

2005

LOO TIME MMV

GENERAL

A million apologies for the long, long silence may be its because I am the lamb. There really is no excuse for it except that I am creeping towards senility.

All our gratitude must go to Shirin, who translates my scrawls into vibes and to Lil OO who airs it.

FOCAL POINT

In the last issue of the Sandesh, the thought was voiced whether we should have a website can you imagine how many opinions were expressed? Have a guess.

Well, Lil OO did it. We now do have our own website. It can be accessed at www.sen4sen.com. He has done a real neat job, which you must see to believe.

Everyone must contribute news, information and other inputs to make this a living document.

The website has a short commercial life. In 2006, and each year thereafter, we need to renew our lease. For this I need everyones help as the water level is getting into my nose, which makes life difficult. Kindly send me your contributions by cheque.

In Calcutta there is, or was, an institution called Alexander Duff Seminary. Alexander Duff was a Scot Unitarian pastor in Raja Ram Mohan Roys days. I am given to understand that this organization has genealogical data of many old Christian families who converted out of conviction. The location is not known and it well may be amalgamated with Bishops College, Serampur University or the like. Some exploration is needed. Please help.

OBITUARY

INDER

Elder son of Lolit Mohan and Constance Bhattacharjea. Inder was born on 2 March, 1920, and was educated in Harcourt Butler School in Delhi and

Simla, where his parents lived. While in school he briefly joined the mercantile training ship IMMTS Dufferin in Bombay but was unhappy with the experience and opted out. He completed his education in St. Stephens College, Delhi, where he ended a brilliant academic career with a first class masters degree in economics in 1941. He was a good sportsman as well and represented the college in cricket.

In recognition of his academic talent, Inder was awarded a government scholarship to study in England but could not go immediately because of World War II. He joined the Royal Indian Air Force in 1942 and won the prize for the best all round cadet. He was commissioned in No. 7 squadron of the RIAF and was posted to the Arakan front, in Burma. After a few sorties over the front, his Hurricane was shot down in an encounter with Japanese Zero fighters. It took days for his aircraft to be located deep in the jungle. He was found unconscious in his cockpit with serious head wounds. After evacuation, he spent months in hospital before returning home.

The scholarship Inder was awarded, was revived after the war and in 1946 he went by sea to England, where he was admitted to the London School of Economics. However, his wounds did not permit protracted study and he was unable to get his degree. While under treatment, he was nursed by Muriel, whom he went on to marry. She looked after him devotedly for the next six decades. He worked for some years in the Indian High Commission in London.

Inder and Muriel lived their last years in a flat in Sussex Gardens, near Hyde Park, where Ajit was a regular visitor. They had one child, daughter Santha, who went on to teach at Oxford. In 2001, Muriel was struck down with Parkinsons disease, from which she never recovered and had to remain permanently in a home. Inder found it difficult to cope alone and was finally moved by Santha into an old peoples home in Oxford where she could be near him. He spent his final months there and died peacefully on 14 August, 2003.

TINY

He was born on the 18th March, 1921 in Lahore to Uncle Gian and Aunt Ila Chatterji. He went to Government College where he earned a master's degree in philosophy. He joined the News Room of All India Radio in 1943. In 1949 he was selected to the programme side as Station Director, and his first posting was in Shillong. From there he went to Lucknow for one year, then to Srinagar in the early 1950's. He then was transferred to Calcutta. After two postings there, he later came to Delhi where he headed administrative sections and ultimately retired at the top as Director General AIR in 1979. He was associated with the Asian-Pacific Broadcasting Union, and held the post of president for a year. After retirement he received a Senior Fellowship from the ICCSR and wrote a book entitled 'Secular Values for Secular India' which was published in 1984. Later he taught broadcasting in the Mass Communication Research Centre in Jamia Milia for 10 years.

Tiny had a few passions. One of them was philosophy on which he wrote a number of books. Another was classical music - both western and Indian - for which he did a lot, particularly when he was in Calcutta. He had a great love for the mountains and fishing. He also enjoyed cooking and giving parties: he was an excellent cook and took great interest in seeing that everything was just right, including flower arrangements.

