

NEWS LETTER 2001



Edirimanne Corea Family Union

From The Editor

Dear Family Members,

It gives me great pleasure and an overwhelming sense of happiness to introduce our very first issue of the EDIRIMANNE COREA FAMILY UNION - ANNUAL NEWS LETTER.

The objective of this News Letter is to share news of 'OUR PEOPLE' - THE COREA FAMILY- their talents and achievements and activities participated in by the Union for the current year.

The calendar year 2001 commenced with the Annual General Meeting convened for the election of office bearers. This meeting was held on 20th January 2001, at Horton Lodge, Colombo, the residence of our Vice Patron, Dr. Gamani Corea.

Of special significance during the year was the visit to 'Sigiriya' - Chilaw and the family outing to 'Ambalama' in Hanwella. Incidentally, it will interest our readers to know that Mahatma Gandhi was once a revered guest at 'Sigiriya'.

The Pre-Christmas sale which took place at the Girl Guides Headquarters on 24th November brought in much needed funds for our Union. The final and probably the best event for the year - the 'COREA NITE' - Dinner Dance, was held on 30th November at the Harbour Room of the Grand Oriental Hotel in Colombo.

Special thanks must go to all our enthusiastic committee members who sent in interesting articles and forwarded photographs. We depend on your contributions towards the success of this News Letter. So keep those articles on 'Corea Family anecdotes' rolling in.

Till next time

Christabelle Aturupane
Christabelle Aturupane

FOUNDER OF THE EDIRIMANNE COREA FAMILY UNION



Don Henri Richard Attygalle Corea or Henri Corea as he was more popularly known, was the only son of James Alfred Corea and Eugenie Corea. James Alfred Corea, who owned Potuwille and Mugunuwatwane, two coconut plantations, was Mohandiram of Madampe in 1899. Eugenie was a daughter of Dr. John Attygalle, the first Colonial Surgeon of Ceylon. They resided at 'Corea Court' in Madampe. Henri had but one sibling, his elder sister Amybelle.

Educated at Royal College, it was no doubt the influence of his uncle Mr. Theodore. P. Attygalle, the first Sinhala Deputy Inspector General of Police and his brother Henry Attygalle, also a police officer that prompted him to enlist as a Sub Inspector of Police. Henri lost his father when he was just four years old, but came under the steadying influence of his godfather Sir Solomon Dias Bandaranaike and his father's cousin and close friend Victor Corea, as he grew up.

Sir Solomon was a witness at the wedding, when Henri married Claire Maude, the daughter of Gate Mudliyar Gerald De Alwis and his wife, Alice. Claire was Head Girl of Ladies College Colombo and it is said that Henri had spotted her on the balcony of her father's house and was instantly smitten.

Henri remembered with affection, his godfather, Sir Solomon, who gifted him with the first of many horses he owned. A

keen horseman, he was the live wire, founder member and secretary of the Colombo Horse Club, started under the patronage of his cousin, Sir John Kotlawela. Paper-chases on horseback, rides along the beach, lunch at Kandawela and riding back in the moonlight, was the order of the day, on any week-end, in those carefree mid 1950's. With the police mounted division joining in, the numbers participating, ranged from 25-35 at any given time. Henri and Gerald Leembruggen established the Colombo City Traffic Division in the early 1950's. Henri started the 'Traffic Circus', using it as a tool, to teach the public road safety. This was a popular event with school children and adults alike. Much later, as an Assistant Superintendent of Police in charge of 'Traffic and Information', Henri wrote a daily column on traffic for the 'Observer', titled, 'We are telling you'.

During this period, Henri was selected, to escort dignitaries and royalty visiting the Island. He earned the sobriquet of 'Dear Henri' when King Mahendra of Nepal shot a stag, in the Wilpattu sanctuary. Being 'Buddha Jayanti' year, this incident became a national issue that threatened the stability of Mr. S.W.R.D. Bandaranaike's government. There is no doubt that it was his regard for Sir Solomon that prompted him to help the government of the day, tide over that embarrassment. Taking the rap, Henri was transferred to Kurunegala, where he faced the riots of 1958, handling Wariyapola, Nikeweratiya, Maho and Ambanpola. In 1959 he was transferred to Kandy as ASP. After a short stint in Colombo he returned to Kurunegala. It was here that he threatened to horsewhip (on a matter of principle) the Government Agent. Transferred overnight to Jaffna, he demanded an inquiry, was exonerated and transferred to Ratnapura. Unfortunately, with this episode, he was labeled as disloyal to the government of Mrs. Bandaranaike, a stigma he was to carry for the rest of his service. Henri was retired, shortly thereafter by the government. But, fighting back, he took his case before the Public Service Commission. Reinstated, he rose to the rank of Senior Superintendent of Police and then opted to a premature retirement, when Mrs. Bandaranaike's government was returned to power in 1970. Henri's niece, Mrs. Silva Obeyesekera, was then a Minister, in Mrs. Bandaranaike's government. Henri never sought political patronage to foster his career.

Henri served a short spell at Lake House as its Security Manager. With his lifelong friend Edward (Bugs) Mason, he promoted the 'Old Cocks Rally', cycle, hackery, pony and Ridge-backs. In retirement he devoted his time to history and research, especially that pertaining to the Corea family. Henri was associated with the Archeological Department, in an attempt to identify the burial site of Prince Vijaya. He contributed a series of historical romances to the 'Sunday Observer', writing under the pen name of 'Aeroc'.

Through the turbulent periods, it was Claire by his side and his faith in God that gave Henri the strength to face all adversities that came his way. Henri practiced his commitment to Christ in true spirit, with tolerance and respect for all religions. In 1960, hospitalized for almost nine months, undergoing a series of operations, he would be wheeled into the theatre holding a small crucifix. Henri was a teetotaler, who abhorred gambling. Henri and Claire ensured the their six children, Ilona, Randunna, Deva, Uttum, Ranmali and Aruni attended Sunday school and service. A study of the Bible in his later years mellowed him. Writing to his grandchildren, he said, 'Go before the lord in prayer each morning asking forgiveness, for any wrong done unwittingly'. Henri's credo in life was, to be of assistance to whoever, whenever the opportunity arose. Seeing a need to unite the family, Henri forged what is today, the 'Edirimanne Corea Family Union'. He passed away on the 8th of January 1998. Accorded a ceremonial police funeral, the many people from all walks of life who attended, were a tribute to his memory.

From The President ...



A year has gone by since I assumed office as President, having had the joy of motivating and re-activating the Edirimanne Corea Family Union which had been passive and dormant for a long time. In response to the confidence reposed in me, I pledged to forge a programme that would create affinity, harmony, friendship and fellowship and called for your cooperation. I am grateful to God that He has granted the emergence of the former and the latter.

We began the year with a visit to Chilaw which, a generation ago, was home to most of the family. A Service of Thanksgiving for our loved ones who have died in Christ was held at St. James' Church, followed by a visit to Sigiriya (residence of Uncle Esme and Auntie Swarna) and lunch at the Rest House where we saw the warmth of fellowship spread and grow. Not to be outdone by that memorable day, was the next activity where all the 'family' spent a whole day out at the 'Ambalama' at Hanwella, enjoying all the fun and frolic of games, a sumptuous lunch and singing. Moreover, relationships were spontaneously restored and many new friendships ignited, allowing the objectives of the Union to be realized. The ECFU Pre-Christmas Sale was successfully conducted as a fund raiser at the Girl Guides Headquarters, Colombo 7. In fulfillment of the promise held out during my address at the Annual General Meeting, the 'Corea Family Nite' was held at the Harbour Room of the Grand Oriental Hotel with its ambience and the presence of 200 people combining to make an elegant and splendid picture. An international buffet, music for dancing, competitions and prizes that included a return air ticket, provided all the excitement of a resplendently beautiful evening together.

The Corea Youth Fellowship, which I was blessed to be able to inaugurate within the Edirimanne Corea Family Union, provided an action packed demonstration of participation with a floor show and the singing of carols by candlelight. I was very encouraged by the many telephone calls (and I want to say 'thank you' to those who took the trouble to pick up the telephone) telling me how very much they appreciated and enjoyed the 'Family Nite'.

Well, the year is now over and I am thankful to every member of the Executive Committee for devotedly pooling their resources and throwing in their weight to carry the Union forward. I am particularly grateful to Nirmali Jayasekera, Dukshie Goonetilleke and Lilani Dharmaratne for lending their organizational skills.

I am deeply appreciative of the substantial and creative input provided by our dynamic Secretary, Sri Sangabo Corea and the dedication and commitment with which our Treasurer, Shanti Perera has served throughout.

In conclusion, whilst being proud of our lineage, heritage and ancestry, let us also remember that it is not so much who we were but who we ought to be, as we live lives tempered by love and ordered by God.

Vijaya

OFFICE BEARERS - 2001	
Patron	Mr. Chas A. Ernest Corea
Vice Patrons	Dr. Gamani Corea Mr. Harold Herat
President	Dr. Vijaya Corea
Vice Presidents	Prof. Randunna Corea Mrs. Surangani Ameresekere
Secretary	Mr. Sri Sangabo Corea
Treasurer	Mr. Shanti Perera
Assistant Secretary	Mrs. Lilani Dharmaratne
Assistant Treasurer	Mr. Harinlal Aturupane
Mrs. Christabelle Aturupane Mr. Deva Corea Mr. Gerald De Alwis Mrs. Ernestine De Silva Mrs. Dukshie Goonetilleke	Mrs. Shiranee Gunawardana Mrs. Nirmali Jayasekera Dr. Priya Samarasinghe Mrs. Manoranee Silva Mrs. Suveni Weerasekera

DOMINICUS COREA COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE SINHALESE FORCES AND KING OF KOTTE & SITAVAKA

The Corea Family trace their descent from Edirilla Bandara who was converted to Catholicism by the Portugese and given the name Dominicus Corea.

Dominicus received a Christian education in Colombo, in the company of Prince Konappu Bandara, who later became King Vimaladharmasuriya of Kandy. Trained, moreover from boyhood to warlike pursuits, Dominicus was skilled in arms, and was dreaded as being one of the most expert swordsmen of his day.

Of the Sinhalese "mudaliyars of renown, bred in war" in the service of Don Juan Dharmapala of Kotte, there was scarcely anyone more distinguished for valour, and certainly none more remarkable for good looks and a fine presence, than the youthful Dominicus Corea.

Entranced by the beauty of one of the ladies of King Rajasinha's harem, the young Dominicus left Colombo and practically deserted to Sitavaka, to take service under King Rajasinha so as to be near the object of his affections. He found himself in serious trouble when he indiscreetly acquainted the King with the particular nature of his aspirations which brought him to Sitavaka. As the "lady in the

case" was a special favorite of the King, Rajasinha was aroused to furious anger and gave instant orders to one of his servants to kill Corea, and the latter fled the Capital. Almost by a miracle as it were, Corea escaped death. Despite the profuse loss of blood from a terrible wound in his neck, he dragged himself to the hut of a woman who lived hard by who proved to be as good as any skilled vedarala. In a few days time her ministrations of medicinal herbs proved efficacious enough to permit him to get back to Colombo. This incident gave him a nickname Mal Degolado (the "ill-beheaded") which stuck to him for life.

