

AMALTASH – TIME MMVI

(Yum Yum Sixer)

GENERAL

1. All our gratitude should go to Lil OO (of Abner fame?!) and Shirin – Sweetness, as I call her -- who have helped in making our world smaller.

Three cheers for OO.

Why what did he do?

I thought you knew!

(See Winnie the Pooh)

2. “sen4sen”

It has been an unqualified success. I believe you can find a reference to it on Google. The validity of the site expired last September. OO has now renewed it for 3 years. Those who have contributed towards that are Lola, Aji, Baba, Juni, Santha, Bobo and Adoo.

The web site’s success can be measured by the leads it has given us to so many Sonarangi-s:

- Shankar Sengupta
- Maj.Gen. Shekhar Sen,VSM
- Justice Brig D.M. Sen
- Indrajeet Sen Gupta
- Nivedita Sengupta
- Neel Sengupta
- Sujata Roy
- Dr. Mrs. Jharua Gourlay

It would be interesting to visit the website for info on:

- (a) Joramath Temple;
- (b) A write up about Raja Ballabh Sen, also known as Durlab Sen; and
- (c) A reminiscence of Sonarang

3. With the spectacular success of the website, we have made remarkable progress on another front – Mother Mable’s family. In Gurgaon we have sighted sons of two of her cousins:

- (a) Nirmal Andrews, son of Hazel Mitter (now over 90, she lives in Ambala), who was in the IAS and retired as Secretary, Environment (lives in Heritage City); and
- (b) Inderjit (Billy) Chatterji, son of Sheila Dutt, who passed out from IAT Kharagpur to become an engineer with M/s. Stone and Co. (lives in Palam Vihar).

4. We chanced upon a book of family trees of the Lahore Christians. It was compiled, with some photographs, by John Magnet Ray. John is the son of Brig. Raj Mangat Rai (Engineers) who married an American lady. He took premature retirement and migrated to US where he settled down in Boston. Raj is Bunchi Mangat Rai’s brother.

OBITUARIES

5. Muriel

She was born Muriel Gertrude Adams in South Wales in 1916. Her mother was a dressmaker and a wonderful homemaker. Muriel inherited many sewing skills from her but always hated housework. Her father was connected with coal mining and, unfortunately, was one of the many victims of a sleeping-sickness epidemic which swept the coal-mining communities in the 1930’s; after a long illness he died in 1943 when she was 27 years. Because of financial difficulties at home, Muriel was denied the chance of higher education despite her excellent scholastic achievements, and instead she trained as a nurse.

During World War II she nursed the D-Day casualties, especially the men burned in the tanks during the D-Day landings. She first met Inder at a talk in Bristol, where she was based, and when she moved to London after a few months, she found herself living round the corner from him. Having met in 1948, they married in 1950, and had Santha in 1952. It is unlikely that Muriel realized at the time of Inder’s war-time head injuries, from which he had made a full recovery in terms of daily living, that it would prevent him from sustaining the pressure of a job and of normal socializing. She coped with his condition with unvarying courage and good humour though not without a good deal of stress. She had a remarkable and amazing compendium of family anecdotes. Muriel and Inder had a financially very restricted life, but nevertheless gathered around themselves a

warm circle of friends; they had many interests. Muriel in particular gained qualifications in the History of Art; she and Inder shared many happy hours visiting museums and art galleries. In later years they were also able to take many short trips all over Europe. At the age of 80, Muriel began to develop senile dementia, and spent the last 5 years of her life in care. Despite her condition, thanks to the excellent care she received, her last years were secure and peaceful and constituted a well-earned rest. She died aged 89 years on 2 November, 2005.

6. Sacha

Sacha was born to Roma and Maurice Loban on 2 May 1954 in London. He inherited his precocious musical talent from both parents. As a child he had a lovely singing voice which enabled him to join the Kings' College Cambridge junior school as a chorister and student of music. As his parents lived in Harrow at the time, he completed his schooling at the public school, but rebelled against its elitism, and insisted on going to a redbrick university to take a degree in Sociology. For the whole of his life he championed the cause of the underprivileged. Teaching English as a second language, he worked in the Sudan, Italy, Thailand and Singapore. While in Bangkok, he met his wife Tao and enjoyed a few years of happiness with her. Ill health brought the couple back to London where he started teaching at a Polytechnic Institute in Hackney, but continuing poor health and major psychological problems dogged his later years. The main problem was obesity which affected his heart and lungs, and the last few months of his life were spent in and out of hospital. He passed away quietly on 2 February 2006. A moving funeral function was organized by his many friends from many periods of his life – some even from his school football team, some from the Polytechnic. His ashes were placed in the same place as his mother Roma's in Windsor. He will be remembered for his warmth, lovely sense of humor and concern for others.

