

THIS IS COLOMBO CALLING

COLOMBO BROADCASTING SERVICE

1924 1949



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C.L. PUJITHA-GUNAWARDANA



This is Mr. C.L.P. Gunawardana. The early years of his service in the Post and Telegraph Department enabled him to handle the papers connected with the establishment of the Broadcasting Service in this country by the engineers of the Post and Telegraph Department, and also brought him into contact with the principal people, who were responsible for the introduction of that service. Thus he has an intimate knowledge of the early experiments and tests carried out by Mr. E. Harper, then Chief Engineer, Telegraphs and Telephones and those associated with him.

He took a keen interest in the Programme Division, and in course of time was the officer specially in charge of all oriental programmes, and many other matters with the arrangement of programmes including auditions to select new artistes. He has acted as Superintendent Broadcasting Station/Controller of Programmes several times. He is, in my opinion, the only person, who has had sufficient detailed first hand information of matters connected with broadcasting in this country, both technical and programme activities from the experiments carried out by Mr. E. Harper, Chief Engineer, Telegraphs and Telephones down to October, 1949, when broadcasting activities were handed over to a new government department, now named S.L.B.C.

*D.P. Jayasekera
Retired Chief Telecommunications
Engineer*

I.S.B.N. 955-603-010-7



Perali Publishers

72, "Decca Palace,"

Stanley Tillekaratne Mawatha,
Nugegoda, Sri Lanka.

This is Colombo Calling

1924 - 1949
(Reminiscences)

C. L. Pujitha-Gunawardana



Perali Publishers

THIS IS COLOMBO CALLING

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The Colombo Broadcasting Baby born at 2.30 p.m. on Friday, the 27th of June 1924, was re-named, at the age of 25 years, as Radio Ceylon on Saturday the 1st October 1949.

Let this publication - "THIS IS COLOMBO CALLING" dealing with the first twenty five years of Broadcasting in Sri Lanka, be a MONUMENT to all the pioneers, who spared no pains to introduce Broadcasting to this country and brought it to a satisfactory standard making the maximum use of the minimum facilities made available to them.

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FOREWORD

Mr. C. L. P. Gunawardana joined the Post and Telegraph Department as a member of the Postal Clerical Service on May 1 1929 and retired on August 10, 1966 after a period of 37 years in the Engineering and Investigation Branches of the Department. The early years of his service in the Post and Telegraph Department enabled him to handle the papers connected with the establishment of the Broadcasting Service in Ceylon by the engineers of the Post and Telegraph Department and also brought him in to contact with the principal people, who were responsible for the introduction of that service. Thus he has an intimate knowledge of the early experiments and tests carried out by Mr. E. Harper, then Chief Engineer, Telegraphs and Telephones and those associated with him.

Broadcasting in Ceylon was inaugurated on June 27, 1924 when the Governor, Sir William Henry Manning addressed a meeting of the Engineering Association of Ceylon and his address was broadcast. On Mr. Gunawardana's appointment to the Postal Clerical Service, he was assigned to the Chief Engineer's Office, and broadcasting was one of the subjects allotted to him. He quickly developed a keen interest in the subjects of broadcasting, looked up all the available files on the subject and sought the assistance of technical officers involved in the early broadcasting experiments to get clarification on technical matters which were new to him. He had a knack of getting co-operation from all he had to work with and thus he was able to keep up his interest on matters connected with broadcasting right through the period that broadcasting activities was a part of the Post and Telecommunications Department.

He took a keen interest in the Programme Division of the Broadcasting Service, and in course of time was the officer specially in charge of Oriental programmes, and many other matters connected with the arrangement of programmes including auditions to select new artistes.

He has acted as Superintendent, Broadcasting Station and Controller of Programmes several times. One of the greatest achievements of the broadcasting activities in Ceylon has been the emphasis given to the preaching of Buddha Dhamma by reputed scholars among the Maha Sangha, who had been held in the highest regard by the public for their piety and learning. Mr. Gunawardana had the unrivalled advantage of personally knowing most of those distinguished scholars and preachers and his keenness in arranging sermons much to the delight of thousands among the listening public was a contribution, which only a few could have accomplished.

His acquaintance with technical officers enabled him to keep track of engineering developments even in such matters as studio designs, studio constructions etc.

When the recording of folk songs and music of Ceylon was undertaken in a big way in about 1946, he was appointed Secretary of the Recording Committee, and was in charge of lists of all recordings made, payment to artistes etc. He had to travel in the recording van on all trips to various parts of the country, and in certain instances to remote villages where artistes following the real traditional form of rendering Sinhala folk music were found for recording such songs and music.

Mr. Gunawardana is, in my opinion, the only person, who has had sufficient detailed first hand information of matters connected with broadcasting in this country, both technical and programme activities from the experiments carried out by Mr. E. Harper, Chief Engineer. Telegraphs and Telephones down to October 1949, when broadcasting activities were handed over to a new government department, which called itself "Radio Ceylon".

One of the greatest mistakes committed by the Ceylon Government in 1949, when it separated broadcasting activities from the Post and Telecommunications Department and created a new Government Department for broadcasting called Radio Ceylon, was to have appointed as the first Director-General of the department a foreigner, who had no knowledge whatsoever of the language, history, literature and the culture of the country. One result of the new appointment, which

manifested itself quite early was the stoppage of the programme of the recording of folk music of the country, which was being built up with great care, the taking over of the Recording Van, which had been specially built for the purpose of recording work to transport of staff and the dissipation to other purposes a quantity of auxiliary equipment, petrol driven generators, convertors, field telephones, search lights, cables of various types, which had been painstakingly built up. Even after the expiry of the terms of agreement of the foreign Head of the Broadcasting Department, it is a matter for regret that the government has been unable to find a person sufficiently capable and qualified to Head the department, so that in the intervening almost 40 years the broadcasting organisation of this country has not been able to serve the people as much as it should have done.

It is a matter of delight to me that Mr. C. L. P. Guna-wardana whom I had the pleasure of knowing from the time of my first apointment as Telecommunications Engineer in May 1936 to the present spell of time, a period of 52 years in service and retirement should have come forward to compile this work setting out the history of a very important activity on the government of this country, which has contributed much to the education and entertainment of millions of people of this country and abroad, and in the near future can contribute much more under proper guidance to the culture of the world. Broadcasting is a service which in the past could have been rendered only by persons, who have achieved high levels of mental developments.

By far the best course of action to have been adopted by the Government was to have separated the Telecommuni-cations service from the Postal service forming 2 departments, a Postal department and a Telecommunications department, the latter of which could have had Broadcasting as a part of its activities - a course of action which had been recommended over many years by the best and most qualified Telecommuni-cations engineers in this country. Successive governments, unfortunately rejected the advice until the last government in 1982 hurriedly in a matter of weeks separated, it is said on the orders of the World Bank, the Postal and Telecommuni-cations Services, and created a new department of Telecommuni

cations. If the separation of activities had been carried out in the 1940's, both Telecommunications and Broadcasting might have witnessed a much greater degree of advancement than that had been witnessed up to now.

After a study in 1949 of the trends in broadcasting technique and television in the U. S. A., and embolden by the promises of the leading broadcasting and television authorities of the U. S. A. of any assistance I needed to introduce advanced techniques in broadcasting and television in Ceylon, I had considered the introduction and training to a high pitch of efficiency of our own staff so as to introduce sophisticated techniques in broadcasting in about 1956 and television about 1959.

This, however was no to be.