This experience sobered Corea as nothing else could have done, and from that day he was a greatly changed man. He made his submission to Dharmapala, whom he undertook to serve loyally and courageously thenceforth. Right well did he fulfill his promise, at least throughout the stirring times that followed immediately upon the death of the dreaded Rajasinha of Sitavaka. In the brisk fighting that ensued till that Kingdom was reduced to subjection and annexed to the territories of the King of Kotte, Corea established for himself a great military reputation. He was always selected by

Dharmapala and his Portugese allies to lead the most difficult and most hazardous of military enterprises. According to de Queyroz the great Portugese historian "Dominicus Corea accomplished so many and such arduous enterprises, which are not specified on account of the number, with extraordinary success". Not the least of these notable enterprises was the swiftness and completeness of his subjugation of Denavaka, a district extensive in area, difficult of access, and peopled by hardy fighting men. Swiftness to move, as well as to strike, was the keynote of his military methods and in the enterprise upon which he had just started, he spared neither himself nor his men. Because he deserved this honour, he was elevated to the dignity of Vikramasinha or Commander-in-Chief of the Sinhalese forces. He was a special favorite of the Portugese General de Azavedo.

But Corea was at heart a rebel. General de Azavedo was prostrated with grief when Corea raised the standard of revolt against Dharmapala. Corea fled to the Court of his friend Vimaladharmasuriya, King of Kandy. Vimaladharmasuriya was too shrewd a man not to realise that the security of his own Kingdom depended in great measure upon the

continuance in health and power, of a man of the capacity of Dominicus Corea to fight the hated Portugese. He sought to honour him to the fullest extent possible and with due ceremonial and formality, gave Corea the Kingdoms of Kotte and Sitavaka. More than that he accorded him the precedence of a King and gave him a Royal Princess of the Court, the daughter of the sub-King Vidiya Bandara in marriage. The marriage was solemnised with all the stately ritual and circumstance, pomp and pageantry prescribed for the nuptials of Sinhalese royalty. Vimaladharmasuriya held a magnificent reception at the palace.

A fortnight later, Corea was busy making preparations to renew the fight with the Portugese. He successfully led the forces of Vimaladharmasuriya against the army led by the Portugese General Don Jeronimo de Azavedo. Subsequently, he was captured in battle and quartered as a rebel by Azavedo. He was executed on July 14, 1596, in the thirty-first year of his age.

Source EDIRILLA BANDARA (Domingos Corea) by John M. Senaveratna



C.E. VICTOR S. COREA FEARLESS FIGHTER FOR THE POOR AND OPPRESSED

Charles Edward Victor Seneviratne Corea was the youngest son of Charles Edward Seneviratne Corea and Henrietta. C.E. Victor S. Corea, educated at S. Thomas' College rose to eminence as an Advocate of the Supreme Court and made his entry into politics, inspired by his eldest brother, Charles Edgar Corea, who later became the President of the Ceylon National Congress. Victor Corea, pioneered the Ceylon Labour Movement and became the first President of the Ceylon Labour Union with A.E. Goonesinghe as his Secretary. Described as a fighter with steel guts, seeking independence for his country, he spearheaded the Young Lanka League as its President, always displaying an indomitable will and valour which were traits of his ancestors. Unlike some of the elite of the day who were bending over backwards in professions of loyalty to the British, the Young Lanka League had one aim-Swaraj.

As a politician, he challenged the mite of the British government by opposing the iniquitous Poll Tax in 1921, was arrested and put into jail. Being a man of reckoning he was offered the choice of the European diet or native diet. Being a patriot, he chose the native diet, but the food was so badly prepared that he starved during his first 42 hours in jail. He declined the offers of special diet, special clothes and other privileges and chose to be treated like all other prisoners. He donned a coarse prison garb and spent his month in jail, beating coconut husks, twisting coir rope and breaking metal. He lived on the diet of plain bread just as the other prisoners did. He spent sleepless nights unable to put up with the hard bug infested planks with no pillow. Victor Corea's determined stand to abolish the Poll Tax for his people had no parallel in this country or elsewhere in the world, creating such a sensation and winning both love and admiration from the common masses. Hundreds and thousands of people from all parts of the country flocked to see this spectacle... a man of wealth and an advocate of the supreme court, relentlessly fighting the cause of his people and breaking metal on the road under the heat of the scorching sun. The British government realising that Victor Corea was gaining popularity as a national hero found him to be a serious threat and decided to release him from jail and abolish the Poll Tax. A Crown Proctor of Chilaw referring to Victor Corea said "Memory will fade away, records of history will perish, but upon the simple lips and hearts of a grateful people the name of their liberator will glow, writ large in letters of gold".

After he abolished the Poll Tax, his popularity was so great that he could have contested any seat in the Ceylon Legislative Council and won it with a comfortable majority. At the zenith of his popularity as the Champion of the Common Man

he chose to contest a formidable opponent who was also his relative, E.W. Jayewardene (President J.R. Jayewardene's father) in the Colombo North seat and won by a comfortable majority. Soon after the results were announced his supporters in one voice repeatedly kept shouting "Corea jaya wuna, Jayewardene cora wuna"

During the Sinhala-Muslim riots of 1915, Victor Corea fought shoulder to shoulder with other national leaders for the release of the fighters in the Temperance Movement. He vehemently fought for the reform of the Constitution in order that Ceylon could free herself from arbitrary, autocratic and imperial rule and bondage. He presided over a meeting held at the Tower Hall in 1924 where all the leaders of the Sinhalese, Tamil and Muslim communities met together and pledged to be united in a nation building effort. At this meeting he was hailed as a great national hero and the embodiment of racial, religious and communal unity.

Victor Corea and his brother, C.E. Corea protected the muslims in the Chilaw area from the wrath of the embittered Sinhalese. The Corea brothers were responsible for completely exonerating the people of Chilaw from paying damages which was a penalty imposed on all citizens of Ceylon. They both championed the cause of national unity.

Although a Christian, Victor Corea initiated the construction of 2 Buddhist temples in Chilaw which cemented a strong bond of friendship between the 2 religious faiths. He was by tradition closely associated with the Munneswaram Temple and handled all its legal matters.

Dissatisfied with the newspapers, Victor Corea started his own printing press at Sinhapura and published the Sinhala journal, Lanka Tharuna Handa in order to inculcate a feeling of nationalism and a distaste for what was alien and foreign as was done by Mahatma Gandhi in India.

In the political arena, wherever a rift occurred between the North and South, Victor Corea never permitted that rift to widen into a gulf. Many a time he crossed Elephant Pass and stretched his hand of friendship to the Tamil leaders and the rift became a bedrock of goodwill at all times.

Victor Corea was proud to be a Sinhalese. His patriotism and his impatience to free his countrymen from the bondage of the British imperialists knew no bounds. At every turn he warned the British that their days in Ceylon were numbered. Every action of his was pro-Sinhala. He named his residence 'Sinhapura' and his letterheads carried his crest in gold print of a lion resting its head on its forepaws, rays of the sun in the background and the challenging caption 'Wake not the sleeping Lion King'.

It was Victor Corea who rose against the orders

sent out to the Diyawadana Nilame by the Government Agent, Kandy a Britisher, to stop forthwith the beating of Hewisi in the Dalada Maligawa because it was a nuisance to his wife. Victor Corea rose on this occasion to display the courage and guts he was well known to possess by asking the GA to remove his wife to any place he liked and that the Hewisi in the Maligawa must continue in accordance with tradition.

If the Diyawadana Nilame was not prepared to continue the beating of Hewisi, he vowed that he would come to the Maligawa and beat the Hewisi, himself. Since Victor Corea, by that time was known to be a man of action who would live up to his word, the GA withdrew his order, fearing there would be unrest in the country. The beating of Hewisi has continued ever since.

Victor Corea was a brilliant speaker who inspired people to be national minded. The Times of Ceylon carried the following article - "The Tower Hall in Maradana was the scene of an electrifying drama. The occasion was a political meeting. It was the climax of a day of national mourning in remembrance of the declaration of Martial Law on June 4, 1915. As this story unfolds, the speaker on the platform is Mr. C.E. Victor S. Corea.

June 4, 1915 was a Sunday and the thousands who packed the Tower Hall and its environs exploded in an orgasm of applause. The Tower Hall was packed to utmost capacity. On the verandahs outside a tightly wedged mass of humanity surged to and fro, a large number remaining on the street outside.

Such was the magnetic attraction of Mr. C.E. Victor S. Corea that the police party present was led by the acting Inspector General of Police himself.

Before a bench of 2 judges comprised of Mr. A.S. Ponnambalam, District Judge and Magistrate, Mr. S. Chelliah and a large gathering of lawyers and members of the public, Mr. C.A.L. Corea, Crown Proctor, Chilaw, addressing Court said they were meeting that morning to pay their homage and tribute to the memory of the oldest lawyer of the Bar not only of Chilaw but the whole island.

"Mr. Victor Corea was an elder statesman. Educated at S. Thomas' College, one of the premier institutes of the island, Mr. Corea rose to courts and in the rooms of the councils of state. He knew no fear, no trepidation. If it is true that cowards die many times before their death but the valiant tastes of death but once, Mr. Corea was that man of valour. He stood up to his opponent, he stood up to the Judge when occasion demanded. Every man is placed upon this planet with a divine purpose. Every gesture, every utterance shapes human destiny more often in a Court of Justice than anywhere else in the world. Mr. Corea fulfilled that purpose, that destiny in abundant measure. His loins were always girded and his lights burning but the sparks of that light have flickered out. Yet the glow will gleam with greater lustre."

The District Judge of Chilaw, Mr. A. S. Ponnambalam in paying a tribute to the late Victor Corea said "Even during his lifetime his name and fame had become legendary. It has been said that his name is enshrined in our legal literature. In a sense it is so. He was essentially a relentless and clean fighter who will always be remembered."

In Parliament at the time of Victor Corea's death, Hon. M. Balasundera (FP-Kopay) said - he remembered the late Mr. Corea working on the roads in protest against the Poll Tax. Since that time he had known of Mr. Corea as being greatly interested in the youth of this country and his sincerity of purpose had put him in the forefront of that band of national leaders whose efforts had been crowned with the attainment of independence by this country. Unlike the pseudo-nationalists of today, the late Mr. Corea was one who fought for the people of the country as a whole; he had no distinction between one community and another. "Let us" he said, "take to heart the lesson and inspiration of his life".

Taken from a Tribute to the late C.E. Victor S. Corea by Siriman Gunaratna, Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs and published in the Island of 6 May 1984.

Dr J. A. E. Corea

Dr James Alfred Ernest Corea was the son of Charles Edgar Corea & Henrietta Corea and brother of C. E. Corea & C.E. Victor S. Corea.

Being of a much milder disposition, Dr. Corea never displayed the forward and aggressive qualities of his brothers. He was a good man greatly respected and emulated by those who had the good fortune to know him. During the 'parangi' scourge in this country he offered to go into the 'parangi' infected areas to treat those afflicted with the disease. As a medical man practicing in Chilaw and its suburbs, after giving up his short stint in Government service as a Medical Officer, he endeared himself to all that sought his services. Nobody knocking at his door, day or night, went away disappointed. His service was voluntary and to the most part, free.

