter
how much you stuff
into it,
it doesn't get bigger
or heavier**

-Bill Gates



WIT & HUMOUR!

Men & Marriage.....

"My wife's an angel!" Second guy:
"You're lucky, mine's still alive,"

How do most men define marriage?
An expensive way to get laundry done for free

Just think, if it weren't for marriage, men would go through life thinking they had no faults at all.

A little boy asked his father,
"Daddy, how much does it cost to get married?" and he replied "I don't know son, I'm, still paying!"

Grin & Bear it.....

This is a story about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody, and Nobody. There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Anybody could have done it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did that Anybody could have.

.....Unknown

New rules for employment!?!,,,,,

"BREAVEMENT LEAVE: This is no excuse for missing work. There is nothing you can do for dead friends, relatives or co-workers. Every effort should be made to have non-employees attend to the arrangements. In rare cases, where employee involvement is necessary, the funeral should be scheduled in the late afternoon. We will be glad to allow you to work through your lunch hour and subsequently leave one hour early, provided your share of the work is done enough.

YOUR OWN DEATH: This will be accepted as an excuse. However, we require at least two weeks notice as it is your duty to train your own replacement."

.....Countesy: Jokes.com

In a train compartment, there were a few Americans and an Indian. At the next station there entered a grumpy old lady with a female dog. She was nagging the bitch and it was howling all the time. The bloke next to her could not bear it any longer. He suddenly cought the bitch and threw it out of the window. The Indian who was watching the incident had this to say. "You Americans always do the wrong things. While on the highway, you drive on the wrong side of the road and in this very compartment you have thrown the wrong bitch out of the window.

By: T.H. Lantra

A Story – Subject – "Imagination"

Imagination could be one of joy and one of sorrow. A man may imagine that he has won a lottery and what joyous thoughts of being at the top of the world. But if one imagines the worst, it would be a tragedy as the story goes.

John and Sunil were the best of friends at school. John was so pious that he opted to be a priest, so he joined a Seminary and later ordained a Priest. Sunil the rebel by instinct joined the underworld and took to crime. Brother John came to know of this and sent word to Sunil to meet him at the Church. One day Sunil came to the church to meet the priest who was happy to see his old friend. Brother John wasted no time to admonish Sunil and tell him to lead a decent life and denounce violence and crime. Sunil had a cynical smile on his face, thanked his friend and left the church saying goodbye.

Two weeks later, Brother John was told that Sunil has been shot dead by the Police while trying to escape in a Bank robbery. Brother John was very sad and made up his mind to go to the cemetery, As he knelt down by the grave and prayed for his departed soul, it was a windy evening and unfortunately his robe got stuck to a twig. When he opened his eyes, it was almost dark and when he was about to go he felt a sharp tug from behind. He imagined the worst and with a sudden rush of blood to the brain Brother John dropped dead.

By: T.H . Lantra

THESE ARE REAL.....

YOU MAY HAVE HEARD THESE
BEFORE - BUT DO YOU REMEMBER
THESE FAMOUS PEOPLE

A singer VIP from New York was on an important visit to Singer Sri Lanka and during a conducted tour of the MGT office this American gentleman noticed an unfamiliar sight.

The Asset Department working in full strength was glowing with fair young damsels. Rather amused the visitor wanted to know the reason for this beautiful sight. Pat came the answer from our "Management Wizard" "It's a new concept". The Management decided womanizing the Asset Department.

At the airport waiting to receive an important visitor from headquarters were two of our "Senior Managers" Rather a long wait and no signs of this schedule flight. Getting impatient as usual the smart one asks, "what is the matter?" "Not a Plane" in sight, says the other Noticing an Air Craft on the Tarmac "well what's that?" "That's a plane?" OH That "That is the mail plane", says the junior. OH, so you even know how to recognize the sex of a plane.

The home of the white expat from ole blighty was burgled and the custodian of finance and controls rushed to the scene. Ticking the inventory the smart one suggests "Let's inform the Police" Yes, says the white expat and they both get into his VW and drive towards the Cinnamon Garden Police Station. Suddenly the moving car spurts, coughs and comes to a halt. "Boy what a mess" he says, "Please open the bonnet, I think the engine is missing". So the smart one moves in front of the VW and opens the Boot. He yells, "you are damn right - they have robbed your engine also"

A former GM of Singer (Had the looks of SIR LEN HUTTON a famous English Cricket captain) passed away whilst enjoying a short vacation in Trincomalee. The funeral took place on the immediate Sunday afternoon and the staff reporting to work on Monday morning was in for a sudden shock. The only expat available at that time was big made Dutch National who spoke English with a strong continental accent. Making the tragic announcement in a short speech he ended up saying "OK now it is all over" Walked up very boldly and occupied the GM's chair.

The tragic Saturday Night was a night to remember for the young Filipino Engineer who was posted in Sri Lanka to spearhead the Singer Industries project. He escaped death when his VW crashed into a "Police Traffic Beat" placed in the center of Green Path/Flower Road - Cross Roads. The car driven by him was a company car given for his official use.

Having had a close shave the previous night the young Filipino was present at the Sunday afternoon funeral and rode with me to Kanatte. Passing the wrecked car parked on the roadside he was shivering in his Boots still in a state of shock very worried of what was to follow.

Lucky Guy - with the sudden change at the Top he was once again saved by the skin of his teeth.

The cool cultured clever gentleman is no more.

The big Burley Dutchman who had just taken over the power of authority in his place and in his moment of glory the matter was handled with ease. "Don't worry my boy, this is no big matter" "I'll just write it off" said the big man now as the Big Boss

Life and living can be stranger than fiction. It can also be great fun when you know how Do not dream of expectation What you may receive will be better than a dream.

SANDY'S SUCCESS AT SINGER

This guy is a person who has developed in his career on his own steam very successfully. A living example of enthusiasm and grit.

I believe most of us know him very well. So let's call him "Sandy", may have joined the company in his infancy.

This guy has no enemies and everybody liked this energetic young man who was ever ready to assist anyone at anytime. This busy body was very often seen moving around the management office very freely. The A.O.M. at that time didn't approve his habit and was looking for an opportunity to pull him up.

Yes! The chance came one day when Sandy was rushing up and down the staircase carrying a piece of newsprint. Of course, the A.O.M. identified the paper in Sandy's hand and summoned him to his cubical straight away. Shelled Sandy well and truly, "So this is all what you do the whole day, running up and down chasing horses." Sandy stood motionless "What have you got

to say? You know that gambling is a crime and it can lead you to all sorts of trouble." Sandy replied, "Sir, I don't gamble, I'm a sportsman." "What kind of an excuse is that?" asked the A.O.M. Sandy continued, "Please trust me sir, this is only a game and often considered as a Royal sport. Because this game is played by kings, dukes and other Royals." "So where do you belong?" yelled A.O.M. "I know what you mean sir, I'm not a Royal. As I told you it's only a game and all can't play this, but I'm only trying." The A.O.M. was speechless, but smiled, as he couldn't laugh. "Yes! Sandy you are very smart you can try, maybe you'll win. Right now you have."

Contributed by: Thurstan Balasuriya