After much suffering, philosophically borne, he passed away on 13 September, 2002. He is survived by Lola, Bobo (Samaresh), Keli (Sujata) and Bardu (Anil).

ROMA

She was born on the 11th September 1925 in Kensington, London. She visited India for a year, 1935-6 with her mother and sister, and then the family settled in Delhi from 1938. She did her schooling in Waverley Convent, Mussoorie and then went to Isabella Thoburn College, Lucknow. She started learning to play the piano while in school in England and grew very fond of western classical music. She married Ray Isar in September 1946 and their son, Bubby (Yudishthir Raj), was born in 1948. Ray was posted in London where she met Maurice Loban, and got a divorce from Ray in 1953. Maurice was a viola player and was with the London Philharmonic Orchestra at the time. Their musically gifted son Sacha was born in 1954. In the 1970's she decided to study for a degree in Clinical Psychology as a private student. After getting her degree, she worked in St. Mary's Hospital in Ealing during which time Maurice passed away. She then joined the Cardinal Clinic in Windsor where she soon made a name for herself. She passed away on 17 January, 2003.

We will always remember her for her most distinctive "tr-la-la-la-" laugh. And it came so often. Another of my memories was the treasure hunts she organized with rhyming clues.

KEN

Ken was born to Timothy and Rosie Joshua on 22 March, 1923 in Delhi. After going to St. Stephens College, he joined the Army in 1942. He joined 1 Kumaon Rifles, which was then deployed in the Middle East. He went on to command his battalion, which was now re-designated as 3 Kumaon Rif (The Rifles). He was Junior Commander and Senior Officers course instructor at the College of Warfare in Mhow. He was Military Advisor in London in 1964. He commanded a brigade in Arunachal Pradesh. He attended National Defence College in 1970. He served some staff tenures one was in the UN Mission in Lebanon and at least two in Army HQ. He was commander of a super secret military mission to Ceylon, which saved the Government of the day. He retired as Sub Area Commander, Bombay. On retirement, he worked for M/s. Advani Oerlikon and Oerlikon Burle Ltd., for two decades, as an advisor.

He married June Wilkins and sired Anita and Stephen. He went on to have eight grandchildren and a clutch of six great-grandchildren. On Junes passing away, he married Lalita (Honey).

He passed away, soon after his 81st birthday, on 27 March, 2004.

He will always be remembered for his lovely singing voice and for his jokes for all occasions and seasons. Kens parting lines in his will were: Do not grieve for me when I am gone. Think only of the wonderful times we have had together and of all the laughter we shared. Pardon me for not rising! Farewell, Dear Ones!!

MONEEKA

Moneeka was born around 1927, the youngest of S.K. (Budhu) Misras three daughters. She began her education in St Thomass School, New Delhi, before going on to Kinnaird College, Lahore. After Partition she made her home with her sister Rani and the latters husband, David Millicans. It was then that she showed signs of the passion for the theatre that was to dominate her life. She won a fellowship to study drama and theatre in the US and in the following years was on the fringes of the Delhi theatre. There she met Habib Tanvir, a dramatist who had made a name for his efforts to popularize traditional village theatre.

Their partnership was most successful. They established the first professional theatre group in the country presenting rural theatre Naya Theatre - to audiences in many cities of India and abroad. Without Moneekas organizational skill, ability to guide, care and look after a group of rural entertainers, even when performing overseas, the group could not have held together. She also contributed greatly to the intellectual content of the plays.

They were the true modern troubadours. After many years spent with difficulty accommodating themselves and the troupe in Delhi, Moneeka, Habib and their daughter Nagin, settled down in Bhopal. Nagin grew up to become a talented musician and member of the troupe.

Moneeka passed away on 28 May 2005 in Bhopal after a brief illness. Her death was widely condoled in the theatrical world.