For a past time he took to painting both in oil and water-colour. A little known fact about him was that he came first in Art when he sat for the Commonwealth Cambridge Junior Examination. His masterpiece one might say, was his copy done in oils of the famous Hoffman's painting 'The Light of the World'.

Dr Corea was a Christian of a firm faith. In keeping with his Christian ideals he, together with Dr A. S. Goonewardene of Panadura (Father of the late Leslie Goonewardene) founded the National Missionary Society, an organisation that had for its primary concern, the offering of financial assistance to the needy.

Dr Corea died in the year 1939.

CHARLES EDGAR COREA



England in 1899 to present his case against the Waste Lands Ordinance and returned to the country with substantial concessions to the peasantry after his interview with the Secretary of State.

The people had the opportunity of showing their appreciation of C.E. Corea's long and valuable services to the nation when he was elected without a contest to represent the North Western Province in the Legislative Council of 1921. As President of the Ceylon National Congress in 1924 and 1925, he led a delegation from the Congress Executive Committee to Jaffna in an endeavour to heal the Sinhala Tamil split on the question of reserving a seat for the Tamils in Colombo. It was a mission quite in character with his lifelong role as an uncompromising opponent of communalism.

He had the rare distinction of being elected the President of the Jaffna Association and was the only Sinhalese who had been asked to be the President of the Association.

He fought relentlessly for his people and the British bureaucracy wilted under his elegant verbal thrusts. Even Sir Hugh Clifford was rattled by the force of his stinging diatribes and once tried to silence him and his brother Victor, by referring to them as "the core of rot".

C.E. Corea was always kindly and courteous and his monumental learning did not spoil his inherent gentleness. In public life integrity was a characteristic and this he had as a hallmark. He earned for himself a sobriquet - "The Hampden of Ceylon" - which he deserved because of his unceasing championship of the people.

He was an artist, architect, historian and even theologian. He was one of the first readers of the Greek New Testament to show the unwarranted nature of Dr. Moffat's translation of St. Mathew where he renders a passage in Modernistic style. Although without intensive training as an architect or a painter, he was able to design his own, and cousin's houses, in traditional Sinhala patterns.

He was a master of the English language as Principle Woodward of Richmond and Warden Stone of S. Thomas' both recognized, and perhaps this was one of the reasons which catapulted him to fame in the political field. As a patriot he was bold and fearless and never lacked the courage of his convictions.

A MEMORABLE DAY AT AMBALAMA

After a sumptuous buffet lunch an invaluable book of historic value titled *Conquesta Temporal e Espiritual De Ceicao* (Temporal and Spiritual Conquest of Ceylon) by Fernao d' Queyroz, gifted by Fred Medis was brought under the hammer in an American Auction with Sri Sangabo Corea playing the role of auctioneer. The book fetched over four thousand rupees with a Raffle adding more to swell the funds of the ECFU. Prizes were all donated by Members of the ECFU. This was followed by a Quiz programme. The proceeds of a Raffle Draw organizes by Nirmali Jayasekera for the non-stick cook ware set donated by Shiranee Gunawardana was won by Lilani Dharmaratne.

The next item to follow was a grand Sing-Song with Viran Corea and Ravi Corea taking turns on the guitar whilst Christabelle Aturupane provided the accompaniment on the piano accordion. It is common knowledge that Coreas are blessed with numerous talents. Music is one such talent. This was proved beyond all doubt when the sing-song started with everyone singing their hearts out with the Coreas occupying centre stage - Live in Concert !! Talent Unlimited featured Vijaya, Ranjini, Viran and Sashika Corea, Suranganie and Henry Ameresekere, Nirmali and Alick Jayasekera, Manoranee and Dulanjaya Silva, Shanti and Dil Perera, Priya and Jenny Samarasinghe, Dukshie Goonetilleke, Christabelle, Harinlal and Namal Aturupane.

SPECIAL NEWS

CHILAW TO HONOUR VICTOR COREA

The Secretary of the Urban Council, Chilaw has by letter dated 13. 11. 2001 addressed to Sri Sangabo Corea annexed the extracts of minutes of the Urban Council's meeting held on 29.10.2001 at which a Memorial for the late C.E. Victor S. Corea was formally approved. The site set aside for the memorial is at the entrance to the Sports Stadium along the Colombo Road.

The memorial will take the form of a statue erected against the backdrop of Victor Corea's fight against the poll tax and being imprisoned for revolting against the might of the British Government in the year 1912. The sequence of events will be depicted on the backdrop explaining the facts in story form, with appropriate landscape to go with the statue and the backdrop. The memorial which is intended to be a landmark in Chilaw will have some features that Sangabo took note of when he visited John F. Kennedy's grave in Arlington Cemetery, inexpensive and tastefully done to create visual impact.

The ECFU will have to rely on a fund raiser through its membership and the public to raise the funds for the memorial. One of the leading architects in the country will be designing the memorial, waiving off professional charges as his contribution to honour a national hero whose protest compelled the British Government to abolish the poll tax and relieve the burden of people in this country paying the government a poll tax.

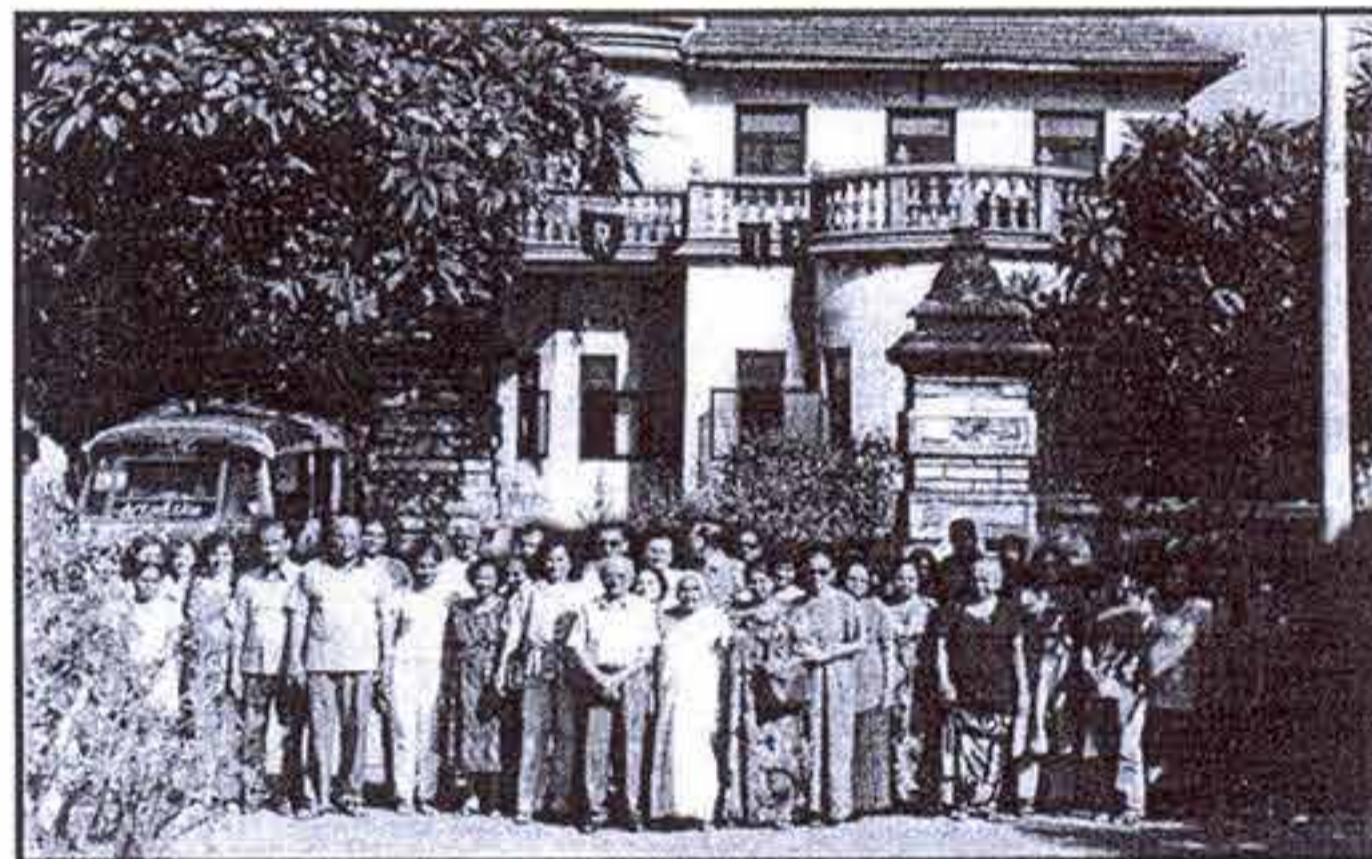
Vijaya and Sangabo are jointly handling this project. Any assistance in whatever form will be greatly appreciated.

DR. GAMANI COREA - CHAIRMAN, SOUTH CENTRE BOARD

We are privileged to announce the appointment of Dr. Gamani Corea as Chairman of the South Centre. Former Secretary General of UNCTAD, Dr. Corea was unanimously elected to head the South Centre which is an Inter-Governmental body of developing countries currently comprising 46 member states.

We are proud of our kinsman whose fame and glory has exceeded the boundaries of his home country and spread far and wide in the International sphere.

Visit to 'Sigiriya' in Chilaw



The first of the Union's outings for the year 2001 was a trip to 'Sigiriya' with a full load of its membership comfortably seated in a 45 seater air-conditioned bus which took off at 7.45 in the morning heading at top speed on a non-stop journey to Chilaw - famous for Coreas, Crabs and Coconuts ! At 'Sigiriya' there were another 23 who had already arrived in their own cars, making a grand total of 68, all poised for action !

'Sigiriya', the stately home of the late Esme Corea, retired District Judge and Swarna was built by Esme's parents, Jimmy and Agnes Corea where the great Mahatma Gandhi was once entertained when he met some of the stalwarts including Charles Edgar Corea and his brother Charles Edward Victor Seneviratne Corea who were playing a lead role in the country's fight for independence. They also happened to be the brothers of Agnes who was playing the role of hostess to a distinguished gathering of invitees.

Soon after the bus took off, there was breakfast on wheels with a variety of snacks and drinks. With stomachs 'fulfilled' the sing-song started with everyone exercising their vocal cords !

The bus reached 'Sigiriya' at 9.45 on the dot and on entering the portal of 'Sigiriya' were served with a welcome drink, arranged by Randunna Corea. After the bus and car loads were taken on a conducted tour of the house which stood in all its splendour - with its unique architecture, marble floors, engraved wooden staircase and its balustrade balconies running round the entire upper storey, everyone marvelled at the rare features of a fitting edifice of that glorious past that was dominated by the Coreas !

Before the next stop, which was St. James' Church it was decided to drive down Puttalam Road to show the younger generation where Victor Corea, Ashley Corea, C.E. Corea, Dr. Ernest Corea and Jimmy Corea lived

bringing back nostalgic memories to Sangabo, Christabelle, Nirmali, Manoranee and Suranganie who spent the best years of their youth living in this locality ! Some were obviously moved because they even wanted to alight from the bus and take a walk on familiar ground and tread on the green grass of home !

