



# Edirimana Corea Family Union



## NEWS LETTER - MARCH 2007

*Editor: Sri Sangabo Corea*



### EDIRIMANA COREA FAMILY UNION How it came into Existence

*By Sri Sangabo Corea*

On a Monday morning around 10.30 my telephone in office rang and the caller was the Minister of State and Member of Parliament for Kotte, the Honourable Anandatissa de Alwis. "Sangabo, can you drop in at my office some time this afternoon but before 4.00" he said and I replied that I would come around 3.00 p.m.

As I walked in and took my seat, he buzzed for his secretary and asked her to bring "H.E's File". He turned to a particular document that had been flagged and asked me to read the letter sent by President J.R.Jayewardene to the Minister. In his endeavour to revive the grandeur of Kotte, the President had proposed to Minister Anandatissa that an impressive Memorial for Dominicus Corea Edirille Rala be installed along the state drive to Parliament.

The choice of Dominicus Corea was based on the fact that no history book, whether written by a Portuguese, a Dutchman, an Englishman or a Sinhalese regarding the Kotte period is without several pages describing the parentage, the youth, the marital exploits, the marriage, the appointment as King of Kotte and Sitawake and finally the terrible death Dominicus Corea had at the hands of his Portuguese captors due to his fierce fighting to free his country from foreign domination. Dominicus Corea has no parallel in the history of our country. His statue must be worthy of him and serve as a source of inspiration to the present generation and generations to come.

*Continued... 2*

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The family gatherings and outings held over the years, has helped the Edirimana Corea Family Union to consolidated itself. It all started with the Government of President J.R.Jayewardene wanting to name Dominicus Corea, a Hero of Kotte and to erect a monument in his memory. The Government of that time went to the extent of printing a booklet on Dominicus Corea to be distributed amongst the school children in the country. What happened however, is now history. My father, Henri, Uncle Ernest and Vijaya were my predecessors. The family union, has been active over the years with the Annual Bring 'n Buy Sale, Day Outings, the Corea Night Dance except for periods when the security situation and the period immediately after the Tsunami prevented us from going about with our planned activities.

Two significant events in the recent history of the Union were, the Litigation against Dr. Gamani Corea and the second was against the punishment meted out to a hitherto unknown person who was a Corea serving in Saudi Arabia. In the first instance a committee representing the ECFU got involved when it was known that Dr. Gamani Corea was being prevented from visiting Geneva to attend a Felicitation Ceremony that was organized by UNCTAD to honour him and have him medically checked out by his personal physician resident there. We next heard that a case had been filed to establish a totally untrue claim that Gamani was of unsound mind and unfit to look after himself. It was the decision of the executive committee of the Union that we should intervene. A few members of the Committee, on the advice of lawyers applied to court to refute this claim and look after the health of Gamani. The court however held the view that he was already been looked after. The interests of the ECFU in the case was only to safeguard the physical and mental fitness of Gamani and ensure that he would be fit and strong. The sentiments expressed by the Diplomatic Corps, friends of Gamani and many others commended the ECFU for its concern.

In the second instance, Sangabo, Vijaya and I, on seeing a newspaper report that a Corea ( named after a respected member of the family) was arrested in Saudi Arabia immediately got down to tracing his whereabouts and did everything possible with the Foreign Ministry and other high ups to obtain a reprieve.

*Continued... 2*

### EDITORIAL

A vital need for any organization is to find ways and means of communicating with its membership and a News Letter is an excellent medium through which this need is fulfilled. However, the cost of printing a News Letter today, is quite an expensive exercise and despite the strain on the ECFU budget it was agreed that we go ahead with it. In order to generate an income which will help to defray a part if not the whole cost we have provided space for strip advertising at Rs.5,000 per strip. Any help to obtain advertisers will be much appreciated. My grateful thanks to Priya Samarasinghe for having obtained all three ads in this News Letter, at very short notice.

The ECFU has been in existence for twenty years and you will all agree that it is about time that a News Letter came to stay. If the funds are available you can be sure that an informative and interesting News Letter will be in your hands, once a year. So let us all put our shoulders to the wheel and make this dream a reality. Remember that what one person cannot do by himself, so many others can easily do collectively! The family, in many ways, has been a formidable force and we must all, individually and collectively make every endeavour to make the best even better! Send in articles that will be of interest to the membership and news about your family will be most welcome.

"Sangabo, I need your help to accomplish this task and with your abiding interest in paying tribute to your ancestor I am sure you will be at your best in handling this project. I will see to it that you will get all the government support you would require. Be in touch and keep me informed of the progress". I told him that I will have to enlist the support of some members of the family to speed up operations and to start with would like a senior member of the family, Henri Corea to come in with me. "I have implicit faith in you and you are free to co-opt any person of your choice who could be of help to you" he said. I gave him the assurance that the job will be done to his expectations and off I went.

As soon as I got back to office I contacted Henri on the phone and invited him to head a committee that would be required to check every course of action and monitor the progress. Wasting no time, I got down to preparing my action plan worked to a time frame. The next day, by 12 noon my secretary had the forward plan typed and ready with the Minister's copy scheduled for hand delivery. In double quick time the Dominicus Corea Edirille Rala Memorial letterhead was printed and ready with the ancient flags of Kotte and Sitawake prominently featured.

The 4 principal office bearers were:

Leader : **D.Henri R.A.Corea**, Deputy Leader : **Sri Sangabo Corea**, Secretary : **J.L.Kumar Corea** and Treasurer : **Mrs Preena Corea** The Advisory Committee Members also selected by Henri were: **D.R.C.de Alwis, J.Edward Corea, Mrs Doreen Hettiarachy, E.C.Vikrama Corea, C.A.Ernest Corea, B.H.S.Jayewardene, C.W.Pannila, Nihal Corea and Mrs Nirmalee Jayasekera.**

A lot of hard work was put in by Henri and me and in a short space of time we had even surpassed the Minister's expectations. The speed with which we worked and obtained results even with the Archeological Department triggered in Henri the desire to start up a family association. I was the first to know that such a plan was in his mind and now being fully aware of my style of working told me that he will embark on it only if I was going to team up with him. Not wanting to disappoint him, I agreed to give him my fullest support.

He had no idea about the Name that he should give to the association. My advice was that this should be given top priority and a committee quickly formed so that letterheads can be printed and ready for the preliminary exchange of letters.

**On 21.9.88 Henri wrote me a letter :**

I had a long chat with J.R.Jayewardene on Sunday at the Old Royalists Over 70 Lunch and it was he who said that the proper Name would be Kulaya meaning a Clan and not Kandayama which means a Gang. He asked me the grounds for membership and I told him that hitherto we called only those whose mother, grandmother, father or grandfather was a Corea but under the new Rules being drafted all legitimate descendents of Dominicus Corea will be eligible for membership and he immediately said "Then I will be a member of the Kulaya" and called out to his brother Harry, and said he too must join. I told him he would not be a member but a Patron and he was very pleased. I said I would get the committee to approve of this and see him with the Executive Officers ie. The Hony. Secretary and the Hony. Treasurer to invite him in person which he agreed to.

**On 17.10.88 Henri wrote to me again :**

I look forward to your continuing as Honorary Treasurer of the Edirimana Corea Kulaya and accompanying me to meet J.R.Jayewardene to invite him to be the Patron of the Kulaya.