IN LAWS

Arthur: He emerged from the shadows after over a half century. After a full life being in the IAF, farming whatnots and being the manager of Frank Anthonys School, Calcutta, he has retired. He lives in a small room, cooks for himself and is the local sugar daddy (or should one say toffee-daddy or lollypop daddy?). He looks well and has added girth from his IAF days. He used to be in school with Viney in Simla.

Joan: She continues to live a spinsters life in Calcutta. She lives quite close to Arthur.

Tinker and Hazel: He is an elusive bird as ever. He writes but I know not what. Hazel has retired from being an efficient and effective secretary. Time does not hang heavy on their hands as they look after Susan and Chip. Susan is now going into senior school.

Debbie: She is a secretary in an MNC in Kailash Colony. Her hands are full being father and mother to Chip.

Inder: He met his Maker on 14 August 2003. His funeral service was in St. Mary Magdalene Church, Oxford on 21 August and was then cremated. Santha strew his ashes in a mountain stream near her cottage in the Welsh hills. Most of the time that he was in this home he was extremely well, in fact radiant. In the last 20 months that he was in the Home he was extremely happy surrounded by his paintings and art. The end was very swift. His good physical health made his body put up a ferocious fight to the very end. The final illness lasted barely 24 hours and he was unconscious for most of it. Aji and Lola, who met him in the Home, were saddened by his silence it seems that his powers of communication had diminished considerably. The cause of death was pneumonia aggravated by MRSA, a rampant hospital infection in UK. He once had a surprise visitor in Robin Mukherjee, Nellie and Kusums son.

Muriel: In August 2003, she moved to a brand new Nursing Home. She is calm, happy, blind, bed-ridden but physically well. Despite her advanced dementia, she is adored by all.

Santha: She is still in Oxford University but has been shifting around acquiring new skills for an attractive bio-data. She had a very good one-year in New College (it was new ever since 1379!). At present she is the Senior Tutor of St. Bents Hall, a very small peripheral college in Oxford. It is an administrative job, which keeps her on her toes. She continues her academic career by writing articles, several of which were published in the last two years.

Aji and Mira: Both of them have retired from the jobs they held. They both work from the house and it keeps them reasonably busy (they are forever flying to forsaken corners of the world). Mira has her ticker under control and Aji is looking the spoilt Nana of Adnan that he is.

Sunand: She remains at Patparganj and works from the house. She takes on assignments that do keep her busy on the computer. The excursions for plays and music performances are now quite limited as movement has become a major problem. She has had problems with her eyesight, which adds to the problem of movement. She goes to meet Usha in Bombay on an average of once a year.

Adoo and Tista: They continue to do well in their teaching profession. They now have a flat in Cavalry Lines allotted to them by the University. They do travel quite a bit, professionally. This year, Adoo goes to China and Hong Kong to read papers on development while Tista goes to Denmark to write on her spectrum of expertise. They both visit Calcutta around Christmas each year. This year, Tistas father, Dr. Bagchi, was awarded a Padma Shri.

Suman and Jorge: Not many squeaks come out of her, but all three are well. She had set her heart on coming to India for over a year but the grant fell through. The plan was to bring Adnan to spend a year in an Indian school, apart from delighting Nana and Nani. Alas! Jorge had planned to take his sabbatical at the same time. Alas (again)!

Nomi: Her reflexes continue to be good. Ami is well. She should now be on her way to college.

Shirinbaba: Shirin continues to be on call at the World Bank. She has had two bad winters with sciatica pains in her leg. After spring 04 the pain disappeared but came back in the autumn. The big mystery is how she manages to smile and keep her sense of humour with a pain in her left leg and another in her neck!

It is remarkable how Baba manages to keep his head a la Kipling when everybody else is losing theirs! His main pre-occupation has been to function as the Gurgaon Churchs treasurer. The main task has been to make this transparent as also to bring some method into the madness. The uphill task was to make the mofussil men see that there is another side to every hill. Then he has tried to organize a prayer breakfast in the Church. This was a new project and so needed a lot of needling to get off the ground. For the last few years he was compiling Vol. III of CIH history. Though the draft was compiled and ready in 2002, it now seems much closer to publication. The hope is that it sees the light of day in 2005.