The Service of Thanksgiving for the lives of Esme and Swarna and all the departed members of the Corea family was conducted with the parish priest assisted by Dr Vijaya Corea. Harold and Gwen Herat and Kumari Corea attended the service joined by Damayanthi, Shiranee, Chandrani and their families living in Chilaw.

The busload then proceeded, followed by the convoy of cars to the Chilaw Cemetery for prayers and the lighting of candles. With this completed, the bus went on its next lap to the Chilaw Rest House for fellowship and lunch. The fellowship kicked off with a representative from each of the tables relating a funny story and vying for a prize in the Jokes Contest. It certainly was hilarious and the whole Rest House reverberated with the laughter. This was followed by a Quiz Competition revolving round the history of the Coreas dating back to Dominicus Corea, General of the Sinhala Army, who was crowned King of Kotte and Sitawaka. The fellowship programme concluded with every single person having to stand up and introduce himself or herself and saying whos's who he or she was !

Next on the agenda was the tasty buffet lunch with 'special prawns' added to the menu through the kind courtesy of Randunna. Dukshie, Suranganie and Nirmali provided home made butter cake and biscuits with tea arranged by Kumari and Lilani. Prizes for the competitions were donated by Nirmali Jayasekera, Suranganie Ameresekere, Dukshie Goonetilleke and Flora Corea.

But all good things must come to an end, and so it did after evening tea when all tramped into the bus waiting to take them back home with happy memories of a highly enjoyable day !!



13th July it was and what was so special about it was that the Coreas were all set to spend a power-packed day in a place called Ambalama in Hanwella. An air-conditioned 45 seater luxury bus took off at 7.45 in the morning with its full complement of ECFU members heading straight for Ambalama, with the day's proceedings arranged by Nirmali and Alick Jayasekera.

The programme started with a mini softball Royal-Omanian cricket encounter played on the turf wicket at Ambalama. The ball by ball commentary was provided by the Secretary of the ECFU, Sri Sangabo Corea with expert comments from Henry Ameresekere, a one-time cricketer of repute who bowled out Suranganie, hook, line and sinker in the good ole days. The third umpire was Alick Jayasekera who like in court imposed his will ! The long Thoman side had Sanjeeva Corea, Viran Corea, Ravi Corea, Shehan Nelson, Chrishantha Apattu who steam rolled their way to win the match.

A special feature of the programme was a talk on the life of Dominicus Corea delivered by Fred Medis, a special invitee. It was indeed fortuitous that the meeting place was at Hanwella, the very place where Dominicus Corea led the Sinhalese Army to battle, fought relentlessly and crushed the Portuguese Army to a humiliating defeat.



THE GRAND PRE-CHRISTMAS SALE



The Sri Lanka Girl Guides Headquarters came alive on 24th November when all the Coreas, their families and friends got together to give Dukshie Goonetilleke all the support in her fund raising effort for the Edirimanne Corea Family Union by organizing a Pre-Christmas Sale.

Coreas, young and old, took charge of tables at a fee of Rs. 500 each to display their goods and sell them at bargain prices. There was a variety of merchandise - men's and women's readymades, books, costume jewellery, fertilizer, potted plants, ornamental pots, bales of fabric, fruits and flowers all adding to the excitement, the like of which the Girl Guides Headquarters has never seen before. To top it all, there were Christmas decorations and even Christmas cake going at rock bottom prices!

Suranganie Amerasekera charmed her customers to buying all her sweets in double quick time. Even people suffering from acute Diabetes threw caution to the winds, unable to resist the temptation of fulfilling their desires! Before she could bat an eyelid everything she had for sale was gone!! Chrishantha, Atapattu was selling oranges and apples which he claimed were specially flown down from Slave Island whilst his ever loving wife Fiona was selling herbal shampoos at introductory prices. Her selling point was that any woman whose skin came in contact with her herbal products would be transformed to a Catherine Zeta Jones! The Bold and the Not So Beautiful went for her products with a vengeance! Suvani Weerasekera was running a mini casino with her Lucky Dip. Her's was the only stall where there were winners happily walking away with prizes!

Lilani Dharmaratne was using third degree methods, obviously well trained by the hubby to get rid of the stuff, ably supported by her uncle Sri Sangabo Corea a Unilever trained exponent who can even sell a fridge to an Eskimo!!

Sanjeeva Corea, Viran Corea and Sashika were bulldozing their way into selling womens wear to men and mens wear to women ... a reverse selling technique which accelerated their offtake! Rupa de Silva was selling ornamental pots which enjoyed a slow offtake whilst Ernestine de Silva at the adjoining table was resorting to high pressure selling in order to finish off her handicrafts and household products! Manel Tammita was at a strategic point from where she could spot the lean and hungry look on peoples' faces and take a snap decision in palming off her lumprais packets. Nirmali Jayasekera was seen selling eco-products ranging from fertilizer to homegrown mangoes with husband Alick almost threatening to sue anybody who did not respond favourably to Nirmali's call!

Priya Samarasinghe was seen pacing the floor praying that his Designer Wear flown down from the UK will catch the eye of the fashion conscious. Many wished him well saying 'Carry on Doctor'! Whilst all this was going on ECFU's President and the First Lady were doing their rounds and encouraging the stall holders to adopt a hard sell approach to sell, and swell the Union's funds!!

All in all the Pre-Christmas Sale was a huge success with the Coreas once again displaying their hidden talents!!

The loveliest night of the year ...

The curtain came down on our calendar of events for the year 2001 with the Corea Nite Dinner Dance held in the Harbour Room of the Grand Oriental Hotel. The turnout was unexpectedly high so much so that the Harbour Room was almost bursting at its seams with Coreas, young and old doing their bit to make it the loveliest night of the year!

Almost every Corea and his wife and all those who could claim ancestry to this distinguished family were there, all set to make it a memorable night. The programme kicked off with the President of the Edirimanne Corea Family Union Dr Vijaya Corea extending a warm welcome to the members and their guests.

No sooner the DJ turned on the music the floor was packed with Coreas, young, old and not so old, letting themselves go to the rhythm that filled the Harbour Room. Adding 'clout' to the programme were the incomparable father and son, Vijaya and Viran taking over the mic to do their bit in grand style! With the music hotting up and the dance floor packed to full capacity, there were couples dancing outside the dance floor wherever there was space available.

The Spot Dance was the first of the competitions. Beer on the house kept everybody's spirits high. The selection of Corea Queen came next. Sashika Corea, daughter of Vijaya and Ranjini clinched the crown and the title - Corea Queen 2001. Unique, it was with mother and father sashing, crowning and making the presentations to Sashika. The first runner-up was Akila Amarasekera, daughter of Ranmali and Anil Amarasekera and the second runner-up, Tania Ekanayake, daughter of Indira and Asoka Ekanayake.

A sumptuous International Buffet which included a hopper stall and a Mongolian barbecue were laid out to everybody's delight. After dinner, came the floor show by members of the Corea Youth Fellowship - Chrishantha & Fiona Atapattu and Dilkushi Wickremasinghe & partner. It was the highlight of the evening where the performers displayed their talents in a spectacular fashions.

The Entrance Ticket Draw and the Raffle Draw followed with prizes galore and so many walking away with valuable prizes including an air ticket to Maldives.

Next came the Baila Competition with the Coreas and their families showing their true colours. This is where the hidden talent in the ECFU came out. Age and Arthritis were no barriers as everyone let themselves go showing what Chilaw is famous for. Dilhani Corea Anthony, daughter of Sri Sangabo and Flora Corea, won the fiercely contested Baila Competition while Niru Ratwatte (grand-daughter of late Leila Corea Wijesundera) partnered by her father Mohan, were the runners-up.

Everybody joined in the sing-along session of Golden Oldies and Christmas Carols, and had an enjoyable time tripping the light fantastic to the rhythm of the music until the wee hours of the morning.

Obituary

We record with profound sorrow the death of Nihal Corea, husband of Ranee and son of the late Mr. & Mrs. E.B.S. Corea.

Priya Delgoda former Commissioner of Prisons who after retirement took up the post of consultant to the Government of Papua New Guinea and after years of service abroad passed away and the funeral took place in Colombo. He was the eldest son of Joe and Ada Delgoda of Ratnapura.

The death also occurred of Denzil Corea. He was the son of Mr. & Mrs. Edgar Corea the husband of Hazel and the father of Nihal and Manel.

The ECFU offers its deepest sympathies to the families of the bereaved may God give them the courage to bear their irreparable loss.

Births

Chiara and Jim are and the proud parents of baby girl born in July. Her name is Deborah. Chiara is the daughter of Ariya and Dinkie Corea.

Ranmal and Thushari are the proud parents of a baby boy born in September. His name is

Dilmith. Ranmal is the son of Malini and Lakshman Goonetilleke.

Damilha and Induni are the proud parents of a baby girl born in July. Her name is Tharushi. Damilha is the son of Shiranee and Olson Gunawardana.

Yohan and Jane are the proud parents of twins born in November. Their names are Louis Max and Helena Mimi. Yohan is the son of Priya and Jenny Samarasinghe.

ECFU extends its heartiest congratulations to the proud parents!

Achievements

Victorian Work Force (Pvt) Ltd (Vicforce) owned by Ajith Perera, son-in-law of Ranjit Corea, was awarded an Australian Achiever award with the grade 'Highly Commended' for excellence in customer relations by Melbourne's Employment Training and Consultancy Services.

Vicforce is an agency that secures placements for those seeking employment in business and industry. Ajith is an Associate Fellow of the Australian Institute of Management. The Company. Vicforce was formed and initially managed by his wife, the late Priyanthi Corea.



Newly elected president for 2001, Dr. Vijaya Corea delivers his address at the Annual General Meeting held at Horton Lodge.

Our Youth in Action

Secretary - Fiona Atapattu reporting ...

The Edirimanne Corea Youth Fellowship (ECYF) has taken off the ground with the help of our parents, seniors and friends and have been functioning with the membership displaying zest and enthusiasm that is most encouraging.

We had our first meeting on 11th May 2001 to appoint office bearers and plan-out a programme for the year.

Our first outing was to Wadduwa Holiday Resort on the 17th of June and it certainly was a day to remember. At the formal meeting held during the early part of the day the following office bearers for the year 2001 were elected:

President	- Sanjeeva Corea
Vice President	- Chrishantha Atapattu
Secretary	- Fiona Atapattu
Treasurer	- Sashika Corea
Executive Committee -	Viran Corea
	Shanitha Peiris
	Prithiva Nelson

The ECYF actively supported the parent union's Pre-Christmas Sale at the Girl Guide's

Headquarters. We sold ready made garments for men, women and children, a variety of herbal products that was recently launched into the market, fabrics for shirts and skirts, imported oranges and apples. All in all our effort was rewarding!

We also gave our fullest support to the Corea Nite at the Grand Oriental Hotel by forming our own tables and actively participating in the programme. Chrishantha was partnered by me in a dance exhibition supported by Dilkushi Wickremasinghe and her partner. We also played the lead role in Carols.

We are breaking new ground with the rounding up of the young ones in the Union to join the ECYF and give us the much needed strength in terms of numbers. Uncle Vijaya took a great interest in forming the ECYF. Our heartfelt thanks to him and I am sure he is proud of the ECYF and what we are today.