Soon after, when Henri came home to discuss the preliminaries I told him that Kulaya was not a nice sounding Name. When selecting the Name you must make sure that the Name is easy to write, easy to pronounce and easy to remember. The longer you take on selecting the Name the longer will be the delay to print the much needed letterhead that is required for the initial ground work and putting things down in writing.

A few days later Henri came to see me and asked what I thought of the Name, Edirimana Corea Family Union. "Fine" I said and that made him really happy. "You can now design the letterhead" he said without batting an eyelid ! When I took up the issue of drafting a constitution, I suggested that Ernie be contacted to handle the job and he readily agreed. On 27.9.88 a meeting was arranged at 6.00 p.m. to discuss the drafting of the constitution at 84/6, Pepiliyana Road, Gangodawila. Kumar Corea was functioning as Secretary and Shanthi Perera as Treasurer.

Working with Henri was by no means easy. Even after working with two of the biggest multi-nationals in this country I found it immensely difficult to cope with regimented police lifestyles. He and I had enough and more of violent clashes, yet I saw in him a kind and humane side. If not for Henri's commitment to the cause, the Edirimana Corea Family Union would not have come into existence. We must Salute the tough policemen who took everything in his own stride and never gave up until he brought us all together on a common platform, pledged to uphold the constitution and consolidate ourselves to be a Force to Reckon with.

*President's Message Cont....*

Here again, I believe we were carrying out a family principle of being, "One for All and All for One".

These two episodes took much of our time and energy as a result of which our programme of planned events receded to the background. Although I took over the Presidency with the idea of relinquishing my duties in a year's time, it is only now that I have been able to find someone to take over. Sri Sangabo Corea, a founder member of the ECFU needs no introduction and I believe that with the Committee he has, to back him he will take the ECFU to great heights.

Our Committee has been comprised of dedicated family members who love the ECFU and have over the years given of their best to keep it afloat through good times and bad.

I wish the new President and his team well and have no doubt that they will live up to the expectations of the family.

**Deva Corea**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

<b>PATRON</b> Chas A.E.Corea	<b>PRESIDENT</b> Deva Corea
<b>VICE PATRONS</b> Harold Herat Dr.Gamani Corea	<b>VICE-PRESIDENTS</b> Surangani Ameresekere Nirmali Jayasekera
<b>SECRETARY</b> Neville Weerasekera	<b>TREASURER</b> Suvendrini Weerasekera
Patsy Abeysekera Ranmali Amerasekera Christabelle Aturupane Harinlal Aturupane Dr. Eugene Corea	Sri Sangabo Corea Dr.Vijaya Corea Lilani Corea Dharmaratne Gerry de Alwis Dukshie Goonetilleke

Dr.Priya Samarasinghe

*With Best Wishes to the Edirimana Corea Family Union*

**- Careem Jewellers -**

Colombo Hilton

## PLUG AND PLAY - From the editor's desk

I was a boarder in Chapman House right throughout my student days at S.Thomas' College, Mount Lavinia. Going back to history I noticed that most of the Coreas either went to S.Thomas' or to Royal. When I was first time Chairman of the Royal-Thomian Cricket Match and went to meet the Principal of Royal, the late L.D.H.Peiris, he asked me, 'Sangabo, how is it that you are a Thomian when so many Coreas have been Royalists?' My reply was, 'Sir, most of the Coreas either went to Royal or S.Thomas' ... the wiser ones went to S.Thomas' ! He enjoyed my remark thoroughly !! C.E.Corea played for Royal in the famous 9 nine match, but my father Victor, his younger brother went to STC, just like his father C.E.Corea, Senior.

Whenever my friends in College came to Chilaw to spend a few days at home they would give advance orders of the menu 'We want crabs and prawns ...pawns and crabs' and so it was when they came.

One such friend on 17.2.2007 writes, "I still vividly recollect my visit from my home in Kurunegala to your Walauwa in Chilaw as a very young boy during the Munneswaram festival. I then had the pleasure of meeting with your illustrious father, your mother and sisters. Alas gracious relaxed lifestyles do not exist any more'

## DEVA COREA - THE OUTGOING PRESIDENT



Deva Corea, our outgoing President, is a son of Henri Corea, the founder President of the ECFU. A keen horseman during his childhood in the 1950s, he and his siblings were regular winners at the Annual Police Gymkhana. The family interests shifted to dogs and the many 'Boxers' that he and his brothers exhibited ended up as champions. He no longer exhibits, but until very recently bred Rhodesian Ridgebacks, sent by his brother Uttum, from Botswana.

Deva finally ended up at Trinity College, Kandy. Nominated by the school for recruitment as a Second Lieutenant to be trained in Pakistan, the first interview was with the Secretary Defence, who asked him just two questions. 'You are the son of Henri Corea and your father works at Lake House?' Having served with Air Ceylon for a short period Deva enlisted in the Police department in 1967, as a Sub-Inspector. As a probationer he served in Kandy and took charge of his station Galaha, where he faced the 1971 Insurrection. In February 1972, he was transferred to Mawarala in the South. Deva had just seventeen recruits under him and had the daunting task of running his station and investigating three hundred and fifty odd cases committed during the insurrection. It was during that period that he earned the sobriquet of 'Python Corea', when defence lawyers complained at the Criminal Justice Commission that Deva had used his pet twelve-foot python to extract confessions. Unearthing the island-wide, underground, re-organizing of the JVP, which was then thought to be dead and successful in personally rounding up the entire Matara network, he was awarded a Special Promotion by Mrs Sirmavo Bandaranaike, the then Prime Minister in 1972.

Having served in Deniyaya and Ambalangoda, he was transferred to the security detail of Mr.Premadasa, the Prime Minister, with whom he served for twelve years. Speaking of Mr.Premadasa, he said that it was a pleasure to have served in his security detail. He saw Mr.Premadasa as a rare and disciplined leader, who loved his people and had a vision for the country. If he had not been assassinated, he would definitely have changed the course of Sri Lanka's history. During his stint in VVIP Protection he honed his skills in marksmanship and was captain of the Police Practical Shooting Team for many years. He was awarded Police Colours in Big Bore Rifle Shooting, Small Bore Rifle Shooting and Pistol Shooting. He travelled abroad on many occasions during this period.

He was promoted an Assistant Superintendent of Police in 1983. In 1986, he volunteered to serve in the Operational Area and was posted to Trincomalee. In operations against the LTTE he went to the rescue of Sinhala and Muslim villages under attack by the LTTE. Outstanding was the rescue of Kinya Village on the 5th of May '86, when the Army Commandos declined to undertake the mission. Deva, was 'Commended for Bravery'. He also led the rescue of the 6th Mile Post Colony when the army camp, a short distance away, would not respond. When he left Trinco his DIG, Mr.Samarawickreme wrote, "You displayed great leadership. You enhanced the reputation of the Police during your service at Trincomalee. Thank you for all the continuous creditable work". Based on a commendation from the Coordinating Officer, Trincomalee, the late General Lucky Wijeratne, who stated, "I wish that this valuable service rendered by him be kept on record". Deva was awarded two Special Increments by the Inspector General of Police. The Secretary Defence, although stating in his report to the IGP, 'I am personally aware of the outstanding good work done by this officer in Trincomalee in 1986' stripped him of these two increments. He was awarded instead with a monetary reward for work done against the JVP in Matara in 1989/90. This reward, he returned, with a polite note, 'This step he suspects was to deprive him the opportunity to appear before the promotion board to the rank of DIG, much earlier than his years of service warranted.