Last year they took part in the golden jubilee celebrations in IMA of Babas commissioning. By a strange coincidence, they stayed in the same room he occupied when he joined IMA in 1952 nothing had changed! It really was great fun.

Their ventures into the cultural scene western classical music and play reading never really took off. They now only venture out for community functions CIH dinners four times a year, 8th JAK RIF dinners twice a year, Cavalry and JAK RIF dinners (each twice a year), annual Infantry lunch, and a monthly course mates meal in Gurgaon or Delhi.

OOOOO baba: He continues to be a good Samaritan to the Good Samaritans and travel to Manipur and Tamil Nadu. He busies himself with improving his computer skills. In May he had a nasty fall from a chair not while

sitting in it! and broke the bones of his left forearm. It appears that he is planning to visit the New World in 2006 when he wants to repeat his wonderful holiday in Victoria and Stamford. Till then, he seeks an inward move of his spirit that would take him from God-chasing to God-catching. He maintains that the end of the self is the beginning of God.

Juni and Ash: They are living a fast and furious life. Their prime occupation has been to re-arrange their house. They have opted for a bigger kitchen, a whopping big family room and more loos (presumably one for Emma also!) During all this renovation which will last a year and probably cost a million dollars they are camped in the guest room. Everybody is discombulated as each day brings different looks and different smells for Emma and no favourite couch for Juni.

Juni now works for the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council. Her task is to produce site-specific performances and is known as Producer, Sitelines Festival. With this hat on, she has done some work in New York. It must have been impressive as she with a choreographer went to St. Petersburg in March to give a lecture on producing a site-specific festival; on to Novosibirsk, Siberia for a talk and a workshop on the subject.

New York can now blame Ashley for all the mix-up in commuter trains! He now works in New York Grand Central Station. He recently had a medical crisis when they found a tumour near his upper spine. Fortunately it was benign and it was removed. We believe that as soon as that was done, blood could be noticed flowing to his arm actually seen. He is on line now.

The highlights of last year 2004, include a great holiday at Barbados for Juni, Ash, Koko, Mike and Moppet, and visits from Honey and Oontie (who crisscrossed one another from June through September).

Koko and Mike: They share a full and easy life in Victoria, arguably the most beautiful part of Canadas West Coast, a little piece of heaven after Kokos decade-long globe-trotting. French Beach is a favourite hideout of theirs, where Koko spends as much time as possible painting and in retreat mode. She became the President of Xchanges Artists Gallery and Studios. Her studio is where she paints and sculpts, enjoys a close community of artists and helps young artists to hone their skills. She has held several exhibitions of her works at Victoria and seems to have developed a great approach to sculpturing. Some of the art museums and galleries in town display her works. Her paintings, sculptures and landscapes can be viewed on her website www.kobitasen.org that Oonty set up for her.

Mike busies himself with the house, which he does in the laid back West Coast style which means that it takes as long as it takes and happens when it happens. Now he has also onto programming on his home computer. For them its a green, quiet and good life.

Sheila and Raju: Are well and steadfast. Sheila has had her cataracts removed from both eyes. They are up and about but forever are going into a bout of cold and cough or are coming out of one. Recently they went to Dhariwal for a ten-day holiday, after nearly a decade. Recently brother-in-law Stanley Joseph has joined them in DLF City. Kunti Joseph, Rajus other sister-in-law, now lives with her son the St. Stephens Hospital.

Shobhna and Ken: They have migrated into DLF City. Ken continues to provide security and insurance. Nina is in the teenage groove and goes to College.

Rachel: She is now a useful member of society, taking her place in the job market.

Chimpu and Rajiv: Their business continues to prosper. Rajiv is mad on golf and is forever on golf tours. Both the strapping sons are in St. Stephens College.

Babey and Supriya: Their business booms. They are forever traveling, recently to Germany. Daughters Sanya and Shanaya go to Delhi Public School near Sohna and are doing well. Babey is a fitness freak whose focus is on badminton.

