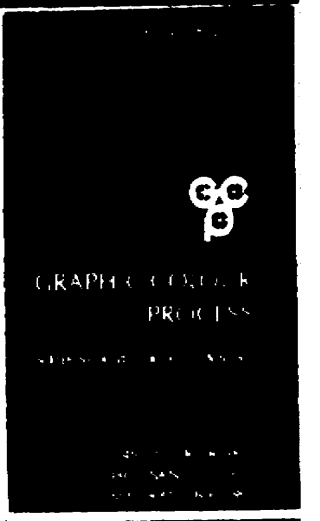


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New Car Plants?

Two more eye Tamil Nadu

(By A Staff Reporter)

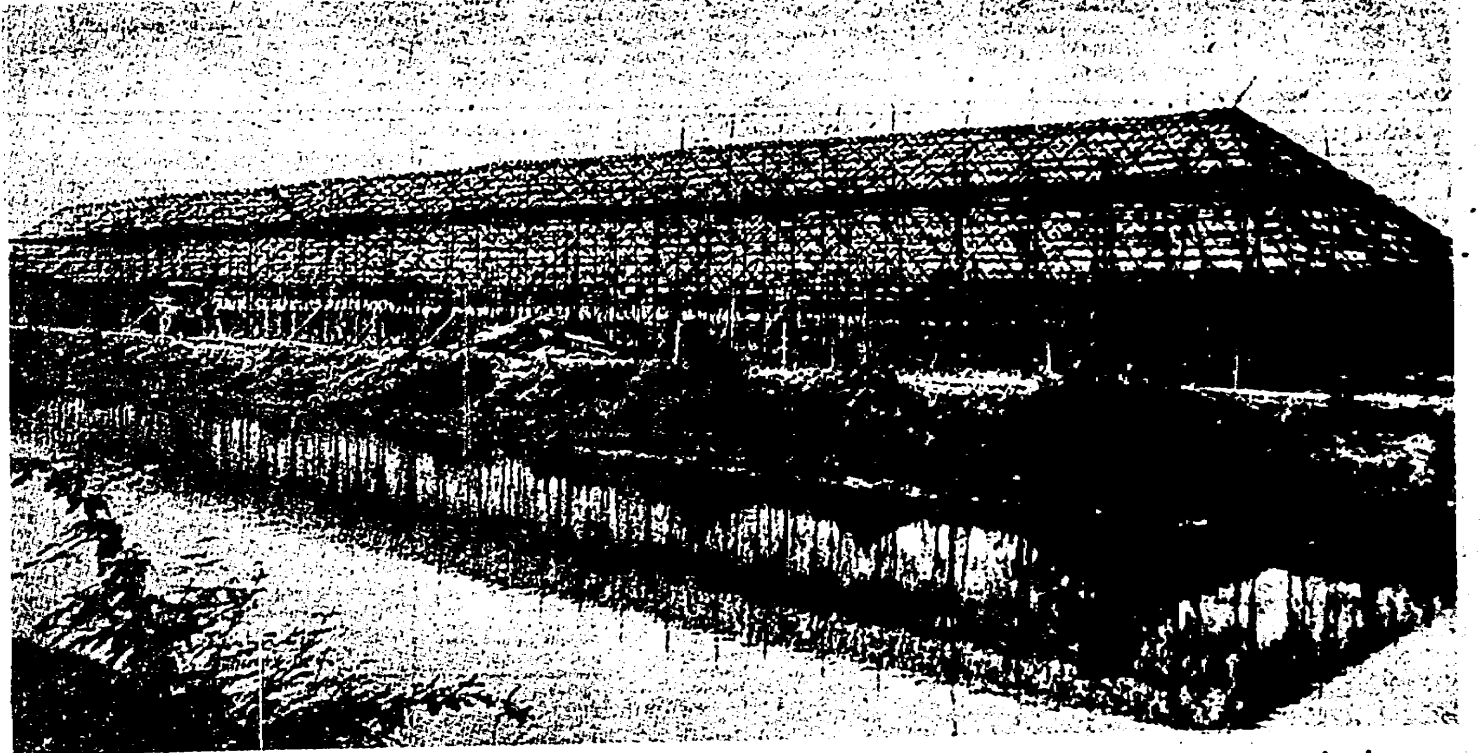
Who is going to be the first to locate a car plant in Tamil Nadu? While much has been written about Ford's decision on locating its joint venture plant in Maraimalaiagar, and BMW are stated to be definitely setting up shop, Hindustan Motors Ltd (HM) and Ashok Leyland Ltd (ALL) have begun looking at Tamil Nadu for their car projects. And the prospects of positive decisions from them look bright.

Hindustan Motors has announced a tie-up with Mitsubishi of Japan to produce the Lancer cars in India at an outlay of Rs. 250 crore. Speaking to newsmen, A Shankaranarayanan, President (Operations), stated that Madras is one of the locations under consideration, apart from Indore and some locations in Kamataka. The officials of the company state that the chances of the project coming up in the state depend on the concessions that would be extended by the state government. The Gujarat government has given a 14-year sales tax holiday for the company's Opel Astra project and Tamil Nadu will, in all probability, now suit and offer HM attractive terms.

Logistically, Madras is the most suitable site for the project, as transportation of imported steel sheets and other components from port to factory will be easy. There is also the presence of several auto ancillary

majors in the state. Apart from these, the company owns extensive lands in Tiruvallur and Hosur, where its earthmoving equipment and power products divisions are located. Further, HM, in order to augment production of loaders commenced a new plant in Pondicherry last year and another plant to manufacture back hoe loaders in tie up with Fermec is to be commissioned in January 1996. With the sales tax benefits in Pondicherry, substantial on the price of its gigantic earthmoving equipment, the prospects of the company concentrating their manufacture in Pondicherry are bright, this will in turn add to the unutilised

(Continued on P6)

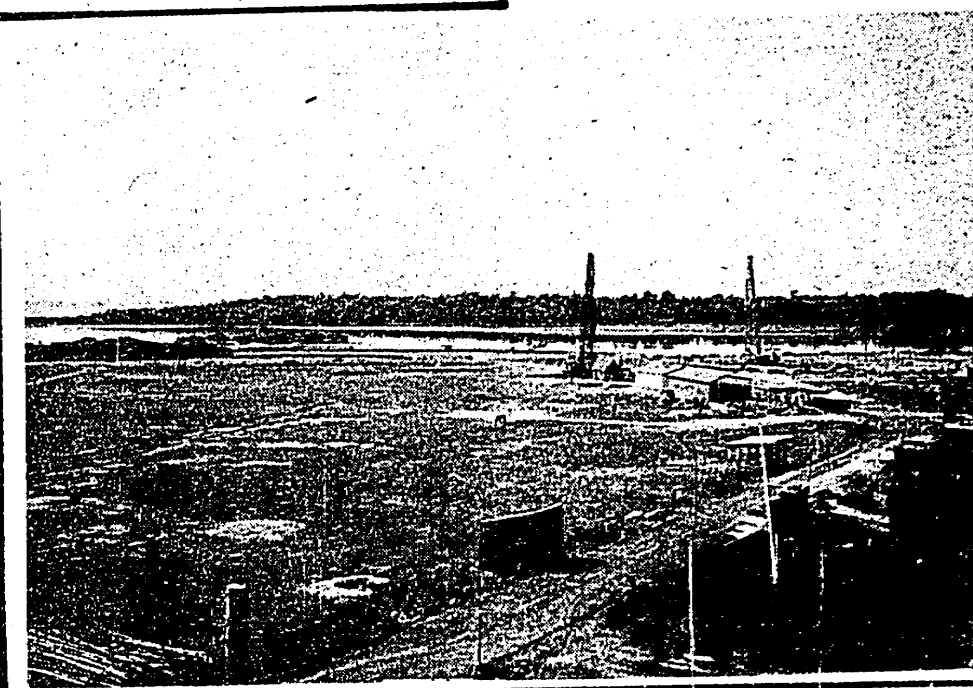


Our THE OLD & THE NEW finds itself on the front page this fortnight not only because of its importance as news but because it helps illustrate the accompanying story on what India's cities are doing to their wetlands and the consequences of such use.

The OLD many a reader will undoubtedly recognise. It appeared in these columns a few weeks ago and was part of the preparations for what many felt was 'The Wedding of the Century'. To make access to these giant halls and the wedding facilities, possible and to ensure comfort for the tens of thousands of guests, new roads were developed, new lines were laid for water, sewage and electricity, and all the infrastructure needed by an undeveloped part of the city, called a sanctuary and a protected reserve by many, was provided.

Our NEW shows that work is now getting underway, to make best use of these facilities on the reclaimed land in the Adyar estuary. A five-star hotel, it is learnt, will come up in the MRC Nagar area on the left and 300 units of luxury family accommodation are to be built on the area across the road from it and where the wedding bells were (picture below right).

This might be some of the most tasteful construction to ever be done in 20th Century Madras, but in the process one more of the City's major lungs is scheduled to vanish.



