



Edirimana Corea Family Union



NEWS LETTER - MARCH 2009

Editor: Sri Sangabo Corea

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C. E. VICTOR S. COREA HONOURED IN HIS HOME TOWN



History was created in Chilaw on December 02, 2008 when Chilaw honoured one of its outstanding citizens with the unveiling of his statue adjacent to the District Court in the presence of a

distinguished crowd. The statue of Charles Edward Victor Senewiratne Corea was sculptured by one of Sri Lanka's best known sculptors and Art Director of Films and Drama, Viswa Prasandeni, Kalapathi, Deepa Deepani, Kalamanya, Kalasoori Ariyawansa Weerakkody. Having sculptured the statues of distinguished citizens in the country and Leaders of repute who gave astute leadership to our nation the statue of C. E. Victor S. Corea named a National Hero by the Government of Sri Lanka, was the last he produced before his demise. Although he was anxious to have it installed and unveiled during his lifetime it is sad that he did not live to see this day. However, we salute the Late Ariyawansa Weerakkody for producing one of the most majestic looking statues which is admired by one and all.

The Edirimana Corea Family Union acknowledges with thanks the initiative taken by Mr. W. Hilary Prasanna Fernando, Attorney-at-Law and Chairman Urban Council Chilaw for his untiring efforts in making this memorial a landmark in Chilaw. It was somewhat delayed for want of an appropriate site and since Victor Corea, even at the age of 89 years was practising as an Advocate in the Chilaw, Puttalam and Kuliypitiya Courts the spot finally selected was adjacent to the District Court and in front of the proposed shopping complex.

At 8.00 a.m the members of the Edirimana Corea Family Union 31 in number were received by Mr. W. Hilary Prasanna Fernando at the entrance to the Memorial in traditional style and escorted to their seats. Mr. Quintus Fernando, Secretary of the C. E. Victor S. Corea Commemoration Committee delivered his welcome address followed by an informative keynote address delivered by the Chairman of the Urban Council after which the Vote of Thanks was given by Dr Vijaya Corea on behalf of the Edirimana Corea Family Union. After the ceremonial unveiling of the statue floral tributes were placed by Mr. W. Hilary Prasanna Fernando, Mr. Sweeny Perera former Chairman of the Urban Council and Mr. Sri Sangabo Corea, son of C.E. Victor S. Corea. With the national anthem the ceremonies were concluded and the participants including the Judges and Members of the Chilaw Bar were entertained with refreshments in the courts complex.

Mr. Sunimal Fernando, Advisor to His Excellency President Mahinda Rajapakse was Guest - of - Honour, accompanied by his wife, Shanthi. The memorial comprises of C.E. Victor S. Corea attired in the Corea costume which he himself designed when he was elected a Member for Colombo Town North in the Legislative Council of Ceylon, in a life-size standing



Kalasoori Ariyawansa Weerakkody with the last of his masterpieces

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EDITORIAL

The newsletter of any organization or society is a medium of communication serving a useful purpose in transmitting to its readers, news and interesting articles. It strives to achieve maximum width of distribution and an interested readership. Its contents, needless to say must therefore be newsworthy, personal and absorbing. No editor can accomplish such a task by collating reading material, single-handedly.

The Edirimana Corea Family Union has a high profile membership capable of contributing news and articles that will achieve the desired objective of even surpassing our expectations. It is with this in mind that I invite our members to help me fill the pages of our newsletter by giving blanket cover in terms of news about our members and their families and measure up to the vital need of being a truly ECFU-oriented newsletter.

Here's hoping that the next newsletter will be a newsy one that will also serve as a vital link between the sender and the receiver!

C.E. Victor S. Corea Cont.



W. Hilary Prasanna Fernando, Chairman, Urban Council, Chilaw, garlands the statue of C. E. Victor S. Corea soon after he unveiled it.

posture, a protective iron railing with granite plaques, on the pedestal, in Sinhala, Tamil and English with the following inscription:

C.E.VICTOR S.COREA
ADVOCATE - SUPREME COURT
 (29.01.1871 - 06.06.1962)
 DESCENDENT OF EDIRILLA RALA
 KING OF KOTTE AND SITAWAKA

CHAMPION OF THE PEOPLE FOUGHT AGAINST THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT IN 1922 OPPOSING THE INIQUITOUS POLL TAX, WAS ARRESTED AND JAILED, MADE TO BREAK ROCK STONES ON THE PUBLIC HIGHWAY WITH THE DRAMATIC CONSEQUENCE OF FORCING THE STATE TO ABOLISH THE POLL TAX FOR ALL TIME.

MEMBER FOR COLOMBO NORTH
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF CEYLON
 (1924 - 1930)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER
 CEYLON NATIONAL CONGRESS

FIRST PRESIDENT
 CEYLON LABOUR UNION

PRESIDENT
 YOUNG LANKA LEAGUE

THE MEMBERS OF THE EDIRIMANA COREA FAMILY UNION WHO WERE IN ATTENDANCE :

Surangani Ameresekere
 Christabelle Aturupane
 Dilhani Corea
 Flora Corea
 Sri Sangabo Corea
 Gerry de Alwis
 Ernestine de Silva
 Tissa de Silva
 Shiranee Gunawardana
 Ariyaratne Hewage
 Mala Hewage
 Alick Jayasekera
 Nirmalee Jayasekera
 Ayesha Perera
 Renuka Perera
 Chandrani Peiris

Wimal Perera
 Una Perera
 Mohan Ratwatte
 Preethi Ratwatte
 Indira Samaranyake
 Gamini Samarasinghe
 Manoranee Silva
 Brenda Wickremasinghe
 Rajini Wijesundera
 Rupa Corea
 Nirmal de Silva
 Anura Dharmakirti
 Shirani Corea
 Nelum Piyasena
 Manel Fernando