We have more exciting plans for the year 2002 with our membership raring to go in displaying their talents. We are confident that we will make a significant contribution in the overall activities of our parent union in 2002.

MEMBERSHIP IN THE EDIRIMANNE COREA FAMILY UNION

Enrolment in the Edirimanne Corea Family Union must be supported with an application form duly completed and forwarded to the Secretary together with the Enrolment and Membership Fee of Rs. 1250. If it is by cheque, it should be drawn in favour of the Edirimanne Corea Family Union and crossed account payee.

There is only one type of membership and that is Life Membership which is covered by a one off payment of Rs. 1250. The steps to enrol and obtain membership is as follows:

HOW TO ENROL

01. You first need to obtain an Application Form from the Secretary or through any member of the Executive Committee you have easy access to.

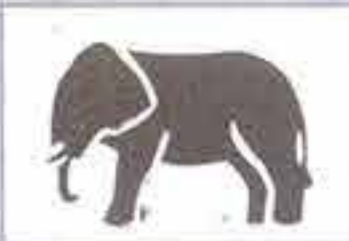
02. Provide the information asked for in the Form and together with your Enrolment & Life Membership Fee of Rs.1250 forward it to the Secretary who will table your application at the meeting of the Executive Committee and have your application approved for enrolment.

03. The Executive Committee, in order to accommodate those who are unable to pay the full amount in a one off payment has devised an easy payment scheme the details of which are as follows:

- (a) The first instalment payable is Rs.350
- (b) Followed by 3 instalments of Rs. 300 each to be paid within a year

04. On being enrolled as a Life Member the individual concerned will be issued with a Membership Card which will come in useful at one time or another.

All those who are eligible for enrolment are advised to submit their applications without delay since the Membership Register is now being compiled and with costs increasing the membership fees may have to be increased shortly.



Edirimanne Corea Family Union

NEWS LETTER

2ND EDITION

YEAR 2002 / 2003

FROM THE EDITOR ...



The Edirimanne Corea Family Union has a membership that is unique in many ways. We can justifiably be proud that we have, individually and collectively, continued to maintain the high standards and traditions that have been passed down from one generation to another. This, in a sense, explains why we have so many personalities and accomplishments worth writing about.

I was hoping there would be a flood of news items, both from within and outside the country that would give this second edition a wealth of information. If there is too much of weight given to some families in this issue it is simply because the flood that was envisaged was only a dream! I hope this edition will galvanize our membership into action so that the next issue will carry more news about more families.

During my stay in the U.S.A. and Canada I had the joy of meeting relatives who are securely entrenched in high positions in their professions, and yet unknown to so many back home. We could have piled up loads of interesting news about them and their families, but unfortunately even the response from their kinsmen in Sri Lanka did not materialise in bringing in the desired results.

The Newsletter brings into focus the accomplishments of members, past and present, and it is hoped that when you read through these pages you will derive some amount of pleasure knowing that it is a privilege to belong to a great family!

Sri Sangabo Corea

25A/2, Walauwatte Road, Gangodawila, Nugegoda

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



The annual family outing was held on the 9th of November 2003, at Marawila. A service at St. Stephen's Church was followed by a whole day of fun and games at the Sanmali Beach Hotel. Thanks to the generosity of Gwen and Harold Herat, the gathering was treated to a sumptuous lunch. It was a day well spent and an opportunity for fellowship. The 'Bring-n-Buy' Sale that followed on the 14th of December, at the Girl Guides' Headquarters was a success that added to the family coffers. Being sensitive to the ground situation and events taking place both here and abroad, it was decided to tentatively postpone the 'Corea Family Nite' to June this year.

Membership Development and Youth Activity came to a standstill when our energetic Secretary went on long maternity leave. Much work has gone into updating the family pedigree chart. As a prelude, the data is now available on a computerized diskette. The work on this project is incomplete as many youngsters of the present generation have not been included. Parents have failed to register them. It is only when this is done that the printing of the chart proper can be considered. A questionnaire has been circulated to correct this situation. It would be sad if anyone were to be left out. We also require information regarding those family members living abroad.

In days long gone, cousins knew one another and many would gather to celebrate Christmas together, in Chilaw. Not possible now, as we are scattered both here and abroad. Today, most cousins have never met or even heard of

one another. The vision in forming this family Union, was to enable its members to get to know one another, to stand together in a time of need and to take pride in a heritage of serving the nation. The Union is made up of its entire membership and if the ECFU is to progress we need to see an improvement in participation and contribution.

Deva Corea

A MEMORABLE TRIP TO MARAWILA



Marawila, was selected by the Corea Family as the location for the ECFU's first outing for the year 2002. Two significant reasons for visiting Marawila were that it was the home of our Founder President, late Henri Corea and also the home of our former Vice Patron, Harold Herat, who very graciously hosted the entire band of 70 family members to a sumptuous lunch.

A 55 seater air-conditioned coach took off from Nugegoda on 9th November at 7.15 a.m. for destination-Marawila. Some members came in their own vehicles. At the commencement of the trip all joined in a prayer led by Vijaya Corea and with the morning being cool and clear after several days of rain, the right mood was set for the take-off. As we left the Capital behind and proceeded along the highway which was all too familiar, spirits soared and so did the voices of some of our members.

Old songs were sung with gusto enlivening the journey. We had breakfast on wheels with a variety of eats and drinks amid a general feeling of camaraderie and warm fellowship.

The first stop in Marawila was at St. Stephen's Church where some of our Corea ancestors once worshipped. Vijaya Corea officiated at the Communion Service. We give thanks to God for this time of spiritual upliftment.

The next stop was at Sun Beach Tourist Resort with sea frontage at Marawila. Here, we were entertained to drinks and a sumptuous lunch by our hosts Gwen and Harold. Prior to lunch we assembled at the Beach Hut where we participated in games and were serenaded to by a band of musicians. Vijaya Corea, in his speech thanked Harold and Gwen for hosting the members of the ECFU, and Harold in his reply said he was greatly honoured and pleased that the Coreas chose to come to Marawila. He spoke of the uniqueness of the ECFU and stressed the importance of socialising within the family. He thanked President Deva Corea for organizing this trip. President Deva, in his speech spoke of the growing membership, the up-dating of the Pedigree Chart and requested members to contribute articles of interest to the annual Newsletter. He also stressed the need for active participation in family events by the younger members of the Union.

After lunch, some members couldn't resist the cool inviting blue waters of the swimming pool. Others got together for a game of Tombola. To add to the excitement there was a Raffle Draw and Prizes. After evening tea it was time to return home. All the way back there was singing in the bus and before we realised the bus reached the finish. As the saying goes ... all good things must come to an end and we had come to the end of a perfect day!



Worth Remembering...

when the going is tough
the tough gets going!

THE BRING N BUY SALE

The Girl Guides' Headquarters in Colombo was buzzing with excitement on the 14th of December 2002 with the Bring-n-Buy Sale ably organized by Dukshie Goonetilleke to raise much needed funds for the ECFU.

There were bargains galore at the sales points manned efficiently by the Corea clan, young and old. Ready-made Garments, Costume Jewellery, Potted Plants, Cakes and Sweets, Tea, Christmas Décor, Hotdogs, Pastries, Lamprais, Fruits, Flowers, Fertilizer, Home-made Wines, Jams, Chutneys and much more was available at rock-bottom prices!

Suranganie Ameresekere, switched on that ever so infectious smile of her's to sell out her delectable sweets. Dorothy Atapattu's love cakes were swept away with love and kindness freely given to her customers. Suveni Weerasesekera's lucky dip was a hit putting to shame even the 'sunwardana lotharaiya'. There was no Mercedes on the prize list but she broke all records with a complete sell-out. Ranmali Amerasesekera, occupied centre stage with her display of exotic plants while her lovely daughters added beauty to the setting, selling delicious home-made chocolates. Brenda Wickremasinghe, with her son Anil, fought valiantly to enforce law and order inside the GG Headquarters when buyers swarmed around their counter which offered new and nearly-new garments that were snapped up in double quick time. Nirmali Jayasesekera, with usual aplomb disposed of the colourful range of garments at her counter, while the hubby successfully handled the sale of fertilizers. The one wish was that more youngsters should be putting their shoulders to the wheel when it comes to fund-raising. With such a wealth of talent within the ECFU we should be doubling our profits ... hopefully in 2003!

NEWS ACROSS THE SEAS

Anushka (daughter of Ramani and Deva Corea) married Yohan Weeresinghe, the son of Rev. Tissa and Margerita Weeresinghe on 5th January 2002. They are resident in Pennsylvania, U.S.A. Anushka, is a Customer Relations Officer in a Bank while Yohan works for the County, in a Psychological Rehabilitation Programme for drug addicts and alcoholics.

Uttum Corea (son of late Clare and Henri) is a household word in Botswana, having distinguished himself from the time he chose to make Botswana his home town. His Excellency Festus Mogae, President of Botswana has conferred honorary citizenship on this Senior Partner of PricewaterhouseCoopers, Botswana for services rendered to the country. Uttum, has served with the firm in Botswana since 1973. He is a former President of the Botswana Institute of Accountants and a former member of the Council of the Botswana Confederation of Commerce, Industry and Manpower. He has also served as a member of the task force on Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises, and of the task force on Privatisation Policy. Uttum, is one of the founding trustees of the Mokolodi Wildlife Foundation and the University of Botswana Foundation. He is also the first and current Chairman of the Board of the Botswana Export Development and Investment Authority. He serves on the High Level Consultative Council of Government.

Uttum, married Dinky Ratnayaka in 1974. They met in London where Dinky had trained and risen to the position of a senior operating theatre sister at St. Stephen's in Chelsea. Dinky, is the daughter of Victor and Olive Ratnayaka. Victor was a senior member of the tea planting community in Sri Lanka with family plantations in Deniyaya. He was also a senior member of Sri Lanka's first parliament led by D.S.Senanayake.

Dinky, is a founder member of the Botswana Buddhist Association. Uttum and Dinky donated a portion of their farm property for a proposed meditation centre and temple and established a facility which is currently used by the people of all faiths who are attracted to the concept of meditation as taught by the Buddha. The temple site has a dagoba, a statue of the Buddha, quarters for visiting monks and meditation teachers, and a flourishing Bo sapling from Anuradhapura, personally carried by Dinky from Sri Lanka to Botswana. The inauguration of the temple was attended by people of many faiths and Buddhists from a number of countries who live in Botswana. The perahera included African elephants (for the first time in history) who were tamed and trained at the Corea family's Serendib elephant project.

Iresha Sapp, daughter of Uttum Corea writes ...

My journey began with the Disney company.

I was studying Hospitality and Tourism Management in Montreux, Switzerland when Disney recruited me for their International Program. My first role there was in guest relations in the Magic Kingdom in Orlando, Florida. Upon completion of my program I kept in touch with Disney, as I was keen on being a part of their new theme park, Disney's Animal Kingdom, which was scheduled to open in the spring of 1998.

In August of 1997, some recruiters from Disney came to Botswana to recruit for their International Program. It was then that I was hired to manage this program. My job was to design and develop the International Program for the African and Asian Sections of the park. There were people who were recruited from Botswana, South Africa, Kenya, Uganda, Zimbabwe, India, Thailand, Nepal, Indonesia and Bhutan for this program.