The great Wetlands suicide

India's waterbodies are facing a slow death. Urban wetlands, in particular, the lifeline of India's cities for centuries, which have been protected by tradition and preserved by people, are being systematically destroyed by Western models of 'development' taking precedence over traditional water management systems. Today, the entire heritage of protecting lakes and tanks — physically and culturally — has been washed away. There is hardly a modern Indian city which knows how to, or cares to, respect its water resources. Worse still, over the years, urban lakes and tanks have been made receptacles of city muck. They have been reduced to filthy, foul smelling cesspools dotted with mosquito larvae.

Encroachments on wetlands have turned Madras, a city with a copious rainfall of 1,400mm, into a land thirsting for water. As Madras has not as yet received any water from the Krishna river, which flows through the

neighbouring state Andhra Pradesh, M V Somasundaram, Professor at Centre for Water Resources, Anna University, sees the immediate solution as "renovating and modernising the temple tanks (as hundreds of townships are built around these temples) and promoting water harvesting from the roofs of every house".

The state government is not listening. The Consumer Action Group refers to a document of the Tamil Nadu Housing Board (TNHB) and Urban Development Corporation, which shows, that lakes have been surreptitiously marked off as wastelands.

"When World Bank gave TNHB Rs 600 crore (US \$ 20 million) as aid for slum improvement schemes, we had no land to implement them on. Hence we had to think of tank beds," a planner, with the Madras Metropolitan Development Authority, has stated.

The fallouts of this urban wetland annihilation are many. They include: **Water crisis:** Lakes and tanks no longer store and supply water for drinking and irrigation or help in groundwater recharging.

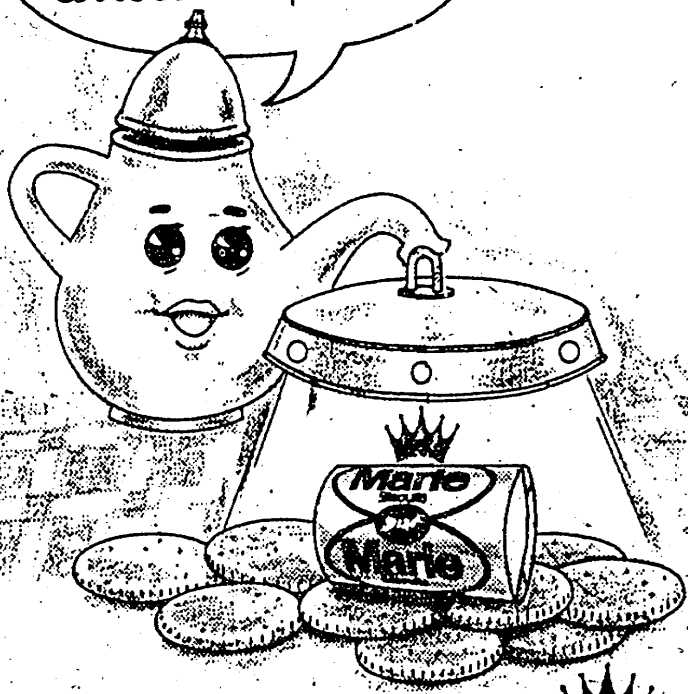
Floods: Urban waterbodies no longer serve as flood cushions in cities enjoying perennial river sources and high rainfall.

Ill health: Urban wetlands no longer act as resource recovery areas by releasing excess nitrogen, inactivating phosphates, removing toxins and heavy metals and treating waste water.

In the past, lakes and tanks were a very important aspect of water supply for drinking and irrigation in India, in both rural and urban areas. "In a country where 75 to 90 per cent of the total rainfall occurs within four months, June to September, which when compressed adds up to just 25

(Continued on P5)

Guess who's come to tea?
 Queen Marie!



The Queen among Marie's



ARM/TCU/975

No backwoods, Anna Nagar West

Whoever said Anna Nagar West Extension, Mogappair to some, is a backwoods area *The Man From Madras Musings* was in for a rude shock last fortnight for harbouring such thoughts.

Compelled to visit an area he is little familiar with, *MMM* found himself in the mother of all traffic jams. He's not quite seen anything like it even in the heart of Madras. That may be a bit of an exaggeration, but having taken over an hour to extricate himself out of it, *MMM* may be forgiven such hyperbole. But that does not erase from memory the fact of a traffic jam that blocked one kilometre of 2nd Avenue Anna Nagar, two kilometres of Inner Ring Road into which it fell, and one kilometre of the Mogappair road (School Road?) which led out from Inner Ring Road, and which kept GROWING by the minute! Trucks and vans seemed to dominate the jam, but every other type of Madras vehicle, except bullock-carts, fought for space and right of way and got nowhere beyond giving drivers and occupants bad cases of frayed tempers. To make matters worse, the roads in the area seem to be the worst in the city, almost indicative of the wilderness the area was before all this development, of which traffic jams are an unmistakable symptom, took place!

Could this have been an unusual occurrence? Several residents in the area told *MMM* that these had been occurring with regular frequency during the last few months. Could this then be due to the work going on at feverish pace to get the SAF Games Village in Koyambedu, on the Inner Ring Road, completed by December 10th? That's only a part of the story,

said those on whom *MMM* was calling. But more significantly they felt that it was the traffic, mainly trucks, now using this route to get from Ambattur to Adyar or Tambaram and back. Imagine what the area will be like when all the car plants Madras is expecting are in place!

What, however, struck *The Man From Madras Musings* the oddest part of this unholy jam was the fact that on the whole of that four kilometre stretch *MMM* has been referring to, there was only ONE policeman — and he was making a valiant effort to divert traffic that would not pay any heed to him. His may have been a feat of valour above the call of duty, but *MMM* can't help but wonder what had happened to his colleagues? Were they guarding the SAF Games Village? Ensuring no explosive traps were being laid by the Tigers for the Sri Lankan contingent?!

Meanwhile the couple of hours *MMM* had to spend in his vehicle, going nowhere, gave him the opportunity to discover that several architecturally striking features have come up not only in Anna Nagar but also in the Extension. A couple of Government-built shopping and housing complexes are quite striking, but easily one of the most impressive buildings in Madras is Bharat Petroleum's regional office that's located itself here. But will it lose this place to the Madras Medical Mission's model hospital that is coming up in Mogappair and which will be declared open later this month?

Building big

Mogappair, or Anna Nagar West, may be fast-developing, but *The Man From Madras Musings* is inclined to think that the most developed area in the City within the next couple of years will be the Adyar Estuary area that is known as MRC Nagar and which is situated between San Thome High Road and the sea. It had promised to develop as a lovely residential area, with architecturally striking bungalows and bits of gardens to remind owners that they could each call their home a 'garden house'. But no more!

Within the last couple of years, *MMM* knows of at least three or four families who have pulled up roots from here and moved to areas less threatened by massive development. The first of these new giant constructions is the Indian Bank's officers' quarters and training college. It may not be exactly highrise, it may even be architecturally attractive, but it

is going to put hundreds of people into an area of little infrastructure and narrow lanes that pass for roads. Then, in the Chettinad Palace grounds, Chettinad Vidyashram seems to be sprouting a new building every few months. And as each building comes up, the vast open spaces become less and less and the old trees that graced this compound are becoming fewer and fewer.

Next door, the State Bank have built quarters for officers and have kept the buildings to a very reasonable size, but they have put in people in large numbers where once Nature reigned. Then, *MMM* has heard talk of a five-star hotel and hundreds of luxury accommodation units on the site of the wedding which firmly put Chief Minister Jayalalitha in the world's headlines and assured her a place in the history books. And there are even whispers of the Stock Exchange planning to move into this area!

Forget room for the birds! Within a couple of years, where'll there be room for Man

unashamedly in the most 'mod' or 'sporting' of companies.

She shocked everyone but herself when she married Fordyce. He was a man of few words. A shy girl who had been through fire, she was at the time a young woman of even fewer words. But there was a companionship, an understanding, a closeness between them that transcended all words. It was a relationship that was to stand the test of time and circumstance, especially when it was she who was in the public eye and he who needed her most. But that's jumping the story.

When they married, Fordyce was a loner. And she didn't want to get back into the society in which she had grown up. So they had few friends, but they had themselves. And then a lovely little girl came into their lives and made them smile ever more and open out a bit. With the smiles there also came a new life in a new country.

Fordyce rode in Madras, then in Bangalore. They made Bangalore their home. And as

Rs. 30 crore each will be manufactured in India to international specifications and standards of luxury. The train passages are expected to cost \$850 per person per day and there will be excursion package at \$80 per person per day. At those prices, they'll undoubtedly be holidays to remember, *MMM* is certain.

Business briefs

★ *The Man from Madras Musings* has been heartened by recent developments in the city which will go some way towards reducing pollution and environmental degradation. News of the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) setting up its South East Asian regional headquarters here to control pollution in the entire region is welcome indeed particularly as UNIDO-assisted effluent treatment plants are already in place in the state. CLRI, Madras will actively assist UNIDO in coordinating its projects, *MMM* understands.