Joining the National Intelligence Bureau in 1990, he was transferred out in 1996. Serving in Batticaloa in 1997 and having completed thirty years in service, he decided to call it a day. Looking back on his career in the Police he grins and says, 'Maybe I was stubborn at times and acted only according to what I knew was right and perhaps, like the Chinese saying, 'Should have bent like the reed'.

He joined 'Elephant House' as Security Manager and within a year joined the Hayleys Group, from where after a period of eight years, he joined the Hatton National Bank. Deva sees God's hand on his life throughout his career. He is grateful to his family who stood by him throughout, his brothers and sisters who sustained him both materially and spiritually during trying times and is especially thankful to his parents for creating that unbreakable bond he shares with his siblings'

## THE 175 TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST.JAMES' CHURCH - CHILAW -

Christabelle Corea - Aturupane

James Templar of the British Civil Service stood on a little green hillock overlooking the placid waters of the Chilaw lagoon. It was the year 1816 and he had just been posted as the Government Agent for the District of Chilaw. This was one of the most pleasant sights in the town of Chilaw, and as he looked around, his thoughts naturally soared to his Maker. He decided then and there that this was the ideal spot to build an edifice to the glory of God. This was the year that the foundation stone was laid of what was to be fifteen years later in 1831, the beautiful church on the little hill - St.James', named after St.James, the first martyr of the Christian Church.

On the 11th of November 2006 St.James' Church celebrated its 175th Anniversary. Together with my sisters Brenda, Nirmali and her husband Alick, we were privileged to attend the commemorative service. The other Coreas present were Kumar and Preeni and Damayanthi. The celebrant at this service was the Bishop of Colombo, Rt.Rev.Duleep de Chickera. The preacher was the most Rev. Valence Mendis, Bishop of Chilaw. At 7.30 a.m. a procession of witnesses wended its way to the Church, and the Service of Commemoration and Thanksgiving commenced at 8.00 a.m. It was a beautiful ecumenical service. The church was gaily decked with maroon and yellow flowers. The Bishop of Chilaw preached a memorable sermon focussing on the life of St.James. The Bishop of Colombo, Rt.Rev.Duleep de Chickera stated that he was told by the Archdeacon that Chilaw was famous for its three C's - Coreas, Crabs and Coconuts. Whilst anticipating crab curry for lunch, provided of course on the availability of murunga leaves, he said he would like to add two more C's - Christian Commitment.

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The Coreas of Chilaw were the main parishioners of St.James' Church. There were Corea baptisms, confirmations, marriages and funerals, conducted here. Nostalgic memories assailed me as I stood there, of the Annual Fancy Bazaars and Nativity Plays in which we took part during our childhood and youth. Sadly, the Corea population in Chilaw is dwindling, but we shall carry with us the image of St.James' Church enshrined in our hearts.

### THE COREAS OF "SERENDIB" CHILAW

"Serendib", Puttalam Road, Chilaw was designed, built and so named by Dr.James Alfred Ernest Corea. He was the second son of Mr.Charles Edward Corea. His elder brother was Charles Edgar Corea of "Edirilla Gedera" and the younger brother, Charles Edward Victor Seneviratne Corea of "Sinhapura", Chilaw.

Dr.J.A.E.Corea was a medical practitioner by profession and an artist par excellence, having won the First Prize in a World Art Competition.

After a short stint in the government medical service, he decided to go into private practice and travelled daily to his dispensary housed in the annexe of "Maha Walauwa" Chilaw. During the deadly 'Parangi' epidemic, Dr.Corea, together with Dr.Gunawardena (father of late Leslie Gunawardena) offered his services free when no other medical men were prepared to go.

As a doctor, he endeared himself to the less fortunate and his services were available free of charge, most often to anybody at any time of the day or night. His diagnosis was said to be perfect, inspite of the fact that the present day laboratory tests were hardly heard of then.

As an Artist, he used oil colours for his large paintings. One such is 'Light of the World' depicting Jesus Christ with a lamp in one hand knocking on a door. This painting is said to be an exact replica of the original by Hoffman, according to a nephew of Dr.Corea, who saw it in Rome. The other two large paintings are captioned, 'The Return of Persephoni' and 'The Sea Gives up its Dead'. There is a slightly smaller version of 'Infant Samuel'. These are the only paintings preserved to date. He had also painted a border midway on the wall round the drawing room of "Serendib", of famous figures including Shakespeare and the last King of Sri Lanka, Sri Wickrema Rajasinghe. A large mural of Pharaoh's daughter finding 'baby Moses' in the bulrushes was painted in water colours on the wall of the master bedroom. Many were the sketches of his children and beautiful scenes around Chilaw, which sadly, he had not completed due to failing health.

Dr.Corea was a dedicated, practising Christian. He was involved in the work of the Denepitiya Mission and extended much support to Miss Carney, Founder of the House of Joy, Talawa. He invited Sadhu Sundar Singh, a Hindu turned Christian Missionary, to visit Sri Lanka and hosted him at 'Serendib' throughout his stay. A soft spoken, unassuming gentleman, Dr.Corea was quite content working behind the scenes for the poorest of the poor, an unsung hero with two famous brothers.

Dr. Corea married Letitia Seneviratne of "Towers", Marawila. Their children were Ernest Bertram - Advocate and District Judge, Hector Vernon Ivan - Canon of the Anglican Church and Gwendoline Hyacinth - an Artist like her father. They lived at "serendib" and some years after the children had completed their studies and on their own, their mother Letitia, passed away.

Many years later, as a widower, Dr.Corea married May Wickremeratne of "Atapattu Walauwa" Matara. Charles Alfred Ernest, Eunice May Leelawathie, Hugh Malcolm Ernest and Ernestine Florence Malika are their children. "Serendib", was a peaceful, happy home. May, had no problems with her step sons and daughter. They were much attached to their step brothers and sisters and even helped to care for them.

Many were the hilarious stories big brother Bertram related of the pranks in their toddler years. When Gwen was taken ill with arthritis which almost crippled her, 'Aunt' May nursed her back to health. Although arthritis left its mark affecting her fingers, Gwen continued to paint and draw and involved herself in handicrafts. After her brothers Bertram and Ivan married and moved out, Gwen continued to live at "Serendib" with her father, Aunt May and the siblings.

Dr.Corea, suffered a stroke and was bedridden for three years. His son Ernest (Ernie), was 17 years old at the time, studying in the Cambridge Junior form at S.Thomas'College, Mount Lavinia. He decided to leave College and return home and together with his mother, nursed his father. After his father's death, Ernie completed his studies at St.Mary's College, Chilaw, situated right opposite "Serendib". The three younger children also attended school in Chilaw.

Mrs May Corea, now widowed, stayed at "Serendib" with her four children and Gwen. She was much loved and respected by the Corea relatives, friends and neighbours. She had adopted the Kandyan style saree to suit the 'Corea Ladies Costume' and was known to be always well groomed. Her help and advice were keenly sought by all who knew her. She even risked the safety of her own children to be at the bedside of a child who had a serious infectious sickness. Due to difficult circumstances, May decided to go back with her family to her mother's home in Matara. Gwen stayed on in Chilaw with an aunt. "Serendib" was thereafter occupied by Bertram, his wife Rene and their son Nihal.

### Ernestine de Silva



#### There were two nuns.....

One, was known as Sister Mathematical (SM) and the other, as Sister Logical (SL).

It is getting dark and they are still far away from the convent.