I thoroughly enjoyed working with all these internationals, who provided our guests with insightful experiences, particularly those guests that would not have the opportunity to travel to the countries that these internationals represented.

I myself feel rather fortunate to have grown up in Botswana, Southern Africa. During this time I was exposed to a completely different culture to my own, and as a result it broadened my perspective on Diversity. I am certain that these experiences were valuable to my role in the international department in Disney. I am still devoted to my Sri Lankan culture and heritage, which were imparted to me by parents, Uttum and Dinky.

I met Michael at Disney's Animal Kingdom. He was in charge of their regulatory training. His family has been living in Florida for four generations, and live towards the east coast, New Smyrna Beach.

We were engaged in the spring of 2001 and married on 15th December 2001 at the Grand Floridian at Walt Disney World. Our son, Dylan Michael Deva Sapp was born on 1st February 2003.

Sharmini Jayewardene (daughter of Flora and Sri Sangabo Corea) living in Ohio, U.S.A. with her husband, Kishan and two kids, resigned from her job to be a full-time mother to 4 year old son, Rakith and 6 month old daughter, Shanaya. Kishan, who holds a degree in Marketing at Feshno University, Oregon, U.S.A. is the Marketing Director of the Company whilst Sharmini, a graduate of Slippery

Rock University, Pennsylvania, U.S.A. has a degree in International Business. Sharmini, sings in the Benny Hinn Choir and together, 'Sharm' and Kishan play an active part in the activities of their church. Sharm is now all set to start up her own Montessori and Day Care Centre shortly. Address: 3579 Gottschee Court, Brunswick, Ohio 44212 U.S.A. Telephone: 330 2200 473 Mobile: 2162339551. E-mail: microcells@worldnet.att.net.

Shamini's cousin

Kumar Neil Wijesundera (son of late Neil and Leila nee Corea) at 42 years is one of the most sought after lawyers in Ontario, Canada. A Barrister and Solicitor of Canada, he is also a Solicitor of England and Wales. Married to Janaki, his batch mate at Law College Colombo, they have now started up their own firm of lawyers, under the name Neil Wijesundera Associates. Kumar, the Immediate Past President of the Old Thomians' Association of Canada is a very popular figure in social circles, being a versatile guitarist, very much in demand whenever Sri Lankans get-together. Together with his Uncle (Sangabo) and cousin (Vijaya) he is preparing plans to get the Corea & Corea combination to bring across the best of Sri Lankan entertainers to perform in Canada and U.S.A. Kumar and Janaki have two sons Keminda (10) and Indika (7) both doing brilliantly in school.

Address: 33 Carey Crescent, Markham, Ontario L3R 3E6. Telephone: (905) 415-9600. E-mail: kumar@sympatico.ca

Ranmali Seedeve Corea (daughter of Nalini and Randunna) is currently resident in London. She graduated in Psychology from Guild Hall University, London and is teaching in North London. She hopes to commence her Master's course in Educational Psychology shortly. Comes to Sri Lanka on holiday whenever possible.

Address: 166 Victoria Road, London N22 7XQ. Telephone: 0208 374 3044. E-mail: ranmalil@hotmail.com

Namali Vasana Corea (daughter of Nalini and Randunna) is currently residing in Southampton. She graduated in Environmental Science from King's College University and then went on to obtain a Master's in Environmental Science. She is currently doing a Ph.D in Toxicology at the University of Southampton. Loves to spend her holidays in Sri Lanka. The twin sisters now enjoy wearing saree and dancing the baila!

Address: 40 Northcote Road, Portswood, Southampton, Hampshire SO173AG, U.K. Telephone: 07880796078. E-mail: namalil@hotmail.com.

Henri Gemunu Corea (son of Nalini and Randunna) studied at S.Thomas' College, Mount Lavinia. He represented Sri Lanka in swimming while at school. He obtained a sports scholarship to The Leys School in Cambridge where he captained the school swimming and water polo teams. Breaking several longstanding swimming records while at school, he represented the County in swimming. Despite obtaining the grades to enter Medical school, he opted to study Construction Management at University College, London.

His address and Telephone Number are the same as Ranmali's.

IN OUR HOME COUNTRY

Srikumaradas Viran Corea (son of Ranjini and Vijaya) after his O-Levels at S.Thomas' Prep.School and his A-Levels at S.T.C. Mount Lavinia, joined the Faculty of Law in the University of Colombo and obtained his LLB. He entered Law College and passed out as an Attorney-at-Law after which he served the Attorney General's Department as a State Counsel. Now, in private practice he is also in the process of completing his MBA at the Post Graduate Institute of Management, University of Sri Jayewardenepura.

Sanjeeva Victor Corea (son of Flora and Sri Sangabo) resigned from Hayleys ADC Textiles Limited to take up his new appointment as Country Manager of Freudenberg & Vilene International Ltd the multi-national giant based in Germany. Maintaining their superiority, the Company is the world market leader in interlinings, and Sanjeeva who graduated in the U.S.A. in Marketing has just commenced operations in their new office at Park Road. He is scheduled to leave for overseas training shortly.

Ramani Wagiswara (daughter of Flora and Sri Sangabo) is back in Sri Lanka with her husband, Ranil and their 9 year old twin daughters after living 8 years abroad when Ranil was Country Manager of Sri Lankan Airlines in Bangkok prior to which he was in Malaysia. Ranil has been appointed to the key post of Manager, Sri Lanka. Ramani, who is a qualified AML Montessori teacher was teaching in Minnesota before she got married. Sadhira and Anithra, now at Ladies

College, are quite fluent in Sinhala and doing well in school.

Harinlal Aturupane, is the second son of late Herbert and Christabelle (nee Corea). He was the National Chess Champion from 1984 to 1992 and holds the International Chess title of FIDE MASTER. He was also the Captain of the Sri Lanka Chess Team from 1986 to 1992. He is a stock broker by profession.

Ronald de Alwis, (son of Beta and Linden) is a Magician very much in demand because of his star class entertainment. He is the President of the Sri Lanka Magic Circle which position he has held since 2001. Ronnie is the head of Magicana Entertainments, his own creation, which includes a School of Magic where students from 12 to 80 years can learn the art of magic. Married to Rani (nee Pathirana) all 3 children, Chrishanthi, Sanjeev and Shehani are resident in U.K. Ronnie's contact numbers are 852998 or 072656073 and his address 24/2 Jambugasmulla Road, Nugegoda, in case you need his services.

In the cockpit piloting Sri Lankan aircraft is **Ashan de Alwis**, son of Ruth and Tissa de Alwis. He has been flying for 10 years. Married to Anusha Canagaratna they have a son, Hiranjan.

THE COREAS OF CHILAW

by C.E.C. Bulathsinghala

The Coreas of Chilaw are of a heroic mould. There are a few families in Ceylon that have produced such a stalwart line of heroes. The fiery Douglasses and the conquering Graemes are their counterparts in fair Caledonia, stern and wild. The flaming Fitz Gerald's in Ireland are of a similar flavour.

When we think of the Coreas our minds go back to **Charlie Corea** (C.E. Corea). He was the compeer and fully the equal of Ramanathan Arunachalam and James Peiris. He had his education at Royal College. One of his class-mates was B.W. Bawa. Bawa, was considered the best speaker at College and Corea the best writer. C.E. Corea went at his own expense along with Sam Moonesinghe, Proctor, as a delegate of the Chilaw Association in 1899 to interview the Secretary of State on the Waste Lands Ordinance. Though not successful at the start, ultimate victory crowned his brow.

C.E. Corea, appeared in one of the biggest cases of all time in 1915. This was known as the Chilaw Reference Case and some of the questions at issue were:

- (1) Whether Ceylon was conquered?
- (2) Was it monarchy elective?
- (3) Was the king feudal owner of all land?
- (4) Was the Kandyan Convention a Treaty?
- (5) Whether the Ceylon Legislative Council had the right to pass such a law as the Waste Lands Ordinance?
- (6) Whether that Ordinance was not a violation of the fundamental rights of the people?

Charlie Corea, appeared for the plaintiff and James Vanlangenberg, Solicitor General appeared with Crown Counsel for the Crown. The trial occupied 13 days. The record ran to 600 pages. The judgement covered 150 pages. The Judge was H.E. Beven of the Civil Service. Judgement was entered for the Crown and the plaintiff had to pay the defendants the costs of the suit.

Another important event in the life of Charlie Corea was when he was convicted for contempt of Court and fined Rs. 5,000 by Justice Wood Renton in the 'riot year' 1915. A. St. V. Jayewardene, who defended Charlie Corea obtained time to pay the fine. When Charlie Corea stepped in at Dornhorst's bungalow to inform him of the result as Dornhorst had very kindly advised him in the case, Corea got his first surprise. Dornhorst gave him a cheque for Rs. 5,000 which Corea did not accept.

When Corea stepped into Dornhorst's house he was on his way to his brother's house at Colpetty. When he arrived there he was informed by his brother, Victor Corea that Usuf, the leader of the Muslims in Chilaw had walked up to the Registrar immediately after Corea had left the Court and planked down Rs. 5,000 in cash unasked and without a soul knowing it. This act of Usuf gave the lie direct to the charge of communal antipathy. Corea paid the money back to Usuf. Here was an example of a Muslim going out of his way to help a Sinhalese and that of his own accord and altogether unsolicited.

When I think of Charlie Corea I think of Leonidas the Spartan King, John Hampden and Kosciusko the Pole. He was my guru in politics. But he was something more. As a master of chaste and elegant English prose I have not met his equal amongst

the Ceylonese. I am following the advice he gave me "Read the Bible, Addison and Milton, daily" he told me. And if I can frame a few lines in English the credit is due to Charles Edgar Corea and also to Winston Churchill, the War Leader, who advised me to read Gibbon daily. In return I unearthed for Churchill his genealogy up to the time of Matilda, the mother of the first Angevin King.

Victor Corea, was of a different type from Charlie Corea. He was more colourful, more picturesque and more flamboyant. The country owes a great debt of gratitude to him too. To him should go the sole credit for getting the Poll tax abolished. Ofcourse he had doughty followers in Messrs Goonesinha and P. Givendrasinghe. When the Labour Union was formed by Goonesinha, Victor Corea lent his dynamic leadership to the movement and gave it an aura of respectability. There was no movement that was concerned with the uprise of the underdog to which Victor Corea did not give wholehearted support.

Claude Corea was a statesman par excellence. His achievements are great, varied and multifarious. He was one of the fairy godmothers who presided at the birth of the Bank of Ceylon. His versatility, his brilliant talents and his great industry fitted him for leadership. He could have shone in any Cabinet or adorned any Government. Had he not been a Christian he might have been Sri Lanka's second Premier. He and I were members of the Executive Committee of the Ceylon National Congress from the earliest days. We always sat together and supported each other in the discussions. Claude Corea shone as a diplomat too. The infant Dominion of Ceylon needed longheaded leadership in the diplomatic field.

Where a strong man was needed or whose special pleading had to be pressed to the very limit D.S. Senanayake always turned to Corea. Personally I am under a deep debt of gratitude to him. When Claude Corea was High Commissioner in London, he took a personal delight in placing my letters before the Queen. Several communications from Buckingham Palace to me were addressed to the High Commissioner from whom they were despatched to me accompanied by a charming personal note.