Yet another piece of news that has brought cheer to the *Man from Madras Musings* is the decision by Madras based Vibrant Besser Concrete Systems Limited, an Indo US collaboration to manufacture engineered concrete masonry units (ECMU) at Kelambakkam, Old Mahabalipuram Road, to use fly ash — some 10 truck loads every day from the Ennore Power Plant — as a raw material for the blocks it will make.

MMM is doubly pleased that in the process Vibrant Besser will also help arrest the alarming soil erosion caused by brick manufacture in the state as it does not use any clay in its process. At some 55 lakh sq.ft. of construction material per month — the capacity of each Vibrant Besser plant — that is a lot of saving!

★ Following the successful links of Sundaram Fasteners with General Motors, formerly known as Sundaram Abex Ltd., it is now the turn of Sundaram Brakelinings, who, *The Man From Madras Musings* hears, are all set to supply brakelinings to General Motors' various plants. The company has got off to a start to this end by making supplies to Opel Germany against a Rs. 2 crore order and is now negotiating with other GM plants all over the world. The company is also talking to Volkswagen. SBL, which has the capability to roll out asbestos-free brakelinings, has already been selected to supply brakelinings for the Mercedes Benz MB 700 manufactured in Indonesia, *MMM* understands.

★ *The Madras hotel boom continues. To the city's 900 five-star rooms, 600 four-star rooms and 500 three-star rooms, 600 five-star rooms and 2500 three- and four-star rooms are likely to be added in the next couple of years, The Man From Madras Musings hears. This column has in the past talked of the five-star hotels coming up; the three-star ones will include Fair Mount in Koyambedu, Vaigai in Guindy by MAC Industries, Gem by the Gem group near the Airport, Shan International on Ring Road, Ansari in Egmore, Tripura Sundari near Anna Salai and Akshaya by Sriram Chits.*

MMM

The secret of Puttur

He is not a miracle man nor a faith healer. Neither is he an orthopaedician with a string of foreign degrees. But Dr Rama Raju's sure-fire treatment for dislocations and fractures has baffled even some of the best-known orthopaedicians in the country.

Dr Raju is from a family of Puttur bone-setters who, for a century now, have been setting fractures and dislocated joints with a medicinal herb that has been kept a family secret. Dr Rama Raju is the first qualified doctor in the family and combines his knowledge of allopathic medicine with the naturopathic cure discovered accidentally by his grandfather, Gopal Raju, a hundred years ago. Every

may feel broken parts 5 or 6 times while I feel dislocated joints about 10-15 times a day. Our skill comes from treating so many patients a day," confides Dr Raju.

His clinic in Madras is bare with practically no equipment that you

In some extreme cases, where surgery was recommended by doctors, Dr Raju has cured the patient with his simple naturopathic medicine and proper bone setting. "Even arthritis can be cured, provided the patient comes during the early stages," says Dr Raju.

Dr Raju starts his week at his camp in Madras where he treats 120 patients — 60 on Sunday and 60 on Monday. He then travels by night to reach Puttur on Tuesday morning where he treats 350 patients and more. Wednesday night he leaves for Bangalore, where he treats 180 patients in a span of three days. His famous patients include V V Giri and N T Rama Rao.

S. ABITHA

associate with a doctor's chamber. The waiting room has only a few benches, and is partitioned by a wooden door from the doctor's chambers. Except for a long wooden bench for the patient to lie on and a tray with the herbal



Dr Rama Raju at work

Sunday and Monday, Dr Raju 'camps' at his Madras clinic in Ashok Nagar and that's I met him and heard him nostalgically narrate the story of the miracle herb.

Gopal Raju, a hunter by profession, one day shot a rabbit and broke its back. He picked up the animal and placed it on an improvised bed of leaves that he picked up in the forest. He brought the rabbit home and found before long that it had recovered enough to limp. Convinced that the leaves had medicinal properties, he tied another bandage using paste made from these leaves. Within a few days, the rabbit recovered fully. For the next couple of years Gopal Raju experimented with the herb and by the time World War I broke out the British rulers were letting him treat 10-15 soldiers a day. But Gopal never revealed the secret of the herbs. Since he was a bachelor, he passed on the secret to his brothers, Subba Rao and Markandeya Raju, who, at the age of 85, is now the oldest member of the Puttur family.

When a patient arrives to consult Dr Raju, the nature of the injury is ascertained by feeling the dislocated joint or fracture. Despite protests from the patient, Dr Raju does not hesitate to pull or feel the area of injury. What is special, however, is his skill in manipulating the bones and setting the alignment right. "An orthopaedician

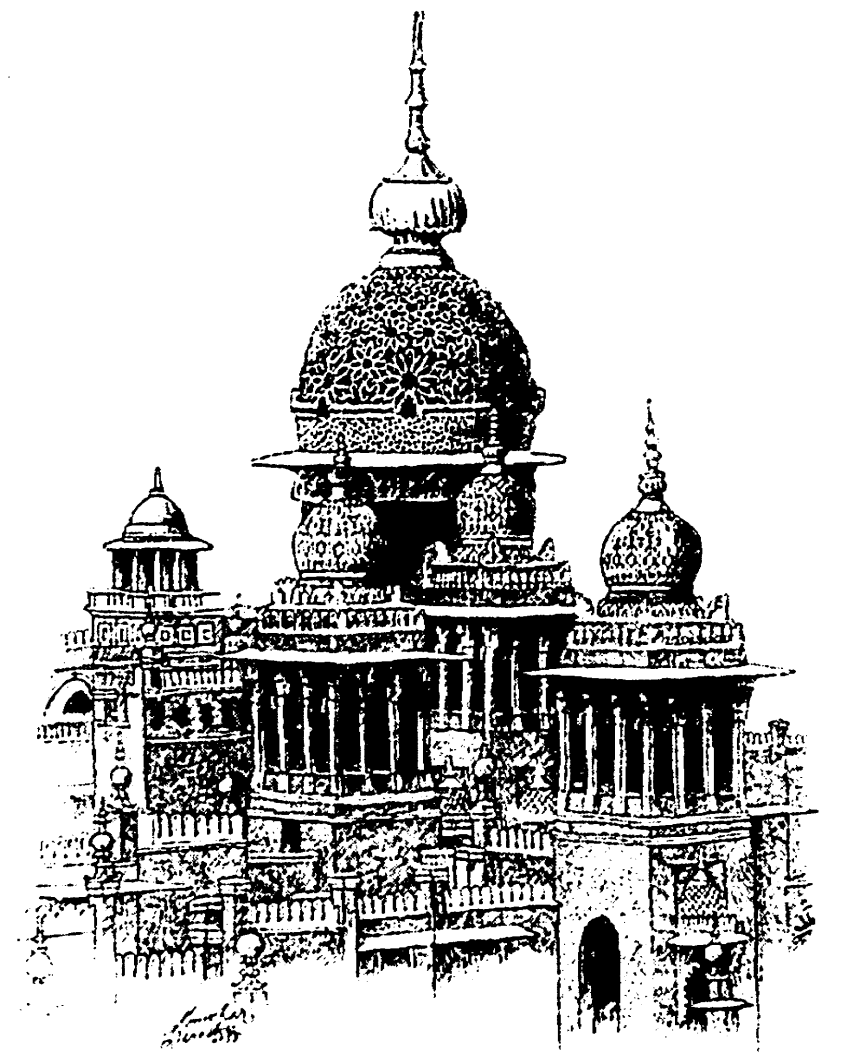
paste, the room is empty; there are not even rows of medicine bottles.

Dr Raju does not use expensive equipment or medicines. Most of his patients being poor do not even have X-ray reports. Other Puttur doctors do not use allopathic medicines, like pain killers. The patients are required to visit the clinic only twice. On the first occasion the doctor ties a bandage with the extract of the herb. The second time, which is usually after 15 days, the herb is applied with the white of an egg and turmeric. The patient can himself remove the bandage after a month, by which time the bone would have healed.

The Puttur bone setters are known to cure dislocations in almost any part of the body, including the backbone, skull, palette, pelvis and nose. Dr Raju has treated cases given up by some of the best orthopaedicians in the country.

With so many cases in a week, Dr Raju should be wealthy, but he does not even own a car. It is a tradition with the Puttur bone setters not to accept money for the services they provide and that is why the family has refused to reveal the mysterious herb, although many pharmaceutical companies have approached the family. Except for a nominal fee of Rs. 3, (Re. 1 for the cloth, Re. 1 for the egg and Re. 1 for the cotton), the patients are not charged anything. The fact that they do not charge distinguishes the family from the quacks who now operate all over the South claiming to be Puttur bone setters. The only way to find a genuine clinic is by the absence of a signboard outside it. There are no display signs or advertisements!

And is this tradition going to continue? Yes! Dr Raju's son is doing his residency and his daughter is also a doctor by profession.