SM: Have you noticed that a man has been following us for the past 38 minutes? I wonder what he wants.

SL: It's logical, he wants to rape us.

SM: Oh no! At this rate he will catch up on us in 15 minutes. What can we do? The only logical thing to do of course is to walk faster. It's not working.

SL: Of course it's not working. The man did the only logical thing. He started to walk faster too.

SM: So what shall we do? At this rate he will reach us in 1 minute.

SL: The only logical thing we can do is to split up. You go that way and I'll go this way. He cannot follow us both. The man decided to follow Sister Logical. Sister Mathematical arrives at the convent and is worried about what has happened to Sister Logical. A little later Sister Logical arrives.

SM: Sister Logical, thank God you are here! Tell me what happened.

SL: The only logical thing happened. The man couldn't follow us both, So he followed me.

SM: Yes! Yes! but what happened?

SL: The only logical thing happened! I started to run as fast as I could and he started to run as fast as he could.

SM: And?

SL: The only logical thing happened. He reached me.

SM: Oh dear! What did you do?

SL: The only logical thing to do. I lifted my cassock, raised it above my knees

SM: Oh, Sister! what did the man do?

SL: He did the only logical thing to do. He pulled down his pants

SM: Oh no! What happened then?

SL: Isn't it logical Sister? A nun with her cassock up can run faster than a man with his pants down?

**And for those of you who through it would be dirty, kneel down, close Your eyes and recite 2 Hail Marys!!**



# Edirimana Corea Family Union



## NEWS LETTER - JUNE 2010

Editor: Sri Sangabo Corea

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### LETTERS WORTH READING

Sinhapura  
29th April 1927

Governor  
Queens House  
Colombo

Your Excellency,

I have just received your letter of the 28th instant and I hasten to make amends and to apologize for my stupid mistake in regard to the Pearl Fishery Lease.

As for the Excise Bill, I am at a loss to understand what you mean by saying that you can well understand my not liking that, and that there were too many vested interests that found it an unpleasant piece of legislation; and that my disapproval of it is quite comprehensible!

I opposed the 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"!

Yours faithfully  
**C.E. Victor S. Corea**

Note:

Victor Corea, contested E.W. Jayewardene (President J.R. Jayewardene's father) in his stronghold that was Colombo Town North in the Legislative Council election and created a sensation by winning the seat with an overwhelming majority.

He had a verbal battle with the Governor, Sir Hugh Clifford over a speech the Governor had made at Hyde Park Hotel, London in November 1912 and referred to a 'core of rot' which Victor Corea thought was a reference to the freedom fighters including him who were demanding Independence for Ceylon when the country was governed by the British. Despite their clash, Governor Clifford had a high regard and respect for Victor Corea which is proved in letters that were exchanged between the two.

Continued...2

### EDITORIAL

We are at the beginning of a new year with yet another Corea at the helm guiding the destinies of the Edirimana Corea Family Union in the year 2010/11. With the wealth of talent that is available within the Union the general membership can look forward to a year of consolidation and more opportunities for fellowship. We also need to be mindful of rising costs and find ways and means of raising funds for the Union.

Strength to an organization comes from its members. As it has been from the very inception the Edirimana Corea Family Union has had the rare distinction of having Presidents who gave dynamic leadership to the Union. The President, being a single person is only the cog in a wheel and needless to say it is the general membership individually and collectively that can give power to transform our plans into reality.

Let's put our shoulders to the wheel, accomplish our goals and at the end of the year pat ourselves on the back and say to ourselves that 'WEDIDIT'!!

## Re-produced from the Governor's letter

Queen's House, Colombo  
April 3rd 1927  
11.30 p.m.

Dear Mr Corea,

I arrived only a few moments ago from Nuwara Eliya whither I have come via Kandy and Kegalla, and I find your letter of April 2nd. awaiting me.

I do not know whether you ever read the speech delivered by me in London at, I think, the Hyde Park Hotel, in November, 1912, -- it was made at a dinner given to Lady Clifford and myself by the Council and Members of the Ceylon Association in England -- in which that oft quoted phrase "a little core of rot" occurred? I must confess that I have not read it myself for a good many years. I think you will find that the phrase in question was never, and never could have been, applied by me, as you suggest in your letter under reply is the case, "to the party demanding self-government for Ceylon." It was applied to a section of that party which, in my judgement was steadily and systematically endeavouring to undermine Authority in Ceylon and to bring law and order, and all who represented them, into ridicule, hatred and contempt. I knew these people to be mainly led and inspired by poor Armand de Souza -- who was not himself a Ceylonese and who cared not a rap how much loss or ruin he might bring upon the people of this country. I knew that the poor fellow had been a friend of mine to whom I had extended a good deal of confidence; that he had been accustomed to talk matters over with me and had often received in that way, not only useful information for his paper -- The Morning Leader -- but new lights upon public questions and upon the intentions of the Government concerning them, which had shown him quite clearly and convincingly that I and my colleagues were not sitting up o' nights plotting the destruction of Ceylon and the utter demoralization and subversion of its people, but instead were steadily and busily engaged in devoting our every energy to the advancement of the prosperity of the island and to the service of all her people. Up to the time of which I shall presently speak, he was not only my friend, but in some sort my disciple; and he knew -- no man better -- that I was not the arch-enemy of mankind that he was later bent upon persuading the readers of the Morning Leader was to be detected lurking under my skin.

One unhappy day the late Sir Hector Van Cuylenberg (then Mr Van Cuylenberg) the owner of the Independent -- which at that time was distinctively the Burgher organ -- prosecuted Armand de Souza for libel, and issued a sub paeon requiring my presence as a witness. I was very reluctant to appear and enquired from the then Attorney General whether it would not be possible for me to plead privilege &c. &c.. I, however, was advised that I had no option but to appear in the Colombo Police Court, which I accordingly did. Poor Armand de Souza got it into his head -- the case went against him -- that the whole thing was a conspiracy into which I had entered with Van Cuylenberg in order to humiliate and injure him; and from that moment his whole outlook changed. I tried to get him to come and see me several times, but in vain.

It is the fashion in certain quarters to write and speak as though I was hounded out of Ceylon when I left the Island on promotion in 1912. Anybody whose memory goes back fifteen years knows, of course, that the reverse is the case. Turn to the files of the newspapers for the first half of September, 1912, and you will read therein what actually occurred.

There was, however, one public meeting got up in order to register a hope that I should never be allowed to return to Ceylon, the prime movers in which were the late Armand de Souza, the late Arthur Alvis -- a man of a very different calibre -- and Mr C.P. Dias, the Headmaster of Wesley College and a Member of the Municipal Council. Mr Alvis' dissatisfaction was explained where, I admit, I hit him rather hard about a recent contribution of his to the discussion about the Excise Bill. I was at that time nearly fifteen years younger than I am to-day, and the young are all too often impelled to make a debating point without much thought as to whether their words wound. This was the case on this occasion, and I, by a few sentences, which might quite easily have been so turned as to secure my point without lacerating Mr Arthur Alvis' feelings, I converted a friend into a rather vindictive enemy. In what way I had trodden upon the toes of Mr C.P. Dias I do not know to this day; but it

gave me great pleasure last year to recommend that his long public services should be publicly recognized and rewarded; and I am glad to remember that this act fell to me to perform, rather than to any other. As for the rank and file of the so-called monster public meeting, the hall was packed by operatives from the neighbouring Railway shops, the bulk of whom knew nothing whatever about me or about the proceedings; and it is on record that when, at the conclusion of the meeting, an attempt was made to sing God Save the King the noise which resulted was a meaningless uproar, thus showing the ignorance of the men who had been lured into the hall simply to try to give the meeting some sort of bulk.

