

WE CARE FOR MADRAS THAT IS CHENNAI

MADRAS

MUSINGS

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FREE ISSUE

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Bad vibes for the Pantheon complex

(By A Staff Reporter)

Chennai has been mute witness to considerable damage to its heritage, especially in the callous neglect of some of its architecture steeped in history both before and after the advent of the British. That the monuments and buildings left behind by the British are part of our heritage has been a relatively recent addition to our cultural awareness. Among the buildings that ought to have been cherished and maintained with love and reverence for the past is the Connemara Public Library on Pantheon Road, which like many of its counterparts, has been for years rather poorly cared for. When the plan to restore it as a model of conservation was announced, there could not have been gladder tidings for those who care for gracious Madras and its magnificent heritage.

But there is now bad news. The Manohar Avenue Residents' Association nearby fears that the library building under restoration will bear the brunt of the vibrations from the pile foundation work for a new construction that is about to begin in the Museum and Connemara Library grounds on Pantheon Road. They suggest an alternative method: the rotary

method adopted in the construction of the flyover opposite the National Art Gallery and Museum precincts.

The proposed high-rise construction will house the ambitious Tamil Centre. As tree-felling in preparation has already begun, the scrub jungle in the museum precincts is at peril. Huge 60-foot high trees have been felled, say the residents, while a raintree estimated to be a hundred years old is in danger of being uprooted. In addition to the loss of green cover in the acreage surrounding the library and the adjoining museum, its wealth of birdlife is also threatened. The huge construction will also bring in its wake pollution caused by the future occupants of the Tamil Centre building.

A member of the Residents' Association has filed a writ petition demanding the stopping of tree-felling. No permission has been granted by the CMDA to carry out any new construction in the area under threat, according to the Residents' Association. The Association has informed the Pollution Control Board of the hazards and requested the enforcement wing of the

CMDA to inspect the damage being inflicted on the heritage site.

Meanwhile, the Archaeological Survey of India, responsible for the upkeep and restoration of the Connemara Library building, is disappointed that the work is not progressing at any appreciable speed for lack of response to its tender notices. At least that has been the fate of the tender call for replacing the tiles used on the roof of the building. Also delayed is the supply of the long-awaited wooden logs which are needed to rest joists that have been eaten away by white ants, thanks to poor maintenance and debris accumulated in the wooden water channels on the roof. Stagnant water and seepage have done serious damage, according to the authorities. Similarly, work on restoring the stained glass and the two-tier roof is progressing slowly, due to the caution being exercised on account of the limited knowledge available on restoring stained glass. Stained glass pieces, which had fallen off, are being chemically treated before being fitted into the appropriate frames. A floral stucco embellishment on an arch is also being restored.



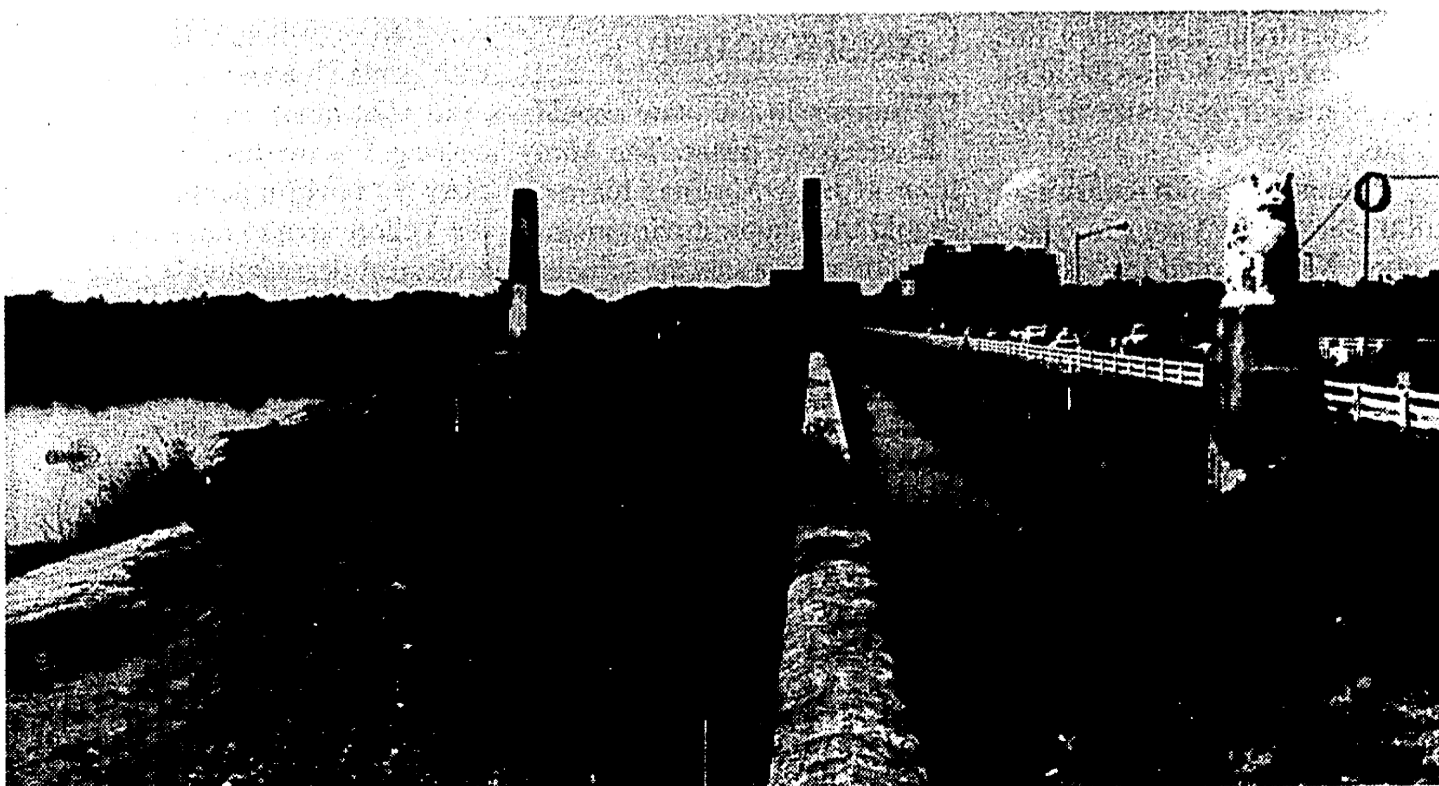
Pile-driving equipment brought in to start work at the Connemara Library-Museum Complex on Pantheon Road. This equipment will threaten both buildings, it is feared. (Photograph by RAJIND N CHRISTY.)

THE BRIDGE TO NOWHERE

(By A Staff Reporter)

Yet another conservation project very close to the heart of Madras Musings has not yet got off to a start. At the last meeting of the Heritage Committee of the CMDA, chaired by the Chief Urban Planner, five alternative proposals were presented to beautify and put to use the Elphinstone Bridge, the disused old Adyar bridge. The bridge, was to be made into a tourism promotion centre and bird watchers' platform, new lease of life thus being given to it. Strengthening with decorative pylons, and developing a walkway with colourful tiles, so that the bridge would become a promenade after office hours, were among the ideas discussed and finalised. A task force was constituted with Dr A N Satchidanandam, Director, School of Architecture and Planning, Anna University, C R Palani Raj, Architect, PWD and A Kanagaraj, NOEL, to oversee the whole operation.

The Elphinstone Bridge built in 1840 and regularly used until the Seventies, is now overgrown with vegetation. Even though the bridge has been declared unsafe for regular vehicular traffic, it is difficult to believe that pronouncement when it was made, so strong and invulnerable does it look. And it still appears to be in good repair, perhaps in no worse shape than the new bridge, which did not exactly stand up to the torrential rains and swirling Adyar waters of 1986, some die-hard admirers of the solid old structure maintain. The billboards marring it, the sheds at the entrance to it and the wall recently erected to enclose the adjacent flower market will all have to be removed and the unruly vegetation cleared, if the bridge is to be given a facelift. As of now, the Elphinstone Bridge project seems to be heading the same way as the proposal to revitalise the Tiruvanmiyur temple tank. Nowhere.



Wild growth (above) and hoardings (on right) that block the two ends of the Old Adyar Bridge. (Photographs by RAJIND N CHRISTY.)



Shaming the name of Ranganathan

"S R Ranganathan (1892-1972) was thought of as the father of library science in India, but his Five Laws of Library Science (1931) were widely accepted as the definitive statement of the library service ideal, especially in the US... His contributions to classification and indexing theory had worldwide influence, so much so that he is the only non-US librarian honored with inclusion in this feature. He is said to have never taken a day's leave in his 20-year tenure as librarian at the University of Madras. May he continue to be an inspiration to us all." If *The Man From Madras Musings* was thrilled to read this generous tribute to India's unparalleled hero of library science reproduced from *American Libraries*, a US publication, by the MALA (Madras Library Association) Newsletter, Vol 13, April 2000, No. 2, he was equally dismayed by the following account in the same issue:

"India gave a firm theoretical foundation to it (librarianship) and upgraded it into an applied science. In contrast, we are bickering over petty things, asking librarians to pay a caution deposit and penalising them for loss of library materials... A leading professional college in Chennai had the dubious record of having deducted 'compensation' for loss of books from the librarians' terminal benefits. The same institution is at it again, trying to recover money from the present set of library staff for the loss of books. Luckily a stay order from the State Administrative Tribunal has come as a welcome breather to librarians to take legal advice. This latest episode is neither an isolated instance, nor a case only involving recovery of a few thousand rupees from the hapless librarians."