Christmas and New Year are just round the corner and the first cards of 'The Season' have begun to trickle in. As usual, one of the first cards we received was from Mahema and Manohar Devadoss — and, as usual again, it featured a theme closest to the heart of this journal, the buildings of Old Madras. This time, Manohar had decided to feature "a cluster of colonnaded towers of the High Court, topped by elegant domes".

In a note with the cards the Devadosses say, "When we were newly married, we printed one hundred Christmas cards for our first Christmas together. Mano's mother asked us what we were going to do with that many cards. Over the years, we began printing increasingly larger numbers of cards for ourselves and for our friends who wished to use them too. During the past few years, we have been donating the sale proceeds of our cards to some good cause. This year, we have printed 17,000 cards, as the sponsorship has been particularly good."

The Devadoss' cards deserve such sponsorship, for they refuse to buckle under all the adversities that Fate has thrown at them. In Mano's case, that has included dwindling vision. But despite failing eyesight, he continues to draw every day, using "a complex method" and inspired by Mahema's voice. Those drawings have over the years given much pleasure to all those who help produce Madras Musings, as well as to its readers. And so, once again, we use Mahema and Manohar Devadoss' card to illustrate our fervent hope that 1996 will be kinder to the old buildings of Madras and to wish all our readers and well-wishers.

A MERRY CHRISTMAS
and
A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR

OUR READERS WRITE

Helping clear chaos

The stretch of TTK Road between C P Ramaswamy Road and Eldam's Road junction and Luz Church Road and Murray's Gate Road junction is choked with traffic throughout the day. This is an important junction where more south traffic and east-west traffic cross paths. On the eastern side of TTK Road a huge area of land has been cleared and is lying vacant, perhaps for a commercial complex. I recommend very strongly to the MMDA or the Corporation of Madras to acquire 15 feet of land from the developer and widen this stretch of TTK Road. This is a golden opportunity, because a) the land is at present lying vacant; and b) once the complex comes up, it is going to add to the traffic and worsen the already existing chaos at the junction.

Ranjit Balan
M-103, 120, 30th Cross St.
Besant Nagar
Madras-90

Denver connection

May I point out that it is only 10 years since Madras became the Sister City of Denver.

Apart from student delegations and exchanges, and cultural delegations and exchanges, individual industrialists connected with the World Trade Center, Denver, have periodically visited Madras and established contacts.

Also Takayama, Japan, became the 2nd Sister City to Denver in 1960. In a way, we already have connections.

Let us hope that at least now the powers that be will heed the warning of Harry Miller and start maintaining gene banks for all varieties of plantains.

M Sethuraman

Dolly Simon
Hony. Secretary
The Indo-American Association
10 Nandanam Main Road
Madras-35.

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BRADLEY, DA	Power electronics, 2nd ed.
GORDON, AD	Functional programming
HARRISON, M	Becoming a magistrate
FOX, MJ	Gaining benefit from ISO 9000 registration
MCULLIN, D	Sleeping with ghosts
MOORE, JJ	Chemical metallurgy
PHILLIPS, G	The Shakespeare conspiracy
SARGENT, D	Coding in Turbo Pascal
SKINNER, H	Video Graphics
SINCLAIR, J	Build your own PC
WALKER, JA	Art in the age of mass media
ZENIOS, SA (ed)	Financial optimization
FICTION	
BALLARD, JG	Rushing to paradise
GANDOLFI, S	Golden vengeance
JAMES, PD	Murder in the dark

Auto Components all set to take off

Reports of tie-ups between international auto giants and Indian players indicate exciting times ahead and the gradual shift towards exports underlines the fantastic prospects ahead. The recession of the early nineties has turned out to be a blessing in disguise, as crucial changes have been made and the industry has made a remarkable turnaround, with demand surging. The parent automobile industry, is also undergoing rapid qualitative and quantitative changes with demand

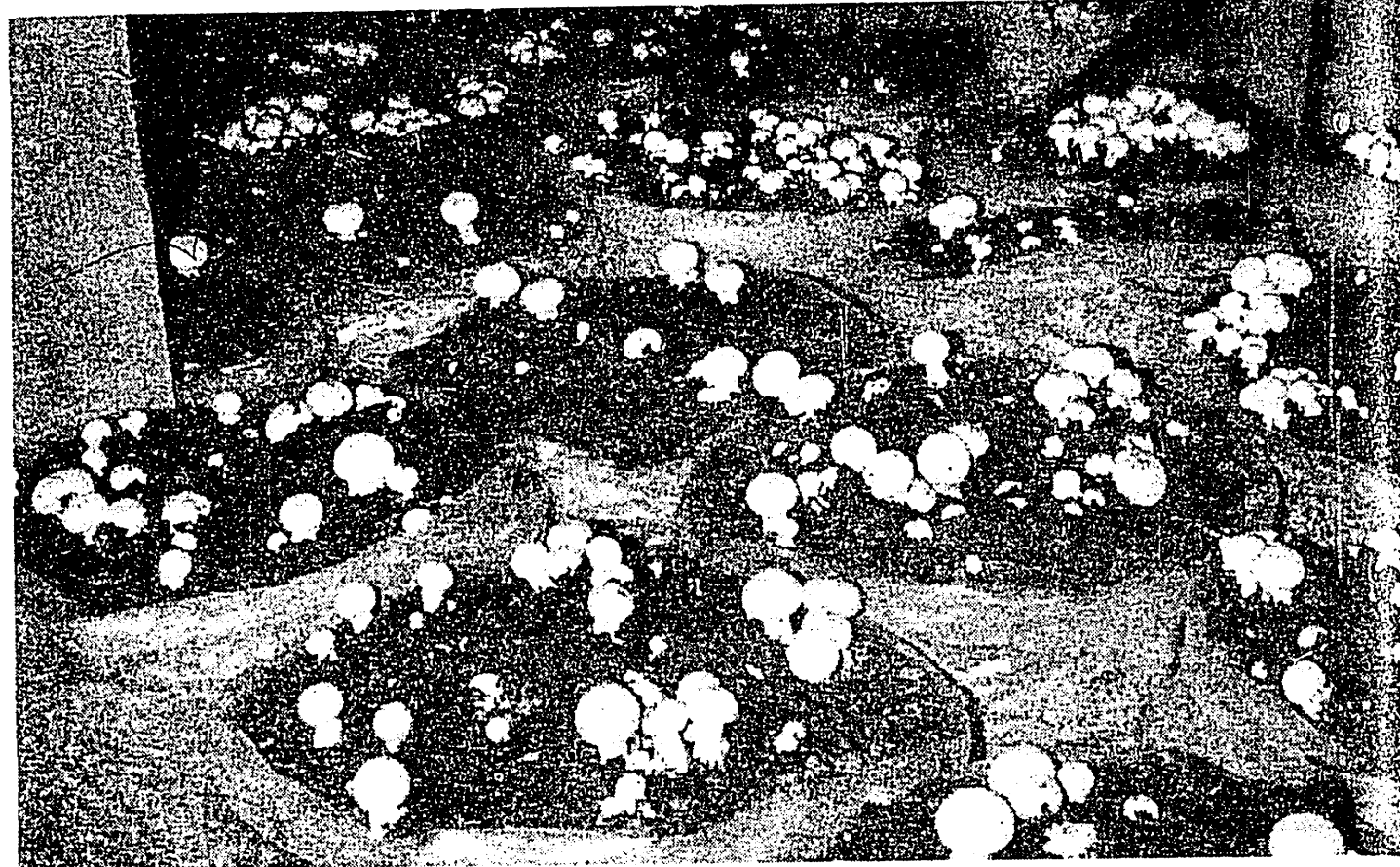
Today the organised sector of the industry is dominated by 300 large and medium players with more than 5000 small scale units also providing competition. The OEM, replacement market and exports account for 40%, 50% and 10% shares respectively in terms of value turnover. The organised sector accounts for three quarters of the total business. Some 78% of the production comes from 14 industrial conglomerates. In addition to the great demand in the OEM, there is excellent potential in the replacement or after-sales market. As there is a time lag of 3 years between sales in OEM and their translation into demand for replacements, the boom which began two years ago should create a surge in demand for spares next year onwards.

From the Rs 173 cr turnover in 1970-71, the industry grew to a production level of Rs 6727 cr in 1994-95 while exports rose from Rs 154 cr to Rs 630 cr. The industry envisages the annual turnover increasing to Rs 10000 cr in the next 2-3 years.

According to Auto Component Manufacturers Association (ACMA) estimates, the industry is likely to invest Rs 1200 cr in the next 4-5 year period, based on the growth seen in the last three years and projections that India will have a million cars on its roads by the turn of the century. A McKinsey study says that this demand for cars will probably reach seven lakhs by 2000 and 17 lakhs by 2001. Though India is the fourth largest exporter of components in Asia after Japan, Korea and Taiwan, its share in the world market at less than 1% is negligible. The industry has also started to supply OEMs abroad. ACMA has projected that about 50% exports will come from OEM abroad for the next three years.