All these facts are thoroughly well known to all who were in Ceylon at the time and who were taking any interest in public affairs. It is also known, equally well, that the Excise Bill, -- for which I fought, almost single handed, whole phalanxes of very wealthy vested interests -- was a measure which received the unanimous support of the Unofficial Members of the Legislative Council, as soon as I had explained to them in detail its objects and its scope; and that it is the foundation-stone upon which the entire temperance-movement of to-day has been built up. I was notoriously abused for bringing in that Bill; but I consider that, by doing so, I was rendering, not for the first time, a notable service to the people of Ceylon. It is a pity, I suggest, of set purpose to distort and misrepresent even quite recent local history. Hardly anybody has the energy or the industry to turn up the newspaper files to ascertain for himself what the true facts actually were; and it is by this means that things that are false gain currency in this Island to the serious detriment of the public life of her people.

To return for a moment to my phrase "the little core of rot." I used it to describe the attempt that was then being made to discredit Authority and to bring into hatred and contempt those whose duty it chanced to be to exercise authority in Ceylon. I advised all concerned to watch it lest it turned disastrously and brought bloodshed and misery. The danger which I detected and warned all Ceylon against came in 1915 -- with contempt for law and order, sedulously implanted in the hearts of an essentially law-abiding peasant population, can explain the wholesale murdering and plundering of Moormen traders with which the Riots of 1915 began.

I am not going to discuss the methods adopted for their suppression -- for them I, thank God, have no responsibility. I, having left the Island more than 18 months earlier; but the outbreak of riots was the inevitable spreading of "the little core of rot" to which I drew attention in November, 1912. That was why I was sorry to hear you say on November 30th, 1925 that you stood for that evil thing. I think I understand the aspirations of those who desire self-government in Ceylon, and sympathise with them too, as much as any man living; but for those who desire, by slow means or by swift, to convert this beautiful Island into a shambles, or who think that by making Authority hateful they are paving the way for the exercise of Authority on their own account, personally can find nothing but condemnation.

Also, I am very far from being convinced that that really is your point of view; for, if I thought otherwise, I should hardly take the trouble to write this letter to you, now on the very eve of my final departure from Ceylon, and at a time when the burden of work laid upon me calls for no gratuitous additions.

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

## Note:

The son referred to at the end of the letter is Carlton (Lilani Corea Dharmaratne's father) who passed the Civil Service and returned from England. He was appointed the Government Agent, Vavuniya. Prime Minister Dudley Senanayake invited Carlton to be an Ambassador and gave him the privilege of selecting the country of his choice. Despite repeated requests he declined to accept the Prime Minister's generous offer.



## NEWS



**Christabelle Aturupane** was given a stirring surprise birthday party by her children On Golden Pond at the Taj on 20th March. Christabelle, hadn't the foggiest idea as to what was in store even after daughter Chonira and son-in-law Sohan walked into the house, without a warning, coming all the way from San Francisco! Shows what a devoted mother Christabelle has been to the children and the in-laws. It was a well organized party. Apart from the sumptuous buffet there was music for dancing with the Birthday Girl showing off her talents! Harsha, Jenny, Harinlal and Namali did a great job doing all the organizing and remaining tight-lipped!

**Wimal Perera** has obtained BOI status for his Company, Digital Engineering (Pvt) Limited and his factory cum workshop is now located at 56 Horana Road, Halpita, Kesbewa. Wimal, is in a unique business, producing heavy duty industrial greases and vehicle anti-corrosive oil. With the new installations nearing completion Wimal expects to commence production in 2 months.

Due home on her first vacation is Ayesha Damayanthi, the daughter of Wimal and Renuka. Ayesha, is a first year medical student in the university of Lugansk, Ukraine. A keen table tennis player when at Ladies College, Colombo 7 Ayesha is now an adventurous motorcyclist longing to get on the track and make a name for herself. ECFU wishes Wimal a roaring business with a turnover that will help Renuka to collect more profit and for Ayesha, success in all her endeavours!

**Sanjeeva Corea** has been having a hectic time attending to his duties at the 11th International Indian Film Festival. We were told that he put his heart and soul into the responsibilities he was in charge of. Wonder how Sanjeeva managed to keep cool when everything around was piping hot!

**Flora and Sri Sangabo Corea** will be leaving the country on a visit to UK, USA and Canada in early July visiting their daughter Ramani, son-in-law Ranil Wagiswara and grand-daughters Sadhira and Anithra in London and proceeding to USA to stay with their youngest daughter Sharmini, son-in-law Kishan Jayewardene and grand children Rakith and Shanaya. In Canada, they will meet all their nephews and nieces together with the Old Thomians!

**Jeni and Priya Samarasinghe** were in Egypt attending the wedding of a family friend. They look somewhat sunburnt obviously due to a good part of their time spent outdoors ... last seen holding hands near the pyramids!

The bust statue of **Harold Herat** was recently unveiled in Nattandiya the electorate Harold represented in Parliament for many years. Gwen and the children Shamara, Parveen and Avanka must have been proud to hear the glowing tributes that were paid to their precious father, a one-time Member of Parliament and Minister whose honesty, love for his country and the passion to help his constituents were matchless. The love and respect he earned as a Parliamentarian, Minister and Sincere Friend will remain in the hearts of people for many years to come!

**Suranjaya Corea Dharmaratne** is back in the country after his graduation in USA. He has joined John Keells as a Management Trainee. The son of Lilani and Ranjit Dharmaratne, Suranjaya is bound to make his mark in the Company. ECFU wishes Suranjaya a distinguished career and an eventful future!

**Nalini Corea**, wife of Randunna has returned to the country after spending a holiday with her twin daughters in the UK. The older of the twins, Ranmali is married to Hugh Fernando and they have recently been blessed with a daughter, Celeste. While she is a teacher by profession her twin sister, Namali has a Phd in Regulatory Toxicology. Son Gemunu, is in Civil Engineering and right now is doing a unique building project in Mufushi Islands, Maldives, building water bungalows

in the sea! Nalini, is managing the estate with meticulous skill and professional artistry. Well done!

**Viran Corea** is now in private practice and making a mark for himself. He has figured prominently in some of the most talked about court cases. Wife, Champika has quit her job and is in private practice too. Both operate independently and the incomes flow through two Profit Centres!



### Project Chairperson : Christabelle Aturupane

With the ECFU, desperately needing an inflow of funds, President Sri Sangabo Corea launched the Christmas Card Project which was a success thanks to the hard sell campaign conducted by Members of the Executive Committee. Due to logistical constraints it was not possible to get the general membership involved.

The cards had the graphic design of a Christmas Tree and they came in three colours .. Red, Blue and Green sold with the envelope at Rs.20 a card.

## MEMBERSHIP IN THE EDIRIMANA COREA FAMILY UNION

There is only one type of membership in the Edirimana Corea Family Union and that is LIFE MEMBERSHIP. The Qualification and the Procedure to enrol yourself as a Lifetime Member is as follows:

### QUALIFICATION

Membership is open to the descendants of Edirimanasuriya Dominicus Corea generally known as Edirilla Rala and the spouses of such descendants.