Ronen and Madhvi: They are now a family of four. Ronen has picked up his rank and is now a Lt.Col. in Bharatpur Ammunition Depot.

Lalita: She lost Ken a year ago and has been bereft. In MMIV she went to North America quite dexterously she kept avoiding bumping into OO! On that visit she attended a memorial service for Ken in Toronto arranged by the Canadian Joshuas. YWCA work sees Honey crisscrossing North India and on the run.

Boban: He had a nasty accident in Avignon, which mangled his foot. Would you believe it, he was chased by an old lady. Healing has taken considerable time. The hope is that he comes into the sun this winter.

Shalini and Alexi: He continues to be involved in music while she teaches and cares for Matisse on the side.

Eric: He is much into music.

Swaran and Anita: After being kept on tenterhooks for long, he is now the Director General of Police in Andhra. He continually hogs the limelight with his innovations into police procedures. The orphan scam is behind Anita now. Till he became DG, his passion was golf representing Andhra on the police golf circuit.

Sharon and Rakesh: They are steadily climbing the ladder. She is the Director Finance of Haryana Post Office and he the Director Finance of BSNL in Haryana. They were in Chandigarh but are now in Ambala.

Kareena and Greg: Shefalika is now 5 years and Sheadon 3 years. And then come the twins. No news.

Monty: Lives in the homestead and is M/s. Morgan Stanleys local manager. This winter he had a nasty accident in his Bolero, which made Yuletide miserable.

Stephen and Ligia: They now live in Hyderabad full time. He has his practice plus he is a legal adviser in the commercial world. She has her hands full chasing Ezekiel who, for some strange logic, has the pet name of Zak.

Vicky and Malti: He is now a judge in the High Court of Delhi. Perforce he has to distance himself from his extra curricular activities in the Diocese and YMCA. His practice has been taken over by Malti.

Manvi and Rohit: They have come down to mother earth in Mother India. Both of them work in Bombay he with Microsoft and she with Colgate Palmolive.

Sonali: She is at present working with Professor John Dreis and is off to London, or Oxford, to pursue higher studies in Development Economics to earn an M Phil and a doctorate.

Mini: She is now studying law at Delhi University: soon she will join her mother.

Lola: Tiny passed away on 13 September 2002. Lola continues to live in Saket: her radius and frequency of action has reduced considerably. The intellectual life occupies her day what with book reviews, etc. She is now an editorial consultant. Recently she went on a ten-day holiday with Bobo to Manali: last year it was Srinagar.

Bobo: Continues to be in Ahmedabad. Earlier he was professor of mathematics in Dhirubhai Ambani Institute of Information & Communication Technology. Since January he is the Dean of Academic Programmes. He has had some great holidays in 2003 he trekked to the base camp on Mt. Everest, last year it was to Srinagar and Pahlgam with Lola, winter in Goa with family and now to Manali with Lola. His mobile phone is 9327043614.

Keli and Rich: They have retired and are still to settle down in St. Louis. They spent a holiday with Lola and Bobo in Goa last winter. It truly was glorious, thanks to Jane and Mohit. Son Ravi spent some time in Delhi in January and got to know the family.

Bardu and Sharon: Bardu spent a fortnight in spring in Delhi. He looked good. Sharon manages the local rehabilitation services in the community hospital. Daughter Niki is in the 7th grade and is the school soccer captain. She plays the guitar. Daughter Leah is in the 4th grade. She is a great gymnast and is learning the piano.

Roma: She passed away on 17 January, 2003.

Bubby: (Updated Sep 05) Yudhisthir Raj took early retirement from UNESCO in 2002 and is now an independent cultural advisor and President of the European Forum for the Arts and Heritage (www.efah.org), Professor of Cultural Policy Studies at The American University of Paris (www.aup.fr) and the Institut de Sciences Politiques. He continues to travel extensively and visits India regularly; is a member of INTACH and an international advisor to the Sanskriti Foundation. He continues to live in Paris with wife Galia Saouma, who is a Senior Administrator in UNESCO's Division of Cultural Heritage. Their son Edouard Lalit passed his Baccalaurat in 2005 and has enrolled in a B.Sc. course in Anthropology at University College London.