THOSE WHO CONTRIBUTED TOWARDS THE COST OF THE MEMORIAL

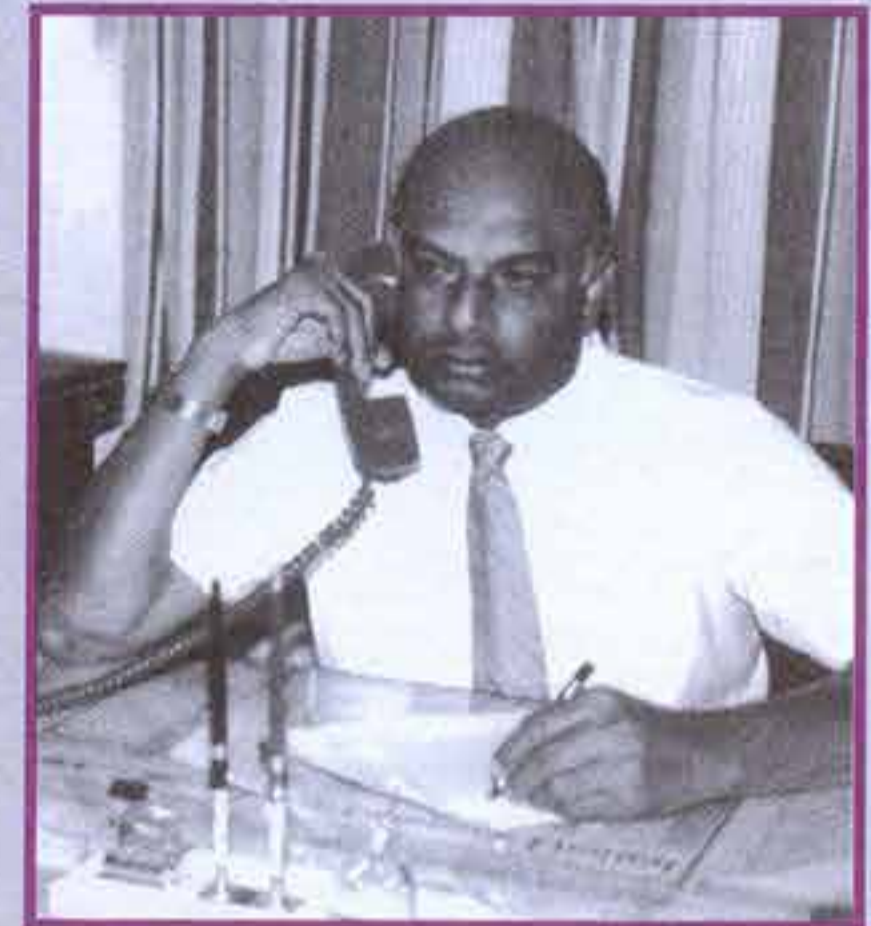
A big Thank You to the following for their generous Contributions

Rupa Corea
 Lihini Ameresekere
 Indira Nelson
 Preethi Ratwatte
 Rajini Wijesundera
 Anura Dharmakirti
 Vimala Corea
 Vijaya Corea
 Uttum Corea

Edirimana Corea Family Union
 Nirmal Hettiarachchi
 Tissa de Alwis
 Vijitha Fernando
 Wimal Perera
 Sri Sangabo Corea
 Kumari Corea
 Lilani Corea Dharmaratne

- Sri Sangabo Corea -

I am one but the last in a family of six girls and two boys and my parents, Victor and Vivienne were a strong and powerful combination who firmly believed in bringing us up in the traditional Sinhala lifestyle, expecting us to fall in line with what they believed in. This we did because we adored our parents. They always came next to God.



'Sinhapura' was the name given to our 6 bedroomed house. It occupied the frontal portion of a coconut land that was in extent, 2 acres 2 roods and 22 perches. My father's rose garden was his pride and there was a variety of fruit trees spread out in that garden. Seven varieties of mango, seedless guava, sapodilla, pomegranate, orange, lemon, woodapple, custard apple, papaw, bell nelli and luscious grapes were all there; the result of meticulous research carried out by my father. Despite reading till late into the night he got up at 5 in the morning to spend the early part of the day in his rose garden while the rest of the family were fast asleep!

In the backyard was a huge wooden structure with separate compartments that stored different varieties of paddy that were harvested from the vast stretch of paddy fields that my father owned on either side of the road approaching Munneswaram. With the opening of a trap door the paddy from the chosen field would come speedily into gunny bags and made ready for cooking. We had our own poultry, cattle, coconut oil and treacle as well.

We were in the happy position of having the Thahas living on the left and the Miskins living in the front. With every muslim festival there came like a prayer, two huge dishes of buriyani, chicken kuruma and the whole works including two bowls of watalappan. We, children kept our eyes fixed at the gate waiting for the feast to arrive!

My father, an Advocate of the Supreme Court was a highly principled son of the soil, a man of steel guts and one who was proud to be a Sinhalese. He dared to challenge the might of the British government in all issues which he thought were detrimental to his countrymen. He risked his life for the people and could well have been court marshalled and got rid of, but the British respected him, knowing that he was fighting the cause of his people in a lawful and dignified manner winning widespread public affection.

My mother, coming from a simple Sinhala family in Madampe had been brought up according to traditional Sinhala customs. She had an impeccable moral character and like any devoted Sinhala wife, worshipped the very ground her husband walked on. When my father married my mother the marriage virtually shattered the Corea practice of marrying relatives and created quite a sensation. As expected, there were relatives who severed connections and others who continued to maintain close ties with us. Marginalization, did not affect us at all. We were self supporting and united and the more important things like Loving and Caring ran through every nerve and fibre in our being. My father was a king even in our home and we on our part used to marvel at the way my mother played her role as an exemplary wife and a devoted mother. She knew all our likes and dislikes and got a personal satisfaction out of pleasing us and was the power behind the day to day running of 'Sinhapura'.

When the villagers of Merawela were prohibited by the British government from carrying out their traditional trade in limestone, they turned to my father for help. He challenged the government, won the case and restored the business to the villagers.