The newsletter goes on to examine the moral and practical issues involved in such punitive action, quoting S R Ranganathan and novelist R K Narayan in the process. If the former said that holding librarians for loss of books was as improper as making the police pay for losses suffered by society, the latter likened it to penalising priests for the loss of God's jewels in the sanctum of a temple. The newsletter also states that there are clear-cut Government Orders against the practice. According to it, a government-appointed advisory committee had recommended as far back as 1959 that the loss of three books per 1000 could be written off unless gross negligence or dishonesty could be proved. The Amendment to the General Financial Rules, 1963 (3rd ed) excludes books, periodicals etc. from stores and makes clear that librarians of a certain rank or their superiors could write off three books per thousand, which could be treated as reasonable. "It appears ignorance of the existence of the GOs is the villain of the piece," the newsletter adds.

MMM is shocked that librarians in India, a generally under-

paid lot, should run the risk of being penalised for loss and theft of books in the libraries they man. He hopes better sense will prevail and that the "two premier bodies, the Indian Library Association (ILA) and Indian Association of Special Libraries and Information Centres (IASLIC) and those at the state level... (will) put an end to one of the last relics of the Middle Ages."

Dictionary history

One of the more interesting talks *The Man from Madras Musings* had recent occasion to listen to was an introduction made by Prof E Annamalai, former director, Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysore, to *Colporal* (pronounced *cholporal*), *A History of Dictionaries*, by Gregory James, Director of the Language Centre at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology and co-author of the award-winning *Dictionary of Lexicography* (Routledge). James developed an interest in Tamil when he was posted to India and spent ten years here. He later worked at the Dictionary Research Centre in England.

Colporal traces the history of the evolution of Tamil dictionar-

ies and other disciplines, all accompanied by 116 illustration plates.

Gregory James wonders why there are so few women lexicographers in Tamil, in fact only two so far — Nilambikai Ammaiyar, the daughter of Maraimalai Adigal, and V Nagalakshmi of Sri Lanka. He observes that the modern Tamil does not look to improve his communications skill in his own mother tongue. In an indirect criticism of the trend to keep Tamil pure, removing other language words from it and inventing Tamil technical terms when the original, often English, terms, will do just fine, James relates a story pertaining to the 19th Century campaign to purify English. There had been demands to replace Latin and French roots with Anglo-Saxon words and a Sir Thomas Massey-Massey suggested in Parliament that the word Christmas be re-styled Christide to make it Anglo-Saxon rather than Latin. A fellow member promptly got up and supported the idea, saying "I concur with Sir Thotide Tidey", thus exposing the ridiculous nature of the plea. MMM cannot help nursing similar feelings about fanatical attempts to Tamilise Tamil.

SHORT 'N' SNAPPY

ies and other reference works from the earliest times to now. Viewing lexicography as a reference work from a sociolinguistic viewpoint, the author relates the chronology of Tamil dictionaries to their social, political and historical significance. For example, the Christian missionary period, referred to elsewhere in this issue of *Madras Musings* in an account reproduced from A R Venkatchalapathy's paper on printing in Tamil, is not treated as a homogeneous era but as a sequence of articulated developments, both Catholic- and Protestant-led.

The dictionary features an extensive bibliography and a detailed discussion of unpublished manuscripts on Tamil lexicography from over 70 libraries in 15 countries in Africa, America, Asia and Europe. The source materials identified and catalogued by *Colporal* have never before been cited, according to Prof. Annamalai, who describes the book as a model for research. Some of the specialities of the book are: extensive citations from original palm leaf manuscripts, illustrations from several Tamil dictionaries from the 17th Century to the present, first-time translations from French, German, Latin and Portuguese, a catalogue of Tamil websites, research based on the latest metalexographical methodology, and the marrying of findings from history, sociology, linguistics

TN tipplers tops!

For the second year in succession, Tamil Nadu has beaten Kerala to the top spot as the State with the highest alcohol consumption! The State recorded a per capita consumption of nine bottles of hard liquor to runner-up Kerala's eight bottles per head. According to a newspaper report, a record sales revenue figure of Rs. 11.19 billion was obtained from Indian Made Foreign Liquor (IMFL) in Tamil Nadu in the financial year ended March 31, 2000, as against Rs. 11.1 billion the previous year. Over 6.4 million cases of 12 bottles each of liquor were sold, while, sadly, beer consumption fell to 2.6 million cases from 2.7 million the previous year. Who says Prohibition is still on the books in the State?!

Footnote: If toddy consumption were to be taken into account, Kerala would top the list of tipplers, the report states.

Tops in rice too!

Lest readers jump to any conclusions that Tamil Nadu's achievements are more liquid than solid, let *The Man From Madras Musings* assure them that the State is tops in some other fields too. Take rice production for instance. The projected all-India rice production for the current year is 84.9 million tonnes, a

small increase over last year's crop, thanks mainly to a sterling performance by Tamil Nadu. The national production will still be lower than earlier estimates by 2 million tonnes but would have been worse but for the million-tonne increase in samba production in Tamil Nadu, according to information provided by the Centre for Monitoring the Indian Economy (CMIE).

Tamil Nadu has been registering steady increases in rice production and productivity during the last decade, occupying second place behind Punjab in 1997-1998, and in with a real chance of going ahead of the northern state, once the official figures for 1998-1999 come in from that State. The area under paddy cultivation in Tamil Nadu, which was 18.56 acres in 1990-1991, has now increased to 22.74 acres, and the production from 57.82 lakh tonnes to 81.41 lakh tonnes. The productivity has gone up from 3115 to 3579 kgs per hectare.

The 1997-1998 production was the highest in a long while; production had increased to 75.59 lakh tonnes in 1994-1995, but thereafter there was a gradual slump caused by several

the high tide line, without Union Government concurrence. (The zone has been classified as CRZ-I, CRZ-II and CRZ-III, where CRZ stands for Coastal Regulations Zone). CRZ-I comprises mangrove forests, lagoons and salt pans where no development is allowed up to 500 metres off the high tide line.

The Union ministry is still studying the plans and classification patterns submitted by the state government in terms of their adherence to the norms it has stipulated. Some of the conditions imposed by the union environment ministry were inspired by environmental protest by activist groups and other NGOs, not to mention people who were or would be displaced by the ECR which runs from Chennai to Cuddalore. The resultant restrictions on displacing persons, acquiring homestead lands and felling trees, have meant the presence of many sharp curves on the ECR. Several accidents, many of them fatal, on the road have led to a proposal to widen and straighten sections of the road, by the Tamil Nadu Road Development Corporation (TNRDC), which has obtained approval from the Union Environment Ministry. MMM is glad to learn that the TNRDC proposal includes several new measures such as slope stabilisation, and providing reflectors, crash barriers, an ambulance service, a private patrolling service and a helpline. Finally it appears that the ECR will not only be picturesque and a pleasure to drive on, but also safe, eco-friendly and sensitive to local needs and aspirations.

In brief

★ *Madras Musings* had called for the restoration of the century building, science block and other buildings in the Teachers' College campus at Saidapet last fortnight (MM, May 16th). *The Man from Madras Musings* is happy to learn that in the process of framing developmental and heritage regulations, the CMDA has asked the Superintending Engineer, Directorate of Technical Education, and the Secretary, Education Department, to consider ways and means of preserving the Teachers' College building.

★ *The Man from Madras Musings* notes with pleasure that the Vellore Engineering College, an educational institution in the private sector devoted to excellence, has tied up with Anna University on a project somewhat apart from pure engineering. The two institutions are to carry out environmental studies in the Vellore area to understand the ecological degradation it has been undergoing and discover ways and means of arresting this. The welcome new development is no surprise in the light of the College's past record in such socially significant areas of research and work. Anna University, without doubt the big brother in this laudable project, has considerable experience in comparable programmes. MMM will watch the progress of this collaboration with a great deal of interest.

MMM

Coastal zone map

Tourism in the State should receive a boost, *The Man from Madras Musings* learns, should the Union Environment Ministry clear a scheme submitted by the State Government, mapping the east coast zone, classifying the zone according to usage patterns. Once the Union Government approval comes, the State Government will be able to clear tourism-related and other projects on the seaward side of the East Coast Road (ECR). Keen to be seen as environment-friendly, the State will not implement any of its own CRZ-III development projects beyond the 200 metre mark off

OUR READERS WRITE



You and I can

Every word in the letter from S. Jagadisan (MM, June 1st) describes the sad state into which we, the people of India, have fallen despite our rich heritage of three or four millennia of culture and respect for others. There are many little ways in which we individuals can contribute and make life a little more pleasant for one another.

For instance, watch the queues at the computerised (or non-computerised) railway reservation counters or stamp-vending counters in a post office. People will just not stand one behind the other, causing the last person in to wonder where the tail of the queue is. While a person at the head of the queue is transacting his business, a couple of others must crowd at the counter window and inquisitively watch the proceedings. Does it need government action to regulate a queue?

I live in an upper floor of a building overlooking a Kalyana Mandapam. When I sit on the balcony, I am treated alternately to the heady smells of sampangi flower from the tree in the vicinity and the appetising smells of boiling sambar or frying appalam from the choultry kitchen, depending on the direction of breeze. While sitting there, I watch pityingly the forty or fifty guests sitting at tables in anticipation of a feast, when just a foot behind them, separated by the thickness of the wall, about half a dozen pedestrians are unconcernedly emptying their bladders or sometimes bowels. Does it need a government interference to instil a civic sense?