Sacha: He lives with Tao in East London. He is in poor health. He is grossly over-weight and consequently suffers from cardiac and respiratory problems. Another consequence: he has had to abandon his teaching (English as a second language) career.

Deepika and George: They are still in Madras where he is a big shot in M/s. Madras Rubber Co.

Nikhil: He still lives with the parents and is still active on the single circuit. He works for M/s. Jena & Co.

Rekha and Som: They are now firmly ensconced in Delhi. He now manages the canteen in the US Embassy.

Sonali: She has married a smart young man in the capitals commercial world.

Dilip and Tuti: She is immersed in work. Pressure has not really relented which makes the heat oppressive. Dilip is not too mobile.

Supriya: Is still in the PR business and now works for an agency. She is still trying to come to grips with her BF.

Nayyar Boys: Has anyone heard a word?

Anita: She is still in a whirl in the ad whirlwind. She manages to frequently pop into Delhi, Toronto and Stamford as if they are in the next gully.

She now has in hand an interesting project to write the history of YWCA of India.

Ashit: Is still twiddling toes. In spite of that and how he finds time I dont know he still travels. He has spent this summer in New England. He has made a foray to Chicago and Washington. In spite of all this movement he keeps well, which is quite a relief.

Vivek and Ratna: He is the ThinkPad of IBM. In spite of that pre-occupation he does manage to take the family on interesting holidays the last one was to Bermuda. Ratna, last winter, had a holiday in India with Shilpa. She spent most of the days visiting the families. They did squeeze into their schedule a visit to the Taj Mahal. Ratna is now a professor in Harvard Business School. Her specialty is finance. Shilpa now goes to College while Aparna warms the school bench.

Rina: News only trickles in when Anita visited her this summer. She was not too well, essentially she was not looking after herself. She now has a computer but I wonder how often she opens her mail?

Sunita: When the markets allow her, she does visit her mother.

Rekha and Viney: Rekha, apart from being the General Secretary, National YWCA, is also their Chief Fire Officer. She is forever going to remote corners to sort out the local YWCA! The nice thing is that she has built up considerable expertise, which is put to great use. That couldnt have happened unless she enjoyed doing it. Meanwhile what Viney does is a full time job to measure the length of golf courses around Gurgaon and there are four of them. His real estate business is on the back-burner.

Damini and Vivek: Vivek had a tragedy recently. While on duty in Suratgarh he suffered a stroke, which left his left side paralyzed. Even though he was given immediate expert treatment, the damage was considerable. His recovery has been remarkable. Apart from physiotherapy he is having a wide spectrum of treatments, which have contributed to his and Minis smiles. They now live in Subroto Park, Delhi Cantt.

Aarati and Rohit: Both are important cogs in the Delhi financial world. They live in the posh Ambience locality of Gurgaon.

Ranjit and Miho: They now live in Chicago where Ranjit is in Kellogg University to earn a part-time MBA. To sustain themselves, he works for M/s. Arbitron Navigator International. Miho continues to work for National Geographic. The last programme she completed was Hornets of Hell. Last winter they went to Japan to spend Yuletide with her family.

Chloe: She lives in Melbourne with daughter Nina. Each winter she comes to Delhi but remains closeted with Buddi.

Nina: She has an art job in the PR world in Melbourne. She has married at least once, if not twice.

Roy Jr: Has had two not so pleasant forays in his married life the second wife unfortunately fell ill and passed on. He now lives with Sharik and Harsh in Munirka Enclave. He has a cargo forwarding agency and appears to be doing well.

Roy Sr: He lives in Adelaide with his three children David, Christopher and Nicole.

Noel: Basically he is in St. Johns Church, Calcutta, but has been sighted in St. Pauls School, Darjeeling.

Indu and Ravi: They are now well settled in Bangalore. They have with them Rahul, Anuj's son, who is now studying in the Air Force School. As he is enjoying it, he is doing well.

Shiv: He has moved from the University of Montana to that of Wacato, Hamilton, New Zealand. This move took place in June.