Ever since that day the people of Merawela treated my father as their champion and there never was a celebration in Merawela without my

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Edirimana Corea
Family Union



... *Glorious Days at 'Sinhapura' cont.*

father playing the role of chief guest and all of us being present. The slavish loyalty that every family in Merawela showed to my father was incredible and as children we were thrilled to experience such sincerity and lavish hospitality. Merawela, was well known for its tall and muscular tough men. When I was around 4 years I remember Lucas affectionately catching me by my belt and hoisting me up without bending his arm. There were others like Banda and Wijelis who were looking after my father's lands, readily available to rise to any occasion. What was so nice about 'Sinhapura' was the daily routine we went through with James, Peter, Carolis, Nilame and a retinue of loyal workers who continued to visit us and made themselves available for any task and enjoyed a sumptuous meal and an ex-gratia payment. They wouldn't even sit on a chair or bench in the presence of my father and always kept standing or sat on the tiled floor.

Leila, the eldest in our family was a second mother to all of us and took the place of mother when she was not around. With her pocket money she had the habit of buying a variety of gifts for us, when coming home from St. Bridget's Convent. Charlie was handsome and on many an occasion used me as his 'postman' to carry letters to his admirers! He was my hero and although my mother tried to conceal it he was definitely her favourite. Chandrani and Ratna were very talented in specialized subjects such as cooking, stitching, making short eats and maintaining the house. Rupa, Lihini and Indira were very artistic and musical. Each one was encouraged to excel in their natural talents. My father was of the firm belief that no daughter of his should do a job to earn a living.

There was love, laughter, happiness and respect for each other all the time and our childhood days are memorable. From the eldest to the youngest we realized how blessed we were to have parents who were so loving and caring. We also had our share of fun. The day I came home for the holidays, my sisters served me with biscuits and neatly cut pieces of cheese. When I was about to take the first bite of cheese my sisters screamed with laughter and pointed out that it was bar soap! Carolis was a 6 footer weighing well over 250 pounds. He was a light reader and an expert astrologer. One night he was relating ghost stories and when we retired to bed, my sister Lihini, attired in sarong and coat with her hair encircling the face, tip-toed up to Carolis and with her pointed finger nails scratched his shoulder from behind. He looked back saw this 'apparition', let out a blood curdling yell and crashed to the floor like a ton of bricks! When my mother appeared at the scene we were all fanning and spraying water to revive this hulk of a man. Tough as he was Carolis revived in no time and joined us in laughing over it.

After a brief spell of schooling in the Chilaw convent and St. Mary's College, my father, decided to send me to his old school - S. Thomas' College. I was devastated by the very idea of being separated from my parents and sisters. I had no choice and my appeal to remain at St. Mary's fell on deaf ears! On admission day at STC, When my father and I were heading towards the boarding house, Warden R.S. de Saram spotted my father and came across to warmly greet him and start up a conversation. Later, he instructed a prefect to escort us to Chapman House Junior where I was going to be. It was not easy to settle down in surroundings I was not at all familiar with but I managed to get over the initial setback and get hold of myself. After all, I was my father's son!

Being one but the last in the family I was very mischievous and often ran into trouble with my sisters. Whenever trouble was reported the punishment was for me to stand behind the door and read Julius Caesar for my father to hear and correct me, if necessary. Many were the times I had to go through this exercise and soon got to know its contents from cover to cover. Small as I was I was an expert at delivering Mark Antony's speech! As luck would have it the text book, when I was sitting for the S.S.C. Examination was William Shakespeare's Julius Caesar! My English teacher, Leonard Arndt was curious to know how I was so conversant with the book. He was amused when he heard how it all happened. "I say Corea" said the great Leonard Arndt "you must have been a mischievous brat to know the text so well". When the results came and I had a distinction, Arndt wasn't surprised at all!

My sister Lihini and I had the habit of running up to the postman to collect the mail for distribution. One day when she beat me to it and was whizzing past me, in sheer desperation I stretched out my leg to stop her. In a flash I saw my sister airborne and in the next moment saw her lying flat on her face almost kissing the postman's shoes! I spent the

next 30 minutes, standing behind the door reading out a loud William Shakespeare's Julius Caesar!!

Life at STC was superb. I met some of the nicest guys who still keep in touch. Every time my mother and my sisters came to see me our car was like the tuck shop loaded with everything I liked. My mother enjoyed feeding me as much as I could consume inside the car. The balance was for the dorm mates waiting impatiently for my return. My friends loved to visit me at home during the holidays, mostly to enjoy the meals my mother had arranged for them with chicken, crabs and prawns!

My mother always had reservations about sending my brother and me abroad for higher studies, fearing we might get married to foreign women! My brother pleaded with her and the furthest he got to go was India where he passed out as an Engineer. However, it so transpired that the beautiful Indian girl who was crazy over him he had to leave behind fearing that if he brought her home my mother would burst a blood vessel! That apart, my handsome brother closed the lid on my chances of leaving the country!

During my eventful stay at Levers spread over 22 years, the Secretary-General of the Export Promotion Secretariat requested that my services be loaned to organize at the BMICH the first ever Export Exhibition planned for the benefit of visiting chain store buyers from U.S.A., U.K. and Germany. After the first exhibition my services were sought once again and the company loaned me to organize the second exhibition. Subsequently, the Sri Lanka Meals for Millions Foundation requested for my services to organize "Poshanaya" an exhibition on rice substitutes which was also declared open by Prime Minister, Mrs. Sirima R.D. Bandaranaike and Levers released me to do that as well. Trained by Unilever, I was also on attachment with Hindustan Lever Bombay and Lever Brothers Thailand which in no uncertain terms gave me an insight into consumer marketing in the face of stiff competition. At the time of leaving Levers I was the Brand Manager for the Foods Division. Nihal Corea and I worked very closely with each other, and we were referred to as North Corea and South Corea!!