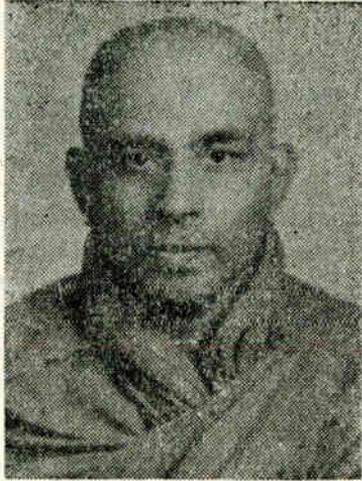
On the eve of the creation of a separate department for broadcasting Mr. Gunawardana was withdrawn from the broadcasting service and detailed to work in the Postal Investigations Branch where he retired at the age of 60 years in 1966. The duties entrusted to him then enabled him to get ample opportunities for the development of balanced view in the presentation of facts. This ability was developed to such an extent that an eminent lawyer, who was the Minister of Justice at one time had highly commended him after seeing his work, which came to the Minister's notice. His study of the Rules and Regulations governing the work of the department and his efficiency in that subject was such that he was entrusted with the training of new recruits of the Postal Clerical Service on discipline; Public Service Commission Rules and Administrative Regulations. He was also the Secretary to the Committee appointed by the Postmaster General in 1962 to recommend ways and means of reducing Post Office Savings Bank irregularities. These qualifications have made him exceedingly suitable for writing a historical sketch of the first 25 years of the broadcasting Service of this country.

D. P. Jayasekera, A. M. I. E. E.

**B. Sc. (Gen.) Hons. London, B. Sc. (Eng.) Hons. London,
former Superintending Engineer, Radio
and retired Chief Telecommunications Engineer.**

INTRODUCTIONS

In the past, in Sri Lanka, as well as in other countries, contact through communication systems was very limited. But today, due to rapid scientific and technological progress, communication has advanced so that instant contact at a global level is a reality for almost all people.



Ven. Piyadassi Thero

Radio broadcasting, the most efficient means of public communication, has become the most effective method of reaching the people. Broadcasting has thus become a prime necessity, for the speed of communication it offers cannot be dispensed with in the modern world. Today people can be in touch with others on all matters of importance, public and private, government and commercial, because of radio broadcasting facilities.

In Sri Lanka the broadcasting movement (first called "the wireless" and later "the radio") was started in 1924 with very small beginnings indeed. Mr. E. Harper was the first Controller as the broadcasting station went the route of the proverbial, from pillar to post. At first it was situated in a room in the Ceylon Telegraph Office (CTO); next in a room at the Ceylon University; then it moved to Torrington Square; thence to its fourth location at Borella. Today it is established at Independence Square, its massive buildings housing the latest in modern equipment, and called the **Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation**. It is one of the finest broadcasting systems in Asia.

At the start, there was only one transmission for the country's three languages: Sinhala, Tamil and English. It goes without saying that the Sri Lankans, the children and youth especially, were fascinated with the "voice box". What a thrill it was to hear the voices transmitted from Colombo, but heard in their own homes in sub-stations, in upland villages, and even in remote areas of the country.

Even from the very beginning, despite limited equipment and meager facilities, the Superintendent of Broadcasting and the staff of the radio station established the guiding philosophy of creating programmes of extremely high quality and offering outstanding services: religious programmes, a Children's Hour, the Brains Trust, variety entertainment, programmes on Sinhalese literature and classics and the popular Siri Aiya's (U. A. S. Perera) programme created especially for children.

Noteworthy is the fact that the first radio broadcasting of a Buddhist talk was delivered in 1928 by the Venerable Pelene Siri Vajiranana Mahanayake Thera, Founding Superior of the Vajirarama; the first Buddhist sermon, also broadcast by him, was given in 1929.

One story from those days well worth the re-telling is that of a Muslim lawyer who bought a radio set, switched it on for the first time to listen in, and lo and behold, it was a sermon delivered by the Venerable Pelene Vajiranana. It was such an educative and interesting sermon that the man said that on that very day he had received benefit for his investment in his radio set! The present writer himself, aware of the great number of people eager to hear Dhamma talks, started to broadcast sermons in the early forties.

Until 1959, the year Premier S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike was assassinated, all programmes were broadcast live. The performers were most conscientious in seeing that their performances did not offend anyone, and soon won the trust of the broadcasting community. Today, almost all programmes are pre-recorded.

A person who was attached to the broadcasting service from almost its very inception is Mr. C. L. Pujitha-Gunawardana. He joined the service in 1929 and continued to serve with

it until 1949. He is one of the very few living amongst us who can tell the history of the Sri Lanka broadcasting service. Two other names come to my mind: Messrs. Thevis Guruge and D. M. Colombage. I was closely associated with these two men both when they started out as announcers, and later when they became Programme Organisers. Mr. Livy Wijemanne, the former Chairman of the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation, was at that time the Programme Organiser of the English service. It was he who introduced me to the English channel through which I gave Buddhist talks.

During the days of the second World War, the Ven. Pannasiha (later Mahanayake) and myself resided at the Vajirarama. One Sunday Ven, Pannasiha went to the radio station to deliver the Sunday morning sermon. Suddenly the airraid warning alarm was sounded and the station officers quickly made arrangements to take him to a place of safety. When he asked the officers where they were going they answered, "We are on duty, Reverend Sir." The Venerable Pannasiha retorted, "Well, I am also on duty."

The late Venerable Narada, who was on the Advisory Board, took the initiative in introducing 'Maitri Chinta,' (later Dharmachinta), 'Thoughts for the Day' which became the first item in the daily programming.

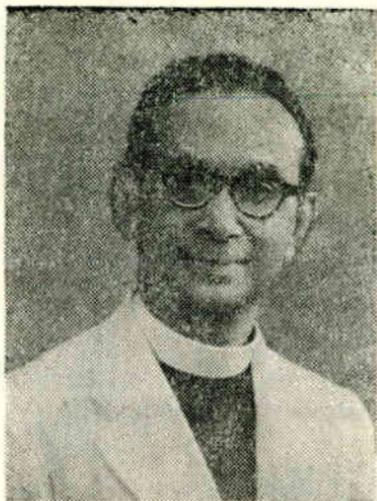
The SLBC has expanded since its inception in 1924 beyond anyone's dreams — and it continues to grow, fulfilling the needs of all, from the children, the youth and adults, to people of different walks of life, to those of differing ideologies, longings, inclinations and tastes.

The current programmes continue to be varied, with new features added regularly, based on the listener's needs. Since the majority of the Sri Lankans are radio-trained, the SLBC plays a vital roll in preserving the ethical, cultural, intellectual and religious values of the society, while at the same time promoting its art and culture.

Ven. Piyadassi Thero

Vajiraramaya.
Bambalapitiya.

This is Colombo Calling. Recording the history of major events of any country is a matter of utmost importance. In this case the department concerned should have initiated action no sooner the transfer of the service to another was effected. However, the lapse on the part of the department has been remedied by the two pioneer engineering officers by inviting Mr. C. L. P. Gunawardana, whom they had considered the most



Rev. S. J. de S. Weerasinghe suitable person to use his exertions and compile the history. It is further gratifying to hear that Mr. B. P. Jayasekera, a former Superintending Telecommunications Engineer, Radio; who had retired as Chief Telecommunications Engineer, by offering a foreword to this contribution, has confirmed the validity of its substance.

The Colombo Broadcasting Service had come into existence after a term of experiments during the middle of 1924, and we have gained the honour of being the first in the British Colonies and South Asia to start broadcasting.