### PROCEDURE

The procedure to enrol is as follows:

- (1) If you have the Qualification, obtain an Enrolment Form from the Secretary, Neville Weeraskera, 28 E.A. Cooray Mawatha, Colombo 6. Telephone: 2581487/2360026.
- (2) Furnish the information asked for in the Enrolment Form.
- (3) Forward the Enrolment Form along with a Cheque for Rs.1,200 drawn in favour of the Edirimana Corea Family Union and crossed Account Payee
- (4) You will receive a Receipt in acknowledgement of the Cheque
- (5) And will also receive your Lifetime Membership Card

### LIFE MEMBERSHIP FOR THOSE LIVING OVERSEAS

The Lifetime Membership Fee for Qualified Persons living overseas is US Dollars 25 and an applicant can choose the most convenient method of sending the Fees along with the Enrolment Form, duly perfected.



<b>Edirimana Corea Family Union</b>	
Name	_____
Address	_____
Date of Enrolment	_____
Honorary Secretary	



## BARGAIN COUNTERS



### Project Chairperson : Dukshie Goonetilleke

Bargain Counters is the brainchild of Dukshie Goonetilleke. The last one conducted at the Girl Guides Headquarters in November 2009 from 9.00 am to 4.00 pm had 25 stalls selling a variety of household commodities at rock bottom prices.

Clothes - new and nearly new, Dry Flowers, Books, Costume Jewellery, Bedroom Linen, Toys, Christmas Décor, Stationery and Miscellaneous Consumer Products were sold to budget conscious consumers at affordable prices!

## ECFU OUTING

Due to the difficulty in finding a suitable venue we have not been able to organize our traditional Outing, this year. It will certainly be helpful if the membership could send in their views commenting on the following:

- Should it be a Day Out within Colombo / Outside Colombo?
- On a Saturday or Sunday?
- What kind of events must we include in the Programme?
- Preferred Lunch
- Maximum Price of a Ticket per Person

Please send your suggestions to the President / Secretary / Treasurer of the ECFU or any other Member of the Executive Committee.

## PLUG AND PLAY

from the editor's desk

An Irishman by the name of Jerry MacCaffrey married to a Sri Lankan went to the Local Government Office to pay the rates and taxes.

He was next in the queue. The female clerk, without looking up but continuing to look down at the receipt book asked, 'Name?'

'The Irishman answered, 'MacCaffrey'

'What?' asked the clerk, again without looking up The Irishman somewhat embarrassed and annoyed said 'MacCaffrey'

'What?' asked the clerk, this time looking straight into the eyes of the Irishman. Realizing that she never will know how to spell MacCaffrey said, 'Put William'; since William was his wife's surname.

When he went home and handed over the receipt to his wife, she looked at it and said, 'Darling, you have brought someone else's receipt'

Jerry hastily grabbed it and was horrified to find that the name had been written as 'PUT WILLIAM'

## PEDIGREE CHART

Every effort is being made to put the final touches to the family Pedigree Chart which is unique in many ways. A lot of research has gone into achieving its current presentation and there is still more work to be done.

Families that have not sent in their particulars up to the present generation, are requested to check with Deva Corea and make sure that their family particulars have gone into the draft.

Failure to do so will only mean that their family will be left out of a Chart that is unique and impressive in compilation and nothing can be done after it has gone into print.

## SHIRLEY COREA

man of high principles and an intrepid fighter

Taken from the Sunday Times written by C.X. MARTYN, M.P. for Jaffna



The death of Mr Shirley Corea removes from our midst a personality of worth and importance. He hailed from a distinguished family that has for more than one generation made a substantial contribution in our battle for political freedom from the yoke of Imperialism.

Who does not remember his father, the late Mr C.E. Corea, the dauntless fighter for the rights of the people, the accomplished debater, a President of the National Congress and a man of uncompromising principles? Who can forget his uncle, the late Mr Victor Corea of poll-tax fame, the Legislative Councillor who never gave any quarter to the white bureaucracy of his day?

Who does not know his kinsman, Sir Claude Corea, the suave and gentle politician, the diplomat par excellence with a rare finesse? Shirley Corea, worthily upheld the great traditions of his family and added to the debt the country owes to the Corea family.

### FEARLESS

Shirley, had his early education at Wesley College, Royal College and S. Thomas' College, where he acquired a reputation as a debater. He subsequently joined the Law College, where he held the office of General Secretary of the Law College Students' Union, which was the highest unofficial position a law student could then hold. He won the Gold Medal for Oratory.

He graduated as a Proctor and joined the Bar of Chilaw, the home of the Coreas where they had established a reputation as lawyers of honesty and competence.

I knew him as a law student and he practised regularly before me as a lawyer for about three years. His advocacy was characterised by thoroughness, method, persistence and gentlemanliness. He knew his facts inside out; he knew when to press hard and when to soften his approach.

A client who went to him felt his interests were in the safest hands. Though a fearless fighter, he seldom got on the wrong side of a reasonable judge. If a High Court had been established in Chilaw earlier he would have won a wide reputation as an outstanding advocate of the calibre of Cox Spoule or E.M. Karunaratne.

He was a founder member of the Law Society of which he became a Vice-President and subsequently its President. In recognition of his services his portrait was unveiled and now it adorns the walls of the Law Society Hall. He was a member of the World Peace Through Law and attended in this connection conferences in Australia, Japan and Athens as a delegate from Sri Lanka.

Shirley, entered the arena of politics to which he was no stranger, as politics was in his veins. He took to local politics first, and then entered Parliament as Member for Chilaw in 1952. He was Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Trade and Commerce and Fisheries and was thereafter nominated Minister in the Sir John Kotelawala Cabinet.

As a Cabinet Minister he showed exceptional honesty, a keen national ardour and a deep sense of duty. As Minister, he travelled widely in 1954 and 1965 endeavouring to find new markets for Ceylon products. Among the countries he visited were China, Japan, Egypt, India, England, Ireland, France, Norway, Denmark, Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia.

### POLITICS

The path of politics was not a smooth one for him. In 1956 the wave that swept the late S.W.R.D. Bandaranaike into power swept Shirley out of his seat. He did not contest the 1960 elections, but he did not abandon politics.

He gave the benefit of his knowledge, experience and wisdom to his constituents, who did not forget him. They returned him to Parliament





in 1965. He became Deputy Speaker and on the death of his colleague and friend, Sir Albert Peries, he became Speaker. As Mr. Speaker he showed a full grasp of parliamentary procedure and combined firmness with understanding. Shirley, was also a planter who took a keen interest in the coconut industry. He was President of the Chilaw-Negombo Planters' Association for ten years. His presidential addresses were always appreciated as they contained many useful suggestions for the improvement and development of the industry.

Shirley, has now left us and gone to a better land. He was a righteous man, a devoted churchman, a loyal friend and an indefatigable worker for any cause espoused. To him may the words of King David be aptly applied: " Know ye not that there is a Prince and a great man fallen this day in Israel."

**WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT FROM PRESIDENT OBAMA**



Eleven year old Rakith Jayewardene, born in Sri Lanka is the son of Kishan and Sharmini Jayewardene, living in Cleveland, USA. In school, he is quite a guy, being a 'black belt' in tikondo, a good basketball player and a talented musician. He is also a boy scout who takes his scouting seriously. Although he has reason to be proud of his achievements in all these extra-curricular activities where he outshines all his classmates, is in his studies.

Rakith, has at every school test topped the class in obtaining 'Straight As' so much so that he had a pleasant surprise coming by post.