I will refrain from commenting on the utility of the new fly-overs except to concur with the view of another reader, Visu, in the same issue of MM, that the money spent on their construction could have been put to better use to acquire abutments and widen the narrow roads. As matters stand now, the pedestrian has been deprived of safe kerbs to walk on and safe places to cross the road. The plight of old people, and the handicapped people especially those whose hearing faculty is dwindling and those with handicapped limbs is something to be experienced than described. Just when the person thinks it is safe to cross, a leisurely-peddalling cyclist,

or an uncaring scooterist will cross his path from the front and push him back to the edge of the road thereby causing him to wait for the next gap in traffic.

In a heavily populated country like ours, our heritage should have evolved in us the commonsense to respect the freedom and the right to security of another individual, as much as we would like our own freedom and the right to security to be respected. This must come from within ourselves and cannot be enforced by Mayors, Chairmen, Commissioners etc.

Raghu Tagat
294, Lloyds Rd
Chennai 600 014.

Double standards

The letter from S. Jagadisan, 'You, I and India' (MM, June 1st), is an eye-opener for all those who always praise other countries. Such people have double standards. In their own country their behaviour is worse than animals but when they visit abroad, they present themselves as embodiments of all virtues.

There can be no discipline without the fear of being prosecuted for unlawful actions. Here if a person is caught for taking a bribe, he comes out easily by giving a bribe.

When the government or Corporation wants to do some development, immediately there is a hue and cry about corruption etc. by the parties in opposition. Why can't there be transparency in the activities so that all can join together and carry out development schemes smoothly?

P. Raghavan
H/22/11 Vaigai Street
Besant Nagar
Chennai 600 090.

When will we change?

The new approach to the clean up-keep of the Marina and the metropolis in general by S. Jagadisan is really appreciable. General passing of remarks against the inaction of the Government is done by the people who do not understand that they too are part of the public responsible for any wrong act; and it has become a fashion to point to advanced nations as models.

When are we going to change for the better? Every individual should take the responsibility for his own country.

In the new millennium at least let everyone take an oath for a clean India and let our democracy choose men of sterling character who alone can deliver the goods.

G. Kanakasabai
'Greenlands'
Lalgudi 621 601

Rainwater harvesting

This has reference to your note that appeared alongwith Mrs. J. Edwards' letter (MM, June 1st) calling for names and addresses of those who could provide public with information on rainwater harvesting.

In this connection, I am happy to furnish below the names of a few individuals (alongwith their respective addresses and telephone numbers), who are involved in not only creating an awareness regarding the importance of rainwater harvesting among various sections of the society, but also offering free advice on the different methods of harvesting rainwater suitable for independent houses, flat complexes, schools, colleges, office complexes etc.

1. M.N. Mitra, Flat No.22, Templeview Apts., Dr. Vasudev Nagar Extn., Thiruvanniyur, Chennai-41 (Tel: 4925701).

2. R. Ramani, 1050, 41st Street, TNHB Colony, Korattur, Channi-80 (Tel: 6358461).

3. S. Ramakrishnan, H34/F1, TNHB Colony, Thiruvalluvar Nagar, Thiruvanniyur, Chennai-41 (Tel: 4451067) and

4. Sekhar Raghavan, D15, Bayview Apts., Kalakshetra Colony, Besant Nagar, Chennai-90 (Tel: 4918415).

M/s. Alacrity Housing Ltd., 15, Thirumalai Road, T.Nagar, Chennai-17, has published an informative booklet on rainwater harvesting titled *Self Reliance in Water—The Alacrity experience*. Those interested can write to them for a free copy.

Sekhar Raghavan
D15, Bayview Apts.
Kalakshetra Colony
Besant Nagar
Chennai 600 090.

'A heart' sought

As age and unsteadiness creep on I request all architects and builders "to have a heart" for the elderly and handicapped.

There are many elegant multistorey buildings, be it offices or flats coming up with a quite a few flights of steps to negotiate without any railing to hold on to or a ramp for wheel chair people. Often railings are there on the right side but coming up it would help to have it on the left also, I agree there is not enough space to provide a lift and it is cumbersome and expensive but I came across an unusual open lift. Those who have visited or shopped at Mehtas Jewellery shop on Thirumalai Pillai Road, T. Nagar could bear witness. This would be ideal for use in banks which have lockers in the basement. Perhaps something more modern could be devised by the present day generation of lift engineers. It would be a customer friendly act.

Anna Varki
Kilpauk Garden Colony
Chennai 600 010.

Low pressure in water distribution mains

'City water system to be revamped by 2001'. Metrowater has shifted its approach from breakdown maintenance to preventive maintenance, said its Managing Director, Mr. C.P. Singh... *The Hindu*, Sunday, May 21, 2000. This is rhetoric for evading the issues before Metrowater.

Metrowater has the responsibility to supply water and maintain a pressure of 12 metres at all points in the water distribution system. Instead, Metrowater has been supplying water at zero or near zero pressure in most places over a long period of time. The people of Chennai have accepted the existing situation and Metrowater has succeeded in evading the issue.

Presently, Metrowater is supplying 250 million litres of water every day. This works out to 50 litres of water per capita per day, which is fairly a good supply during a year of severe drought but for the fact that water pressure is negligible. If this water is supplied under adequate pressure even for a short period of 1 hour per day, people will be benefited. I may add that the revamping, which Mr. Singh talks of, will come to nothing if the water is not supplied under adequate pressure.

The advantages of maintaining adequate pressure in the distribution system are many. Some water will be distributed to everybody, unlike the present situation when water does not reach many people.

Water will flow into the overhead tanks of upto 3 story buildings without the necessity to store it in underground sumps and pumping it with domestic pumps. Seventy five per cent of the underground sumps in the city will be eliminated.

As all these houses may not have underground sumps, cross connections between sumps and the distribution mains cannot occur. Contamination of water will not be possible. Cross connections between the remaining sumps and the distribution mains can be prevented by providing adequate air gap between the inlet pipes into these sumps and the water in the sump. Complaints like presence of obnoxious worms in the water will be far fewer.

The use of thousands of most inefficient domestic pumps imaginable will be redundant. Each family will save Rs.30 to Rs.50 per month in electricity alone. The use of hand pumps will be eliminated saving considerable physical energy of individual house owners.

Settling of sediments in the water distribution mains and service pipes will be less, resulting in reduced clogging of the pipes and improvement in the general quality of water.

The image of Metrowater will improve considerably. In fact, Metrowater will receive fewer complaints and more encomiums.

People will thank the Government in the year of the election.

Has Metrowater the capacity to supply water under adequate pressure? The answer is an emphatic yes if Metrowater is willing to make an effort in that direction. Theoretically, the frictional loss of head in the pipes is less when less quantity of water is supplied and therefore the pressure in the pipes should be more. Metrowater should study this and other aspects, find and implement the solution to the problem of low pressure.

Unless there is some sort of compulsion, Metrowater is not likely to implement the above. How can you influence Metrowater to supply water at a pressure of 12 metres in the distribution system? Sometimes, we find government agencies working very fast. Examples are the construction of fly-overs and changing the door numbers of properties. What is the mechanism which made them work so fast? What is the mechanism which will make Metrowater act to find and implement the solution to the low water pressure in the distribution mains?

M. Susikaran
(Consultant Engineer)
8, First Street, Nandanam Extn.,
Chennai 600 035.

Chemical hazard

Swift Sanmar action might have saved Manali (MM, June 1st) from the accidental leakage of ethyl chloroformate, but could this be the causative agent for polluting the Ennore Creek and for causing widespread skin ailments among fisherfolk of that region? To dilute and disperse a leaking toxic chemical, it may be flushed out into the nearest waterway, but such a step should be announced to the vulnerable public warning them to avoid possibly contaminated waters and eating fish or prawn from such waters, for a certain period of time.

Unfortunately, the Ennore Creek is silted up so badly, with no circulation and mixing of seawater,

and has literally become a cesspool, that pollutants there linger for a long time. The long term effect of such dissolved pollutants is the bio-amplification (build up) of such toxic chemicals, along food-chains in water to human systems finally, through edible fish and prawn, from such contaminated waters. The public, and more so the ignorant fisherfolk, have a right to know of such environmental hazards, at least in the future, if they occur, since the Ennore industrial complex is highly vulnerable to such chemical accidents.

P.J. Sanjeeva Raj
Plot No.1724
21st Main Road
Anna Nagar West
Chennai 600 040.

Green miles at Gemini farm

The Gemini Agro Tech (GATE) Foundation started by S Balasubramaniam, editor of Tamil weekly *Ananda Vikatan*, son of the late S S Vasana — founder of the magazine and movie mogul — and avid bird watcher, is a successful venture at Padappai, 40 km southwest of Chennai. On this 23 acre-farm are grown brinjal, potato, tomato, cabbage, pepper and chilli in exotic colours and varying sizes. No farmer by birth, Balasubramaniam turned a hobby into a commercial success. He has been cultivating crops on this farm for over twenty years in which the last decade has yielded much better results than the first half.

What is special about Balasubramaniam's farm? For one thing, the per acre productivity of the farm is among the highest in these parts. The vegetables grown here have very high nutritional value and the mortality rate through crop disease has been brought down remarkably during the last decade. The farm owes much for

modern soil testing labs have now been set up in Calicut, Ranchi, Pune and Chennai thanks to the efforts of Dr Lakshmanan.