My first association with the Colombo Broadcasting Service was during the period Mr. Shirly da Silva was the Superintendent of Broadcasting, when it was housed in Torrington Square. It so happened when a Sunday Morning Religious Service conducted by me in the Baptist Chapel, Cinnamon Gardens was relayed. I was closely connected with the Colombo Broadcasting Service, when it was shifted to Kotte Road, Borella from Torrington Square in September, 1942 and I was well acquainted with Mr. C. L. P. Gunawardana, who was then handling Sinhala programmes.

In addition to broadcasting of religious talks in Sinhala, I had attended conferences and committee meetings. In one such meeting I suggested to Dr. G. P. Malalasekera to introduce to our sinhala programme an item similar to the "Brains Trust" of the B. B. C. which was very interesting. Dr. Malalasekera and all others present supported me, and then a suitable paraphrase for "Brains Trust" arose. One member suggested පුරුෂික මණ්ඩලය but Dr. Malalasekera's බුද්ධි මණ්ඩලය was unanimously adopted. Mudlr. E. A. Abeysekera conducted the Programme once a week on Monday's from 7 to 7.30 p.m.

The staff on the Colombo Broadcasting Station at that time, I could now remember at my present age of 90 years, were Mr. Shirley da Silva, Mr. C. L. P. Gunawardana, Mr. Rankine, Mr. Hettiaratchy, Mrs. Pearl Ondatji, Mr. Colombage, Mr. Guruge and Mr. Richard Weerasuriya. They did their best with our advice and facilities made available.

Mr. C. L. P. Gunawardana, who is one of the few living pioneers, I understand, had served the Colombo Broadcasting Service almost from its inception until it was transformed to a new department called Radio Ceylon in 1949. He had worked directly under Mr. E. Harper, Chief Engineer, Telegraphs and Telephones, who is considered as the father of the Colombo Broadcasting Service. The word father is very appropriate to him as he was the officer responsible for the creation of broadcasting in this country, and he himself referred to the Colombo Broadcasting Service as his baby.

I am very happy that in the stage of my second childishness I am afforded an opportunity of expressing my views on the Reminiscences of the Colombo Broadcasting Service put in black and white by Mr. C. L. P. Gunawardana, who had continuously served for 20 years of the 25 years of the Colombo Broadcasting Service, an octogenerian, maintaining a good memory in the penultimate stage of manhood.

I wish him a long and healthy life.

Rev. S. J. de S. Weerasinghe

Joshep Lane,
Nugegeda.

Author's Prologue

I was invited by Messrs. E. C. Wijekoon and B. S. Seneviratne, two of the most senior living pioneers of the Colombo Broadcasting Service, who have retired as Telecommunications engineers after serving for the complete duration of the Colombo Broadcasting Service, under the Post and Telecommunications Department, both my seniors in age and service, to record my practical experience of the Colombo Broadcasting Service.

I Joined the Post and Telecommunications Department on the results of a competitive examination conducted by the Education Department as a member of the Postal Clerical Service on may 1, 1929, and was detailed to work under the Chief Engineer, Telegraphs and Telephones, Mr. E. Harper M. I. E. E., M. I. Radio E. Among the duties in the list assigned to me correspondence on Broadcasting was one, for which I developed a special attitude. I continued to perform the duties for 8 years, 2 years under Mr. E. Harper and 6 years under Mr. J. Shillito, the immediate successor of Mr. Harper on his retirement.

Though I had taken over the subject "Broadcasting" 5 years after its inauguration on 27th June, 1924, my duties compelled me to acquire a thorough knowledge of the work done from the experimental stage up to the time I took over. Actually all the correspondence files and literature pertaining to broadcasting were at my disposal I was the custodian. There was not a single paper on broadcasting, which did not pass through me during the 20 years I was attached to the Chief Telecommunications Engineer's Office and the Colombo Broadcasting Station. I was the bottle neck through which all matters on broadcasting passed.

In the year 1935 there was a proposal to transfer me to the Broadcasting Station to assist Mr. R. R. Anderson Announcer cum "Clerk Broadcasting", code C. B. C., who was in charge of the Broadcasting Programme Office, under the direct super

vision of the Chief Engineer, Telegraphs and Telephones, who was also the Controller of Broadcasting. But the Chief Engineer and the Assistant Chief Engineer, both were, of the view that I was more useful at the Chief Engineer's Office. However, on the appointment of Mr. Shirley da Silva with the designation "Superintendent, Broadcasting Station" in August 1937, and the responsibility on the part of the Chief Engineer for programme work vested in him had to be given over to the newly appointed Superintendent, whose official code was S. B. C. and as he had asked for a competent officer to assist him in the arrangement of all oriental programmes, and also to look after his work when he was away from office, I was ordered to go to the Broadcasting Station. When I expressed my unwillingness to go, both the Chief and the Assistant Chief made me to understand that I was selected in the interests of the [service and my own interests when there were others senior to me who were anxious to go. I was advised to go and take over the [duties of the C. B. C. from Mr. H. de. S. Gunewardene, who was to take over my duties at the Chief Engineer's Office on 28th August, 1937. After I assumed duties at the Broadcasting Station, the first inquiry from me by the Chief Engineer was whether I was still the channel through which all correspondence on broadcasting passed. He was very happy to hear my reply in the affirmative. His anxiety was to make me the bottle neck of broadcasting information.

I was able within a very short period to win the confidence of Mr. Shirley da Silva, the Superintendent, who held me responsible for the arrangement of all oriental programmes Sinhala, Tamil, Muslim and Hindustani, in addition to office administration. He confined his activities to western programmes, which were then predominant. His successors messrs. H. de-S. Gunewardene and Richard Weerasuriya did not wish to make any change to Mr. Shirley da Silva's arrangements in the office work. I was further the secretary to the Sinhala Programme Committee and the Sinhala Folk Songs Recording Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. G. P. Malalasekera, which became defunct after I left the Broadcasting Service early in January, 1949 and most of the treasure collected were lost, stolen, damaged or neglected. Certain Newspapers started a hue and cry, but no attention was given to resuscitate the matter even though funds were available - Rs. 8685.00. No one

showed any interest, or create any interest. The Hon'ble Minister was a non-Sinhala, Ministry Secretary and the Director General of the Broadcasting Department were aliens, and the Sinhala officers indifferent.

All auditions for the selection of radio artistes, Sinhala Tamil, Hindustani and western were conducted by me. I had further to attend Courts in connection with cases of infringement of copyright rules.

Apart from looking after the daily office work, when the Superintendant was away, I had often covered the duties of the Superintendant Controller of programmes, and in one instance for a period of 3 weeks in August-September, 1945. when I had gone to the extent of recommending the first increment of the Announcer, Mr. Livy R. Wijemanne. Whenever I happened to answer a telephone call from the Postmaster General or the Chief Telecommunications Engineer they never inquired for the Controller but obtained the required information from me or gave any directives for the execution of the Controller. They were very familiar with my voice. I have performed the duties of Controller, Clerk and Announcer all on one and the same day when necessity demanded, leaving no ground for any complaint or disorder.

I am the only one now surviving of those who had worked directly under Mr. E. Harper, the creator of the Colombo Broadcasting Service. I have thus gained an all round practical knowledge of the working of the Colombo Broadcasting Service, which no one else had acquired.

In a personal letter addressed to me by Mrs. Chitra Ranawake, Deputy Director-General (Programmes) of the S. L. B. C., she has stated. "Incidentally you will be interested to hear that I am the daughter of the late Dr. G. P. Malalasekera. I remember him talking reminiscently of you, Mudlr. E. A. Abaya sekera, Mr. Devar Suryasena and others. It must be gratifying to be associated with broadcasting from its early inception".