Devika: Her main occupation in Melbourne is playing bridge. She now plays it at the national level.

Moneeka and Habib: Moneeka had a very successful partnership in the theatre he wrote and she produced. Alas she is no more. Habib and daughter Nagin are still based in Bhopal.

On Saturday, 4 June, there was a condolence meeting organized in the Constitution Club by the Natya Sangh (probable name) and Naya Theatre. It was compered by a young personable man. The theme was Memories of Moneeka. It began with a song by Yogesh (?), someone that the Tanvirs had nurtured since he was 11 years. Then many people spoke of their memories of Moneeka her versatility, her smile, her strengths, her looming presence on the stage, her intellectual inputs into Habibs work, her warmth, her caring, her humour. Among those who spoke was Aji. The meeting lasted two hours. Among those who attended were Lola, Bobo and Nonis son with family.

Jaya and Choon: Except for a brief glimpse of her in MMII there has been not much contact. The inference is that all must be well. As bridge is her pre-occupation and singing his, we know where the supper comes from. Now that there is a stock market boom, she is probably blooming.

Leila: She is still in Thailand with a French NGO.

Premika and Anil: They continue to live and work in Singapore. They do spend some holidays in the old country.

Romola and Amarjit: They are the only Siberian cranes I know but seldom see.

Puchki: She and her family are still in the USA.

Beeba: She now teaches in Syracuse University, New England.

Pradip and Nooni: His book on trees in Delhi is coming along well. He is on the layout stage and expects it to be released before Christmas. He has not been too well lately. In winter he discovered he had cancer of the mouth. He spent two uncomfortable months with radiation and chemotherapy treatments. In April he had a check done the results were pleasing: the growth has been arrested. His ambition now is to set up a botanical garden within six hours run from Delhi.

Nooni continues to write. She has brought out two books of her essays. Her latest adventure is a mock trial in Ankara of the USA on the Iraq situation. She will be part of the international jury. She now has her own office space in Jor Bagh.

Pia: She has completed her course in London and is now a full fledged counselor in a Vasant Vihar school.

Mithua: Having learnt technical gimmickry she now works for foreign film producers on their sites in India. On one such assignment in Jodhpur all the equipment went up in smoke not her fault.

OUTLAWS

Benjamins: No news of Aunt Ronnie, Mira or Pom. Alas!

Teddy and Dagrún: They have moved from Tromsø to the outskirts of Oslo, where they have a large house on a larger estate with a swimming pool. Dagrún has almost completed her doctorate in nutrition. They have two sons William and Oliver who are more than handful. Teddy is back with the radio and radio ads. He has had a new stent put in last winter.

Kitty and Ron: Ron now look after the training rather, re-training of IAC pilots in Hyderabad. He is based there while Kitty keeps their home fires

burning in Delhi with two boys to raise. They usually spend their holidays in Oslo. This year they went to Singapore and Pattaya.

Twinkle and Harald: Harald was laid off work once Oslos new airport started functioning. He is now back in a Government job as an economist. Twinkle is on the verge of getting a degree on sociology. Son Robin is now 18 years and has finished school. His eyes are now on greener pastures some say Hollywood, I say why not Bollywood? Daughter Ruby is a real stunner. Whatever else she does, she certainly gives Harald and Twinkle grey hairs! And the nice thing is that daughter Nina is following her sisters example!

Paddy and Monica: Paddy is still with the parcel division of the post office. He has now achieved a high level of ability in his driving career. After five years of procrastination in which he had a million improbable questions to be answered he has now started taking driving lessons. Maybe a car is not far behind. Monica is still working a school. Rosalyn and Nikhil are now learning their father tongue. Their vocabulary has now extended to thapar lage ga. The family now has a new flat close to Twinkles.