At the Gemini farm the soil is sterilised before seed is planted by means of a steam bath in a rotating drum. The Mexican method of rearing seedlings is followed here and the temperature and moisture content of seeds are monitored in a concrete "nursery". Lakshmanan pays close attention to transplant techniques and corrects any defects. An example was the high mortality rate in capsicum, which he brought down considerably, increasing productivity by 30%.

Soil nutrition receives a great deal of attention here and by nourishing the soil better, more crops are planted per square foot of land with a corresponding increase in yield, contrary to the general belief that the resultant fight for nutrients among the closely planted crops may lead to loss of yield.

Liquid fertiliser is the pre-

by A Special Correspondent

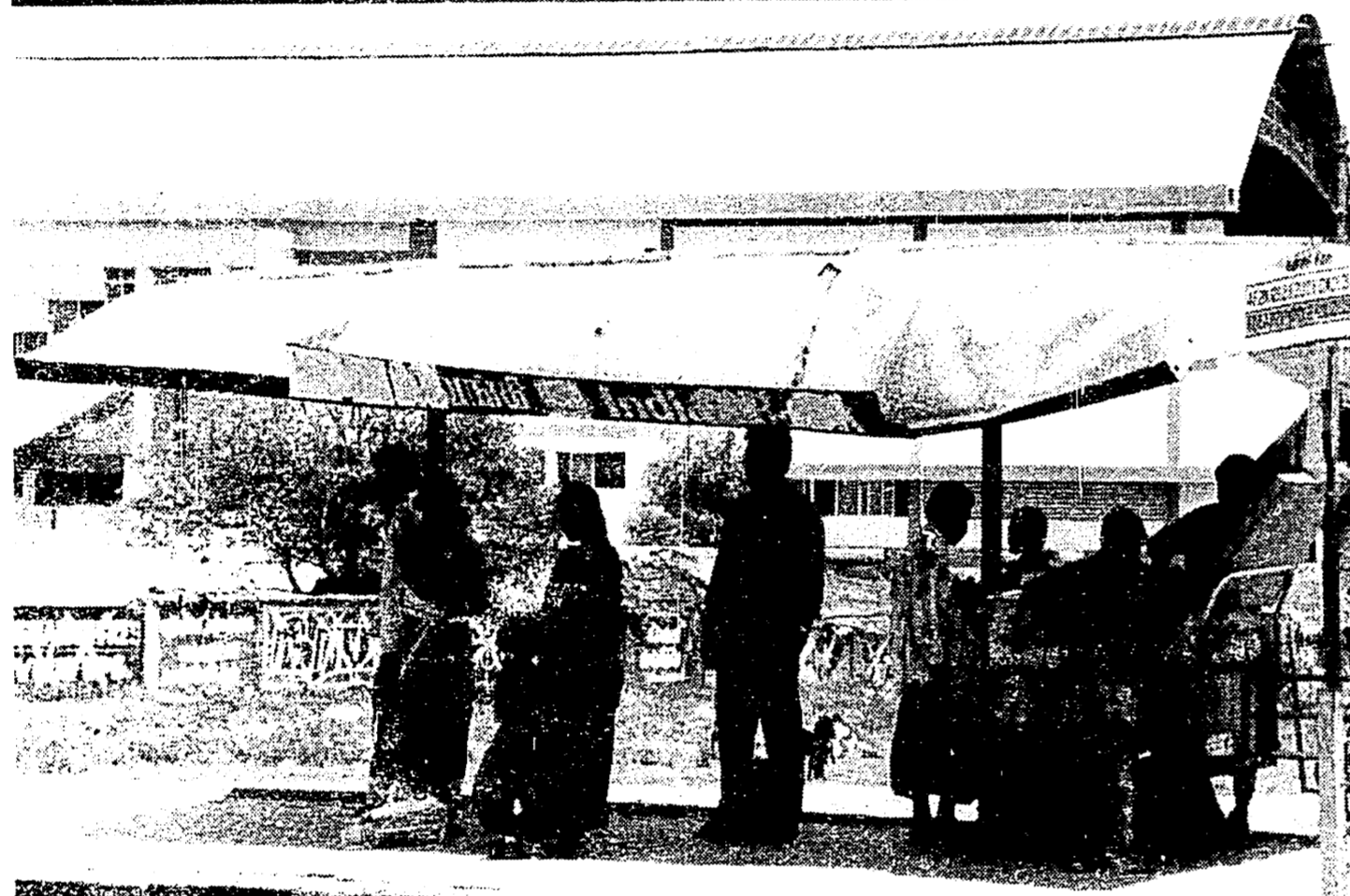
all this improvement to Dr C Lakshmanan an American national of Indian birth and an expert in agronomics, who has gained considerable knowledge of the best agricultural practices from the several countries he has visited. After a successful stint as an agricultural consultant, he brought his expertise to India and the Gemini farm. Born of Dr Lakshmanan's desire to improve India's farm productivity, was his decision to make a model farm of the Gemini lands. He and Balasubramaniam who met first in the 1980s, established an excellent rapport and this resulted in a partnership for the benefit of the crops, with practices based on simple steps like rearing them carefully.

Dr Lakshmanan's recommendations to Balasubramaniam were based on the twin importance of the genetic composition of seeds and the nurturing of crops. While the hybrid seeds that were the product of the Green Revolution took care of one of these aspects, new experiments were initiated at the Gemini Farm to improve soil fertility at Dr Lakshmanan's instance. And, because India's best soil testing laboratories do not have adequate equipment to test for all the nutrients needed by soils, Gemini sends soil samples to the US to get them analysed. However, four

ferred mode according to Balasubramaniam as that permits leeper tilling, unlike use of fertiliser in granule form, which may get stuck in the top soil, denying the benefit to the roots below. Balasubramaniam calls for cooperative community action in the proper use of fertiliser. If he uses natural manure and his neighbour chemical fertiliser, the pests would tend to flock to his farm, leading to disastrous results. Fertiliser is applied at Gemini at a time well ahead of the harvest, so that chemical residue on vegetables can be avoided.

Eschewing mechanisation for the sake of mechanisation, and caring for his farm employees enough to run a school for them, Balasubramaniam has shown a genuine concern for employee welfare.

Believing in adopting the methods best suited to local conditions, the Gemini farm takes the best of western and Indian techniques, without blindly copying the practices Balasubramaniam sees on his visits abroad. Chinese cabbage, red cabbage and long chillies are among the showpieces of this modern, successful farm, which believes in sharing its knowledge and expertise with its neighbours and fellow agriculturists through its Foundation. — (Courtesy: Industrial Economist.)



The OLD... ... & The NEW

The OLD (above, left and below) are bus shelters of the type commonly found in the city — shelters taken over by wayside eateries to advertise their menu, or used as shelters for bullocks or even as extensions of nearby shops, driving the poor bus passengers away.

The NEW (on top) is the recently improved bus shelter opposite the Aavin pavilion at Adyar, which has received a facelift through corporate support. The illuminated panels on the shelter provide sufficient light to make route numbers visible at night. Dustbins have been provided and billstickers are kept at bay by security staff. Hopefully this shelter and the many more planned will remain clean and free from posters and stickers. (Photographs by RAJIND N. CHRISTY.)

Tamil's tryst with print

Tamil has a legitimate claim to being a classical language with an uninterrupted literary tradition of over two thousand years. Tamil's tryst with the technology of print, in keeping, it appears, with such claims to antiquity, is over 400 years old. The first Indian language to see print, *Doctrina Christiana* (Thambiran Vana-kkam) was published in 1578, barely a hundred years after Gutenberg. The first complete translation of the New Testament (by Bartholomaeus Ziegenbalg in 1714 — the complete translation of the Bible in Tamil, by Fabricius, was published in 1796), and the first encyclopaedia (ten volumes, 1954-1968) constitute some other 'firsts' (among Indian languages) of Tamil in print.

Such claims, however, conceal a host of congenital problems and weaknesses that characterise the Tamil publishing world. By common consent, Bengali and Malayalam are way ahead of Tamil. C.N. Annadurai's pithy comment that 'two books that sell the most in our society are: one, the almanac and the other, the railway timetable' captures the travails of Tamil publishing in a nutshell. In fact, the publishing industry is so weak that recent technological advances hardly seem to pose any challenge.

That the Christian missionaries brought modern printing to India is an oft-repeated story. Printing presses coasted along the shorelines of peninsular India. Marked by much rivalry between Catholics and Protestants, the first 250 years of print in Tamil almost exclusively had to do with the Word of God.