It was a letter from The White House and one that was sent to him by President Barack Obama. In his usual calm manner Rakith collected the mail from their mail box and handed them to his mother. Sharmini took a quick look at the mail and suddenly noticed a letter addressed to her little son Rakith from The White House. She wasn't sure whether what she was seeing was fact or fiction. She ripped open the envelope impatiently wanting to know what the President of the United States of America had to say to her son. And this is What the letter said:

**THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON  
February 27, 2009**

I am delighted to join your family, friends and community in congratulating you on receiving the President's Education Award. By earning this honor, you have shown a deep personal commitment to educational excellence and I commend you for your hard work.

Nothing is more important to our Nation's long-term success than educating our future leaders. Your commitment to learning will help you meet the educational and professional demands in your future and will help lead America to a better day.

I am confident that you will build on this achievement as you strive for even higher goals in the future. I wish you all the best for continued success in the years ahead.



Rakith still continues to top the class with 'Straight As' and last week was being felicitated again by the Principal and Staff of the School for his continued success and outstanding performance.

Rakith is musical too and is quite an expert with the trumpet, accompanying his mother who plays the guitar at Sri Lankan organized musical shows.

Rakith's connection to the ECFU is that his mother, Sharmini Jayewardene, is the youngest daughter of Flora and Sri Sangabo.

*Sarge's ice breaker*

**JOB OPPORTUNITY**

Bill Gates, organized an enormous session to recruit a new Chairman for Microsoft Europe. 5000 candidates assembled in a large room. One candidate was Somapala Hemapala, a Sinhalese living in USA.

Bill Gates, thanked all the candidates for coming and asked those who do not know JAVA Programming to leave. 2,000 people leave the room.

Somapala says to himself, ' I do not know JAVA but I have nothing to lose if I stay. I'll give it a try '.

Bill Gates, asked the candidates who never had experience of managing more than 100 people to leave. 2000 people leave the room.

Sompala says to himself 'I never managed anybody by myself but I have nothing to lose if I stay. What can happen to me ?' So he stays.

Then Bill Gates, asked candidates who do not have management diplomas to leave. 500 people leave the room. Somapala says to himself, ' I left school at 15 but what have I got to lose ?' So he stays in the room.

Lastly, Bill Gates, asked candidates who do not speak Serbo-Croat to leave. 498 people leave the room.

Somapala says to himself, 'I do not speak one word of Serbo-Croat but what do I have to lose ?' So he stays and finds himself with one other candidate.

Everyone else has gone. Bill Gates, joined them and said 'Apparently you are the only two candidates who have all the required qualifications and experience I am looking for and speak Serbo-Croat, so I'd now like to hear you have a conversation together in that language.' and ...

Calmly, Somapala turns to the other candidate and says, 'Kohomada Machang ?'

The other candidate answers, 'Ammata Hudu ..... umbath Lankavenda ?'

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**JAFFNA POTATOES**

An old man, living alone in Jaffna wanted to prepare his potato garden, but it was very hard work. His only son, who would have helped him, was in prison. The old man, wrote a letter to his son and stated his problem.

Dear Son,  
I am feeling pretty bad, because it looks like I won't be able to plant my potato garden this year. I hate to miss doing the garden,



## OBITUARY



We record with profound sorrow the death of Dr. Naomal Jayasundera, Victor Atapattu, Prina Corea, Tissa de Alwis and Ernest Corea.

The ECFU offers its heartfelt sympathies to the bereaved families.

May God give them the strength and the courage to bear their irreparable loss.

## TISSA DE ALWIS



Tissa de Alwis, served in the Edirimana Corea Family Union for an year until his health, after a second kidney transplant and a by-pass did not permit him to lead an active life.

Before his illness he was thoroughly involved, serving in the Executive Committee of the S.Thomas' College Old Boys' Association and played an active role in contributing a significant share towards helping the school. As a parent he

showed tremendous interest in taking an active part in the affairs of the association.

When I was to be the Chairman of the Royal-Thomian Cricket Match for the first time and the Warden asked me whom I would like to have as Secretary, my choice was Tissa. I knew that he and I together would make a strong combination. We continued as Chairman and Secretary for a few more years, working our guts out!

Since our early schoolboy days Tissa and I cultivated a warm relationship during the times when he visited our home in Chilaw in the company of his parents. Much later, when we worked together in Thomian Fairs and Thomian Nites, we became a strong combination!

He served in the Board of Governors of STC from 1992 to 1996, was a Member of the Executive Committee of the OBA for a number of years and was Secretary and later President of the STC Centenary Group. He was the first Life Member of the Old Thomians Swimming Club, a glowing tribute paid to him in recognition of his outstanding services to the Club.

He started his career as an Apprentice at Walkers and thereafter served at A.F.Jones and Arumugam Brothers. In everyone of these companies he displayed skill and was highly respected.

Tissa, worshipped in the Church of St. Francis of Assisi and served his Creator in an exemplary manner. When he was struck by an acute kidney failure Ruth rose to the occasion and with love and fervent prayers gave over her kidney to the husband she loved so dearly. The surgery was successful but after some time a second transplant became necessary. Even after the second transplant he was in and out of hospital. Yet, what was amazing was his faith in God and how courageously he faced crisis after crisis.

Despite the seriousness of his condition, Tissa, was full of fun and wherever he was there was laughter. His company was very much in demand at all social gatherings. He believed in enjoying life and that he did, to the fullest. Ruth, indeed will find it difficult to come to grips with the situation that she has to go on without the devoted husband that she always had by her side.

Ashan and Nuala, their spouses and the grand-children will feel the absence of a devoted father, father-in-law and grand-father who always occupied centre stage in their lives. May God give them the strength and the courage to bear this irreparable loss.

*Sri Sangabo Corea*

## CHARLES ALFRED ERNEST COREA



Charles Alfred Ernest Corea, born on 9th June 1920, left this world to be with his Creator on his 90th birthday. Patricia, his devoted wife and those who are near and dear to him were waiting patiently until the morning to wish him a Happy Birthday crowned with God's abundant blessings only to discover that he had peacefully passed away. The life of Charles Alfred Ernest Corea ended on a day when his loved ones had planned to shower him with affection and celebrate his 90th birthday. The Lord took him away to be in a better world that has been prepared for the good and faithful.

Ernie, as he was affectionately called was the son of the late Dr. James Alfred Ernest Corea and Mrs Mildred May Corea nee Wickremeratne. He was blessed with all the exemplary qualities that his father and mother inherited from their parents. A gentleman to his finger tips, he stood out as a human being who lived according to the principles he believed in.

He was kind, understanding and caring and for what he was, he was loved and respected by all who came to know him. He was proud to be a Christian and a Corea and his associates acknowledged him to be a rare human being with sterling qualities!

He received his education at Ladies College, Colombo 7, and later at S.Thomas' College, Mount Lavinia. He left S.Thomas' to support his mother and nurse his father when he suffered a stroke and was bedridden. Between the mother and the son there was nothing they did not do to keep the husband and the father they loved so dearly well taken care of. With the death of his father Ernie, resumed his education at St. Mary's College, Chilaw and passed the Senior School Certificate examination. He excelled in cricket and captained the St. Mary's College cricket eleven with outstanding performances.