The fears of the senior surviving pioneers, Messrs. E. C. Wijekoon and Mr. B. S. Seneviratne are not unfounded. Distortions have already invaded the history of the Colombo Broad-

It was erected by a Marconi Company Engineer named Mr. Rice and was under the control of the Post and Telegraph Department. The staff recruited from the C. T. O. were Messrs. F. T. Hubert, J. de S. Jayawickrama, J. D. Moldrich, M. M. P. Gunawardene, W. Weerasekera, K. G. Gunesekera, L. J. Perera, and L. W. Perera to whom a great deal of credit should be given. They were all postmasters and Signallers. This is now known as the Ship-to-Shore Radio Station accommodated at Manning Town.

Another Wireless Station Came into existence during World War I in 1914 at Yatiyana, Matara. It was actually a Naval Wireless Telegraph Station manned by the British Royal Navy. It had a good foot-ball team, which exhibited their skill at Uyanwatte esplanade, Matara. Our English Announcer, Mr. E. Y. G. Rankine, an Anglo Indian, and later regarded as being domiciled here was attached to this Naval Wireless Telegraph Station before he joined the Colombo Broadcasting Service, first as a Technical Officer. This Wireless Station was closed down during World War II in 1942, and its equipment removed. This Station was connected to Colombo on circuit No. 57, which ran through Rakwana and Deniyaya.

Telecommunications is a means of communication by telegraph or telephone with or without wires and broadcasting is telephony without wires. It was in 1915 that the first Broadcasting Station was opened in U. S. A. by the American Radio and Research Corporation, and we in Ceylon started experiments 8 years later in 1923.

A German destroyer, not a sub-marine, named "Emden" was destroyed by the Australian Navy during the World War I, in 1914, off the coast of Cocos Islands. Mere statements are not sufficient. Facts should be elicited from official records. Pioneers are still living to lead evidence. How did Ceylon Government get the salvage of the sub-marine sunk by the Australian Navy within their waters. After all those who were involved in the construction of the radio transmitter had passed away, a tattler had succeeded in getting his tittle tattle inserted in the Postmaster General's Administration Report for the year 1949.

casting Service. In the circumstances, I with pleasure accepted the invitation of the 2 senior pioneers and compiled my reminiscences into a literary contribution. I have quoted chapter and verse and placed factual information and documentary evidence, which cannot be nullified with interpretations based on hearsay. In certain instances I have mentioned the very words of my superiors. I have not stated anywhere that we did this and we did that, but have affirmed that so and so did it.

Distortion No. 1 - In the Administration Report of the Postmaster General for the year 1949, his 26th and the last Administration Report on Broadcasting under the British Rule and his first Report after the dawn of Independence of Sri Lanka, the history of broadcasting under the post and Telecommunications Department has been summed up declaring "With the help of parts recovered from the radio apparatus of a captured German submarine (no details given) the first transmitter was built and music broadcast from a back-room of the C. T. O., which served as Studio, Transmitting Station and Programme Office". If it is the factual information it should have gone into the Administration Report for the year 1924 or the following year, when the transmitter referred to was replaced by constructing a new plant built from parts indented from England. Facts and figures in the correspondence files of the Chief Telecommunications Engineers Office would reveal that the first radio transmitter 1/2 kilowatt utilised for experiments and inauguration of broadcasting in this country was constructed at the Telegraph Workshops of parts picked up from the reserve equipment of the Ship-to-Shore radio apparatus and other sources of the department. The Secretary of State for the Colonies in England, while approving the introduction of broadcasting in this country has stated, in May 1924, that broadcasting should be undertaken by the Government Wireless Station. This is clear evidence that radio parts were available in the Post and Telecommunications Department, and as such, there was no need for Mr. E. Harper to go in search of salvage of a sunken German submarine.

The Government Wireless Station referred to by the Secretary of State for the Colonies was opened to the Public in July 1912 and its first message was transmitted to Bombay.

The room which accommodated the first radio transmitter was, of course, not in the main C. T. O. building but was situated in the C. T. O. premises, in which the minor staff used to congregate and it should not be described as a back-room. It was later the Library of the Telecommunications Engineering officers and it was in this room the monthly meetings of the Broadcasting Advisory Board were held after 1932. The Studio was inside a room in the Telephone Exchange and the Programme work was done in the Chief Engineer's Office, under the direction of the Chief Engineer, who was the Controller of Broadcasting. Even after shifting the Programme Office to Torrington Square in 1927, arrangements of Programmes of Buddhist interest were done in the Chief Engineer's Office, by the Chief Clerk, Mr. T. A. W. Gunawardene, until he retired in 1932.

Distortion No. 2 - The correct date of inaugurations of Broadcasting in this country. This question was raised for the first time by Mr. S. Rajanayagam, Engineer Radio, in his talk on Broadcasting in Ceylon, which he delivered at a meeting of the Engineering Association of Ceylon in the year 1935. This talk was printed in a booklet and distributed. He retired as Chief Telecommunications Engineer and he is still living. He said, "On 27th June, 1924, His Excellency the Governor broadcast a message on the occasion of a meeting of the Engineering Association of Ceylon. This is the date when broadcasting was started in Ceylon and it is interesting that this Association is closely connected with the birth of the service. The usual date given, namely 16th December, 1925, actually marks the opening of a new transmitter, and it is incorrect as the date of opening of broadcasting itself."

At the end of his talk, he made the following acknowledgment and thanked the acting Chief Engineer, Mr. J. M. Baxter for his kind permission to publish the talk, and for allowing access to official records and also to the Assistant Chief Engineer, Mr. D. Lusk, and the Divisional Engineer, Radio, Mr. A. Nadarasa, (who incidentally was one of those who had assisted Mr. E. Harper to construct the 2/1 kw transmitter on which broadcasting in this country was inaugurated on 27th June, 1924) for their valuable suggestions for the preparation of the paper. He may have stated so in order to impress the audience and the readers that he knew well the subject on which he spoke.

Annual birthday celebrations were started by the New Broadcasting Department called Radio Ceylon in a grand scale by its Sinhala Organisation and the S. L. B. C. followed suit. Having read the 16th issue of 'Tharangini', a domestic journal of the S. L. B. C, in 1981 which contained certain incorrect historical information regarding the early stage of Sri Lanka Broadcasting, I made representations to His Excellency the President of Sri Lanka Democratic and Socialist Republic on 18th Novembr, 1981. I was informed that my representation had been referred to the Ministry of State and thence to the Chairman of the S. L. B. C., with whom I had passed correspondence, particularly on the correct date of birth of Sri Lanka Broadcasting - Colombo Broadcasting Service. In support of my contention I had quoted the Administration Report of the Postmaster General for 1924, which has recorded that the "outstanding event in telephony was the inauguration of Broadcasting from the C. T. O." and the 1925 Report, which has indicated that broadcasting on the new plant was inaugurated by the Governor in December. Thereupon the Chairman of the S. L. B. C., Mr. Eamon Kariyakarawana had directed his Research Unit to investigate and report on the issue. The report so received had been deliberated by the Board of Directors, vide item 10 of the minutes of the meetings held on 26th September, 1983, and 12th October, 1983, and finally accepted, vide item 8 of the minutes of the Board meeting held on 31st October, 1983, which is reproduced below:-

37.8 Audience Research Division (Ref 36;10) Inauguration of Broadcasting in Sri Lanka (Ceylon)

The Corporation has accepted June 27, 1924 as the date of inauguration of broadcasting in Sri Lanka - vide Corporation decision 709.13 (ii) of 20. 10. 83.