LORE

7. Lore has it that we are the progeny of the Chalukyas of Karnataka. During one of their raids to east India, they captured and held onto some land. This was called SEN BHUMI, which became SINGH BHUM, which was in Bihar and now probably in Jharkhand. I believe "Singh" and "Sen" both mean tigers.

8. Often Raja Ballabh (Rai Durlabh) Sen is thought to be from Sonarang but his name does not figure in the family tree. A thought has it that Clive rewarded Durlabh, with riches to last 17 generations, for letting Mir Jaffar down in the Battle of Plassey. This firman was last seen with Lt.Col. Archie Mitter. (For more on Rai Durlabh, visit the website and Google).

9. At last, Kalipada's Hindu wife's name has been revealed. She was Ichhamoyi, daughter of Prasana Kumar Sen of Sonarang.

10. Is it possible that Rai Sahib Bhuban Chandra Sen, Superintendent Home Department of Government of India was Kalipada's father? He retired in 1919 and was alive at the start of WWII.

11. Dr. Mrs. Jharna Gourlay has made a documentary on Sonarang for Channel 4, BBC.

12. Some remarkable descendants of Sonarang:

- Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das
- Acharya Krishti Mohan Sen
- N. Sengupta
- Nobel Laureate Amartya Sen
- Ms. Sushmita Sen
- Rabi Sen of M/s Price Waterhouse Cooper
- Sukumar Sen, ICS
- Binay Ranjan Sen, ICS, FAO
- Ram Charan Bannerjee, Accountant General
- Ashok Sen, Minister for Law
- Dr. Ramesh Chandra Mazumdar, Delhi University
- Justice Brig. Dibyedu Mohan Sen
- Dhiren Sen, IAS, Secretary, Government of West Bengal
- R.N. Sen, Sheriff of Calcutta
- Dr. Himanshu Sen

INLAWS

(The Inner Circuit)

13. Arthur

Shortly after Independence Day '05 he came to Delhi for a month or so. It was nice to see Arthur-Martyr after half a century. He has grown stout but is much the same. The twinkle in his eye reminded me of Uncle Theo. His coming over to the house was such a surprise that no other member of the family (except Honey) could manage to join us for lunch.

14. Michael

Tinker went to Calcutta last summer. There he persuaded Arthur to accompany him back to Delhi. In winter, Tinker and Hazel spent Christmas in Calcutta and that's how we missed them at the family do.

15. Debbie

She continues to work in Delhi and should be quite high up on the corporate ladder.

16. Muriel

She succumbed to an infection she picked up in hospital and died on 2 November 2005. She was cremated in London.

17. Santha

She continues to live in Oxford. She is now Dean of a college which must keep her busy. She has expressed a hope to be in Delhi this winter.

18. Ajit and Mira

Both lead active lives in their specialties. Mira is a prime mover of an Indo-Chinese forum. Ajit has slowed down on his journalism but is researching for a book on the life and times of Sheikh Abdullah. Nomi has a full calendar on reflexology while Ami is in London, learning fashion design.

19. Sunanda

Retiring by nature, she leads a retired life! Occasionally work does come her way which she submits on the www. She has had a trying time with her eyes playing up, but she is much better now. She had her sister Usha with her for two months.

20. Adoo and Tista

They continue to do well in their respective fields. Adoo has more of a load of work in researching than in teaching. In the last year he has made trips to Hong Kong, China and Switzerland to expound on trade policies of the developing world. Tista has a

full day bending, like Beckham, the languages of the world. They now have a lovely flat near the Metro station of the University.

21. Suman and Jorge

They are so very involved that one seldom hears a squeak from them. Suman has climbed the NGO ladder and now heads one. The work is interesting but the administrative load is a bore. Jorge, once again, is in London on a sabbatical. The light of their lives is doing well in school. There was hope they all would have a taste of the Delhi last winter – but alas. There is now some talk about Suman and Adnan coming in the summer for a year.

22. Shirinbaba

She was on call last summer. It had to come to a close when she got another attack of sciatica, only this time it was on the right leg. Thanks to homeopathy, she has stopped accusing Baba of pulling her leg. He, on the other hand, has absorbed himself in perfecting the art of twiddling toes.