Sir Senerat Gunawardene, sponsored Ceylon's entry to the UNO. Thereby he has immortalised his name. He is sure of his place in history as being the first Ceylonese to take his seat in the UNO.

But his tenure of office was short though brilliant. Claude Corea then got a long innings in the UNO. His contributions to debates were on par with those of a Halifax, Dulles or an Anthony Eden. Happy the land that had a representative of his calibre in the Councils of the World.

When I think of **Shirley Corea** at times I think of great Philip's mightier son (Alexander). But I am wrong there. The perspective should be great Chatham's mighty son, both equal, fully equal. Shirley was with me at Wesley College, when I was in the sixth form. One of Rev. Highfield's favourites, he was at the bottom of the school, not in talent, but in seniority. We chummed up then. He was the first boy in his class, brilliant, forceful and argumentative. He never looked back.

From Wesley he went to Royal. Last week he told me when we were discussing about the Speakership that he looks to Royal more as his Alma Mater as he spent six years there. He also spent three months at S.Thomas' he told me. Love of the motherland is a religion with him.

He has made his mark as a public man; he was a very successful Minister and now a still greater honour though of a different nature has devolved upon him. To succeed a man like Sir Albert Peries is not an easy task. But Shirley Corea is equal to any assignment. The administrative talents of his illustrious forebears have most assuredly descended upon him. When I read his palm last week the faint glimmer of a loftier honour was visible.

Twenty centuries of history look down upon him. And in the fullness of time the muse of history may yet acclaim him as the greatest of the Coreas.

In conclusion I am happy and proud to acclaim the Coreas as one of the few families that have royal blood in their veins.

COREA FIRSTS

The first and only Corea to be knighted by the Queen, **Sir Claude Corea** was the second son of Windsor and Sarah Corea. A lawyer by profession he entered politics as the Member of Parliament for the Chilaw electorate. Subsequently he was returned uncontested to the same seat. He served as the Minister of Trade and Commerce in the D. S. Senanayake cabinet. He was Ceylon's first High Commissioner to Britain, accredited to France and the Netherlands. He was also

Ceylon's first Permanent Representative to the U.N.

James Clifford Aelian Corea, son of the late Terentia and Gate Mudliyar J.E.Corea was the first Ceylonese Principal of Royal College, taking over from Mr.E.L.Bradby.

The first Corea to be honoured with a Memorial in Chilaw is **C.E.Victor S.Corea**. The Memorial will take the form of...

- A lifesize statue of Victor Corea in his ceremonial attire.
- A backdrop in copper finish, illustrating his deeds for the people.
- A landscaping that will add to the overall visual impact.

The foursome working on the project are: Sri Sangabo Corea, Vijaya Corea, Anura Dharmakirti and Lilani Dharmaratne.

OUR SECOND PRESIDENT



Charles Alfred Ernest Corea, born on 9th June 1920, is the son of the late Dr.James Alfred Ernest Corea and Mrs Mildred May Corea (nee Wickremeratne).

He received his early education at Ladies College, Colombo 7 and later at S.Thomas'College, Mount Lavinia. He left College from the Cambridge Junior form to enable him, along with his mother, to nurse his father who suffered a stroke and was bedridden. After 3 years, at his father's death, he entered St.Mary's College, Chilaw to continue his studies and passed the Senior School Certificate examination. At St.Mary's College, he captained the cricket eleven.

He left school to join the Excise Department as an Excise Inspector and was stationed at Hikkaduwa.

Being the eldest in a family of four, he shouldered immense responsibility in caring for his widowed mother, brother Malcolm and two sisters, Euna and Ernestine. He married Patricia

Samarasekera of Bishop's College, and left the Excise Department to join Law College, Colombo. Passing out as an Attorney-at-Law, he practised in the Panadura and Horana Courts Complex as a Civil Lawyer. It did not take him long to be one of the leading lawyers, carving out a lucrative practice for himself. He acted as District Judge on several occasions till his retirement.

Ernie was closely associated with St.Luke's Church, Mampe, often being the Diocesan Representative of the Parish. He still continues to take a keen interest in the activities of St.Luke's, Mampe.

He inaugurated the Lions Club of Piliyandala and was its Charter President. Ernie was also involved with the Founder and first President of the Edirimanne Corea Family Union, the late Henri Corea. Together, they drafted the Constitution of the ECFU and later was the second President and is currently the Patron.

Ernie is very simple and unassuming in his ways, reaching out to the old as well as the young. He has a rich sense of humour and is highly respected for his forthright ways.

Ernie and Pat have four children, Ernest, the eldest who works for Telecom in Canada, Dr.Eugene, practising in Piliyandala, Mrs Patricia Abeysekera, Head of Telecom External Services, Sri Lanka and Mrs Avril Salgado, Accountant residing with her family in Canada.

SPOT LIGHT



Dr Vijaya Corea, the Immediate Past President of the ECFU is the son of Dr. Sidhartha and Amybelle Corea. Educated at S.Thomas' College, Mount Lavinia, Vijaya, who was following a course in Chartered Accountancy changed his plans because of the craze he developed for mass media. He took off by undertaking a six month assignment in commercial broadcasting merely as a hobby, just for kicks. In just one year however, he found that every

sponsor was insisting that the voice of Vijaya Corea must be used in his commercial or sponsored programme. There was no show or dance that took place without Vijaya waxing his eloquence through the microphone. Soon he was described as Sri Lanka's Number One Compere.

His ingenuity in broadcasting was such that when the regular announcer in the Sinhala Commercial Service of what was then the Ceylon Broadcasting Corporation failed to turn up for duty, Vijaya, using his presence of mind, took a quick decision to open the Sinhala transmission by handling all the announcements himself thereon and kept it going for a good half an hour until a relief announcer was brought in. This resulted in the radio station not losing any revenue and for which he received a commendation from the Chairman & Director-General, Neville Jayaweera.

When Singapore Airlines was in need of an expert compere to handle their very sophisticated advertising campaign for Air Lanka they wasted no time and picked Vijaya for the job that took him from London to Paris, Frankfurt, Zurich, Bangkok and Singapore. The advertising campaign with the theme, 'a taste of paradise' was acknowledged as one of the best examples of result-oriented advertising and Vijaya played a key role in giving it the desired clout. He was the first compere to be paid in foreign exchange.

Vijaya, also had the unique distinction of performing to an audience that was made up of Kings, Queens, Princes, Princesses and the Heads of State who attended the 5th Non-aligned Summit which was chaired by Prime Minister Sirima R.D. Bandaranaike. This also signalled the first time that a Sri Lankan telecaster appeared worldwide on a TV transmission. After the inauguration by Mrs Bandaranaike, Vijaya took over to present a musical and cultural show from the BMICH as a forerunner to the commencement of the 5th Non-aligned Summit Conference.

His popularity soared and when Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip visited Sri Lanka, President J.R. Jayewardene picked Vijaya to do the honours at the Cultural Show that preceded the State Banquet and was later presented to the Queen and her consort.

Vijaya, has also created history by reading the News in Sinhala in the absence of the regular news reader over

the All Asia transmission, and has been voted by radio listeners as The Most Popular DJ in 1974, '75 and '76 during the three years when the award was presented.

He reached the zenith in his chosen field when he was appointed Director-General of the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation in December 1991 and was also appointed to the Boards of the Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation and the National Film Corporation.

He is today, a disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ and a Minister of the Gospel. He is a National Christian, serving for several years in the Standing Committee of the Diocese of Colombo and on the Governing Boards of many church institutions.

He is currently, the President of the Sri Lanka Veteran Broadcasters' Association and is also the Vice President of the Sri Lanka Press Club of which Her Excellency the President is ex-officio, the Director of Information.

Married to Ranjini, they have a son, Viran and daughter Sashika.

INFORMATION

Xtra - Ordinary

Srikumaradas Viran Corea and Sanjeeva Victor Corea were in the same class at S. Thomas' Prep School, Kollupitiya when Mr. J.S.L. Fernando was the headmaster. Even though both Coreas had the same initials they made sure that their reports never went to the wrong father and made sure that the school fees of one Corea which was higher, was not paid by the other Corea's parents. That's what you call a solid Corean strategy!

There were 3 Nihal Coreas: One was Sir Claude's son, the second was Bertram's son and the third was Denzil's son. They all got on famously with no mix-up whatsoever!

And in Lever Brothers (Ceylon) Limited at one and the same time there was in Marketing N. Corea (Nihal) and S. Corea (Sri Sangabo). When mutual friends phoned and there were cross connections the inquiry was whether the caller wanted to speak to North Corea or South Corea!

It has gone on record that Principal Woodward of Mahinda and Warden Stone of S. Thomas' both acknowledged C.E. Corea as a Master of the English Language!

C.E. Victor S. Corea, his youngest brother clashed with the highest Bureaucrat in the country when he and Governor, Sir Hugh Clifford figured in one of the most talked about verbal battles because he thought that the Governor's reference to 'a core of rot' referred to the Corea brothers and others who joined them in the fight to end colonial rule and usher in Independence. There was an exchange of letters between Victor Corea and Sir Hugh Clifford that must surely rank amongst the best in satire, with the choicest words of the English Language used and yet without the use of a single unsavoury word.

On the Excise Bill, Victor Corea by his letter to Sir Hugh Clifford dated 29th April 1927 wrote ... I opposed the Excise Bill because I thought that by placing the country at the mercy of these cormorant renters, and opening toddy shops in practically every village, my poor fellow-countrymen would become more and more addicted to the use of intoxicating liquor.

I have always been for total prohibition. I spoke my mind to you quite frankly; and I expected similar courtesy from you. I regret that you should have had recourse to veiled insinuations, which "pass by me as the idle wind."

Despite the clashes, the respect that Governor, Sir Hugh Clifford had for Victor Corea was so great that when Victor Corea's son, Carlton returned from England after passing the Civil Service with distinction, he personally wrote ...

I should be very glad to see your son if you will send him to call upon me; or better still if you will bring him to see me.

Very Truly yours - Hugh Clifford Queen's House, Colombo. April 3^d 1927, 11.50 p.m.

LANDMARKS IN THE 70S

There is a popular saying that Chilaw is famous for 3 Cs ... Coreas, Crabs and Coconuts! Though small in size, Chilaw had an irresistible charm of its own and whenever someone was transferred out of Chilaw there was a noticeable feeling of sadness that gripped the heart of every man, woman and child at the time of parting.

Chilaw, had its many attractions ... an unpolluted beach, the 'Water's Meet', an absolutely romantic spot where the lagoon and the sea met, the running waters of the Deduru-Oya, the historic Munneswaram Temple, the imposing Roman Catholic Cathedral, the Bishop's House tucked away in a meticulously maintained

coconut property, the Courts Complex located in a sprawling park shaded with banyan trees, St. Mary's College which had produced several national sports stars, the Holy Family and Carmelite Convents which had moulded many a distinguished school leaver, the Buddhist Pirivena which was the seat of learning Sinhala, Pali and Sanskrit, the Chilaw Sports Club which had a galaxy of super stars, the lagoon that harboured many varieties of pada boats, the vast stretches of paddy fields, the Crabs, which tasted like nothing on earth, the Coconuts which gave the town its wealth and ofcourse the Coreas who were a force to reckon with!