Copy of letter dated 05/02/82 addressed to the Chairman, S. L. B. C., by Mr. C. L. P. Gunawardana of Dehiwala was also tabled. While thanking Mr. Gunawardana for his correspondence on the subject and the interest evinced by him in establishing the correct date of inauguration of broadcasting in the country it was decided to invite him to write an article in English for the newspapers and send it to the Chairman. The Chairman has already written an article in Sinhala to the 'Silumina'.

The Chairman's article appeared in the *Silumina* of 23. 10. 83 and my article in English appeared in the *Daily News* of 16. 12. 83. The Corporation's decision of 20th October, 1983 is reproduced below:-

"Inauguration of Broadcasting in Sri Lanka. C. M. of the Director of Research Audience dated 17th October, 1983 - The Corporation noted the contents of the C. M. submitted by the D. A. R. and approved the new date, June 27, 1924 as the date of inauguration of broadcasting in Sri Lanka".

Here is the official intimation received by me from the S. L. B. C.

C. L. P. Gunawardana Esq.,
23, Sri Mahabodhi Road,
Dehiwala.

Dear Mr Gunawardana,

You are profusely thanked for all the interest shown in and all the troubles taken for the straightening out of the controversy of the exact date of inauguration of broadcasting in this country. Thanks to your unceasing efforts and faithful interest in this matter, Chairman and members of the Board have officially recognised the date of inauguration of broadcasting as June 27, 1924 as you had repeatedly pointed out. Thanks indeed, Mr. Gunawardana for your magnanimous service to the cause of broadcasting in this country.

You will certainly be delighted to read through the enclosed photo copy of the extract of the Board minutes relating to the decision of the Board. Do keep in touch with us, since we value your good counselling.

Wishing you long-life, health and prosperity.

With lots of love and good wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Sgd. Nandana Karunanayake
Director Audience Research
for Director General.

The usual annual celebrations of the S. L. B. C., which were due on December 16, 1983, were not carried out and instead arrangements for the celebrations of the Diamond Jubilee on 27th June, 1984 were in progress. In the interim Mr. Eamon Kariyakarawana left the S. L. B. C., and the newly appointed Chairman, who professes to be the sole authority on any matter pertaining to Sri Lanka Broadcasting, flouting the prescribed procedure that a decision issued by an officer could be reviewed only by another officer holding a higher status, had over-ruled the decision of his predecessor and the Board of directors, and directed that the Diamond Jubilee celebrations be fixed for December 16, 1985. The new Chairman had not the courtesy to inform me who is not a stranger to him and say that the Previous Chairman's decision has been over-ruled and that there would be no alteration to the date of celebrations. However, I received the news and made representations again to His Excellency the President, and I received the following reply from the Secretary of the Ministry of State.

My No. MS/SLBC.Misc.

Date 24th July 1984

Mr. C. L. P. Gunawardana,
23, Sri Mahabodhi Road,
Dehiwala

Dear Sir,

I write with reference to your letter to His Excellency the President dated 16th July, 1984 on the subject of the correct date of inauguration of broadcasting in this country.

This question has been studied in depth and we are of the view that regular broadcasting service was started only on 16th December, 1925.

Your interest in this matter is appreciated.

Yours faithfully,

Sgd. G. P. S. U. de Silva.
Addl. Secretary,
for Secretary.

It is clear from the above reply that my representations to His Excellency the President has been left in the lurch by the Ministry of State, in regard to the correct date of inauguration of broadcasting by informing me of the date when regular broadcasting was started to as say that broad casting prior to December 16, 1925 was irregular. This reminds me of the folk proverb "Yanne koheda? Malle Pol."

The Postmaster General of the United Kingdom had stated in the U. K. Parliament in 1926 that at the commencement of broadcasting in his country it was a little more than a toy, but Mr. E. Harper, the architect of our broadcasting had compared ours to a baby. This baby born at 2.30 pm on 27th June, 1924, had been mewling and puking in the nurse's arms from July 1, 1924, and begun to say mamma and pappa at 12 noon on December 16, 1925, after receiving nourishment from abroad. No one could expect a baby to run about as soon as he or she was born. The normal course had to be followed.

The assertions of the Secretary to the Ministry of State bear no significance to the issue raised by me. It is more or less a vain attempt to shield a stubborn high official under him for his rash action.

The present S. L. B. C. Chairman in an article published in the Sinhala monthly periodical "Kalpana" of November, 1984, while relating his broadcasting experience has stated that though broadcasting activities were started by the Telecommunications Department, similar to a Sub-Postoffice in 1924, yet as radio licences were issued only in 1925, his personal opinion is that broadcasting was inaugurated in 1925. This statement is, in my opinion, has been made at random.

The correct meaning of the word "inaugurate" is to make a public exhibition of for the first time. The records of the Post and Telecommunications Department clearly specify that a message to the Engineering Association by the highest dignitary of the country, the Governor, was broadcast at 2.30 pm on 27th June, 1924 to inaugurate broadcasting in Ceylon.

The contention that the issue of radio licences was started in 1925 is entirely incorrect. Issue of radio licences was started in April, 1924, the first licensee being Mr. L. E. Heal, and at the end of 1924 there were 53 radio licensees. Taking his own argument into consideration it has been made clear that the correct date of inauguration of broadcasting in Ceylon is 27th June, 1924.

The comparison of our early broadcasting activities to that of a Sub-Post Office is, I should say is a compliment, as the Postmaster General of the United Kingdom has stated in the British Parliament in 1926 that when broadcasting was started in Britain in 1922, it was a little more than a toy, and Mr. E. Harper, the Architect of broadcasting in this country has referred to ours as a baby.

There is a glaring error in the article referred to, which should not be allowed to pass unnoticed. Regarding recording of music it has been mentioned that the first recording made by the machine was that of the song "olu pipeela" by Surya Shankar Molligoda. Though he is not the officer responsible for attending to the recording, yet he himself has broadcast this record umteen times. Even a rustic listener at this distant date would say that the song "olu pipeela" is a recording of Sunil Shantha.

I have made these comments not with the idea of letting down any one, but purely for the sake of preserving the correct history.

I, one who have had a working knowledge of the very early stage of broadcasting activities in this country for a continuous period of 20 years and then served in the Investigations Branch of the Postal Department, where I had to gain a knowledge of the work of Sub-Post Offices, am constrained to say that such utterances are nothing but rash conclusions.

On December 16, 1985, the so called Diamond Jubilee Day of the Sri Lanka broadcasting, the Independant Television Net Work (I. T. N.) arranged a one hour programme to celebrate the occasion. Three pioneers of the Colombo Broadcasting Service teletext their experience; They were Messrs. E. C. Wijekoon, B. S. Seneviratne and myself. I was the first to televise my

views and I said that the correct date of inauguration of broadcasting in this country is 27th June, 1924. The Chairman of the S. L. B. C., Mr. Livy R. Wijemanne followed me and read a passage from a report and contradicted me by saying that, the correct date is December 16, 1925. My good friend Mr. D. M. Colombage, who appeared in the screen later said; that there appears to be a difference of opinion regarding the date of inauguration and there should not be such an opinion as the correct date is December 16 1925. However, after Mr. Colombage had viewed the whole programme, he might have found that he was wrong and in the repeated programme about a week later his teletext regarding the correct date of inauguration was completely deleted.

If I were given another opportunity to televise my views later in the programme, I would have said,

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Note - Ladies need not get offended as it is a quotation from Sinhala literature.

The history of the very early stage of the Broadcasting Service as narrated in the Mahavamsa 1935 - 1956 is, in my opinion, a comedy of errors. However, the heading "Broadcasting Service" is the most appropriate expression so far as it is concerned with the first 25 years. It was then known as the Colombo Broadcasting service, and it was a service to the population and not a Trade and Publicity Bureau.