I was good at talking and this made my mother refer to me as the 'Honourable Speaker'! I was selected to contest the Chilaw constituency when President J.R. Jayewardene had wanted a Corea for Chilaw. Minister of State, Anandatissa de Alwis, for whom I had a great admiration had mentioned my name and got his approval. When he telephoned me to convey the news I was all set to leave for Bangkok to attend a Unilever Management Course after which I was on attachment with Lever Brothers, Thailand. A delegation from Merawela also called at my office and pleaded with me to contest but very reluctantly I had to decline because of my commitment to Levers. The Minister, to say the least was thoroughly disappointed and even offered to speak to the Lever's Chairman but decided against it when he saw that it was too late to alter the company's arrangements. My close friends and the family were disappointed too as they were of the opinion that I was perfectly cut out to be an unbeatable politician.

At the end of my 22nd year tenure at Levers, Ceylon Tobacco Company created the new post of Corporate Affairs Manager on the advice of British Tobacco Company and the post was offered to me and I accepted it notwithstanding the fact that it was one of the most difficult jobs a man could handle.

My work at CTC was highly commended by BAT and my permission sought by this multi-national giant, to introduce my programmes to other BAT companies worldwide. That by itself was indeed the jewel in the crown!

On the social side, I was a founder member of the Colombo South Jaycees and in its very first year was selected the Most Outstanding Jaycee. Was elected President in the following year and represented the National Jaycees at the Asian Jaycee Conference held in Hong Kong. In Lions International I was selected LION OF THE YEAR by a panel of judges and received the coveted award from His Excellency President J. R. Jayewardene at the BMICH. Was selected LION OF THE YEAR for the second time but I requested that the award be given to the next in line as I had already won this award once.

I was a Lecturer in Marketing in the Diploma for Marketing Course conducted by the University of Colombo, Guest Speaker at meetings, Member of the faculty at training courses and workshops and am

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... *Glorious Days at 'Sinhapura' cont.*

currently a Marketing Consultant. Have been 3 times Honorary Secretary of the S.Thomas' College Old Boys' Association, 3 times Chairman of the Royal-Thomian Cricket Match and 5 times Chairman of the Thomian Nite Dinner - Dance and twice Secretary of the Thomian Fair.

Life in 'Sinhapura' was so full of love, laughter, warmth and good times, leaving nothing more to be desired. As a family we were a formidable force and I even to this day thank God for giving me the privilege of spending the best years of my childhood in that wonderful home! It is painful to think that some of the family who contributed towards the joy we experienced is no more with us and the only consolation that I have is that they are where they belong ... Safe in the arms of Jesus!

Whilst still studying Flora and I decided to get married - took our vows at the Kachcheri. Later in the evening my legally married wife was locked up in her room upstairs preventing her from leaving the house. This forced her to climb the window and clear a height of 20 feet to land on the lawn ... a feat that would have won her a gold medal in the Olympic Games! We ended the day not with a wedding photograph, but with an X-ray!

Our world revolves around Ramani married to Ranil Wagiswara, living in London, Dilhani, at the moment in Sri Lanka, Sharmini, married to Kishan Jayewardene living in USA and Sanjeeva married to Dushani also living in Sri Lanka. Flora and I have been blessed with children who are loving, caring and God fearing. They are unique and a great source of inspiration to us! And so are our grand-children ... Sadhira, Anithra, Shemara, Maneesha, Rakith, Shanaya and the newest to arrive ... Sashia!

THE COREAS

- By Kumari Jayawardane -

Unconnected to the liquor trade, but making their money on plantation ventures was the Corea family of Chilaw, an influential goyigama group with a history going back to Portuguese rule when they were warriors to the Sinhala Kings. During the Dutch and British rule, members of the family were officials serving the state in various ways and rewarded with titles (Wright 1907:735). Some members of the family took to the legal and medical professions, most notably the sons of Charles Edward Corea (a solicitor), who were active in local politics and in the Chilaw Association which campaigned against British land policies - especially the Waste Lands Ordinance, and for political reforms. The most active of Corea's sons was C.E. (Charles Edgar) Corea who spoke up for peasant rights and was militant in his stand against the government. He was President of the Ceylon National Congress in 1924. C.E.Corea's brother, Alfred Ernest, was a doctor and the youngest, Victor Corea was a lawyer who achieved fame for leading a campaign (and going to jail in 1922) to protest against the Poll Tax on all males; he was the President of the Ceylon Labour Union led by A.E.Goonesinha and was active in the Ceylon Labour Party during the 1920s (Jayawardane 1972:238 & 277).

While being professionals and political activists, the Coreas were also important land owners. By 1927 C.E.Corea and his wife had 659 acres of land of which 530 was coconut (Roberts 1979: Chapter IV, Table 2). This backing gave them the confidence to become champions of dissident causes, involving workers and peasants. And their economic interests and influence in the Chilaw area enabled C.E. and Victor Corea to enter the Legislative Council in the 1920s.

HAROLD ... NEVER SACRIFICED HIS PRINCIPLES FOR POWER

With the demise of Harold Herat, the country has lost a clever lawyer, sincere politician and a gentleman par excellence. The two families of Herats and Coreas have lost a kinsman who lived up to the family tradition of being honest and respectable, serving the people with every nerve and fibre of their being.

I remember vividly, Harold, the smart and promising young lawyer practising in the Chilaw Courts, visiting our home to sit with my father, his uncle, C.E.Victor S.Corea for advice on family and legal matters.

The fact that my father had so much of affection for his grand-nephew and spent much of his time in guiding him in those formative years at the Bar was proof of the implicit faith he had that Harold will be an embellishment to the family. Harold, sacrificed a lucrative practice as a lawyer when he took to politics following in the steps of his predecessors ... C.E.Corea, C.E.Victor S.Corea, Sir Claude Corea, S.C.Shirley Corea and Harindra Corea all of whom were lawyers and one-time members of the legislature. He won the Marawila seat each time he contested and was Minister of Justice, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister of Coconut Industries and also Deputy Minister of Finance in successive governments.