23. OOObaba

He is very involved in his Church, “The Good Samaritan Fellowship”. He travels quite a bit with them. His weekly holiday is Thursday. He is in frequent contact with Juni and Koko on the net.

24. Juni and Ash

They came to the homeland this winter. Juni came first and we were able to meet her on her way from and the way to USA. She was full of her street theater in New York and her trip to St. Petersburg and Siberia. She spoke eloquently of the expansion of her home and Emma. What was hard to discern was who would use the extra two BRs! Is anything in the hangar? She is working hard on the street theatre performances for this summer. The plan was that we were to meet Ash but BA botched it. Because of the fog, he stayed only a few hours in town before going on to Goa.

25. Koko and Mike

There was a rumour of Koko doing some modeling with clay. She held an art exhibition in Vancouver and one in Collioure, France, in April 06, which has gone well. According to Honey it was “MOST appreciated - I heard asides like ‘at last we have seen ART’. That kind of remark from people who see ever so many artists, studios and galleries!” Visit Koko's website www.kobitasen.org for more details.

26. Jaya and Thiri

Little is heard though they often do flit into Delhi. We hear of them through Hittoo and Aruna (their daughters are great friends). Daughter Leila is probably still in Laos and daughter Premika in Singapore.

27. Romola and Amarjit

Exceeding little is heard of them and the two girls.

28. Pradip and Nooni

He seems to have recovered from his fight against cancer. His book of the trees of Delhi should be in the market by now. Wife Nooni is forever gadding about delivering thought-provoking lectures. Right now she is immersed in saving Medha Patkar and the Narmada Bachao Andolan.

29. Pia

Having earned a degree in counseling, she now works in a school in Vasant Kunj.

30. Mithun

She is in the world of media infrastructure. Lately she was helping in a movie production in Jodhpur.

31. Sheila and Raju

Steadfastly, they are well. Sheila has now had cataracts removed from both her eyes. In winter she had a nasty fall that had her limping for a long while. In February they spent an absorbing weekend in Bharatpur Bird and Ammunition Sanctuary. Raju continues to potter around.

32. Shobhana and Ken

They live in DLF Phase I, Gurgaon. He works for a security firm and has shed his “add-ons” (e.g., insurance, the prachar went against his grain). Shobhana teaches in the school called Banyan Tree – is it called that for the wisdom it radiates or because nothing will grow under it? Daughter Nina is doing BA (Commerce)(Hons) in Jesus and Mary College.

33. Rachel

Being in the job market for some time, she now is working for CitiBank in Gurgaon.

34. Chimpu and Rajiv

The boom in exports has done them well. Part of this boom is reflected in his booming voice! With work taking off, so has his golf: he forever is traveling to play a round or two on some weird course in a remote corner. Both boys are in St, Stephen's College and are doing well.

35. Babey and Supriya

With "India Shining" the boom is now on and they are flourishing. Work pressures are on the rise – an admirable position to be in after the slump of the past. Saniya and Shanaya are bright sparks in their school.

36. Ronen and Madhavi

They are now in Bharatpur where he is posted to the Army's ammunition sanctuary and are quite a hit with the local birds.

37. Honey

She is still with the National YWCA, as a Vice President in charge of the northern region. One nice advantage is that it gets her to make many small trips to relieve the loneliness of widowhood. In the convention of YWCA she was applauded for her work. She is in Collioure for Koko's exhibition. She is having a great time having four course dinners with four different wines! She says "Collioure is a painter's paradise, haven for hearty gourmet people, a welcome for walkers and a lovely repose for lovers. I was in the category of walkers - ALONE." She'll be leaving for North America on May 14 to be with the girls and the Joshuas.

38. Boban

He spent the winter in the sun – with Honey and Swaran. His ankle has healed and is almost good as new. He saw the Review of the Fleet by the President and was suitably impressed.

39. Shalini and Alexi

She came with son Matisse to soak in the sun. But it was oh such a short visit. She works in a kindergarten school.

40. Eric

His livelihood is with the drums in a band – where he "sab ka band bajata."

41. Swaran and Anita

He is now the Director General of Police of Andhra Pradesh – the boss man. Anita made a flying visit to Spokane for the first communion of Shafalika and could well have terminated connections with the adoption agency.

42. Sharon and Rakesh

They are in Chandigarh where both are Directors Finance of the Telephone Department.

43. Kareena and Greg

Rumour has it that they and the kids are well.

44. Monty

He is now a high flying executive of Standard and Chartered Bank in Hyderabad.

