



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 'sunvardana 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 Jayasekera, 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.

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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 bailal

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, Chrisanthi, 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. Of course 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 that 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 Comper.

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 comper 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 comper 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

Xora - 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 Korean 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 3rd 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 Rañdunna, 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

Treasurer

Suvendri Weerasekera

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Harinlal Aturupane

Committee

Henry Ameresekere	Gerry de Alwis
Christabelle Aturupane	Ranjini Corea
Ranmali Amerasekera	Manorane Silva
Priya Samarasinghe	Dulanjana Silva
Dukshi Goonetilleke	
Shirane 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.