He was loved and respected for his honesty and sincerity and was referred to as Mr.Clean on posters plastered all over his electorate during election time. No one could point an accusing finger where his honesty was concerned. It was impeccable! People expected him to be on the National List and rightly so because he held important portfolios, never lost an election and had an exemplary character as a politician.

It is no secret that he was under immense pressure to cross parties, but he wouldn't hear of it. "I have been an UNPer and I will remain an UNPer to the last" he said when there was speculation and people were wanting to know what his plans were. That was what Harold Herat was made of ... solid as rock and judiciously following the dictates of his conscience. A remarkable gentleman, he never sacrificed his principles for power and position. He had it all in abundance at Mudukatuwa Walauwe from his childhood days and for him there was no novelty in getting into positions of power.

The unprecedented crowds that came from near and far to pay their respects at his funeral speak volumes for the love and respect he had earned. He always had time for the people and although a staunch Christian, he played a dominant role in furthering the cause of Buddhism in his electorate. This, the Buddhist clergy expressed in no uncertain terms in their orations.

The biggest tribute that politicians can pay to Harold Herat is by emulating his sterling qualities. There should be more of his calibre... dignified human beings endowed with refinement in speech and behaviour and above all, his steadfast commitment to stick to the values he believed in.

Harold Herat was an inspiration to all who knew him. It will be ever so difficult for Gwen and the children, Shamara, Avancka and Parveen to come to grips with the reality that the void created by his absence will be a constant reminder that the affectionate tower of strength behind the family isn't there any more. But to them I would say that gentlemen like Harold don't die ... they pass on to a better place leaving behind footprints on the sands of time.

May you find eternal happiness with your Creator.

Sri Sangabo Corea

(Taken from The Sunday Times of September 30, 2007)

OBITUARY

It is with profound sorrow that we record the passing away of the following members during the period under review:

Professor Randunna Corea	Olsen Gunawardana
Harold Herat	Damanthie Pieris
Henry Ameresekere	Doreen Hettiarachchy

May they rest in peace.



Edirimana Corea
Family Union



WIMAL PERERA - IN FULL OPERATION

Wimal Perera, Una's son who went in search of greener pastures returned to Sri Lanka after working in Japan, Saudi Arabia, France, Germany, Denmark and Sweden covering a period of 22 years.

Soon after his return to the island Wimal set up an Engineering Design & Fabrication Shop to provide an efficient service to the manufacturing industry. His workshop is one of the most advanced engineering design shops operating in Sri Lanka.

He has extended his services to include an up to date high technology automobile and maintenance motor garage dealing with lubricating services, engine overhauls, and specializing in gearbox, clutch, brakes, steering, suspension etc.

Digital engineering covers mechanical design (CAD), machinery, parts, manufacturing, repair, undertaking contracts to build custom designed factories etc.

For state of the art service contact Wimal Perera at

Digital Engineering (Pvt) Ltd at 56, Horana Road, Halpita, Kesbewa, Piliyandala. Telephone: 2705920. Fax: 27059201.

Web: digitalengineeringlk.com and

e-mail: DigitalEng@hotmail.com.

HotLine: 0777199422.



It was Wimal who transported the statue of C.E. Victor S. Corea from Kirulapone to Chilaw and installed it with meticulous care on the pedestal.

FUND RAISING PROJECTS

Dukshie Goonetilleke is the live wire behind BARGAIN COUNTERS, the Bring n Buy Sale organized by the ECFU at the Girl Guides Headquarters in front of the Public Library, Colombo 7. On Sunday November 23, 2008, all the stalls were sold out at Rs.1000/- each and there was a variety of things to buy at rock bottom prices. There were garments, dry flowers and floral arrangements, lucky dip, short eats and ice coffee, books, costume jewellery, bed sheets, pillow cases and towels, Christmas cards, handicrafts and many more items of utility value. Congrats to Dukshie for her meticulous planning and execution and of course to Neville, Suvendreni Weerasesekera and family, Christabelle and Harinlal Aturupane, Brenda Wickremasinghe and Surangani Ameresekere for supporting her with their presence and active participation.

The ECFU launched its Christmas Card fund raising project in October 2008 and Christabelle Aturupane did a grand job by co-ordinating sales and distribution amongst the members. A total of 5,919 cards in an assortment of red, blue and green colours were sold at Rs.25/- per card and envelope. A small quantity of unsold cards are available with the committee at Rs 10/- per card and envelope. Members are advised to buy their requirement of cards for the Christmas season this year as there will be no cards of this size (12cm x 19.5cm) in the market at such a give away price!

Don't delay - Contact Christabelle on 2712534 straightaway and reserve your requirements.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Under the Chairmanship of Dr. Eugene Corea a team of Helpers visited the Chandrasekera Home in Moratuwa and gave the walls a new coat of paint with the costs borne by the participants. Eugene also distributed exercise books amongst the children housed in the Chandrasekera Home. Well done Eugene for a worthy project planned and executed under your Chairmanship.

We are planning on having Corea nite this year. Make sure you'll be there.

News Breaker

The primary objective of the Edirimana Corea Family Union is to create opportunities for the membership to get together and enjoy the spirit of fellowship. The need is for everyone to get to know each other and be a united family.

With this in mind the Committee is organizing the Annual General Meeting & Fellowship scheduled for Sunday March 22, 2009 at Aqua Pearl Villa, 201 Galkanuwa Road, Gorakana, Moratuwa. The price of a ticket has been reduced further from Rs.500/- to Rs.400/- to make it affordable for more members to join in the get-together that will be ever so enjoyable. The subsidized price of Rs.400/- is inclusive of a sumptuous lunch, fun and games, singing and dancing and plenty of prizes to win. It is half rate for Children under 12 and free of charge for Kids below 6.

If you need transport - Call Deva Corea on 0773400802 as soon as you can.