45. Stephen and Ligia

He has now established a reasonable practice in Hyderabad. It could be that his clientele are the many Christian organizations in the city. Last year the family went to Spokane as an escort for mother Anita.

46. Vicky and Malti

Vicky is now a judge in the Delhi High Court. At last we can say he does tower over his colleagues. Malti feeds the home fires with her law practice.

47. Manvi and Rohit

They are now in Mumbai and expect a transfer to Delhi soon where they will have an increase in the feeding strength.

48. Sonali

She is in London School of Economics on a full scholarship. The bright spark is doing well.

49. Mini

She is studying law in Delhi and expects to have her own briefs this summer. She has spent a semester in The Hague with the World Court.

50. Lola

With infirmities catching up, she has more or less retired from driving a car. The big problem is to attend plays and concerts – but she manages remarkably well. She plans to visit St. Louis this summer and Bardu is coming to escort her there.

51. Bobo

He still teaches in that University in Gandhigram. Apart from solving highfaluting equations he does keep up with his myriad interests. In the recent past he trekked up to the base camp of Mt. Everest – he has promised to write about it. He regularly attends the classical music sessions that are held around Dusehra in Pune.

52. Keli and Rich

They have now settled down in St Louis, Missouri. Keli has a teaching job once a week but apart from that there's no idea how they keep themselves busy. In the last year we had two visits from them. Keli came and spent a fortnight with Lola. Last summer Rajan also came as part of the learning curve. Ravi and Rajan in college.

53. Bardu and Sharon

They are well and doing well.

The highlight of their year was a three week vacation to the American northwest. They flew to Seattle and rented an SUV for the travel. They went along the Pacific coast in the Olympia National Park. Their first halt was at Kalalock, near a temperate rain forest. They then drove to spend two nights in Vancouver and drove further into the Canadian Rockies. They spent a week in Jasper, Lake Louise, Magilne Lake, Icefields Parkway and Moraine Lake. They were flabbergasted by the deer, elk, mountain goats, black bears and particularly the baby bear. The next stage was Glacier Mountain Park, Montana and, going on the Sun Road, they saw a rodeo. From there they headed to the Oregon coast, stopping at Mount Hood and Yachats. The last night was in Seattle before flying back. Did they enjoy!! The plan now is to relocate to Vancouver.

Nikki is now in a secondary school for kids with dyslexia in Richmond and enjoying every moment of it. Leah is in 5th grade of elementary school. She is busy with travel, soccer and piano. She likes to cook and one day fed the family with “fettuccine alfredo”.

Sharon is busy “schlepping” the kids around. She has managed to repaint a few rooms upstairs and re-decorate Leah's room.

Bardu is on the brink of a break through – a new boss and an expansion of the campus in the offing.

54. Raj (Bubby) and Galia

He 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 Baccalaureate in 2005 and has enrolled in a B.Sc. course in Anthropology at University College, London.

Last winter they spent some time in Goa where they have bought a house.

55. Tao

She continues to live in London where she works. It must be difficult for her to manage because she does have a language barrier to overcome. It is good to know that she continues to maintain contact with Raj (Bubby). She is now going to school to earn English as a second language and is thinking of setting up a real estate business in East London (gutsy, what?).

56. Deepika and George

They continue to live in Chennai. Remarkably (for the present culture) they are in regular and frequent contact with Dilip, Tuti and Rekha.

57. Nikhil

Nothing heard. Must be well.

58. Rekha and Som

They are still in Delhi – makes sense since they are based on the ancestral property in Defence Colony. He manages the services sector in the US Embassy, based with their canteen. She is at home and works part-time in a counseling centre. She was a pillar of strength for Tuti when Dilip was in hospital.

59. Sonali and Upkar

Though they are in Delhi but are seldom seen.

60. Dilip and Tuti

He has had a horrific year. One day last autumn Dilip, after his bath, decided to get into his pyjamas with some acrobatics. The result was that he fell against the wall. That broke the bone of his left upper arm in two places. (Was it painful!!) They were fortunate to latch on to Dr. Hans Nagar (cousin Kitty's brother-in-law) who did a great

job on the arm. Of course, to completely heal will take time. Tuti has had a tough time coping with Dilip. To add to that was the passing away of her boss, Mr. Vij, who succumbed to a myriad of medical problems and organ failure.

61. Supriya

She is still into exhibitions and event management. Recently she has changed jobs. Her love life continues to be desolate.

62. Anil Nayyar

There is no news. Where has he disappeared?