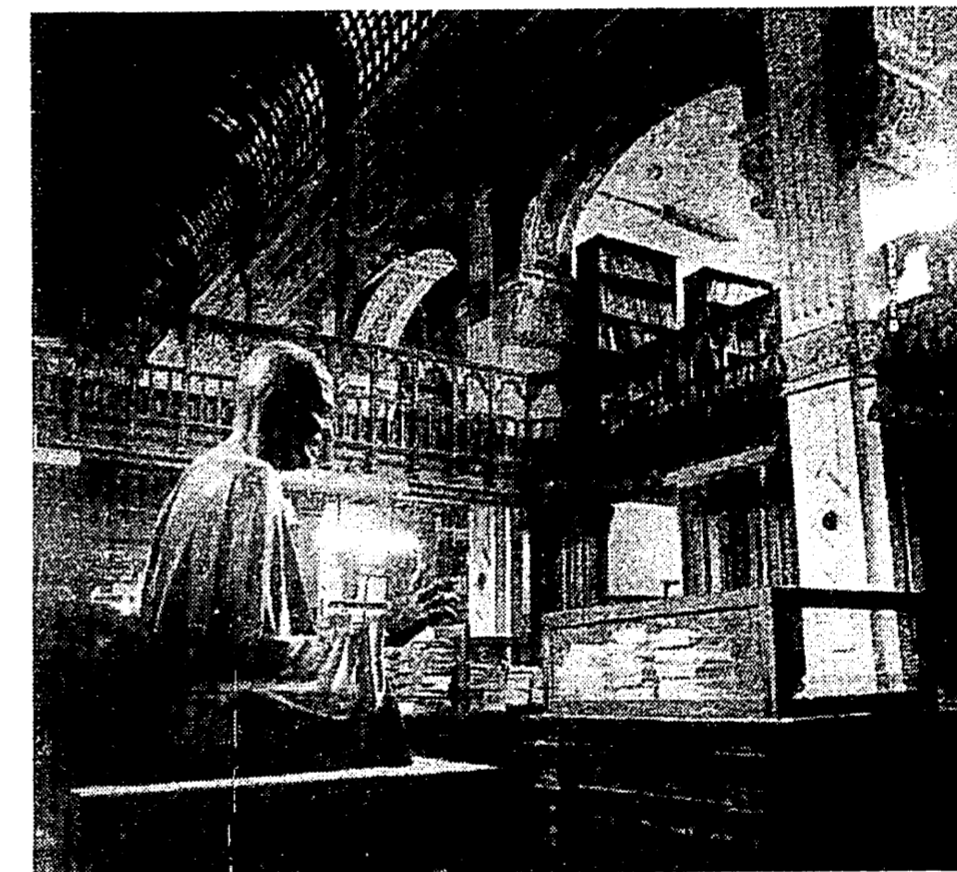
On the other hand, indigenous reproduction of knowledge seems to have taken place as though print did not exist. Sivagnana Munivar's (d. 1785) classic exegesis on *Sivagnana Botham* was not printed until 1906. C.Y. Damodaram Pillai, the 19th century scholar-editor, had to hunt (without complete success) for the palm leaf manuscripts of *Iakkana Vilakkam*, a grammatical text written well after the arrival of the printing press to Tranquebar. Ramalinga Swamikal and Dandapani Swamikal, both late 19th-century poets, wrote mostly on palm leaves. Upto 1835, the only Tamil works printed by natives were the *Kural* and some trifles by Avvaiyar.

By the mid-19th century print had begun to establish

organic links with Tamil society. Indigenous people, who had nothing to do with missionaries or the colonial state, came to be involved in the production of printed texts. Most of the publications were, however of traditional genres: especially *sthalapuranams* which set out in hundreds of verses of the great glories and religious merits of supposedly holy pilgrim centres. A range of other religious literatures also went through the press. In the last quarter of the 19th Century ancient Tamil classics, which had for centuries been marginalised in the dominant non secular world of Tamil letters, began to be systematically edited and published. A new literary canon, historically older and markedly secular, thus came to be fashioned and appropriated by a new class of

and professions decisively disrupted the material foundations of publishing. For the most part of the late 19th Century, publishing had been sustained by patronage — of traditional and pre-colonial social groups like *zamindars*, native princes, religious (especially Saivite) monasteries, landlords and caste leaders. By the 1890s these social classes were on the way out. Until a new, faceless and impersonal market could emerge, Tamil publishing floundered in search of patrons.

The literary career of Subramania Bharati, the great poet who contributed in no small measure in giving a particular nationalist-modernist orientation to Tamil was coeval with this transition, thus bearing its brunt. But Bharati was perceptive enough to perceive this transformation even by 1916:



Commemara Library, Chennai, one of the biggest buyers of Tamil books.

non-brahmin upper castes who forged a new politico-cultural identity based on language — an event of far-reaching import for historical process in Tamil Nadu for the next century. In its physical aspect too, the Tamil book had begun to look recognisably 'modern' with punctuation, paragraph breaks and other similar typographical devices: so well developed they became that even verse forms could be visually recognised by the layout.

British colonialism had made much inroads into indigenous society. *Inter alia*, the establishment of western-type schools and the expansion of a modern bureaucratic administration were to have crucial implications for the history of the book. Apart from the demand for printed materials that this created, the emergence of new social classes based on education and colonial occupations

World War I put tremendous pressure, with rising costs of paper and overheads, on the printing industry and the market. The period between the two wars effected far-reaching changes. The rise of new genres, like the novel, the short story and the prose essay, oriented Tamil publishing towards a middle-class market, increasingly making the book a commodity. It was at this juncture that the distinct categories/institutions of author, publisher and printer emerged in the Tamil publishing industry. In a sense Tamil publishing is yet to outgrow this phase: Authors can neither be full-fledged professionals nor hacks; publishing houses remain small with limited turnover and no corporate organisation; and printers catering to Tamil book-publishing are small firms with modest technological equipment and poorly paid workers.

The post-independence decade was a period of boom. The one-lakh print run of Rajaji's *Ramayanam* and *Mahabharatam* is symptomatic of this. Murray & Co. published one rupee editions of all Tamil classics. If 'Sakti' Govindan published the first complete edition of Bharati's poetry (in 1957), the works of Bharatidasan, Suddhananda Bharati, C.N. Annadurai and Mu. Varadarajan also sold consistently. Kalaikalanchiyam, the Tamil encyclopaedia, was published.

With the marginalisation of places like Madurai, Pudukkottai and Tirunelveli, the city of Chennai (Madras) be-



The Library of the late Prativadi Bhayankara Amangarachariar, Kancheepuram. — no shortage of Tamil books here.

The inter-war years showed signs of vitality and growth, a trend that became manifest after the outbreak of World War II. South India Saiva Siddhanta Works Publishing Society, the first public limited company to be established (in 1920), consolidated the gains of the 19th-century rediscovery and scholarship of the Tamil classics. Saiva Siddhanta Mahasamajam experimented with considerable success in producing cheap and uniform editions of the Saivite canonical texts (*Thirumurai*).

Printing establishments like the Sadhu Achukkoodam of Thiru. V. Kaliyanasundara Mudaliar and Kabeer Press became legendary. The inflationary war economy ignited Tamil publishing — a process further fuelled by the influx of Chettiar capital fleeing Burma, Indo-China and South East Asia from both Japanese invasion and local resistance. New publishing houses like Sakti Kariyalayam, Kalaimagal Kariyalayam, Prapanchajothi Prachuralayam, Anbu Nilayam Navayuga Prachuralayam, Dravida Pannai and Tamil Pannai published a wide range of well-produced books. The series of, mostly topical, books published by the daily Dinamani and distributed through its agents across the province, also helped to expand the book-reading public. Many of the characteristic features of contemporary Tamil books — layout typography, layout, etc. — took shape during this time.

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came the hub of all publishing activity. But the process of trend that became manifest after the outbreak of World War II, South India Saiva Siddhanta Works Publishing Society, the first public limited company to be established (in 1920), consolidated the gains of the 19th-century rediscovery and scholarship of the Tamil classics. Saiva Siddhanta Mahasamajam experimented with considerable success in producing cheap and uniform editions of the Saivite canonical texts (*Thirumurai*).

With characteristic myopia publishers once again looked to the State without exploring ways and means to expand and reach out to a market. The State responded with the Local Library Authority, which bought a certain number of copies (about 500, constituting nearly 50 percent of the print run) at a fixed rate per form. If this ensured bread and butter for publishers, it also killed all creativity and innovation.

That Tamil is not the medium of instruction, especially in the higher reaches of the pedagogic ladder, with all its attendant implications, has imposed structural limitations on the book market. With the consumerist middle class and the *nouveaux riches* patronising English, a stigma has come to be associated with Tamil, which can do no good either to the society at large or more particularly to the book trade. Children's books have suffered the most in this regard. The disproportionate share of central government patronage to Hindi, the official language, has only compounded matters.

In this situation, Tamil publishing lacks direction. The widespread use of DTP, and the gradual easing out of letter press (whose clientele is getting restricted to job works) has done more harm than good by multiplying errors and disrupting established typographical conventions. The narrowness of the market has also not encouraged the much-needed software development. (Courtesy: Alliance Francaise. From its publication *Gum and Calico: Libraries of India*.)

AR Venkatachalapathy

Quizzin' with Ram'nan

(Questions 1 to 12 are from the period June 1 to 15. Questions 10 to 12 pertain to Chennai. Questions 13 to 20 relate to Tamil Nadu.)

1. Name the bookie who Hansie Cronje says was introduced to him by Azharuddin.
2. Name the first Indian dotcom company to be listed on the Nasdaq.
3. What unique distinction did former Sri Lanka captain Arjuna Ranatunga achieve in the first Test against Pakistan on June 15 at Colombo?
4. Name the former Union Minister and front-line Congress leader killed in an accident on June 11.
5. Simple. Name the new French Open singles champions.
6. Name the influential President of Syria who passed away recently.
7. What new controversial scheme has the Telecom Commission offered to Telecom employees?
8. Who is the new National Men's 'A' chess champion?
9. What sensational breakthrough has Dr. Lijun Wang of the NEC Research Institute claimed to have achieved?
10. Where in the city was a Rs. 47.03 crore MLA quarters inaugurated on June 12?
11. Who has been appointed the Honorary Consul of South Korea?
12. Which team regained the Raja of Palayampatti Shield, the symbol of supremacy in the City's First Division cricket league?