My journey through Chilaw begins at Deduru-Oya which has figured prominently as the venue for some of the most enjoyable dips and picnic lunches I have had in the company of my parents, family and friends. Box guitars, bongos, maracas and piano accordion were a part of our paraphernalia. The soft sandy banks, the giant mara trees and the warm waters of the Deduru-Oya was the perfect prescription for a healthy outing.

Moving along Puttalam Road the first landmark is the Bishop's House where the Rt. Rev. Dr. Edmund Peiris lived. He was a scholar and a man of God who stood 10 feet tall, highly respected by all.

Passing the unprotected railway crossing and entering the Chilaw town limits on the left is the old walauwa named 'Sinhapura' the residence of C.E. Victor S. Corea, Advocate of the Supreme Court. His garden of nearly 3 acres was fully planted with coconut and there was every conceivable fruit bearing tree that included luscious bunches of grapes during the season. There were over 7 varieties of mangoes, seedless guava, sapodilla, custard apple, pomegranate, bananas, oranges, woodapple, lime, lemon, nelli and damson. The roses, the cassia and the jacaranda gave the garden surrounding the house a splash of contrasting colours. Victor Corea always had two cars, the last being a Chevrolet Fleetmaster and a Vauxhall Velox. Vivienne and Victor had Leila, Charlie, Chandrani, Ratna, Rupa, Lihini, Sri Sangabo and Indira.

Living as a bachelor in the adjoining house in the same compound was Victor Corea's son, Norman, an accomplished violinist, pianist and composer who gave violin lessons to a select band of pupils. He had an easy and comfortable life with all meals supplied from the main house.

Two blocks away on the opposite side was 'Enashmere' the residence of Ashley Corea, Proctor of the Supreme Court and Notary Public. It is said that every Sunday, Ashley took off on his push bicycle to his estate as a routine exercise, despite the fact that he had a posh American Plymouth. This explains how he managed to remain slim and physically fit. His wife, Ena was a gifted pianist and their family of 5 girls and 2 boys were known to be very musical. On and off one could hear voices in harmony to piano accompaniment. Ena and Ashley had Sabrina, Roxina, Christabelle, Ariya, Brenda, Ranjith, Nirmali and Manorani.

Next door was 'Edirilla Gedera' the residence of C.E. Corea, Proctor of the Supreme Court. As the President of the Ceylon National Congress he led a delegation from the Congress Executive Committee to Jaffna in an endeavour to heal the Sinhala-Tamil split on the question of reserving a seat for the Tamils in Colombo. Just when it seemed that the country was going to benefit increasingly from his devoted labours, wisdom, counsel and experience, C.E. Corea's crowded political life was cut short and terminated with distressing suddenness in 1932. In response to an invitation to address a meeting in Jaffna after being elected President of the Jaffna Association, he set out by car but was prevented from keeping that engagement by an unfortunate accident, which untimely forced him to retire from public life. Designed by C.E. Corea himself, 'Edirilla Gedera' had architectural beauty that was unique in many ways. Pearly and Charlie had Leila, Shirley, Nesta, Elaine, Swarna, Charlie, Earle, Doreen and Nan.

Close by, on the opposite side of the road lived Bertram Corea, his wife Rene and their one and only child, Nihal. Bertram, the eldest son of Dr. Ernest Corea was an Advocate of the Supreme Court, practising in Chilaw at that time.

Adjoining was 'Fairlyn' the residence of Jimeaux Corea. It is said that he had the biggest dairy in Chilaw in the backyard of his house, managed by his daughter Ira, who was also a gifted pianist. Adeline and Jimeaux had Ordella, Ena, Ira and Manel.

Next door was 'Serendib' the residence of Dr. Ernest Corea. Here too the architecture was unique, designed by Dr. Corea himself. Although he was a doctor of medicine he was an outstanding artist and enjoyed painting during his leisure hours. Although he too, like his brothers C.E. (Charlie) and Victor always had the interests of the common

man at heart, did not take to politics. He however, enjoyed treating the poor and curing the sick. May and Dr. Ernest had Ernest, Eunice, Malcolm and Ernestine. Dr. Corea's elder daughter, Gwendoline also lived with them.

Down 'Sinhapura Road' was 'Sharon' the residence of Carlton Corea, living in retirement after a distinguished career in the Ceylon Civil Service. He was a pianist, composer, poet and artist and what was amazing is that he excelled in everything he put his hand to. A brilliant administrator, he turned down a diplomatic post offered to him by Prime Minister, Dudley Senanayake. A well read man, he could talk on any subject under the sun and hold his listeners spellbound. He had the knack of moving with the old and the young and his company was a sheer delight. Kumari and Carlton had Rohan, Lilani and Shiran.

In the hub of activity and bang in front of the Courts Complex was 'Sigiriya', the residence of Esme Corea, Advocate of the Supreme Court who later was a District Judge. He was married to Swarna, also a Corea. 'Sigiriya' was a landmark in Chilaw because of its impressive architecture and its impressive features tied up with the historic background of the Coreas. It is here at 'Sigiriya' that a grand banquet had been hosted by the Coreas when Mahatma Gandhi came to visit Chilaw.

Tucked away in close proximity to the shopping centre was 'Maha Gedera' the residence of S.C. Shirley Corea, the leading Proctor and Notary Public at that time. He took over from where his illustrious father, C.E. Corea left and surpassed everybody's expectations with his outstanding achievements. He lived by himself devoting all his time to his legal practice and his political career. He was an outstanding Minister and later, one of Parliament's greatest Speakers, an acknowledged authority on Erskine May. He was a dynamic member of the Corea Clan who kept the family flag flying high. A lover of cars, his, was the only Mercedes Benz in Chilaw.

The first house of the Coreas in the beach was Russel's. With his wife Nesta and their children, Mayadunne, Nalini, Shirani, Damayanthi and Kamini they lived a quiet and healthy life on the beach in close proximity to the Rest House.

A little beyond lived C.A.L. Corea, Crown Proctor who was also Acting District Judge. He smoked a cigar, was big made

and had a booming voice. He could never pass unnoticed, driving his Austin Cambridge. Leslie and Hilda had Rupali, Kumar and Rohini.

Along Kurunegala Road was 'Wasala Walauwa' where Mudliyar Corea lived in retirement with his wife Eda and their children Audrey and Aerial.

In close proximity lived Stanley Corea, his wife Ida and daughter, Ranee.

These are the Coreas who occupied centre stage in Chilaw in the Forties. The Coreas have many things in common. They are musical, artistic, had an excellent command of the English Language, had beautiful handwriting, were very national minded and above all were proud of their family name. Whether males or females, they were known to dress well and tastefully. The girls, generally were good looking and they all had parents who were conscious of this fact as a result of which they were known to be heavily escorted and securely guarded! It was not easy for any young man to break through that security ring and get close to a Miss Corea. The males, had the reputation of being hot blooded Romeos. A little bit of research will prove this to be true. Most of the Coreas, being Anglicans, received their education at S. Thomas' College while a lesser number studied at Royal. The fairer sex who preferred to study in Colombo went to Ladies College whilst the younger generation remained in Chilaw, and studied in the Convent. One thing that runs through every nerve and fibre in a Corea, is the pride they have of their ancestry. All, without exception, consciously endeavour to preserve their good name.

Falling in love with a Corea girl was understandable, because there were a host of pretty girls, one better than the other, but getting past the parents, was a mission impossible. That explains why I am not married to one!!

Where the eligible bachelor Coreas were concerned they were an easy bait but ever so difficult to assess, so much so that many young damsels gave up even before they made any headway!!

The Coreas, born into a family that is highly respected have tasted power but what is visibly great is that they have not lost their heads and that speaks volumes for this unique family!

A resident in the forties

OBITUARY

It is with profound sorrow that we record the demise of ...

- Annette Corea ● Dagmar Corea
- Vernon Corea ● Lakshman Corea
- Sita Delgoda, wife of Nalin
- Asokamala Delgoda, wife of Rajah.



May they Rest In Peace.

PLANS FOR 'SIGIRIYA'

It is proposed to turn 'Sigiriya' into a Mahatma Gandhi Commemoration Centre for the promotion of Indo-Lanka friendship tying up with the historic past that when Mahatma Gandhi visited Ceylon in 1929, he was hosted to a grand banquet by the Coreas at 'Sigiriya'. Exhibited in the Sabarmati Ashram at Ahmedabad is a framed 'Welcome to Chilaw' memento presented to the Mahatma by the leading citizens of Chilaw. On this occasion the Mahatma presented to Victor Corea an impressive poster under the caption 'Fighters for Swaraj' featuring individual photographs of all the Indian freedom fighters, in close-up and Victor Corea had the distinction of being featured amongst the greatest of Indian National Heroes.

An action committee headed by Sri Sangabo Corea has Rahnunna, Vijaya and Deva assisting him to pursue this proposal. Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hon. Tyrone Fernando and Leader of the Opposition, Hon. Mahinda Rajapakse

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE EDIRIMANNE COREA FAMILY UNION 2002/3

President

Deva Corea

Immediate Past President

Vijaya Corea

Vice-Presidents

Suranganie Ameresekere
Nirmali Jayasekera

Secretary

Fiona Atapattu

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Henry Ameresekere	Gerry de Alwis
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Ranmali Amerasekera	Manoranee Silva
Priya Samarasinghe	Dulanjana Silva
Dukshi Goonetilleke	
Shiraneer Goonewardana	

have given their consent to be the Patrons of the Project.

MEMBERSHIP IN THE ECFU

You are advised to enrol yourself as a Member of the Edirimanne Corea Family Union without delay before an increase in the membership fees comes into operation owing to the escalating costs in administration. There is only Life Membership in the ECFU at a fee that is only Rs.1,250 which is a one-off payment. You also have the option of paying it in easy instalments with a down payment of Rs.350 followed by 3 further instalments of Rs.300 (to be paid within one year). Enrolment Forms are available with the Secretary. Beginning 10th May 2003, ECFU communications, including the Newsletter will be restricted to Members Only, due to financial constraints.

On receiving the one-off payment of Rs.1,250 you will receive an official receipt from the Treasurer and your Membership Card from the Secretary. Those who pay in instalments will receive an official receipt with each payment but will receive the Membership Card only on receipt of the final instalment. Cheques, must be drawn in favour of the Edirimanne Corea Family Union and crossed Account Payee Only.

IN FOCUS



The Duke with Malkanthie

Roshan & Malkanthie

The President with Malkanthie

Malkanthie Aida De Silva (nee Ameresekere) an old girl of Ladies' College, presently teaching English in the UAE was a keen Girl Scout. She won the Juliete Low Scholarship for guiding in 1980, and represented Sri Lanka at Camp La Jita, USA. She was awarded the Duke of Edinburgh Silver and the President's Gold for scouting in 1981 and 1982 respectively.

Malkanthie, is married to Roshan De Silva, who is now a prominent shipping magnate with Olympic Shipping Co. Ltd. UAE, and also the Managing Director of Olympic Marine Services Ltd. Colombo.

Malkanthie and Roshan have 3 children, Romantha - 13 years, Rameesh - 9 years and Romana - 2 years, the grand children of Henry and Suranganie Ameresekere.