63. Sunil Nayyar

He has been sighted in LA where he is making movies – probably commercial shows or ads.

64. Anita

She continues to free lance out of her flat. She makes the occasional foray to Toronto, New York and Delhi, which she did in ‘05. She is well preserved and appreciates remarks like “How well she looks for her age.” She was asked to write the history of the YWCA movement till feminine jealousy snatched it from her. She has now been commissioned to write about the history of advertising in India which really began with Uncle Noeltie in Dunlops. She has written a very interesting account of the Jesuit movement in Maharashtra, particularly of the Swiss and Germans involved. She’ll join Vivek to go to Bangalore to attend a wedding in June.

65. Ashit

These days he is foot loose and fancy free. Last summer he reached Stamford and soon went to Washington DC for a week before going on to Chicago. There he and Aparna reveled in the museums, aquariums, fairs, art exhibitions and shows. He then spent a week in Boston before spending 11 days in Germany and Netherlands, visiting old friends. In the winter he chaired an international conference on HRD in Hyderabad. This was a great success. After all that hard work and sweat he had to relax so he went visiting friends and relations in Bengal and South India. He is keeping well and had some dental work done.

66. Vivek and Ratna

Last summer he chaired an international conference in Chicago: he took Pop and Aparna as escorts. In winter he came to India for the silver anniversary of graduation from IIT Kanpur – he had a glorious time, steeped in nostalgia. Ratna is still with Harvard teaching this highfaluting course on high finance. Aparna accompanied Dad to

Chicago while Shilpa went with him to India. Aparna is now her school's President. Vivek will be going to Bangalore to attend a cousin's daughter's wedding in June.

67. Rina

Has not been too bright and spent occasions under medical supervision. But all that has not deterred her from travel and dancing. She has been under constant pressure when the foundations of her home were found under assault by white ants. Now renovations are underway which never seem to end. She has an email access – rinasingha-kathak@rogers.com – but does she remember to open it?!

68. Sunita

No news is good news. It seems mother and daughter are growing closer.

69. Rekha and Viney

She is on the last leg of her tenure as General Secretary of the National YWCA. She has been the Y's fire fighter – throughout the year she has been traveling the length and breadth of the country putting the local Ys on to a common code of governance. It has been really hard work with many sleepless nights, interrupted by much traveling – fortunately by air. In the past year, she has spent a holiday in Chicago where she goes again. Viney takes out his frustration at enforced idleness by bashing and belting a golf ball. I find it hard to keep track of him as he is forever on a trip of his own.

70. Damini and Vivek

They are posted in the capital where he has a job which involves computers. His rehabilitation process is slow but there is a definite improvement. He is now studying for a MBA degree. Her biggest task is to keep his morale up – and she is doing a fantastic job. She has taken up an appointment in a garment factory in Sector 18 Gurgaon – every time she feels peckish, you know where she flies to. Akash and Pritika are doing well in school.

71. Ranjit and Miho

They are in Chicago. He works and studies for an MBA (part-time) from Kelloggs. This year he graduates – for which Rekha and Viney are ensuring they will be present. It has been a lot of sweat and elbow grease. Miho is still with National Geographic but can only work when Sayo permits her.

72. Aarati and Rohit

They now live in Ambience, Gurgaon. Being a financial analyst, she has carved out a niche for herself. She is a high flyer now with Australia on her commuting run. He

is in the same trade and with similar pressures. It is good to know they are doing well. Son Ayush eagerly awaits the company in the hangar.

73. Dhiren

The family is completely off the radar screen.

74. Chloe and Nina

They are in Melbourne. We believe they do visit the home country. Sadly no contact.

75. Roy Sr, Noel and Roy Jr

They have not surfaced at all. Presumably they are well and prospering.

76. Indu and Ravi

They live in Bangalore. Last winter Indu went to Hamilton, New Zealand, to be with Shiv. The two of them plan to visit Shiv and Devika this summer.

77. Priya and Rahul

They live in Hyderabad. This spring Priya took the children to visit their grandparents.

78. Shiv

He now teaches in Hamilton University, New Zealand.

79. Rahul

He continues to be cared for by Indu and Ravi. He is now in Class 9.

80. Devika and Greg

They celebrated their silver anniversary on 31 January. Their passion is bridge which they are very good at. In a recent tournament in Canberra they won gold medals.

81. Habib

He is Bhopal right now and you know what he was doing. In December and January he was in Kolkata putting up some plays. In mid May he goes to Germany with his troupe to put up some more plays. From there he goes to London to see plays and put up plays.