13. Where is a new Rs. 6.4 crore Tamil Centre coming up in the City?
14. Name the matinee idol of yesteryear nicknamed 'James Bond' who passed away on June 3?
15. The new TNCC chief is...?
16. What is the STD code for Tiruchi?
17. The oldest bookshop in India is in Tamil Nadu. Name the shop.
18. Where can you see the 'Descent of Ganga' relief?
19. Whose funeral is supposed to have attracted record crowds?
20. Name the table game which is said to have been conceived in the Ooty Club.

(Answers on Page 7)

A chapel lost to commerce

(Continued from last fortnight)

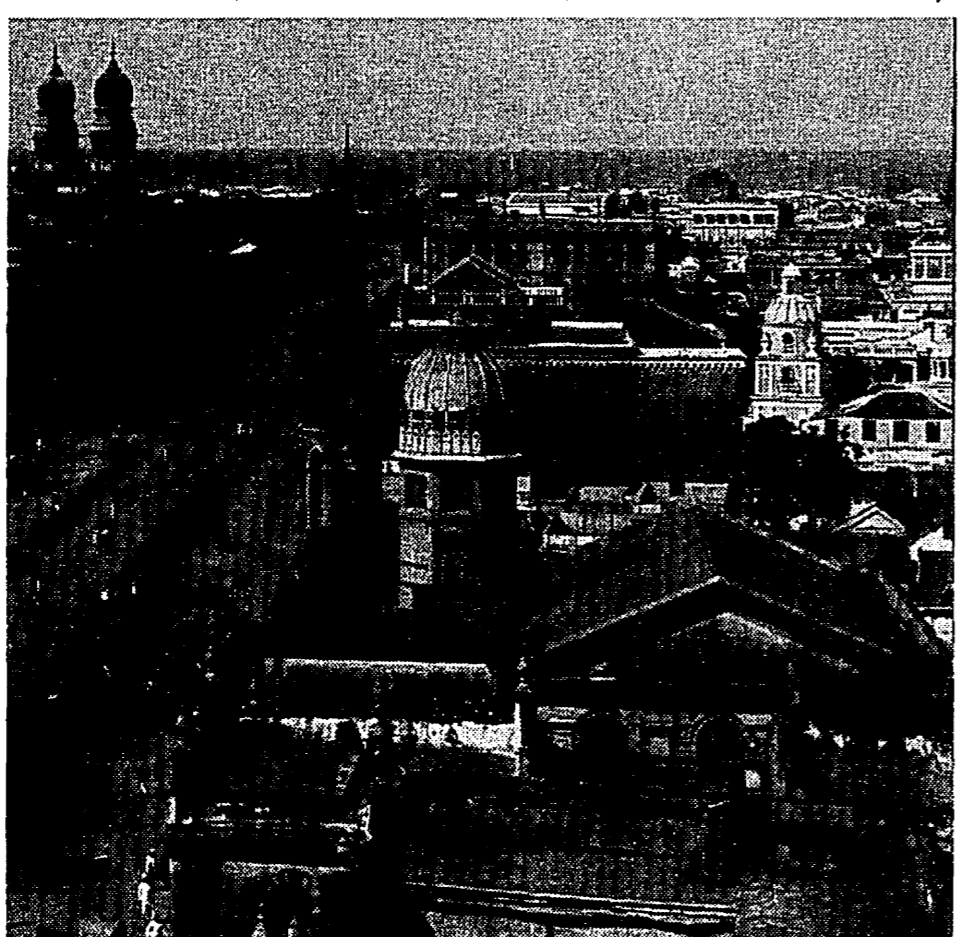
As we can well see today, when travelling along NSC Bose Road, the Anderson Church, which was extended forwards and given a tower and steeple sometime after the 1881 photograph was taken, is still in existence, the only survivor on the Esplanade from College days. Its foundation stone was laid in 1857 and records show that the dedication and opening for use as a multi-purpose hall took place on the 3rd March 1859. Exactly 125 years later a commemorative Jubilee Stone was unveiled by the Bishop of Madras Dr Sundar Clarke. Scarcely had it been completed when building activity erupted on the adjoining vacant site. This was the last land remaining unbuilt-upon in the enormous range of College buildings facing the Esplanade. From this fact it may be conjectured that even as the Hall was on its way to completion the authorities were already giving thought to the next step they would need to take. It is quite likely that they felt, and their foresight was borne out very quickly in practice, that with the constant lengthening of the college and school student rolls, and the effect that enlargement had upon the accommodation at their disposal, further building would soon be urgently required. The Hall, once opened, was used for a variety of purposes. Academic functions, the holding of examinations and, no doubt, events of a more social description, all went on here. So, also did

church services. Somewhere tucked away in the College buildings there had been a chapel but by the mid-1850's this must have been found totally inadequate; hence the transfer of at least some services to the new hall. There are good grounds for suspecting, however, that this sharing of the space by secular and divine interests would give rise quite early to conflicts of interest. Clearly, the building of a new chapel of adequate size, to be used exclusively for worship, was of the utmost priority if internal disputes were to be avoided.

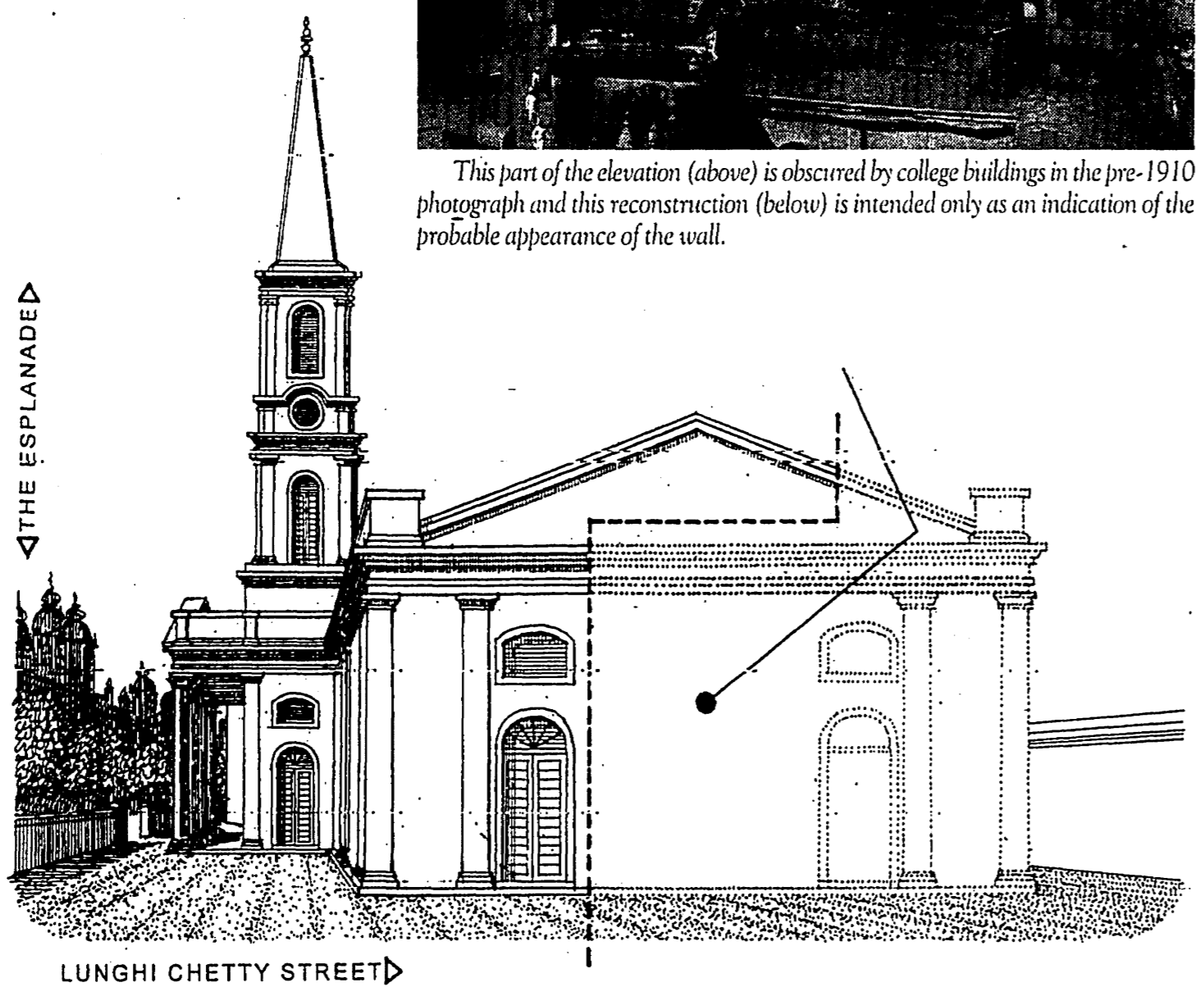
By the time the foundation stone of the chapel had been laid \$2000 had been raised. This came substantially from fund-generating sources in Scotland, for it should be recalled that the College was, during most of its first century on the Esplanade, a Scottish foundation run by Scottish Churchmen and teachers. Wasting no time the chapel was up and ready by Christmas 1861, and the conse-

cration ceremony took place quickly afterwards on the 9th January. So now we see an Anderson Hall, to be devoted solely to secular and academic business, and a College Chapel side by side. Both were dedicated to the memory of the Rev. John Anderson, a prominent clergyman and a great educationalist, 'to perpetuate the fruit of his labours and those of his colleagues and successors.'