Sange's ice breaker**GETTING A HAIR DRYER THROUGH CUSTOMS**

A model on a flight to London asked the Priest seated next to her

"Father, may I ask you for a favour?"

"Of course child. What may I do for you?"

"Well, I bought myself an expensive woman's electronic hair dryer for my mother as a birthday gift. It is unopened and well over the Custom's limits, and I am afraid they'll confiscate it. Is there any way you could carry it through Customs for me? Under your robes perhaps?"

"I would love to help you dear but I must warn you that I will not lie."

"With your honest face, Father, no one will question you."

When they got to Customs, she let the Priest go ahead of her.

The Customs Officer asked, "Father, do you have anything to declare?"

"From the top of my head down to my waist, I have nothing to declare."

The officer thought this answer strange and asked,

"And what do you have to declare from your waist to the floor?"

"I have a marvelous instrument designed to be used on a woman, but which is, to date, unused."

Roaring with laughter, the officer said "Go ahead Father... NEXT!"

SMART DAD

A young lad took his dad to the mall to buy himself a pair of shoes.

They were hungry so they decided to eat something at the food court.

The son noticed his dad looking at a teenager sitting in front of him.

The teenager had spiked hair in different colours... green, red, orange and blue. His dad kept staring at him.

The teenager, would look and find the lad's dad staring each time.

When the teenager had enough, he sarcastically asked,

"What's the matter old man, never done anything wild in your life?"

Knowing his dad, the lad quickly swallowed his food so that he wouldn't choke when he heard his response, knowing too well what the teenager would get back.

And in classic style, without batting an eyelid his dad told him...

"Got drunk once and had sex with a peacock. I was wondering if you were my son!"

WHAT THE FATHER DID NOT KNOW

Little Jonny attended a horse auction with his father.

He watched as his father moved from horse to horse, running his hands up and down the horse's legs and rump and chest.

After a few minutes, Jonny asked, 'Dad why are you doing that?'

His father replied, 'Because when I'm buying horses, I have to make sure that they are healthy and in good shape before I buy.'

Jonny, looking worried said, 'Dad, I think the postman wants to buy Mom.'



WHAT IT IS TO BE A COREA

When Sangabo asked me to write an article captioned 'What it is to be a Corea', I thought it was a tall order.

But on reflection I realized that one can be justifiably proud of being a 'Corea'; We Coreas trace our lineage to Edirilla Bandara who became a convert to Christianity and was baptized as Emmanuel Corea. He was the son of Ranamukha Bandara (descendent of King Buvenakabahu) and Abaranawathie. 'Corea' means select or chosen, and indeed we are privileged to belong to this select family. Emmanuel Corea's son was Jeronimo Corea, the Interpreter to King Don Juan Dharmapala. Dominicus Corea was the eldest son of Jeronimo and his wife Anna.

In the History of our Country, the name Dominicus Corea is enshrined as a National Hero. He grew up in the precincts of the Kotte Palace together with Konappu Bandara (Wimaladharmasuriya) and excelled in Martial Arts. In the service of Don Juan Dharmapala of Kotte 'There was scarcely anyone more distinguished for valour, and certainly none more remarkable for good looks and a fine presence than the youthful Dominicus Corea'. Due to his bravery he was appointed the General or Vickramasinghe of the Army and successfully fought several battles. Subsequently, he joined his friend Wimaladharmasuriya. He is also said to have taken the Tooth Relic from the Delgomuwa Temple where it was hidden in a grinding stone for safety, lest the Portugueses capture it, and taken it to Kandy.

He was proclaimed King of Kotte and Sitawaka and King Wimaladharmasuriya gave him as bride Subadra Devi, daughter of Vidya Bandara, the King of Sat Korale. The wedding celebrations were held on a magnificent scale and this is the only wedding in the Kandy Maligawa described in our history books. When he renewed his Campaign against the Portuguese he fought successfully but was finally captured and executed on the 14th of July 1595. Down the ages, the Coreas have held high

office as Mudaliyars. Of the Corea Greats of Yesteryear were men of the stature of C.E.Corea, C.E.Victor S.Corea, Sir Claude Corea, S.C.Shirley Corea who were great statesmen. Victor Corea was a fearless fighter for the poor and the oppressed, and together with his brother, C.E.Corea, they championed the cause for National Unity. Their brother Dr.J.A.E.Corea was a greatly respected Doctor who was gifted as a great Artist. His son Ernie, a Past President of our Union is held in high esteem as a reputed lawyer and a man of integrity. Sir Claude Corea, a suave diplomat was the first and only Corea to be knighted. His son Harindra Corea emulated his father and served as M.P. for Chilaw. Shirley Corea, made his mark as the Speaker in Parliament. Gate Mudliyar J.E.Corea comes to mind as a Man of Authority. His son Aelian Corea was the first Ceylonese Principal of Royal College. Men of the caliber of Jumeaux Corea, the much loved Surveyor and his brother Jimmy of 'Sigiriya' are Coreas we have to be proud of. Ashley Corea was a well reputed Lawyer of high integrity.

Among our own kinsmen we are proud of Dr.Gamani Corea, former Secretary General of UNCTAD, whose fame has exceeded the boundaries of his homeland.

Henri Corea stands tall among the 'Corea Greats' as the founder of the Edirimana Corea Family Union. His eldest Randunna propelled to the top as one of the most sought after orthopaedic Surgeons enjoying a lucrative practice in Saudi Arabia. His son Deva Corea, one-time President of our Union, himself a Police Officer like his father is a person of endearing qualities, soft spoken and unassuming and is held in high esteem. Vijaya Corea, Past President of our Union has achieved fame as the Most Popular Broadcaster, DJ and he is described as 'Sri Lanka's Number One Comperere. The voice of Vijaya Corea is unique - without compare' and so is his eloquence. Sangabo Corea, present President of our Union is a worthy son of a great father Victor Corea. He is gifted with a Vibrant Personality - exuding much charm and bon homie - a man who 'can get things done'. Like the 'Thomian Grit' he is a Man representing 'Corea Clout'!