82. Nageen

She tags along with Habib and, presumably, has taken over the role of mother Monika, of being the co-coordinator and the power behind the throne. She has a lovely voice.

83. Ranjit and Ratna

I first met Ranjit when we stood in line for admission into St. Stephen's College – he was ahead of me. When my turn came and I gave my name, the clerk threw a fit as our two names were identical.

I also associate him with a gentleman who would meet Dad. Their communication began with the line that their grandfathers were the same person. Now that I peruse the family tree I think the great grandfather – Ramraja Sen – was the same person.

I next met Ranjit when we were in the IMA – he is twelve months my senior. He joined the ASC where he had an illustrious career which included some stints abroad. Post-retirement he has written at least two books – one on materials management (I think) and the latest is on the Indian Sepoy.

He lives at 22 South Patel Nagar. Seeing its location, the family are obviously the early settlers in the colony.

His son, Raja, is a professor in the University in Montreal, Canada. His wife Sarojini also works there part-time. They live in Brossard, Montreal.

84. Shankar Sengupta

Our common ancestor is Srihari, 17th generation from Founder Sri Harsha. Srihari had three sons, Ramanath, Jadunath and Gopinath. Kalipada is the progeny of Jadunath and is of the 24th generation from Sri Harsha. Shankar is a descendant of Gopinath and is of the 25th generation.

Shankar's parents had settled down in Delhi where they built a home at D-4 Hauz Khas. It seems he lives in a colony of family as he has a cousin, Nivedita, and two aunts who live/lived there.

He is a graduate in economics from St. Stephen's College and was a contemporary of Bubby Isar. He then became a box-wallah and worked for M/s. Bata in Kolkata. He was with them for ten years before moving back to Delhi. He is now with UNDP in their Delhi Office. His portfolio bulges with projects of developing entrepreneurship.

He has a son, Anshuman, whose specialty is photography. His latest display is a coffee table book on Kerala. His sweetheart is a Sikhni (“amazingly sweet” says pa-in-law) and they expect to marry in October 2006.

Shankar maintains a lovely home. He has a wonderful collection of music – Rabindra sangeet, jazz and western classical music. His heroes are Tagore, Che Guevara, Franz Schubert and Benny Goodman.

OUTLAWS

(The Fast Outer Lane)

85. Meena

She continues to work as a nurse/teacher in St. Thomas’ Junior School and to live in Vasundra Enclave. The centre of her life is caring for grandson Ishan. Meena commutes by school bus. She has now learnt to use the Metro and so should find it easier to move to school and to Palam Vihar.

86. Kumud

She is not much in circulation or visible. She lives in DLF City and works in a call centre there. The only person she does see is Meena who looks after Ishan.

87. Chinku and Fino

They are busy climbing the corporate ladder. Fino had a hard two or three months being on the war path with her boss. Now that the boss has moved on, things have quietened down. She is a Vice President with an independent charge to set up a new cargo service provider. Chinkus has moved from cargo operations to sales and seems to be enjoying the change. He certainly has grown in the job. He still works for Cathay Pacific Airways. He is secretary of the Catholic parish in Palam Vihar. Son Adrian has become an interesting companion. These days he is learning to play the guitar.

88. Teddy and Dagrún

They have acquired a splendid mansion halfway between Oslo and its new airport. It has vast grounds and a swimming pool. Dagrún continues to work in her specialty of nutrition: we are not quite sure what Teddy does apart from baby-sit. They have two boys – William and Oliver – who are all there and are delightful. Because of a heart condition, Teddy does no serious work. What propels him forward is his obsession to trace his roots. He found his father’s school records. He has located his grandfather’s work records and memorials in Madras and Bangalore. What he is now striving to reach are their origins in Britain and/or Ireland.

89. Kitty and Ron

They continue to live double lives. Ron still leads the Indian Airlines flight training facility in Hyderabad and only pays flying visits to Kitty; right now he has gone to bring in a new aircraft from Canada. Kitty brings peace to all this by looking after the kids. Shawn, the elder, is in class 8. His hobby is the piano in which he has passed the first level of Trinity music exam. Kevin, the younger son, is very good at troubling Shawn and at computer games. The summer and winter holidays are usually spent in Oslo.

90. Twinkle and Harald

Thanks to elbow grease and sweat, she is the proud possessor of an M. Phil in International Public Health from the University of Oslo.