A wider congregation than that generated solely by the College and schools began to use the new chapel, almost as a parish church for the southern end of Black Town, as George Town was then known. There is a possibility that its ministers and college chaplains were drawn from the Free Church of Scotland, which had broken away from the Church of Scotland at the Disruption of 1843, as the building was known during part of its short history as the Free-Church, Esplanade. Later, just to add to the confusion, it was renamed officially,



This part of the elevation (above) is obscured by college buildings in the pre-1910 photograph and this reconstruction (below) is intended only as an indication of the probable appearance of the wall.



as a mark of respect, as the Anderson Church. The photographs are small and it is difficult, even with a magnifying glass, to see much of the detail; some features indeed cannot be seen at all. In the author's view, admittedly based upon unsupported guesswork, there is somehow a Scottish flavour about the building. It is not known at the present time who was responsible for the design and, here again, the author would be very pleased if a reader came up with a name.

Records suggest that difficulties were experienced in conducting services in the chapel. It was pronounced as 'unsatisfactory' but not recorded exactly where it failed to meet the requirements of a chapel. Certainly it was not very large, not much larger, indeed, than the width of the hall next door. Perhaps the acoustics were not very sympathetic. What is not in dispute is that the congregation, students, teaching staff and local residents, moved back to the hall, and the chapel became the College Hall from that moment until the College moved to Tambaram in 1937!

Architecturally, it would appear from the photographs that the walls were not embellished with much detail; much less so than at Christ Church, Mount Road. They are provided with openings at lower and upper levels which is perhaps an indication of a full or partial gallery internally. The design of the elegant classical steeple comes over somewhat better and, again, it looks as if the design of the pilasters, capitals and cornices was fairly simple if not actually rudimentary.

So what do Musings readers have to offer by way of information on why the swap took place? What is known is that Dr Miller, whose statue used to stand on the opposite side of the Esplanade, supplied the money with which to furnish the Anderson Hall and turn it into the Anderson Church. For all the years of the nineteenth century the Chapel, now Hall, retained its pleasant, if simple, exterior appearance. What happened to the interior is unclear, — it would be really intriguing if photographs of the inside came to light.

What then is known at this stage? As we have seen almost all present knowledge is based upon two photographs. These show only the street frontage towards the Esplanade and part of the east side. The overall length is six bays and the width of the ionic pedimented portico is three bays. The portico is, thus, off-centre. It has been possible, with the aid of dividers, a protractor and a magnifying glass, to establish the proportions of the building reasonably accurately. Exact dimensions are

(Contd. on page 8)

Century-makers in Carnatic Music

(Continued from last fortnight)

COMPOSERS

Papanasam Sivan (1890-1973)

Polagam Ramiah, better known as Papanasam Sivan, was a great and prolific vageyyakara, with more than 1000 kriti-s in Tamil to his credit, not to mention the songs he composed for films (about 900). His record was not matched by any other major 20th century composer either before him nor after him. His bhava-laden compositions have gained a status comparable to those of the Tiruvavur Trinity.

INSTITUTIONS

All India Radio

The advent of the radio, especially All India Radio in the late nineteen thirties, helped significantly in building up appreciation and a widespread audience for Carnatic classical music. Certainly it offered the musicians, novices as well as stalwarts, a platform to build up a following. It also offered special musical features of educational value. Its listeners' guide, published in vernacular as well as in English, provided a valuable textual supplement to the programmes.

The Music Academy, Madras

An offshoot of the freedom movement and formally established at the end of the nineteen twenties, the Music Academy of Madras, won its spurs as an institution devoted to enlightenment as well as elevation of standards. Thanks initially to the services of E. Krishna Iyer and T.V. Subba Rao and later of Dr. V. Raghavan, it emerged as a forum for scholarly and educative discussions not only on Carnatic music but on different art-forms of India and a few of alien lands as well. Particularly remarkable were the discussions of raga lakshanas that embraced theory as well as practice. The Academy is yet to redefine and refocus its mission in light of the significant changes that have taken place in the environment affecting the arts.

Tamil Isai Sangam, Madras

Established in 1943 in Chennai, the Tamil Isai Sangam spearheaded the movement for spreading a better awareness of the musical heritage of the Tamils. Its annual conferences, where the ancient pann-s or raga-s of Tamil music were resurrected

and reviewed by researchers, as well as its programmes of Tamil isai, have helped considerably in persuading leading musicians of the Tamil country to accommodate more Tamil compositions in their concert programmes and in many cases to present them in the pre-pallavi sessions.

Indian Fine Arts Society, Madras

Born 68 years ago in North Madras and relocated many years ago in Theagaraya Nagar, IFAS has, through its annual conferences and related festivals, sought to emulate the Music Academy. It has stood out as an institution which has eschewed politics and whose leadership, epitomised in the persona of the most gracious Embermanar Chetty in recent decades, has been a model of courtesy towards artists and rasika-s alike.

The Music College of the Annamalai University, Chidambaram (estd. 1929); the Swati Tirunel Music College, Tiruvananthapuram (1939); and the Government College of Music, Madras (1949).

The college in Chidambaram with stalwarts like Sabesa Iyer, Tiger Varadachariar and Tanjavur Ponniah Pillai on its faculty; the Tiruvananthapuram college under the stewardship of Semangudi Srinivasa Iyer; and the college in Madras, originally known as the Central College of Music, under the stewardship of Musiri Subrahmanya Iyer (1949-65) — all three set very high standards and produced many performing musicians of merit. It is another story that they have since lost their high standing.

The Sabhas

The sabha, an association of music enthusiasts, emerged as the principal source of patronage to Carnatic classical music when support from rajas and zamindars waned during the early part of this century. And it was the sabha, even before the advent of All India Radio, which provided a platform for the great musicians of the golden era of Carnatic music and thus helped them create a large following for this music virtually from scratch.

The early sabha-s thus played an evangelising role. In Madras City, the pioneers were Parthasarathy Swamy Sabha, Triplicane; Jagannatha Bhakta Sabha, Egmore; Mylai Sangeetha Sabha and then Rasika

Ranjani Sabha, Mylapore. They offered regular programmes, monthly if not weekly, and developed a regular following for Carnatic music by presenting the best and the brightest. The R.R. Sabha of Mylapore, came to be regarded as a citadel because its members expected the highest standards and applauded performers with miserliness.

Sri Krishna Gana Sabha of T. Nagar came into being in 1954. The warm ambience it provided encouraged musicians to do their best which helped to develop a constituency for Carnatic music in a middle-class neighbourhood. Founded by Maharajapuram Viswanatha Iyer and his son Santhanam, it has, in R. Yagnaraman, Secretary since 1956, someone playing the role of an impresario.

Elsewhere in the South, the democratisation of Carnatic music has been spearheaded, with regular programmes, by Sri Rama Samajam, Kakinada (estd. 1894); Gayana Samaja; Saraswati Gana Sabha, Kakinada (circa 1905); Rasika Ranjana Sabha, Tiruchi (1914); followed by Trichy Fine Arts; Narada Gana Sabha, Karur (1944); Kalabhivardhini Sabha, Mysore; Nadabrahma, Mysore (1942); Malleswaram Sangeetha Sabha, Bangalore (1948); and Sri Swati Tirunel Sangita Sabha, Tiruvananthapuram (1942).

Sabhas established in Bombay, Calcutta and Delhi decades ago were also pioneers, serving domiciled South Indians, Carnatic music was fostered in Delhi (and Simla) first by the South India Club which gave birth later to the Karnataka Sangeetha Sabha. The Shanmukhananda Sabha Fine Arts Society in Mumbai and the Rasika Ranjana Sabha in Calcutta are still functioning.

Regrettably, the spirit of evangelism that marked the sabha as an institution aiming at promoting classical music and dance has largely disappeared.

PUBLICATIONS

Sangeetha Sampradaya Pradarasini

Subbarama Dikshitar's SSP, published in 1905, offers authoritative information on music and composers of music between the 15th and the 19th centuries. It has helped shape our perception of the greatness of the music of the Trinity. A source book on the grammar of Carnatic music, its raga system

and song forms and the usage of gamakas or graces, it has had a definitive impact on music scholarship.

Kriti Mani Malai

The four-volume compendium of Carnatic music compositions, in Tamil script, has stood the test of time as a monumental work. Offering text as well as notation with symbols to guide pronunciation, it encompasses altogether some 1450 compositions, including the bulk of the compositions of the Trinity. Notations in similar works published later on may be easier to follow, but the Kriti Mani Malai represents a pioneering effort and its author, R. Rangaramanuja Ayyangar, a trenchant observer of the music scene, deserves huge credit.

A practical course in Karnatic Music & Kirtana Sagaram; South Indian Music

Professor P. Sambamoorthy (1901-1973), the author of these volumes, was an indefatigable promoter of Carnatic music, mostly through educational efforts. These books have significantly influenced music performance. He produced four other books of songs, apart from Tyagaraja's *Nauka Charitram*. The six-volume *South Indian Music* has remained the main source of information for students of Carnatic music for many, many years.

The Hindu

An English-language newspaper launched with nationalistic fervour, *The Hindu* of Madras has a long history of providing space to cultural events and trends. In this context, it has been offering articles on music and musicians, as well as concert reviews; and these have served to focus public interest on the fine arts. Today it is virtually the only national newspaper going beyond tokenism in the coverage of the arts and avoiding the trivialisation of music and dance through 'pop' features.