- Christabelle Aturupane -

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



A LETTER FROM ERNIE COREA, PAST PRESIDENT, ECFU

02.05.02

Dear Christabelle,

It is a source of great pride to belong to a family membership along with you.

I was overjoyed to read your newsletter. Please let me congratulate you on a great achievement which is your newsletter.

Whenever I look around I realize with amazement the wide ranging talent that we Coreas have been specially blessed with.

As a family there doesn't appear to be any sphere of life where one or more of us Coreas has not been outstanding in their contribution.

God bless you and yours.

Affectionately
Ernie Aiyah

HE LEFT A VOID THAT CANNOT BE FILLED

He was tall and smart with an athletic figure. He had a friendly disposition and an infectious smile. His simplicity was too good to be true and least of all to be associated with an eminent Orthopaedic Surgeon of his calibre. He was at the height of his illustrious career, winning friends and admirers out of his patients. He excelled in giving hope to the hopeless and brought them out of difficult situations to live normal lives with his incredible touch and caring ways. He achieved everything he believed in and most of all built the desired image he wanted for himself... a devout believer of God, a surgeon par excellence and a human being whose primary obligation was to serve mankind... that was Professor Randunna Corea.



His life was snuffed just like the flame of a candle in the wind and we Coreas have lost a tower of strength who was always there when needed. The end came just as he would have wanted ... instantly, without any suffering, but to his wife Nalini and children, Ranmali, Namali and Gemunu it is an irreparable loss. All of us who were close to him banked on having Randunna around for many more years and now we are all poorer by his absence.

Randunna, was a product of S.Thomas' College, Mount Lavinia where he acquitted himself well in studies and sports. His grandmother, most often spoke in glowing terms of her father, Dr.John Attygalle who had many 'firsts' in his list of achievements. He was the first Sinhalese to study western medicine and obtain the MRCS London and MD Aberdeen, the first Sinhalese Colonial Surgeon of Ceylon, the first Sinhalese to act as the Principal Civil Medical Officer retiring in 1898. He was the author of "Materia Medica," a book on the indigenous medical flora of Ceylon. To young Randunna all this inspired him to take to medicine and qualify as a doctor. He was in the first medical batch at Peradeniya.

After passing out, his first appointment was in Kandy, where he met Nalini. When he proceeded to the UK to qualify further, Nalini followed, they got married and together worked towards the realization of Randunna's dream of becoming an Orthopaedic Surgeon. Nalini, in no small way gave Randunna all the support he needed towards achieving his goals and aspirations.

After qualifying as an Orthopaedic Surgeon he was keen on returning to Sri Lanka and serving in the land that he loved so much but was told that he would have to re-enlist at the bottom and that his seniority would not be taken into account. Disappointed, he left to Saudi Arabia. Many years later, applying for a post at the Sri Jayawardenapura Hospital, he was asked to go through a viva, but none more qualified than he could be found to conduct the viva, as a result of which Sri Lanka lost his expertise once again.

In the late eighties when he heard of the increasing number of Scoliosis patients in Sri Lanka he wrote to President Premadasa suggesting that the Government should set up a Surgical Ward for Scoliosis patients. This was done at the Sri Jayawardenapura Hospital and for the first time treatment for Scoliosis was introduced to Sri Lanka. This operation, for the straightening of crooked spines was a 10 to 12 hour operation. Being an all-round surgeon, he also attended to hip and knee replacements.

Randunna, started his practice in Colombo, at his residence and his patients from the outstations would bring him gifts of fruits and vegetables in place of a fee. He never would charge from the poor and from those who were known to him. He was then advised to tie up with Nawaloka and Asiri Hospitals and make his services available whenever he could fly down to Sri Lanka. He was a Reserve Senior Superintendent of Police and assisted DIG, Mr.M.M.Gunaratne to develop the Operating Theatre at the Police Hospital.

He once asked me whether I could refer poor patients to him whenever he came down to Sri Lanka so that he could treat them without charging a fee. The prospect of working such a scheme through the Lions Club was considered but since the demand was overwhelming the scheme could not be put into operation. This simply showed that Randunna, was least interested in making money but instead enjoyed serving those who had implicit faith in him.

In recent times, Randunna, despite his busy schedule, has shown tremendous interest in updating the Edirimanasuriya Corea family tree right up to the present day; displaying a keenness which he obviously inherited from his parents, Henri and Claire. He made it a point to find the time to devote to this newly discovered talent and was quite an authority on the subject.

Gentlemen like Randunna are a God given gift to mankind. I am personally aware of the countless times when he waived off his fee and reached out to those who couldn't afford to channel him but yet came to him. He gave them a pleasant surprise by refunding the consultation fees they had already paid, simply because he cared for them.

The elements were so mixed in him that he always, at all times, adopted a Caring and Sharing attitude with those he came in contact with.

May his life be an inspiration to all who knew him

Sri Sangabo Corea

Reproduced from The Sunday Times of

THE MARRIAGE OF DOMINICUS COREA

(sent by Randunna Corea shortly before his demise)

At the Annual Edirimana Corea Family Union outing sometime ago, an invited guest Mr.Frederick Medis spoke about the Corea family. He stated that Dominicus Corea's wife was Portuguese. A similar opinion was written by Mr.Mihindukulasuriya Fernando of Chilaw in the press. This article is written in the interest of historical accuracy.

The following excerpt is from Volume 2, Page 508 of "Conquest of Ceylon" written by Father Querez, the official historian to the King of Portugal during the Portuguese invasion. The Portuguese hated Dominicus and the bias is evident in his writing.

Continued... 8



...The Marriage of Dominicus Corea cont.