On page 423 paragraph 1 of the Mahavamsa referred to under the heading the Broadcasting Service, it is mentioned that due to agitations by a pioneer Unit named Ceylon Amateur Radio Society formed in 1922, Ceylon Telegraph Department utilised in 1923 wireless as a means of mass communications for sending and receiving messages, and its success was established on 16th December, 1925, which date is considered as the historical day of broadcasting in this country.

This pronouncement is not in conformity with the records of the Post and Telecommunications Department, which introduced wireless as a means of mass communications for sending

and receiving messages long before World war I. The Secretary of State for the Colonies, while approving the introduction of Broadcasting, had stated that the scheme of broadcasting should be undertaken by the Government Wireless Station in Colombo. This Wireless Station came into existence in July, 1912.

The Society, which was formed in 1922 precisely during the month of November, was the Ceylon Wireless Club, the very same month and year the British Broadcasting Company was formed in Britain. It changed its name to Ceylon Amateur Radio Society in July 1923 and later the same year to Radio Club of Ceylon and South India.

The pronouncement had further stated that the results of the research done with government assistance for the usage of broadcasting were exhibited for the first time on June 27, 1924. This declaration is quite correct. The approval for the introduction of broadcasting in this country was received from the Secretary of State for the Colonies towards the end of May, 1924, and Mr. E. Harper, the architect of broadcasting in this country, and a Vice President of the Engineering Association of Ceylon, who was waiting for a suitable occasion to inaugurate broadcasting, learned that His Excellency the Governor was due to address a meeting of the Engineering Association at 2.30 pm on June 27, 1924, he thought that it was the most opportune occasion for him to exhibit his engineering feat, and he took prompt action to broadcast His Excellency's Speech and inaugurate the broadcasting service. The meaning of the word "inaugurate" according to Chambers's Twentieth Century Dictionary is "to make a public exhibition of for the first time". The Administration Report of the Postmaster General for 1924 has recorded that the "outstanding event in telephony was the inauguration of broadcasting from the C. T. O." What had actually happened on 16th December, 1925, was the official inauguration of a new broadcasting plant constructed at the Telegraph Workshops with parts imported from Britain replacing the improvised plant which was in operation from the date of inauguration on June 27, 1924. Immediately before inviting the Governor to declare open the new transmitter, Mr. E. Harper had announced to the listeners

at 12 noon on December 16, 1925, that the opening of the new transmitter was a step forward in the development of broadcasting in Ceylon. In the circumstances the historic day of broadcasting should be 27th June, 1924, and not December 16, 1925.

Mention has also been made in the Mahavamsa referred to, that an Advisory (Administrative) Board was appointed in 1934. I have not heard of Advisory Boards being appointed with administrative power. However, the Broadcasting Advisory Board, which was appointed in 1932 NOT 1934 had no such powers. It functioned in its advisory capacity till the middle of 1948 and was dismissed by the new Minister concerned of our first Parliament in order to carry out his new policies. My assertion that the Advisory Board was appointed in 1932 and NOT 1934 is confirmed in a subsequent statement in the pronouncement that the Vaithianathan Report has mentioned that the services rendered by the Advisory Board appointed in 1932 is praise worthy. The first meeting of the Advisory Board was held on November 21, 1932 at the Broadcasting Station, Torrington Square, presided over by the chief Telecommunication Engineer, Mr. J. Shillitoe.

Other members of the Advisory Board were

Mr. J. S. Dinwiddie	...	Representatives of the Radio
Mr. J. F. Ness	...	Club of Ceylon and South India
Mr. S. N. Godfrey	...	Asst. Director of Education
Mr. J. S. M. Patterson	...	Ceylon Amateur Dramatic Club
Mr. Charles Dias	...	Representing Sinhala listeners
Mudlr. C. Rasanayagam	...	Representing Tamil listeners
Mr. H. H. M. Gazzali	...	Representing Muslim listeners
Mr. E. C. Villiers	}	Executive Committee of Communications and Works
Mr. H. L. de Mel		
Mr. D. Lusk	...	Divisional Engineer, Radio
Mr. R. R. Anderson	...	Secretary

Regarding the purchase of a recording machine in 1936 and the broadcasting of pre-recorded programmes, it is true that a recording machine was purchased in 1936, but the Colombo Broadcasting Service did not broadcast pre-recorded

programmes. The machine purchased in 1936 had only one turn table and the duration of one side of a disc was 3 minutes at 78 R. P. M. Recording of a continuous programme of a long duration could not be done. The recording machine was of a type that was developed by the British Broadcasting Corporation and at the time of its purchase it was considered that it would be useful for providing material for broadcasting. Sir Baron Jayatilaka was invited to record a 15 minute talk. He very kindly agreed and arrived at the Broadcasting Station. He was advised of the procedure to be followed that he should pause every 3 minutes. He listened patiently, took his hat to his hand and walked away.

Two machines suitable for recording folk songs and folk music were purchased in 1946 on which recordings could be done for continuous programmes of any duration, but it was not used for broadcast of pre-recorded programmes. Bana sermons of 45 minutes duration were recorded of eminent preachers for the purpose of preservation and for use in an emergency and not as broadcast of pre-recorded programmes. Colombo Broadcasting Service did not adopt that procedure excepting a very few exceptional cases.

Finally I wish to offer my grateful thanks to Mr. J. R. Walters, C. C. S., Col. J. P. Appleby, Mr. A. Ignatius Perera, Postmasters General and Directors of Broadcasting, Messrs. E. Harper, M. I. E. E., M. I. Radio E. J. Shillitoe, A. M. I. E. E., D. Lusk, A. M. I. E. E., A. Nadarasa, A. M. I. E. E. Aloysius Perera, A. M. I. E. E., S. Rajanayagam, A. M. I. E. E. and D. P. Jayasekera, A. M. I. E. E., former Chief Telecommunications Engineers and Controller of Broadcasting, the last 2 still living, who had always a good word for me, and also to Mr. B. W. Perera, a senior member of the Postal Clerical Service, who retired as the Senior Accountant of the Post and Telecommunications Department and Mr. J. F. S. Pulle, both for giving me a good training at the commencement of my career in the department, and all my colleagues, both programme and technical for the co-operation extended to me for the performance of my duties for the cause of the Colombo Broadcasting Service, with special mention of Messrs. A. W. Dharmapala, B. S. Seneviratne, D. S. Kasturiaratchi, M. Wimalaratne, A. W. Direkze, C. E. Fernando, D. M. Colombage, E. Y. G. Rankine, and Mrs. Pearl Ondaatji.

I offer my sincere thanks to Messrs. E. C. Wijekoon and B. S. Seneviratna, two surviving pioneer technical officers (engineers) of the Colombo Broadcasting Service for inviting me to compile this historical sketch and also for giving me inspiration to do so by furnishing useful information on technical matters.

My awed respects are presented to the 2 members of the Clergy, Ven'ble Piyadassi Maha Thero of Vajiraramaya, Bambalapitiya and the Rev. S. J. de S. Weerasinghe of the Baptist Mission, both very familiarly known to me for over 50 years and closely associated with the Colombo Broadcasting Service for so kindly providing liberal introductions.

While stating my appreciations on Mr. D. P. Jayasekera's foreward, I feel as one closely associated with him for over 50 years, in service and retirement, I should give an introduction to his brilliant career. His skill and the service rendered by him to his country are not known as ought to be known, not even to the present generation of his alma mater.