The boom, is likely to continue to benefit this sector for some time to come with an already large and growing population with massive purchasing power. The increased social aspirations of the people mean a continuation of the increased demand for automobiles. The strong GDP growth rate of 5.6%, expected to improve to 6% and a high industrial output of 8.4%, will further sustain the

(Continued on P8)



An impressive sample of mushrooms

Mushroom boom

(By Meera Iyer)

Time was when people used to go into the forests to pick mushrooms. Now they are commonly available in vegetable shops in cities. (Editor's Note: Particularly good in Madras are the Sapharishi mushrooms — hugely buttoned), thanks to their vigorous cultivation by farmers and several large units, and the efforts of scientists to adapt various varieties to Indian conditions. From a modest 100 tonnes in 1970, the cultivation in 1994 stood at 25,000 tonnes.

Mushroom cultivation is not an easy business, admits R N Verma, director of the National Centre for Mushroom Research and Training (NCMRT) in Chambaghat, Solan, Himachal Pradesh. Yet farmers are keen to cultivate them and scientists are keen to step up production. The reason: There's money in mushrooms. About 80 per cent of India's produce is exported.

Tedious cultivation processes are necessary for the widely grown white button mushroom (*Agaricus bisporus*), oyster mushroom (*Pleurotus* SP.), paddy straw mushroom (*Volvariella* SP.), known as tropical mushrooms, and *Agaricus bitorquis*, beginning from the compost stage itself. They require high quality compost for cultivation, whose preparation is spread over 16-20 days.

Once the compost has been prepared, it is seeded using spawn. The spawn is prepared by inoculating sterilised cereal grain with the desired mycelium. The inoculated grain, kept in bottles or sterilised polythene bags, is incubated for about twenty days till the mycelium spreads. This is then used as seeding material.

About 15-20 days after the compost has been seeded, it is impregnated with mycelial threads. This spawn run is then covered with casing soil, which is pasteurised. Casing helps hold back moisture which is necessary to induce fruiting. In India, farmyard manure is used for this purpose along with spent compost.

A week after casing, the temperature is brought down from 24°C to 16°C. Pinheads start appearing soon after, and can be harvested when they attain the requisite size. An entire cycle takes about 90 days.

Farmers are, however, undeterred. And so are scientists. NCMRT has developed some new strains, such as the P1,

which can yield 10-15 kg of mushroom per 100 kg of compost. A high yielding strain of *A. bitorquis*, NCB-6 has been developed which gives a 16-19 per cent yield (16-19 kg mushroom per 100 kg of compost) in 6-8 weeks of cropping. However, most of the large commercial farmers prefer to use imported hybrid strains, because they are higher yielding. No hybrid strains have as yet been developed in India, although research on this is continuing in various laboratories around the country.

• A feature strictly NOT Madras, or even Tamil Nadu, but which might prove paying if attention is paid to it.

Indian research on improving production largely concentrates on the substrate used and on the casing material. The effect on yields of adding various oil cakes, especially cotton seed meal (CSM) and soyabean meal (SM) to the compost, is being studied at NCMRT. Data obtained indicates that yields are substantially increased when SM is added, irrespective of the time of addition when applied at the time of casing.

Experiments done at NCMRT recently have shown that faster growth of button mushroom mycelia occurs when the surface is kept covered with a paper having a layer of paddy husk on it, as greater moisture retention is achieved in this manner. The present

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The trailblazer from Pammal

He was the founding father of modern Tamil theatre who single-handedly initiated the Renaissance of Tamil drama during the late 19th Century when it was down in the dumps. Theatre was then considered a collection of pimps, prostitutes, and perverts', (to quote a contemporary chronicler). Theatre people were treated as social outcasts whom nobody would let out houses. They had no option but to stay in dilapidated houses, haunted mansions, and tents on the outskirts of a town or village. Few people would talk to them. Indeed stage artists were contemptuously referred to in Tamil as 'koothadi pasangal'.

The trailblazer who brought respectability to theatre once more, thanks to whose pioneering work the upper crust of Madras society cheerfully donned grease-paint and wigs to enact plays, was Pammal Sambandam Mudaliar, one of the greatest playwrights of India, whose work regrettably remains unknown outside his home state.

He wrote hundreds of plays which he directed and produced, playing the lead roles as well, handling all the portfolios with great success. The list of his dramatic works is long, and includes the popular plays, 'Manohara', 'Sabhapati', 'Ratnavali', 'Sati Sulochana', 'Vedala Ulagam', 'Chandrahari', 'Saragadhara' and 'Amaladityan'. When movies began to talk Tamil in 1931 with H.M. Reddi's (*Dichleomyces microsporus*), and competitor moulds, especially the brown plaster mould (*Papulasora byssina*), NCMRT researchers have found that a mixture of formalin and Bavistin when added to the compost controls mould fungi.

Scientists at Y S Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry at Solan have found that the incorporation of neem and castor leaves in the compost reduces the incidence of fungi, while the neem leaves also inhibit the nematodes or worms. However, the addition of neem inhibits mycelial growth.

A number of institutions affiliated to the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) impart training to those interested in mushroom cultivation. NCMRT holds one such 15-day training programme every year, training about 50 people in each capsule.

Opinions on the worth of the courses differ, but everyone agrees that the business is lucrative. Ram, who set up his farm at Chambaghat, produces 80-90 kg of mushrooms a day, of which 75-80 kg is sold fresh. The remaining are sold canned or as pickles. According to him, "There's never a day when my produce goes waste."

As a judge his dedication to work was so great that on the day his father passed away, he attended court after the funeral.

Pammal Sambandam Mudaliar was born in Madras in 1872. His father Pammal Vijayaranga Mudaliar was an Inspector of Schools in the Education Department of the Madras Presidency. Born into an ambience of books, literature and study, young Sambandam grew into a studious lad with a voracious appetite for books. His mother Manickavelu Ammal was a veritable granary of Hindu epics, folktales and religious lore into which

she initiated her blue-eyed boy. In Sambandam Mudaliar's father's library there were about 2000 books in English and Tamil which he read from cover to cover while still at school! When he did not understand a word he still read it aloud enjoying the sound and texture of big words! Sambandam, the school boy read all the plays of the Bard of Avon. Indeed Shakespeare fascinated him so much that the future playwright imagined he was Hamlet, Othello, MacBeth, Shylock and all.



While his father was away, Sambandam, his elder brother and younger sister staged scenes from Shakespeare at home using the family bed-linen as scenic back-drops, his father's 'veshtis', and mother's sarees as costumes. The 'home plays' were written, directed, produced, and lead-acted by Sambandam.

1891 ... a noted lawyer Bellary Krishnamacharu visited Madras with his amateur theatre troupe 'Sarasa Vinodini Sabha' and staged a series of Telugu plays at the Victoria Public Hall, then a famed venue of artistic entertainment. Enenough the plays were in Telugu, large crowds attended the plays. The audiences were mostly drawn from the middle and upper classes and included many women who turned out in rustling silk sarees and glittering diamonds! The visit was indeed a social event which rocked the city.

(Continued from P 1)

to 60 days, the tanks were part of a simple system of water harvesting, built to store rain water for the rest of the year," says S T Somashekhar Reddy, author of *Forfeited Treasure* — A study on the irrigation tanks in Karnataka.

Cities, like Bangalore, which did not have a perennial river-source, built tanks in catchment areas. And, in Calcutta, wetlands served a dual purpose — as a flood cushion, as the area receives an annual rainfall of 1,500 mm, and as a resource recovery area in the salt lakes of the city where they purified waste water, even sewage.

Wetlands were maintained by the people themselves and sometimes, festivals were organised around them, during which farmers would desilt them to maintain their original capacity.

Tanks were unsuitable to the British system of governance as tank construction did not enhance revenue and maintenance meant drainage of the exchequer. Instead of community-managed indigenous water systems, like

The members of Sarasa Vinodini Sabha far from being 'koothadi pasangal' were lawyers, doctors, government officials and the affluent of Bellary, a district headquarters town. The visit proved that staging plays could be an activity pursued even by respectable persons of social standing and status.

One of the many who watched the plays was Sambandam, then a student of the B.A. degree class of Presidency College. The lad of nineteen was so inspired by the Telugu plays that he gathered six of his pals and promoted Suguna Vilas Sabha on July 5, 1891, a red-letter day in the history of fine arts of south India.

His first play 'Pushpavalli' was staged in 1893, and the second, play 'Saragadhara' turned out to be a hit, staged many times not only in Madras but elsewhere in south India including Bangalore.

Suguna Vilas Sabha was an all-male amateur troupe and the female roles were played by men. A city lawyer, C. Rangavadi Velu Mudaliar played the heroine, and his looks, long hair and all, coupled with his stunning performance were so effective that many men fell in love with him. A senior lawyer of Madras even boasted that he wrote hundreds of love letters to "Dear darling Ranga!" regretting that there was no response from his *inamorata* Rangavadi Velu was such a draw that on the days he could not go on stage the crowds were perceptibly thin.