This winter she came to spend a few weeks in the Delhi cold (it was summer for her!) with youngest daughter Nina. She was followed by son Robin – he was on a break after his school finals. He had a weirdo hairstyle; in that cold wave he was uncomfortably warm. He had come from minus 20 in Oslo and the first adaptation to the tropics was that his hairstyle had to go. He plans to go into electrical engineering.

91. Paddy and Monica

Both of them work – Paddy in postal department where he handles parcels in Oslo: she teaches. They have a lovely flat, quite near Twinkle, that overlooks Oslo's fjord. They have recently acquired a car which Paddy is too frightened to drive – training for acquiring a license has already taken him over a year and still has many months more to go. There are now two children – Rosalyn and Nikhil – to work for.

92. Sandy and Romy

He is into export and trading of leather garments. In pursuit of markets he is ever on the run to Oslo, Europe and USA. How Sandy manages the two boys alone we aren't sure. She seems to enjoy the hassle as she swells with pride and wallows in the enjoyment.

93. Aunty Ronnie

She nears her century. Apart from the impediment on the right side, she is all there. Not having heard from her, we are sure she is doing well.

94. Mira alias Pu

She passed away over a year ago. She had gone to be with her son in Dubai where she suffered a heart attack.

95. Pom and Rajan

They continue to be the anchor of the family in Dehra Dun. They have one son (Rahul) in the travel business in England and the other (Rohit), a journalist, is in Australia: everyone is poles apart.

96. Dalip and Mridula

He is Vice Principal Welcomgroup Graduate School of Hotel Administration, Manipal. He teaches Human Resource Management and heads the placement cell for industrial training and job placement. Mridula, teaches counselling at the University level. We met them when they came for a niece's wedding – Indira Bakshi's granddaughter – which was an occasion for a family reunion. Son Kanishka's still single and works for an event management company. Daughter Mithika manages a garment house. The two children live in Corrie and Priti's house in Gurgaon.

97. Rohini and Kalyan

They now live in Bahrain where Kalyan is in banking and Rohini works for a PR firm. She was in town for the reunion. They both keep well. Son Nirvan lives in New York: his forte is statistics and tennis. He now works for a bank. Daughter Nayana is still in the hospitality business in Nova Scotia, Canada.

98. Vinita and Mohan

I don't think Mohan is yet out of the paper business – maybe it's just too sticky! Vinita is still in event management, primarily in Kolkata and a fair proportion of it with the Dalmias (or is it the Birla's?). Son Akash is in the multi-media world of Mumbai. If I am not wrong, one of the Pepsi ads was his creation. Son Varun is the chef in a hotel in Maldives. He is now on his way to teach in a school for catering in New England.

99. Marie Sarkar

She lives with Uma and has the usual dose of aches and pains. The remarkable part is how she still keeps on smiling.

100. Uma and Vasu

They live in GK I – he is a hot-shot consultant in oil. Probably Uma does nothing much but keep Mother company – except to visit various markets to let down her hair!

101. Hittoo and Aruna

He has retired and has not quite decided where to live. They gave up the company house in Maharani Bagh and have moved to New Friends' Colony. They have a flat in Calcutta but well may decide to buy a house/flat in DLF City. They need to be

complimented on their precision of thought and speed of action which has been processed for over two years (like a true bureaucrat, what?)

102. Janu and Mohit

As the economy booms so does their export business: they don't seem to know if they are coming or going. Son Aman works for Stanley Morgan in New York and, I think, is much into futures. It seems to us that he works late into the night. Son Karun has graduated with a degree into bio-medics from Amity. He now strives to go to Australia for higher education. Daughter Pia is in her last year of school and is quite a wizard on the piano.

103. Phil

He is only to be contacted by remote control. We know why. He lost May a year ago.

104. Mani Lals

Not much is heard. Leila went last autumn to see son in LA but got stranded there on a passport problem. Should be well.

105. Nishi Chatterji

They live in NOIDA. He has not kept well and is and out of hospital. The problem is ticker-tape.

106. Ruks

He is Brig. Nishi Chatterji's son. He graduated in Media Studies from Jamia Millia. He works for the TV channel IBN-CNN and is their reporter in Mumbai.

107. Deepak Dasgupta

He is Dhuli and Roma Dasgupta's son. He was in the IAS where he was the Secretary responsible for the national highways project. He has retired and settled down in DLF City, Gurgaon. Now he is a consultant on infrastructure. He has two sons.

108. Juju and Vijay

The winter was nasty for them. She caught an infection then had a relapse which kept her confined to bed and home for over two months. They have now caught up with their life-style – two hours of swimming for her and two hours of squash/gym for him. Their son, Italian daughter-in-law and two grandchildren are in London where the son deals in futures.