Ernie, left school at an early age to earn an income for himself. He joined the Excise Department and was posted to Hikkaduwa. Before long he became a popular figure and was highly respected for his honesty, efficiency and his unassuming ways. Being the eldest in a family of four, he took over the responsibilities of guiding the destinies of the family comprised of his widowed mother, brother Malcolm and two sisters, Euna and Ernestine. He married Patricia Samarasekera who was on the staff of Bishop's College and left the Excise Department to join Law College and pursue a career as a lawyer.

With most of the Coreas being legal luminaries, Ernie was sure in his mind that he will live up to the reputation of his uncles and cousins who were dominating the Chilaw Bar. When he did pass out as an Attorney-at-Law, he chose to practise in Panadura, without having to compete with his illustrious kith and kin in the Chilaw Courts. Sooner than people expected, Charles Alfred Ernest Corea became one of the leading lawyers, carving out a lucrative practice for himself. He acted as District Judge on several occasions till his retirement.

An admirable feature in Ernie was that he was a devout Christian, closely associated with St. Luke's Church, Mampe. He was the Diocesan Representative of the Church, and enjoyed playing his part in the activities of the Church. He also served as Warden and in his own inimitable style had the interest of the Church foremost in his mind and enjoying being a parishioner of the Church. Ernie's faith in God was his greatest virtue!

He inaugurated the Lions Club of Piliyandala, simply because he had the passion to serve the under-privileged and was the inspiring Charter President who gave the Club the desired dynamic leadership. Despite his fluency in English he conducted meetings in Sinhala in order to meet the club's popularity has the first Sinhala speaking Lions Club in Sri Lanka.

He played an active part in the formation of the Edirimana Corea Family Union and at the request of the founder, Henri Corea, drafted the Union's Constitution and later became its second President and went on to serve as the Patron.



## HUSBAND &amp; WIFE COMBINATION



The Edirimana Corea Family Union is indeed fortunate to have members giving their unstinted support to keep the Wheels of the Union turning! Two such people are Neville and Suvendreni Weerasekera who function as our Secretary and Treasurer for many years. Although it is an accepted fact that much of their free time is taken up in ECFU work, ungrudgingly they continue to give of their best and we, in the ECFU know that they are irreplaceable because of their matchless

efficiency! Even with the wealth of talent that is available within the Union they are in fact irreplaceable!

As the Union's Secretary, Neville, does his job meticulously despite his other commitments. He always measures up to the Union's expectations and that makes the Union solid and Neville, a Tower of Strength. Suvendreni, as the Union's Treasurer keeps track of the Income and Expenditure and like any budget conscious housewife looks after the Union's financial resources with utmost care.



The ECFU in general and the President, in particular say 'Thank You' to this fantastic husband and wife combination for their immeasurable contribution to the Edirimana Corea Family Union is flawless! Both Neville and Suvendreni have qualified to be the Union's Secretary and Treasurer for Life!!

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



At the next Annual General Meeting of the Edirimana Corea Family Union Flora and I will not be in Sri Lanka to actively participate in it. I am truly sad that I am missing an important event in the ECFU calendar which brings us together in a spirit of fellowship.

The AGM also signals my handing over the mantle of the President to Eugene who I am sure will guide the Union with astute leadership. I would have very much liked to be present to formally

hand over the mantle of chief executive on the very day that has been selected for this change to take place. Needless to say, I will be with you in spirit wishing the Union all the success it deserves under the reliable in-coming President.

I must say that it was a pleasure and a privilege to be at the helm of this distinguished Union. Much of the plans I had in mind during my tenure as President could not be put into operation due to the state of affairs in the country not being conducive. The one thing I was determined to do was to organize a fund-raiser that will bring in funds and that was achieved through the ECFU Christmas Card project. Without an inflow of funds there isn't much that a family union such as our's can do. I am sure the Christmas Card project also gave the impetus for more fund-raisers to be organized in the new year.

Flora joins me in wishing you, one and all, an enjoyable day with the kith and kin that will be remembered for a long time!

Sri Sangabo Corea

## SIR CLAUDE COREA



The crowd that gathered at his home and the cemetery to pay their respects was a glowing tribute to the lasting impression he had created during his lifetime.

Pat, Earnest, Eugene, Patsy and Averille have the consolation that Ernie lived an exemplary life.

Sir Claude was born in the year 1894, the second son of Windsor and Sarah Corea. Claude was my father Ashley's older brother. He was the second in a family of seven children.

My father was especially close to his brother Claude who was only two years older than him. When they grow up both brothers took to the Legal profession and became Proctors of the Supreme Court. They were apprenticed to their uncle, Jimmy Corea of 'Sigiriya', Chilaw, and they established a lucrative practice in their hometown - Chilaw. The office was situated in Bridge Street, in close proximity to the Courts.

It was not long before Claude showed an affiliation to Politics. He won the Chilaw seat uncontested and thereafter continued to be M.P. for Chilaw returned uncontested several times. In Mr. D.S. Senanayake's Cabinet he was the Minister for Trade and Commerce. Subsequently, he was appointed High Commissioner for Ceylon in the U.K., accredited to France and Belgium. He served as Ceylon's Permanent Representative in the U.N. At this time he was struck by illness and had to retire from the Diplomatic Service.

Uncle Claude was a suave Diplomat, an Ambassador par excellence, Courteous to his fingertips, soft-spoken and witty with a disarming smile that lit up his face. I wonder why they don't make Diplomats in that mould anymore!

There was also a spiritual side in his make-up. I remember once when he visited us he related a grim story of a flight he took from England to the U.S. When they were flying midway over the Atlantic, the plane faced severe turbulence which caused panic among the passengers. Uncle Claude however calmly prayed to his Maker and soon the turbulence ceased. When I asked him to write in my autograph, this is what he penned:

"Courage sister do not stumble  
Though thy path be dark as night  
There's a star to guide the humble  
Trust in God and do the right."

C.E. Bulathsinghala, writing about the Coreas of Chilaw had this to say of Claude Corea -

Claude Corea was a statesman par excellence. His versatility, his brilliant talents and his great understanding 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 Ceylon's second Premier.

Sir Claude died in the year 1962. Ceylon lost a great Statesman and a brilliant diplomat.

- Christabelle Aturupane -

## WANTED

For the next Edirimana Corea Family Union (ECFU) newsletter we need to have articles of family interest, clear photographs (coloured or black and white) if available and news about family members living in Sri Lanka and overseas. It is with your co-operation and support that the editor can make the ECFU newsletter, interesting. Traditionally the family is reputed for good writing and creative thinking, and your contribution can help us to continue with the ECFU newsletter without a break. Here's hoping you will rise to be occasion.

Sri Sangabo Corea,  
136/B1, Stanley Tillekeratne Mawatha, Nugegoda.  
Telephone: 011 2856601



*Sarge's* ice breaker

because your mother always loved planting time. I'm just getting too old to be digging up the garden.

If you were here, all my troubles would be over.

I know you would dig the garden for me, if you weren't in prison.

With Love

Appah

**Shortly afterwards the old man received this telegram:**

" For Heaven's sake Appah, don't dig up the garden !

That's where I buried the GUNS "

At 4 A.M. the next morning, a dozen STF men and a dozen Military Police officers showed up and dug up the entire garden without finding any guns.

Confused, the old man wrote another note to his son telling him what happened and asking him what to do next.

His son's reply was: " Go ahead and plant your potatoes Appah.

It's the best I could do for you from here."

**PRINTED MATTER**

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*If undelivered please return to:*

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28, E.A. Cooray Mawatha,  
Colombo 6.