The list of persons who took part in the SVS plays reads like the Who's Who of the Madras Social Register. It includes Sir C.P. Ramaswamy Iyer, Sir R.K. Shanmugham Chettiar, S. Satyamurti, M. Kandaswamy Mudaliar (noted playwright and father of the Tamil film star M.K. Radha), famed lawyers, V.V. Srinivasa Ayyangar, V.C. Gopalratnam, T.G. Raghavachari, (under his pseudonym 'Acharya' the lawyer-

They made OUR Madras A walk down Memory Lane with RANDOR GUY

• Many men and women contributed to the unforgettable Madras that existed in the first half of this century. Statesmen ... lawyers ... Judges ... doctors ... writers ... journalists ... musicians ... film personalities ... theatre devotees ... performing artists ... social workers ... educationists ... Indians ... British ... All of them did their bit to make Madras the grand

city it was before the second half of the century began. In this series, you will meet many of them, the men and women who have earned their place in the history of Madras between 1900 and 1950. Come, take a walk down Madras memory lane with me and let us remember their contributions.

R.G.

turned-filmmaker made memorable movies, like "Rishya Sringar" .. Mangamma Sabatham", "Apoorva Sahodarargal", and parts of "Chandralekha", A.T. Krishna swamy (later a noted filmmaker and screen-writer), and M.N. Srinivasan (the father of the legendary glamour gal of her day, Vasundhara Devi).

With his deep knowledge of Western literature, Mudaliar adapted many Shakespearean plays into Tamil. Those were, 'Vanipurathu Vanigan' (The Merchant of Venice) .. and 'Amaladityan' (Hamlet). His most famous play "Manohara" was inspired by Hamlet even though the playwright denied it! His "Sabhapati", which he described as a collection of farces was extremely popular with club audiences all over South India and later, made into a hit film by AV Meiyappan and A.T. Krishnaswamy. The film version bestowed stardom on the talented funster T.R. Ramachandran.

Mudaliar was blessed with a rich, effervescent sense of humour. SVS was enacting a play in Rangoon, and on stage in a scene were the hero (Mudaliar), and villain (V.C. Gopalratnam), amongst others. The scene involved the two characters positioned at the two ends of the stage engaged in a loud shouting match of high-flown dialogue. VCG was surprised when Mudaliar began to move closer and closer to him. Deftly he moved away as required by the play, but Mudaliar would not let him go. Stepping closer he whispered in VCG's ear in English,

"Gopalratnam, do you see we are a majority here?"! At once he moved away shouting out the Tamil dialogue. He was drawing VCG's attention to the stark fact that there were more people on stage than in the hall!

Mudaliar revealed his foresight when he wrote a book in the 1930's in Tamil on the making of movies. Today it is a collector's item. Mudaliar lived to a ripe old age beyond ninety years and in spite of his loss of sight he attended plays following them with his ear. Such was his passion for theatre.

Till he breathed his last he thought of theatre and theatre alone. When his friends called on him during his last days the subject of conversation was always-Tamil theatre. Such was the Grand Old Man of Tamil Drama, 'Mudaliarvaal' as his friends called him.

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A Traveller's Tales

A surprise in Madras

(continued from last fortnight)

You might wonder why I am talking again about Madras to people that live there, but it has been suggested to me that I might usefully describe the place where I stayed: Broadlands Lodging House. This is one place I guarantee most of you won't have been to (even if you were looking for a hotel in your own city), as it must perhaps be the only one in India where no Indians are allowed. For me, as for many travellers, the Lonely Planet guide to India was my bible. Without its lists of places to eat and places to stay I would have been lost. Broadlands gets a superb write-up beautiful, tranquil and well run, "no other hotel in the area compares! Other places were 'not bad' if one was just in Madras overnight", or described as 'basic', or even more suspiciously were not described at all, just listed. The guidebook warned me that some of the staff were 'rabidly racist', but I didn't really believe it and I wanted to be comfortable.

Broadlands is an old building of indeterminate architectural style. It can't seem to decide between Victorian and Moorish tricked out in shades of eggshell blue and sea green, which comes off as white on any luggage or clothing brushed against it. The largest of the three shady courtyards is a pleasantly cool place to sit during the day, and at night the roof is best. The breeze even drives away the mosquitoes, and there are excellent views of the city.

Conditions are basic. For ten more rupees a night in Bangalore I had a



Broadlands: 'The Whites Only' hotel

room with television, glazing and attached bathroom. I also had a lot of large cockroaches which I eliminated assiduously with tightly furled copies of the *Deccan Herald*, and I have to admit that despite missing slats in the shutters, insect life was not a problem in Broadlands. I was almost choked one morning when the place was fumigated, and if the staff aren't sleeping they are generally cleaning. One thing which surprised me in a place catering for Westerners was that the lavatories were of the squat-pan type and equipped only with a jug of water. Most guests could at times be seen prowling furtively in their direction with

a private hoard of lavatory paper. Broadlands also has a built in alarm clock. I was generally roused at five in the morning by the sound of the faithful being called to prayer at the mosque next door. Doubtless any Muslim reader will think this right and proper, but I am an owl rather than a lark as far as sleeping patterns are concerned. Broadlands is cosy. The guests sit and chat with one another and go out for meals together, there are innumerable cats — though some look distinctly flea ridden; the staff is attentive, and the range of ages and sex almost creates a family atmosphere. There is a cheerful masseur who is apparently good at his work, although I did not find out at first hand. Breakfast is available, although I must echo the typical complaint of the British traveller that you can't get proper toast. In Broadlands you get sweet bread fried in ghee. Sweet, milky coffee is served in thermos flasks. In desperation I explained that I wanted to mix my own, and could I have one thermos of coffee and one with a little milk. The containers duly arrived one half full of coffee, one half full of milk. I suppose it seems churlish to grumble about toast with such a superb range of South Indian food to sample locally, and for the most part I relished experimenting with sugarcane juice and eating off banana leaves with my fingers, but now and again I experienced a yearning for bland English cooking which it was impossible to satisfy.

What Broadlands seems to be known for in Madras is its racial policy, which is not a question of nationality but of colour. I strolled into Reception one day to get another bottle of Madras's municipal water, chilled. A young woman was already there. She was about my own age, well spoken, and probably a university student born and brought up in the U.K. at a guess. She was also rather attractive, with a pale coffee-coloured skin and dark eyes, and travelling alone. Within seconds I was devising ways of introducing myself and suggesting we go out for a meal.

I was thwarted by the management. To them she was Indian. As one man they stared fixedly at the desk and

told her the hotel was full. "What about the dormitory?" "Full." There was an uneasy pause and she left. There was another pause, broken by me: "I didn't realise the hotel was full" (I was pretty sure it wasn't). "It isn't. Seventy per cent full," came the reply. "That girl looked British to me." One of the managers assumed a confidential tone, and promised to explain when we alone.

Now, I'd heard that years ago, and this is just a rumour, Broadlands attracted Western hippies who smoked illicit substances, and whilst certain Western women were under the influence of certain substances, certain Indian gentlemen took advantage of their predicament. Whatever the case, and I don't think that Indian men are essentially more of a menace than any others, drugs are not a problem in Broadlands today, the hippies have gone, and any Western girls will have to fend for themselves with Indian men in any other hotel they visit in India. So I was interested in hearing how the manager would justify himself. I was half expecting him to tell me she had a criminal record as long as my arm. What he told me was even stranger, and as he believed it implicitly I don't see any harm in repeating it.

An Indian stood in front of me and told me that the girl, as an Indian, might have had friends and family in the area and might have brought them in off the street, and besides Indians make lots of noise at night with their music and drink lots (which sounds to me like typical Oxford students). What would happen, I asked, if I was travelling in India with an Indian friend of mine, who like me has a degree from Oxford, and has lived in England all his life? Besides, his family live in Gujarat. All I got was an embarrassed shrug. Apparently the hotel is not run for profit, but for the safety, welfare and comfort of the guests.

I don't have a personal quarrel with the management; towards me they were courteous and helpful. I was, however, increasingly embarrassed by their attitude to their fellow countrymen, which, if genuine, is misguided in the extreme. If they think they are pandering to the feelings of their guests, again they are misguided. Some may feel comforted by belonging to a 'whites only' club. In a foreign land it is reassuring to have contact with your countrymen, but not to the exclusion of all others. During my stay I felt increasingly guilty as I reflected on the embarrassing scene if an Indian friend tried to visit me, but I was too idle to move. Broadlands' reputation as an efficient, congenial hotel is secure. Removing this outdated (at the very least) rule would enable many guests to sleep more easily in their beds. Until awakened by the call to prayer that is.