" The rebel fled to Candea where the King received him with great honour. Being persuaded that so long as he lived and continued the war, his own Kingdom would be safe. In order to lay him under greater obligation, he made him a solemn donation of another's property and gave him the Kingdoms of Cota and Ceytavaca. He accorded him the precedence of a King, for so easy are these titles with that nation, and, to complete the friendship, he had him married in the following manner. There was in Candea a daughter of Videa Bandar, Prince of the Seven-Corlas, as gifted with natural graces as she was unfortunate in these espousals. Her he gave as wife to Domingos Correa, who becoming still more vain, thenceforth called himself Idirimana Suriya Bandar which means " King who defied the Kings of the earth and even the Sun himself ". A proclamation was made throughout the City 'that on the following day would be celebrated the marriage and coronation of Idirimana Suriya Bandar, that all the grandees of the Kingdom should be present in gala dress'. It was scarcely morning when three elephants appeared before the gate of the Palace, harnessed and covered with ornaments of Gold and Silver and a rich planquin inlaid with ivory and gold. In this the unhappy princess took her seat, the new-made King on the middle elephant with a crown of gold; on the two side elephants two influential chiefs and the oldest Modeliaries of the Court, one with a white shield which he held above him, the other with a large fan, with which he refreshed him and drove away the flies and mosquitos, the inseparable companions of the elephants; and thus he marched in triumph, the Princess going before, attended by the ladies and principal Maids of Honour. In this way they proceeded through the City with dancing and music and noisy instruments playing; and thence they went to the Pagodo, where the Chief Changatar with great pomp and majesty and sacrifices and other nonsensical and impure pagan rites married them and joined them in a bond less firm than arbitrary. If any modern critic finds these details strange, let him bethink himself of what took place in the great Court of Nebuchadnezzar and of ' Sic horabitur quem Rex volnerit honorare '. In this festival the Candiot showed himself so grandiose and magnanimous, that he rewarded those who took part in the recent wars according to their merits and qualities, conferring on them the dignities of Modeliaries, Araches, Tandarez, Durias, Panchiaz, Deneaz and Vngiaz, and in gratitude for these honours they offered their services to Sir Renegade and upstart King, Idirimana Suriya Bandar.

NEWS ABOUT OUR YOUNG ADULTS

EMPLOYMENT

Children of Ranmali and Anil Amarasekera

Akhila Amarasekera

Works as Assistant Manager- Corporate Finance & Restructuring at Price Water House Coopers.

Samala Amarasekera

Works as Assistant Manager - Projects Access Agencies.

Acela Amarasekera

Works as Junior Consultant (SAP) Attune Consulting (Pvt) Ltd.

MARRIAGES

Akhila Amarasekera

Daughter of Ranmali & Anil Amarasekera to Shanil Wijeyewardene on January 02.2006 at Pusellahena Estate, Kidelpitiya, Milleva.

Acela Suriya Amarasekera

Son of Ranmali & Anil Amarasekera to Chanika Pinto, on June 21.2008 at Galle Face Hotel.

Maljini Corea -

Daughter of Nihal & Sriyani Corea to Shamal Amaratunga on September 06.2008 at Colombo Hilton.

Devaka Corea -

Son of Deva & Ramani Corea to Simone Seneviratna on December 20. 2008 at Scotts Kirk.

BIRTHS

Sharintha Joshua Rupasinghe

Son of Prithiva & Dilshan Rupasinghe on September 02. at Nine Wells Hospital.



Liana Arielle Ameresekere

(Sister to Danika Abigail - 2 years)
Daughter of Sampath & Ayesha Ameresekere on November 04.2008 at Joseph Frazer Hospital.

Sashia Ariana Lilani Corea

Daughter of Sanjeeva Victor & Dushani Corea on December 11.2008 at Joseph Frazer Hospital.

BEATITUDES FOR FRIENDS OF THE AGED

- Ernestine de Silva-

Blessed are they who understand my faltering step and palsied hand.
Blessed are they who know that my ears today must strain to catch the things they say.
Blessed are they who seem to know that my eyes are dim and my wits are slow.
Blessed are they who look away when coffee spilled at table today.
Blessed are they with a cheery smile, who stop to chat for a little while.
Blessed are they who never say "You've told that story twice today".
Blessed are they who know the ways to bring back memories of Yesterdays.
Blessed are they who make it known that I'm loved, respected and not alone.
Blessed are they who know that I'm at a loss to find strength to carry the cross.
Blessed are they who ease the days on my journey Home in loving ways.

AN INVITATION

TO A MEMORABLE GET TOGETHER WITH YOUR KITH AND KIN!

WHAT YOU'RE IN FOR...

- Welcome drink
- Tombola
- Fun & Games
- Corea Quiz
- Jokes Competition
- Buffet Lunch
- Musical Chairs - under 50 & over 50
- American Auction
- Spot the ad
- Annual General Meeting
- Open Forum
- Sing along by the banks of Bolgoda Lake
- Evening Tea...
- All this and more at a rock bottom subsidized price

TRANSPORT

- If you have your own vehicle please come in it and see whether you can offer a lift to those in need. Cars leave Bambalapitiya Flats at 8.00 am. Those who require transport must contact Deva Corea on his mobile 0773 400802 by March 12, 2009
- If you are coming by public transport get to the turn at Galkanuwa Road, Gorakana (along the old road) and take a 3 wheeler to Aqua Pearl

TICKET

Rs 500 (all inclusive)
Children under 12 : Rs 250
and kids below 6 : Free

The picturesque Aqua Pearl Villa is everybody's choice, to meet, greet and spend an exciting day loaded with fun & frolic, prizes and surprises!!

CONFIRMATION:
Send the annexed return to any of the following, to reach on or before Sunday March 15, 2009 with cheque/MO/cash

Sri Sangabo Corea Surangani Ameresekere Suvendrini Weerasekera

Sunday March 22, 2009
 from 9.00 am @ AQUA PEARL VILLA
 Moratuwa,
 201 Galkanuwa Road, Gorakana
 (Phone: 038 2 232960 or 5 522687)