Swadesamitran & Kalki

The first daily with a weekly section on music and dance and the second a weekly, were

pioneers in Tamil journalism in providing substantial space to Carnatic music. The daily for many years carried notated texts of Tyagaraja's kriti-s, while the weekly was host to lively commentary on the kutchcheri scene written by its editor R. Krishnamurthy under the pseudonym of Karnataka. Kalki's articles, earlier carried in *Ananda Vikatan*, were notable for bringing the kutchcheri scene alive to readers.

Sruti

The Youth Association for Classical Music (YACM) of Chennai, in its unique programme titled *On A Musical Track*, presented at the Music Academy late at night on 31st December 1999, noted that today Carnatic music can boast of its own full-fledged magazine in *Sruti* exclusively to Indian music (and dance). The YACM team, in preparing for the programmes, had found *Sruti* issues a veritable goldmine of well-researched and valuable information.

RECORDING COMPANIES

The Gramophone & Type-writer Company (of Great Britain) was the pioneer in bringing out recordings — 78 rpm discs — of Carnatic (as well as Hindustani music). It went through several organisational mutations and, after the merger of the Columbia company with it, it emerged as the Gramophone Company of India, known particularly for its issues bearing the His Masters Voice label.

Saraswati Stores, a major distributing company which as well produced recordings on its own, also impacted favourably on Carnatic music, by expanding listenership. One of its recording stars was D.K. Pattammal. It is no longer in the recording business.

In recent decades, **The Master Recording Company** has emerged as a major player with its Sangeetha label, making available a large catalogue of cassette recordings of a wide range of musicians as well as devotional music. — (Courtesy: *Sruti*).

(Concluded)

Answers to Quiz

1. Mukesh Gupta; 2. Rediff.com (Nasdaq ticker symbol REDF); 3. The only cricketer to play in both his country's first and 100th Test; 4. Rajesh Pilot; 5. Gustavo Kuerten (men) and Mary Pierce (women); 6. Hafez al-Assad; 7. Free phones; 8. Abhijit Kunte; 9. Broken the ultimate speed barrier — the speed of light — by transmitting a pulse of light thro' Caesium gas at a velocity accelerated nearly 300 times. * * *
10. In the Govt. Estate; 11. Venu Srinivasan of TVS Suzuki; 12. Jolly Rovers. * * *
13. At the Egmore Museum campus; 14. Jaishankar; 15. E.V.K.S. Elangovan; 16. 0431; 17. Higginbothams founded in 1844; 18. Mahabalipuram; 19. C.N. Annadurai; 20. Snooker.

Jolly Rovers regain Palayampatti Shield

Jolly Rovers Cricket Club, a team that dominated the Tamil Nadu Cricket Association league in the sixties and again in the eighties, has annexed the Palayampatti Shield awarded to the winner of the First Division of the league, after a lapse of nine seasons. The Chemplast-Sanmar sponsored team did it in style, pulling away from its nearest rivals India Cements and India Pistons in the last few matches of the season.

One of the major factors in the revival of Jolly Rovers' climb back to the top spot has been the excellent setting in which the team practises and plays its matches. The IIT NCC ground, as it was called until a couple of years ago, was adopted by the Chemplast Sanmar management and turned into a first rate cricket facility with the help of former state cricketer P Mukund, who developed a splendid green outfield and prepared excellent turf wickets there. The top management of the company took an active interest in the project and spared no effort or expense in bringing the IIT Chemplast Sanmar ground to Test standard. The crowning moment was when former Australian Test great Neil Harvey dedicated the Sanmar pavilion built on the lines of an old fashioned English cricket pavilion. Former first class cricketers B Kalyanasundaram, Bharat Reddy and B Arun have been involved in the development and subsequent upkeep of the ground, with lots of support from N Sankar, N Kumar and

Vijay Sankar of the Sanmar group.

If N Sankar, the chairman of the Sanmar group, was responsible for reviving the Jolly Rovers team in the eighties through the recruitment of several talented players including Test wicket keeper Bharat Reddy who led the team, his father K S Narayanan, now chairman-emeritus of the group, was deeply involved in the building of the team in the sixties, when he was a director of parent company India Cements. With a star-studded line-up that included P K Belliappa, K R Rajagopal, Najam Hussain, P S Narayanan, B Kalyanasundaram, George Thomas, S Venkataraghavan and K S Kannan,

sides Bharat Reddy the captain, P Vijayakumar, P S Moses, Rammohan Rao, Ashok Thambuswami, B Arun, L Sivaramakrishnan, Abdul Jabbar, B Ramesh, V Prasad, G R Venkatakrishnan, S K Patel, V B Chandrasekhar, Robin Singh, Sunil Subramaniam, D Vasu, S Ramesh, Sujith Somasundar and Siddharth Medappa, are some of the stalwarts of the eighties and nineties; and not all of them are state or India stars.

Sizable contributions to Jolly Rovers' latest triumph have come from D Vasu, the captain with his left arm slow bowling, another left arm bowler H Ramkishen, Test opener S Ramesh and his partner Sujith Somasundar, and off spinner

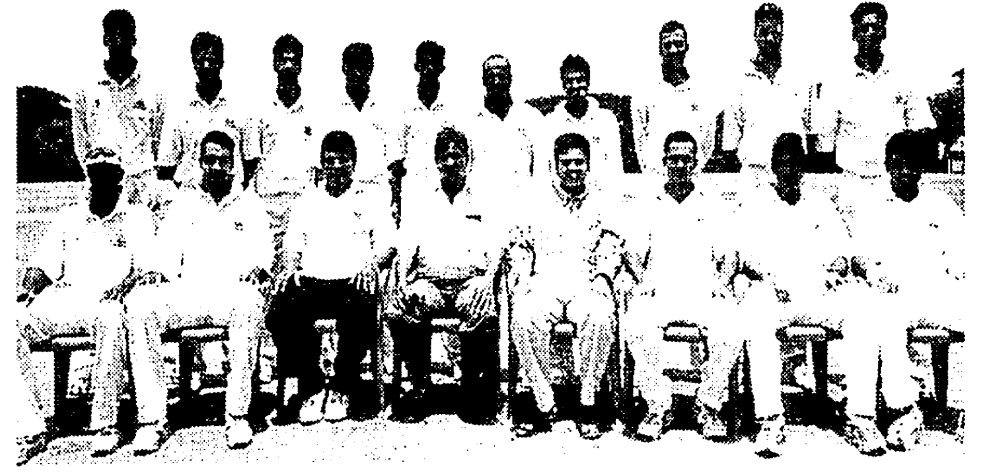
● by V. Ramnarayan

Jolly Rovers maintained a virtual stranglehold on the Palayampatti and Sport & Pastime (later Hindu) trophies in the sixties. Starting from 1967-1968, Jolly Rovers won two of the three local trophies for four straight seasons. It won the Buchi Babu trophy three years in a row.

The seventies were a period of relative underachievement for Jolly Rovers, but the club began the eighties with a bang. In 1980-1981, it went on a recruitment drive, which continued for over a decade. During that period, many talented young players joined Jolly Rovers and made it a formidable combination once again. Be-

S R Ganesh Kumar. Vasu bagged more than 50 wickets including two nine-wicket hauls in the league this season.

Like other teams in the senior division with grounds of their own, Jolly Rovers too seek to gain the maximum home ground advantage by under-preparing wickets against the weaker sides in the league. This does not always make for good cricket, unfair as it can be on young, inexperienced batsmen, though it must be said that some genuine batting talent and character have been spotted in such conditions. And on at least one occasion last year, the ploy backfired on Jolly Rovers when quality spin bowling by a single



Jolly Rovers Cricket Club, winners of the I Division League of the TNCA.

opponent caused their defeat even as they were hoping to wrap up an easy win.

No credit can be taken away from this year's champions on this score, as they beat their close competitor Vijay CC by a big margin on a good wicket in

the closing stages of the league, following it up with a handsome win over SPIC on the SPIC-YMCA ground. Coach Abdul Jabbar who shares an excellent rapport with his team must be a very happy man.

A CHAPEL LOST TO COMMERCE

(Continued from Page 6)

not available and, in the absence of original drawings, will probably never be satisfactorily decided. In order to convert the information contained in the two photographs into the form of drawings an acceptable convincing scale of dimensions has to be devised. To do this a stab has to be taken, educated guesswork if you like. The height of the portico columns, including the ionic capitals, has been made to agree with the columns at Christ Church, the height of which is definitely known.

The south elevation (frontage) has been drawn in a conventional manner, and the author is optimistic that readers will agree that the building possessed a certain grace and re-

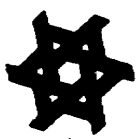
finement of character. Sadly, the east elevation (side) has had to be left incomplete. It is hoped that this situation will now be only temporary and a complete presentation will soon be possible. For this article this second elevation has been slightly manipulated to give the effect of partial perspective.

Readers, please come to the rescue of this author and help solve some of the many mysteries which surround the Chapel. With additional information on the exterior and brand new data on the inside it is hoped that at last a proper record of this important edifice can be put together for the interest and, possibly, benefit of generations to come.

(Concluded)

Tom Inglis

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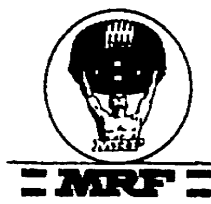
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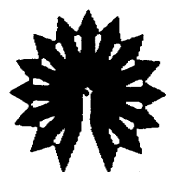
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