(concluded)

TIM BRYARS

Quizzin' with Ramanan

(Quizmaster V.V. RAMANAYY, questions are from the period November 16-30)

1. The MRTS, Madras' elevated train service was inaugurated on Nov. 16. Name the stations between which it runs.
2. LCA, an indigenously built fighter rolled out on Nov. 17. Expand LCA.
3. The principal of the first Montessori school in the country and one of the architects of Kalakshetra passed away on Nov. 17. Name him.
4. What massive Rs. 6400 crore programme was launched by the PM on Nov. 18?
5. Who has been selected for the prestigious Indra Gandhi International Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development, 1995?
6. Which Indian woman weightlifter set a world record while retaining her world crown in China recently?
7. Which legendary music group's new song, the first in nearly 25 years, titled 'Free as a bird' was broadcast on Nov. 20?
8. Name the BBC programme which featured a controversial and candid interview with Princess Diana on Nov. 20?
9. Name the two Union ministers without portfolio, one of whom resigned as he did not want to 'burden the exchequer'. The other who passed away after a protracted illness.
10. Who is the next Air Chief Marshal?
11. Name the religious leader, who on his 70th birthday, donated gifts worth nearly Rs. 170 crore to welfare schemes.
12. Name the eminent doctor family recently arrested for alleged double harassment.
13. Which famous film director is to head the reconstituted Film and Television Institute of India (FTII)?
14. Who was conferred the 'Distinguished Service Award' of the Advertising Club, Madras for 1995?
15. The Tamil translation by Sriramadesikan of a great Sanskrit work is to be published by the State Government. Name the work.
16. Recently in Dubai, the minimum opening bids for a shrouded covering of a grave were fixed respectively at Rs. 2.5 crore and Rs. 50 lakh. What structure and whose grave?
17. Which Indian won the Billboard Channel V 'Viewers' Choice Award'?
18. After years of bloody war, the factions of which European country have signed a U.S. mediated peace treaty?
19. The people of which European country, predominantly Roman Catholic, and hitherto not allowed to divorce, voted 'Yes' to allow divorce?
20. New Zealand scored the highest one day international score on Indian soil and the second highest overall, when it amassed 348 recently. Where?

(Answers on p. 8)

New Car Plants

(Continued from P. 1)

portion of land at Tiruvallur. Moreover, the Tamil Nadu Government is pressurising HM to utilise the excess lands at Tiruvallur for manufacturing purposes.

Meanwhile, Madras-based Ashok Leyland, after long thought, have signed a Memorandum of Agreement (not Memorandum of Understanding, insist the officials) with two Japanese car manufacturers, Toyota Motor Corporation and Daihatsu Motor Company, to do a feasibility study about starting a car plant in Tamil Nadu. While the officials are tightlipped over the proposed project, it is learnt

that the factory will have a capacity to produce 40,000 to 60,000 cars a year. The company is yet to decide whether to float one company or two different companies, as the project involves two different foreign manufacturers. But what is certain is that ALL will have majority stakes in either case. Industry sources state that one of the eight models that will be rolled out is the Mira produced by Toyota Motor Corporation. They also state that the company plans to import all eight models for display at the automobile fair to be held in Delhi in February next year.



Can we save Madras?

Asks a book that targets children

On Page 1 of this issue we feature the trauma Indian cities are facing as their wetlands are gobbled up by developers and government agencies. Madras is no exception. As far back as the 1930s, the Long Tank was filled to develop T'Nagar and, later, Nungambakkam. And the 'murder' of wetlands continues. A curious coincidence as we planned this issue of *Madras Musings* and chose to feature 'The Great Wetlands Suicide' on Page 1 was the receipt of a small book from the C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation, Alwarpet. "The Story of Madras" has been brought out both in English and Tamil and is primarily for distribution to schools and young persons interested in Madras and its environment.

The coincidence was the fact that the book too featured the dangers of using up wetlands for other purposes. We quote below from the book. And alongside is the book's views on what should be done to 'save Madras for posterity'.

Once upon a time, there were several lakes and ponds in Madras, which provided drinking water in the dry summer months. These have been filled in with garbage and landfills, leaving the city dry and parched for water. Lake Area in Nungambakkam and Nageshwara Rao Park on Luz Church Road were once lakes.

The ponds and tanks of yore were filled up and built over. This has resulted in acute water shortages and constant lowering of the ground water level.

To make up for the limited water, people are pumping out water through borewells. This has resulted in salt water intrusion along the coast.

The Adyar and Cooum rivers and the Buckingham Canal are heavily polluted with sewage and chemical effluents. People living in huts along these rivers bathe in them, drink the water and spoil their health.

Unplanned growth has resulted in the indiscriminate construction of tall buildings with no infrastructural support. They contribute to the shortages of water and electricity, the traffic jams and cars parked on narrow roads, due to the lack of parking space.

Unplanned growth has also resulted in heavy traffic snarls and disorganised

roads. This makes it very difficult and tiring for people who commute long distances. Also, the number of accidents in the city is increasing day by day.

There is no check on air pollution. Public buses and autos, private vehicles and lorries pollute the air, and industries let out toxic fumes. These are harmful to our health. Industries, particularly in

North Madras, pour out their highly toxic effluents into the sea. The city's sewage is also dumped into the sea. Thus marine life is poisoned or destroyed and, in turn, harms the

population who depend on it for their food and livelihood.

Trees are cut down all over the city, making it hotter, dustier and drier.

THEN AND ONLY THEN CAN WE SAVE OUR ANCIENT CITY FOR OUR CHILDREN AND OUR CHILDREN'S CHILDREN.

A surfeit of music and dance

Yet another music and dance season is here in Madras! For those who love it, no other world exists for a whole month and a half. Come Margazhi (15th December to 14th January) and Madras comes alive with music and dance of the highest order. During the season the entertainment columns of the newspapers present a glittering array of programmes. The many who come to Madras just for these concerts find themselves quite confused by this surfeit of high quality fare.

The greats of Carnatic music and dance are all featured in the season. Some of them are given the same dates every year.

At Krishna Gana Sabha for instance, Alamel Valli dances every year on 23rd December and Malavika Sarukkai on the 25th. They also perform at Bharat Kalachar and Narada Gana Sabha.

It is interesting to watch Valli and Malavika one after the other as they represent varying styles of Bharatanatyam. The gregarious Valli looks the audience in the eye including them, as it were, in her vivacious dance while Malavika has a 'touch-me-not' aura about her. In their thirties and in top form, both are great dancers to watch.

Dr. Padma Subrahmanyam's extremely entertaining, 'Bharatanatyam' will be on show at Nungambakkam Cultural Academy, Bharat Kalachar and the Indian Fine Arts Society.

Anita Ratnam's Purush, an ensemble of male dancers, will be on view in expanded form at Bharat Kalachar and Krishna Gana Sabha. "Purush" is also the theme for the Natyakala Conference being convened by V.P. Dhananjayan.

A new dance drama to look forward to is the "Vata Vriksha"



Lakshmi and her banyan tree

(Banyan Tree) by Lakshmi Viswanathan and her company. "Vata Vriksha" tells the story of dance. Lakshmi is the latest senior dancer to choreograph for dancers trained by



others, a trend begun by Chandralekha. Recently on tour in the U.S., Lakshmi and her dancers did a series of workshops and lecture demonstrations at Brandeis University, Boston, followed by a show at the campus.

According to Lakshmi, "with standing room also taken, the doors of the theatre had to be opened to allow people to see the show". There seems to be a better market for classical south Indian dance in the U.S. than in Madras and Lakshmi like others before her, is full of stories of fantastic praise showered on her group. Example: an American rasika saying he had enjoyed the Banyan Tree more than the Royal Ballet in England) or an English professor saying: "Your Rukmini Devi is the best I have seen since Rukmini Devi ..."

Lakshmi is an intelligent person who can be expected to have assimilated all she has observed in the dance world in the past decade and applied it in her dance drama. She has

the benefit of the services of a director from the theatre world, Deborah Dunthorne and help in choreography from Gitanjali Kolanad, Ambika Buch and Raju. Excerpts shown at the Gandhi Mandapam during the South Zone festival suggested a bold depiction of recent history instead of the myths showered on her group, while eschewing the completely abstract form of Chandralekha's creations.

Music lovers are advised to look for the Hindu entertainment column every day. There is so much rich variety available that one cannot begin to list the concerts scheduled for the season. If a newcomer finds it difficult to choose from so many of our contemporary stars, so do veteran listeners and concert addicts of Madras.

SAF Extravaganza

Will Indian athletes rise to the occasion?

Madras is making history by staging the South Asian Federation Games, the biggest and costliest sports extravaganza to be held in Southern India, with as many as seven national teams in the fray. The Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu and the Indian Olympic Association, joint organisers, have made such arrangements that the Games are certain to leave behind unforgettable memories, like the India-Pakistan duel for the hockey gold — provided politics stays away.

The opening ceremony at the Nehru stadium, the Games' main venue, may draw the expected big crowd, and so may the closing ceremony at the same stadium. But, make no mistake about it. The India-Pakistan clash for the hockey gold in the round-robin tournament at the Egmore stadium will pull the 10-day Games' biggest crowd, unless Pakistan withdraws from the tournament. It can't be otherwise considering the status of India and Pakistan in world hockey.