109. Balwant and Dottie Chauhan

He was Aji's class mate in College from where he went on to join the IAF. He retired as Air Marshal and, post-retirement, worked in the school system of the Baptist Lott Carey Mission. Dottie has been the proverbial backbone of the high flier. They have two daughters who live in Bangalore. Recently – a year ago – they became great grandparents. Their parents were well known to Pishima's generation.

110. Dicky Khemchand

He is involved in the Lott Carey Mission. Most of his work is in Daryaganj and he lives with sister Dottie in Palam Vihar. He is still on the marriage market. He has a lovely music collection.

111. Deepa and Mohit Sarobar

They live in London – she teaches English as a second language and he heads CII there. They still have a place in South Extension which necessitates a visit once a year. This year it was at Easter. Their daughter is married and the son, a trained lawyer, is a successful DJ. Mohit's father was a colleague of Uncle Lolit's in the Political Department.

112. Bundle and Partho Chowdhury

Friends of ours since the 1960s. They retired and went to live in ancestral property on Marine Drive. They have sold that and gone to live in Patrick Town, Pune. Daughter Shoiba is a doctor in Bangalore with a roaring practice. She is 5 foot nothing and her hubby, a deep sea diver, is almost 7 feet – really the long and short of bliss! Daughter Divya is a psychologist, married to a Slav, Damien, and settled down in New England. Daughter Shikha lives in Mumbai and is also married.

113. Marion and Ronojoy Sircar

They are our new friends in Gurgaon. He is the son of Harish Sircar who joined the IAF in 1935 and whose brother was Satish of St. Stephen's College. Harish married Connie Thakurdas. Ronojoy joined tea in Assam and married Marion who is from Naga stock. They have two daughters, both married. Ronojoy has a sister Deepa Sen.

114. Billy Chatterjee

He is a new found cousin living under our nose! His grandmother was Norma who had married Prionath Dutt. Their youngest daughter was Sheila who married Hiru Chatterjee. Hiru was an engineer in the railways. Billy tried to follow suit but short circuited the process and became an electrical engineer with M/s. Stone and Co. This relationship makes him a second cousin – sons of two first cousins. He lives in Palam

Vihar. His second marriage is to Ms. Vijay Lakshmi Pandit's granddaughter Meenakshi.

115. Nirmal Andrews

He too is new found. His grandfather was Edwin Mitter who married Louisa Nalamuddin. Amongst other children, they had Aunt Cuckoo Ghosh and Archibald (known to all as Archie, who could well have been the inspiration of the comics) and Hazel. She married Andrews and their youngest is Nirmal. Hazel, now over 90 years, lives in Ambala. Nirmal was in the IAS and retired as Secretary Environment. He and his wife, Shireen, live in Heritage City Gurgaon. He still works on environment with the UN from an office in Melbourne.

116. Kaye

He is really Kalley of the Royal Ludhiana Sikhs and is a course/batch-mate under whose protection we are. He lives in New Palam Vihar.

117. Joshua's of Canada

Their saga is long and much deduced from a solitary letter from Donald. Head of the corporation is Ivor who married Anita Khemchand. They have David, Peter and Rina. David married Lorraine and they have James and Stanley. Roy wedded May Blossom one June day. They have Robin and Sonya. Robin hitched his wagon to Nina Dinshaw and they had Richard and Mark. Joy chose Benny Biswas and brought in Korina, Onica, Benita and Mathew: Korina and Andreas have Kaster and Andrian; Benita and Bruce Black have Hillary Jet Black. Mathew and Cheryl are parents to Tina and Michael and grandparents to Simon and Daniel. Donald and Dorita have Portia and Mason. Ronald and Anita Lewis are parents to Noreen and Douglas. There was no Hatrick-Patrick! They all live in Canada and fairly close to each other. The youngest Joshua Daniel, who was born on 6 November, 2005. He was brought into the world by his dad, Gerald Bargh, who was coached by paramedics on the other end of the telephone line.

On their 35th anniversary. Don toasted Dorita with these lines:

I may be the thorn in Dorita's rose bush, she is the foam in my beer glass;

I may be the grease in her cooking pot, she is the tea leaf in my cup of joy;

I may be the guy who warms her bed, she is the one who warms my heart;

I may be number three in her affections, she is number one in my life.

118. Archie Mitter

In the last six months he has lost wife Gypsy – she tumbled down the stairs and out of his life.