I presume that only a very few of the young generation are aware of the "Denham Scholarship". Over 70 years ago there was a Director of Education, E. B. Denham by name, who in order to afford opportunities for boys of rural schools to learn more and better English, devised a scholarship scheme to award 20 scholarships a year after an Island wide competitive examination, under which the scholars were to be taught English by selected teachers using the most advanced methods. Mr. D. P. Jayasekera, who was studying in a rural school at Minuwangoda, sat for the competitive examination in 1919, came 2nd in the Island, was selected for the 1920 batch of scholars, and was admitted to a special class at the Practising School of the Government Training College, which was located in the buildings now occupied by the Thurston College.

After 5 years study at the Practising School, the scholars became eligible for scholarships to Royal College in January 1925. He sat for the Cambridge Junior Examination in 1927 coming first in the college and being awarded the Rajapaksa Prixe, and the Cambridge Senior Examination in 1927 coming

first in the Island and being awarded, the Cambridge scholarship to the Ceylon University College. At the Cambridge Junior and Cambridge Senior Examinations Mr. Jayasekera secured distinctions in Sinhala and English in additions to distinctions in other subjects. At that time Sinhala was not taught as a class subject at the Royal College, and Mr. Jayasekera attended Sinhala classes conducted by the Ven'ble Narada Maha Thero at Vajiraramaya, Bambalapitiya for students offering Sinhala for Cambridge Examinations. Incidentally Mr. Jayasekera came first in the Island in Sinhala at the Cambridge Senior Examination in 1927 and was awarded the Waidyasekera Prize. At the Royal College among the prizes won by Mr. D. P. Jayasekera were the Donald Obeysekera Prizes (Junior and Senior for Ceylon History).

Mr. Jayasekera thus entered the Ceylon University College in 1928 and in 1929 was awarded an Open Science Scholarship on the results of a competitive examination. This scholarship carried a stipend of Rs. 40/- per mensem.

After sitting for the B. Sc. Examination in 1931, he was appointed as Assistant Demonstrator in Physics of the Ceylon University College. He resigned from this post in 1932 to go to the United Kingdom to study Telecommunications Engineering. He entered the City and Guilds Engineering College, London in 1932, studied Telecommunications Engineering, sat for the B. Sc. Honours Engineering Examinations in 1934 and obtained Second Class Honours, the Diploma A. C. G. I. and was awarded Henrichi Medal of the City and Guilds Engineering College for 1934. Thereafter Mr. Jayasekera underwent practical training in various branches of the British Post Office and the B. B. C. for 1 1/2 years. During the course of practical training Mr. Jayasekera on his own initiative learn to ride a horse, and pilot a light aeroplane as he thought that such an experience would help him later in assessing the aptitude of applicants for posts in the Telecommunications Service in his own country. He returned to Ceylon in 1936 and was appointed Engineer, Post and Telecommunications Department being attached to the Telephone Division.

At the request of Mr. J. Shillitoe, Chief Telecommunications Engineer of Ceylon at the time, he paid special attention, while in England to the installation, acceptance

testing and maintenance of Auto telephone exchanges as he had decided to replace the old manual telephone exchanges of the Colombo telephone system of new automatic exchanges as contracts were being placed for that purpose.

The High Frequency Broadcasting Conferences and the International Telecommunications Union Regional Conferences by the International Telecommunications Union at the time were long drawn out conferences where Radio Frequencies had to be allocated for various services. During World War II Radio Communications had advanced by leaps and bounds and after the end of the war many countries which had been colonies or subject nations under Great Powers became independent and these made claims for frequencies for their national Radio and Broadcasting Services. The International Telecommunications Union plenipotentiary conference devised a new frequency table allocating blocks of frequencies for various Radio services. These blocks in turn had to be allocated to various countries for use in their National and International services. This work involved very careful planning in order to avoid interference for which very strict technical requirements were elaborated, and approved at each conference. Thus the work of these conferences were long drawn out as the delegates themselves working in small groups had to work out the allocations and calculate protection ratios to avoid intolerable interference.

Mr. Jayasekera's work at all these conference earned for him the respect and confidence of other delegates. At the session of the second high Frequency Broadcasting Conference held in Rapello in 1950, when the difficult situation caused by the start of the Korean war was being discussed Mr. Jayasekera's speech drew spontaneous applause, the only time a delegate's speech was so applauded at these High Frequency broadcasting conferences.

It is also not generally known that Mr. Jayasekera used the opportunities afforded to him, while attending to many International Telecommunications Union (I. T. U.) Conferences to learn to speak the official languages of those countries. Thus he learnt to speak Spanish, Italian, French and German and so he was able to speak with English 5 European languages. This fact was revealed in an I. T. N. television programme

put on the air on 12th April, 1988 in the series "Reminiscences" when Mr. Jayasekera was interviewed by Mr. Sujatha Jayawardene.

The I. T. N. television programme also revealed that Mr. Jayasekera used the opportunities afforded to him during his stay in the United Kingdom to gain a first experience of some of the finest performances of classical Western music both by world famous artistes and famous symphony orchestras of the world conducted by the world's leading conductors. The year 1935 was the year of the Silver Jubilee of the coronation of King George V, and in that year London saw and heard programmes of Western classical musical performances seldom seen or heard in any one year in any country of the world. Mr. Jayasekera was doing his practical training in 1935 after obtaining his engineering degree in 1934, and made full use of his stay to see and hear as many of the concerts that were held in London in 1935. Thus he saw and heard performances of the world famous violinists Yehudi Menuhin and Heifetz, the world famous Cellist Pablo Casals, the famous Czech soprano Jarmila Novotna and the famous Russian Pianist Rachmaninoff. He also saw and heard the London Symphony Orchestra being conducted by Sir Thomas Beecham and by Arture Poscam, the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Dr. Wilhelm Furtwangler the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Bruno Walter, the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Vaclav Talich and The B. B. C. Symphony Orchestra conducted by Sir Henry Wood. During that year he also built up a fine collection of Commercial gramophone records of some of the finest performances of solo artistes and world famous orchestras of many items of classical Western music. In 1935 he was able to see performances of the European folk dancers at the European Folk Dance Festival held in London. These experiences are, perhaps not possessed by any other living Sri lankan and would have helped the structure of broadcasting programmes if the government had given him that opportunity.

Mr. D. P. Jayasekera has had the rare privilege of listening to recitations in the traditional manner by the Ven'ble Rambukkulle Siddhartha Maha Thera of Sanskrit Slokas, Pali Gathas, Sinhala Vannam and Kavi, and of reading prose

passages from Buddhist literature, very rare readings like reading a Sannasa before the King prior to handing the Sannasa to the recipient of the grant. The Ven'ble Siddhartha Maha Thera was an acknowledged expert exponent of reciting and reading in the traditional manner as handed down from teacher to pupil among the Maha Sangha of the Kandyan area. Many of the recitations and readings were specially done by the Maha Thera for Mr. Jayasekera's benefit.

The Knowledge thus gained by Mr. Jayasekera was of great advantage to the Sinhala Folk Songs Recording Committee, which on the various trips for recording spent their precious time on some useful talks in exchanging their views, knowledge and experience. Other members were surprised at the extensive knowledge of Mr. Jayasekera, a B. Sc. graduate, an engineer by profession, of music and history. In one instance Dr.-G. P. Malalasekera remarked that it was the first time he had heard some of the facts related by Mr. Jayasekera.