Madras is indeed lucky in that the southern metropolis is hosting the first-ever SAF Games hockey tournament, introduced

only this year. In keeping with the international discipline's SAF Games debut is the challenge for its gold medal by two of the world's better hockey nations, India and Pakistan, and it is a safe bet their gold medal clash will provide the Games' piece de resistance.

The organisation of the Games in Madras, a brainchild of Tamil Nadu Chief Minister J. Jayalalitha, will cost her government approximately Rs.

by
JAICI

200 crore. Understandably, sports fans will sincerely hope the exceptionally costly international championships will boost the image of Indian sport, and in the process give Tamil Nadu sport a new look, thus vindicating the huge investment.

The Games have helped Madras emerge as India's best 7 equipped sports city with a modern stadium for every popular discipline. Unfortunately, the costly, air-conditioned indoor stadium in

the former Madras zoo area and within a stone's-throw of the Nehru stadium, is not ready yet. Though work was going on at a feverish pace, and the contractors assured the authorities that it would be ready by mid-December, the organisers die not take a risk. Thanks to sport-minded persons like the Principal of Santhome High School, Bro. George, the competitions originally scheduled to be held at the air-conditioned indoor stadium were shifted to the Santhome H.S. and Jayalalitha (Kilpauk) indoor stadia, and it is a safe bet they will have a smooth passage.

It is now up to the big Indian squad to stare off the foreign challenge in nearly every competition, and collect gold medals commensurate with its size. Considering the training and coaching it has had since the inter 7 state championships at the Nehru Stadium in the first week of December, the Indian athletics squad looks certain to finish most of its engagements on a winning note. But what is in store for the hosts in most other disciplines, remains to be seen.

Despite all the training they have had and the advantage of the home surfaces, the Indian contingents, barring perhaps the hockey, tennis, athletics and wrestling squads, will need a lot of luck to finish with a good medals tally. Madras Musings joins millions of enthusiasts in wishing them the best of luck.

The Games, incidentally, pose a problem to journalists. It is not easy for them to go from one venue to another, as from Peoples' Park to Egmore, Velacheri and Kilpauk. Fortunately, L.N. Vijayaraghavan, Education Secretary and Secretary-General, SAF Games, has assured them the all results will be made available at the Nehru Stadium in Peoples' Park. Understandably, all journalists will feel grateful to him. It only remains to be seen if the results will arrive in time.

ANSWERS TO QUIZ

1. Beach to Chepauk; 2. Light Combat Aircraft; 3. K. Sankara Menon; 4. The Prime Minister's Integrated Urban Poverty Eradication Programme in 345 Class II cities in the country; 5. Gen. Olusegun Obasanjo, former President of Nigeria but presently in jail; 6. Karnam Malleswari; 7. The Beatles; 8. Panorama; 9. C.K. Jaffer Sharief and Dinesh Singh respectively; 10. Air Marshal S.K. Sreen; 11. Sai Baba of Puttaparthi; 12. The Ambatis; 13. Mahesh Bhatt; 14. N. Murali, Joint Managing Director of Kasturi and Sons (publishers of The Hindu); 15. Bharata's Natya Sastra; 16. The Kaaba and Prophet Mohammed respectively; 17. Alisha Chinai for 'Made in India'; 18. Bosnia; 19. Ireland; 20. Nagpur.

Imran does MAM proud

by AJAX

M.A.M. Ramaswamy, the world record-breaking owner, came in for special praise at the Guindy Gold Cup presentation ceremony on Sunday, December 9, when he patted jockey Imran Khan and congratulated him before he received the trophy from P.M. Antony, Senior Steward. He felicitated the young rider on the horsemanship he had shown a little earlier on his Caliente in the Guindy Gold Cup for four-year-olds, the richest and most coveted prize outside the Classics.

Rock Hopper, also owned by MAM, was a 10-3 on favourite, and the Treasure Leaf gelding looked like vindicating the public support he got until Imran Khan brought Caliente, a 4-1 second favourite, in a sparkling run on the outside, and the bay filly raced past the red-hot favourite to win decisively. Though Rock Hopper's supporters were disappointed, they all had a word of praise for Imran Khan, who left the apprentices' ranks only last season.

Ironically, the picture of the wrong'un from champion

Foley's stable, housing MAM's horses, was repeated in the day's other big race, the Ram Mahadevan Cup for three-year-old colts and geldings, which perpetuates the memory of a former Tamil Nadu Inspector-General of Police. Master Guy, like Rock Hopper, was an odds-on favourite. But the colt had to be content with second place behind American Dancer, who led from start to finish in the hands of apprentice David.

Caliente, American Dancer and Royale, another winner, all owned by MAM, were among the four saddled by Foley, who thus took his tally to an Indian record of 41 winners from 63 races, including the first of the classics, The Hindu South India, 1,000 Guineas, and all the races confined to two-year-olds. It is now a foregone conclusion that MAM's trainer will improve on his world record of four successive centuries of winners, which he achieved last season, and it only remains to be seen if he will emerge as the world's first trainer to saddle a century and a half of winners in a single season.

Auto Components all set to take off

(Continued from P4)

percent demand. Even if for some unforeseen reason, the OE demand for autocomponents goes down, we can be confident that this will not be the case in the replacement segment where the demand will never go down. The industry seems set to be an attractive segment, one that will offer good investment opportunities for some time to come.

And now we recommend two promising scrips from this exciting segment.

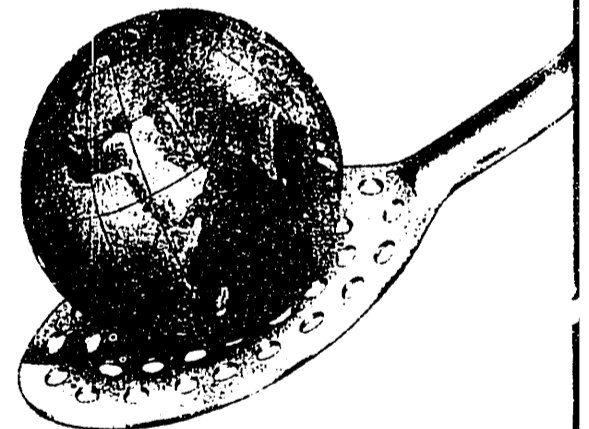
Harita Grammer (CMP Rs 65.00): Harita Grammer (HGL) is a joint venture between the Harita Group of the TVS family and Grammer Sitzsysteme GmbH of Germany with its factory located at Hosur. At present, each promoting company holds a 30.89% stake in the company with the balance coming from the public.

The company manufactures automobile seats and is an OE supplier to Telco for the Tata Estate, Sierra and Sumo models. It also makes seats for the tractors of Mahindra & Mahindra, TAFE and Escorts, and the Bajaj Tempo Traveller. Performance had been affected by the recession in the automobile industry in the late eighties. Earlier the company had been concentrating on tractor seats which accounted for 72% of sales. The shifting of focus to the car seats segment appears to have paid off as in 1994-95, contributions from the tractor seat segment amounted only to 33% while the sales from car seats accounted for over 66%. That year the company wiped the entire accumulated

losses of Rs 0.89 cr and posted a profit of Rs 1.67 cr. This resulted in an EPS of Rs 5.22 on an equity capital of Rs 3.20 cr. It is setting up a new assembling unit in Pune to enable timely supply to Telco. This plant is scheduled to commence by Jun 1996 and a significant increase in the bottomline can be expected in 1996-97. For 1995-96, we expect the company to announce an EPS of 8. Buy as there appears to be good potential for capital appreciation.

Lakshmi Auto Components (CMP Rs 75.00): Lakshmi Auto Components (LAC) manufactures various auto components such as cylinder blocks, crank shafts, automotive gears and steering gears. More than 90% of LAC's sales is to the parent company, TVS Suzuki which holds 65.95% of the former's share capital. LAC also executes job orders for Escorts, Sundram Fasteners, Lucas TVS etc but these sales are minuscule. For the year ended Mar 1995, the company performed well achieving a turnover and PAT of Rs 12.72 cr and Rs 3.57 cr respectively. With the upswing in the fortunes of the automobile and the auto ancillary industries, we can expect LAC to do well. Also its major customer, TVS Suzuki, has been recording highly satisfactory performances and has taken up a major expansion plan to double its capacity. It is also currently revamping the existing models in the mopeds segment which will benefit LAC greatly. To take advantage of TVS Suzuki's expansion, LAC too is embarking on a capacity expansion. The project cost of around Rs 14 cr is to be met partially through a rights issue at Rs 10 premium in the ratio of 1:2. The share can be bought for short and medium term gains.

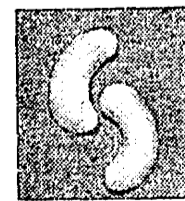
K. GOPALAKRISHNAN



It's a small world...
and we at MAC Industries,
realise it too often.



• 1992 - Exports cross Rs.15 crores. Recognised by Government of India as an Export House.



• 1994 - Exports cross Rs.75 crores. Recognised as a Trading House.

• 1995 - Exports estimated to cross Rs.100 crores.

Now, isn't that once too often?



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