Sandra and Romi: Romi, on his last trip to Oslo, got stranded. He had applied for a business visa and the Norwegian Government did not say yes nor nay. Shortly before Christmas we found him in town being a dyed-in-the-wool Indian he had found a way to beat the system. He is back in Norway and there is still no news of the visa he has waited two years. And the world talks of Indian bureaucrats! In Oslo, he lives in Teddys old flat in the heart of town. Sandra looks after the two boys. That is quite a handful because their extra-curricular activities are varied and the traffic such a problem fortunately the two sisters help each other out.

Lita Ghosh: We had not heard from her for over two years. The khabbar was that she became blind and moved in with her daughters both are in Secunderabad. The grapevine has it that she passed away in October 2004.

Joshuas of Canada: Sadly, no news.

Janu and Mohit: In spite of the droops and drags of the US economy, they have their head well above the water level. This winter they had a big gathering of the DSouza clan in Goa. Most of their time was spent in swimming and singing thats the secret of the surging in their veins. Mohit is an avid golfer three times a week. Karun is soon to finish college. Pia is now in senior school.

Aman: He has finished with college in Notre Dam. He now works for M/s. Morgan Stanley in New York.

May and Phil: They have shifted house to one of the new colonies in Pune. I fear one of them may not be too well.

Meena: She lives in Vasundhra Enclave and commutes to St. Thomas Junior School, Karol Bagh, where she is a nurse. Once a month she comes to spend the weekend with Chinku. The responsibility of giving a home and education to grandson Ishan has now devolved on her.

Kumud: She now is Ms. Kavneet Randhawa, and generally answers to Onita. They live in DLF City. She works in a call center the million dollar question is, for how long?

Chinkus and Fino: He continues to be assigned to Cathay Pacific cargo staff at the airport. The hope is that in the near future he gets absorbed in the airline. He is playing football and represents Cathay Pacific in the local airlines league. Fino has become a Vice President in M/s. Panalpina and is responsible for planning the movement of cargo in South and South East Asia. But with the normal turnover and attrition of staff she feels a trifle upset and threatened. Son Adrian is doing well in school. He has his own computer and guitar.

Sarobars: No news, but with the coming of the herons in the monsoons, we expect to see them soon.

Dalip and Mridula: They are still in Manipal doing what both like. They do manage to come up, annually, which they did in March.

Kanishka: He is in an event management company, which is notorious for its flexible hours. The consequence is that you can never meet him. Part of the problem is that of the Bird of Paradise in the background! He continues to stay in his Dadas house.

Mithika and Yogi: They also live in Dadas house and in Dadis room. She is in the garment trade. He, I think, exports semi-precious stones and the business is probably based in Jaipur.

Rohini and Kalyan: They are now in Bahrain where he is with the Bahraini Saudi Bank and she with M/s. Fortune Promoseven. Their winter holidays were with Dalip and Mridula in Manipal. They found re-freshness in the green and being away from the drab, dreary, dead, desert sand. The summer break was in Halifax. Nirvan is in New York with M/s. Bear Sterns where he works on credit derivatives. When he finds time he plays tennis (once a week) and appearing for local professional exams.

Nayana: She is working for M/s. Westin in Halifax. She is involved in getting her red seal papers which she hopes to obtain within the year. She is also participating in some Canada-wide competition for which she is most excited about.

Vinita and Mohan: They are still in Kol. And since there is no news they must be swimming with the stream with their head above water.

Akash: Having been trained in computer graphics, he is absorbed into Bombay PR world.

Varun: He was in the hospitality world on the East Coast of USA. This last winter he was in Delhi. Why?

Eno Singha: He passed way about two years ago.

Rani Sirkar: She is Ajoys widow. She has authored Round the Maypole where she has talked about being brought up in Lahore and Calcutta. Very interesting. But what was more interesting to read about was the insights into the Misra and Sirkar families.

Marie: She looks remarkably sprightly. She continues to live with Uma.

Uma and Vasu: They live in Greater Kailash 1. He possibly they roam the world as consultants.

Hittoo and Aruna: He has retired at long last! For the present they live in New Friends Colony. Probably they have yet to take the final plunge.

Juju and Vijay: They are grandparents twice over. She has had her cataract removed. He has had one bout as a consultant. They now spend their days swimming and playing squash.