During the war years a large temporary building had to be constructed by the services bordering Lotus Road, Colombo Fort. When war ended the building was handed over to the Post and Telecommunications Department. It was decided to allocate this building to the Postal Services, which had been very badly handicapped for lack of space, and Mr. Jayasekera who was in charge of the electric lighting and power section of the department had to provide the necessary lights and fans. The working parties from the Telegraph workshops came to erect the partitions separating the various sections of the Postal and Parcels Division, and when Mr. Jayasekera inspected the building he was strucked by the spacious hall that was available. The idea came to his mind that the venue would be ideal for an all night Pirith Ceremony followed by an alms giving to over 100 monks. He quickly summoned a meeting of the committee of the Buddhist Association of the Department of which he was the President and explained his idea to the Committee. The Committee warmly supported the idea and took all the steps necessary to apprise all the Buddhist staff of the department about the proposed pinkama. Mr. Jayasekera pushed ahead quickly with the installation of lights and fans and a date for the Pinkama was fixed before working parties of the workshop moved in to erect the partitions.

There was enthusiastic support for the Pinkama from all sections of the staff of the department, and a large sum of money was contributed. Officers of the department at stations up-country sent in large number of packets of flowers. A Pirith Mandapa of special design was constructed with a profusion of fresh flowers decorating the outside. Senior members of the Malwatte and Asgiriya chapters on invitation came for the ceremony, the Anusasanawa was delivered by the Principal of Vidyālanakara Pirivena, Ven'ble Kiriwattuduwe pannasara Nayake Thera. The Relic Casket borne of his head by the Post master General, Mr. V. A. Nicholas (non-Buddhist) was brought from the Secretariat, Gall Face in a colourful procession, past Queens House and the General Post Office. The then Prime Minister, Hon'ble Mr. Dudley Senanayake and the Minister of State, Hon'ble Mr. J. R. Jayawardene attended the Pirith ceremony. This was the first time that a Government Department held a Pirith ceremony in official premises. It was soon followed by other Government Departments holding all night Pirith ceremonies in their offices. This Pirith ceremony was followed by an alms giving the next day for about 120 monks. The departmental officers, who owned cars placed their Vehicles at the disposal of the Buddhist Association to bring the monks to the venue of the Alms Giving and to take them back to the temples. This Pinkama demonstrated how the various sections of the department co-operated to make it a success.

During the years that Mr. Jayasekera was at the Ceylon University College, he used to go to the Library of the Colombo Museum and read the ola manuscripts, specially those described as "Vitti Poth," "Kadaim Poth", Rajavali etc., and he had read practically all such manuscripts, thus he was able to get a very good knowledge of little known historical facts, folk lore, customs etc., which were recorded in books. Among those books were accounts of the introduction of the Upasampada from Siam (Thailand) in the 18th century, during the time of King Kirthi Sri Saja Sinha and the indefatigable efforts of the Ven'ble Weliwita Sri Saranankara Thera, who later became the last Sangha Raja of Sri Lanka, over several reigns to achieve this end. In about 1951 Mr. Jayasekera realised that the 200th anniversary of the event would fall in 1953; and apprised the Maha Nayake Theros of the

Malwatte and Asgiriya Chapters of the fact and suggested that it would be good if special island wide ceremonies were held to mark the occasion. They undertook to consult their respective Chapters and soon word was received by Mr. Jayasekera that his proposal had been accepted. Discussions were held at Kandy with the senior monks of the 2 Chapters, and it was decided to organise a special body called the Weliwita Sri Saranankara Sangha Raja Desiyawas Jayanthi Sabha with Hon'ble A. Ratnayake, then Minister of Home Affairs as President, Mr. D. P. Jayasekera as Hony. Secretary and Mr. A. C. L. Ratwatte as Hony. Treasurer and a large number of prominent Buddhist in and around Kandy as members of the Committee. Publicity work was started members of the Maha Sangha of all Nikayas co-operated most warmly. Buddhist Associations throughout the country held pinkamas in their respective areas, and the National press made valuable contributions by reporting news of the pinkamas so well and carried special articles on Weliwita Sri Saranankara Sangha Raja's life and work to revive the Buddha Sasana and learning in this country. The Pinkama lasted one full year and the Government of Thailand, when informed of the celebrations sent a member of the foreign office as special representative for the ceremonies scheduled to be held in Kandy, and at Weliwita, the birth place of Weliwita Sri Saranankara Sangha Raja. The Thai representative planted a tree supplied by the Agricultural department at Wattewalauwa, where the Sangha Raja had been born. A special 5 day exposition of the Sacred Tooth Relic was held at Sri Dalada Maligawa, Kandy, the Diyawadana Nilame, C. B. Nugawela Dissawa and the Basnayake Nilames Organised a special perehera, which paraded the streets of Kandy. A newly made statue of Sri Saranankara Sangha Raja was taken at the end of the perehera. The statue carried under his hand the special watapotha (fan) which was presented by King Kirthi Sri Raja sinha as a mark of office of the Sangha Raja of Sri Lanka. The children of schools in the Kandy district organised a special Pahan Pinkama by lighting lamps all round the Kandy lake. Another special feature of the celebrations at Kandy was the monks going for Pindapatha from Malwatte and Asgiriya Viharas, the D. R. O. of the area around Kandy brought lorry loads of alms from their areas and took their positions along the streets of Kandy to serve the monks who were going on Pindapatha.

In 1952 Mr. Jayasekera took long leave, for which he was entitled and went to London at his own expense to see what Sinhala manuscripts pertaining to the introduction of Upasampata Ordinations from Siam were available in the Library of the Museum. He found several old manuscripts, the most notable among them being a manuscript titled Kirthi Sri Raja Sinha Warnanawa containing a description of the religious and meritorious actions of King Kirthi Sri Raja Sinha.

In 1956 Ceylon Government decided to celebrate 2500 years of the Buddha Sasana (Buddha Jayanthi). A large number of committees were formed to take charge of the many proposals that were made to mark the Buddha Jayanthi. Mr. Jayasekera was appointed to several committees, such as Sri Dalada Maligawa restoration, establishing a Buddhisit Library and erecting suitable monuments to mark the Buddha Jayanthi. Mr. Jayasekera was appointed to function as the Hony. Secretary of the Monuments Committee, its Chairman being Sir Cyril de Zoysa. Mr. Jayasekera realised that at the time, there was no Buddhist Vihara in Colombo Fort. He pointed this out to Sir Cyril de Zoysa and suggested that a Vihara called Jayanthi Vihara be built in the Fort as a monument to the Buddha Jayanthi. Sir Cyril de Zoysa, who was at the time the President of the Y. M. B. A. warmly took up the suggestion and rather than wait for a new allocation of land for the proposal by the government, which might have taken a considerable time decided to locate the proposed Vihara on land which had already been allocated to the Y. M. B. A. for a large building. He called upon the Architect to modify the plans for the proposed Y. M. B. A. building so as to accommodate the Jayanthi Vihara on land already allocated by the Government to the Y. M. B. A. The Architects Messrs de Silva, Peiris and Panditharatne, did so and designed a small but an elegant Buddhist Vihara, which is the first Buddhist Vihara erected in Colombo Fort.

When I was invited by Messrs, E. C. Wijekoon and B. S. Seneviratne to write an account of the introduction of broadcasting into this country in 1924, and its development until a new Broadcasting Department was created in 1949, and I started collecting information and sought clarification of many matters from a number of persons who were intimately

connected with one or another aspect of broadcasting in those early years, it dawned on me that there were many persons who had considerable knowledge in fields such as engineering programmes etc., but had wide knowledge in other fields such as culture, religion, education, history etc. which could have contributed considerably to the growth and lustre of broadcasting in this country if their knowledge and experience had been properly used. I have, therefore, included the above last few paragraphs relating events, which have occurred shortly after 1949 to indicate how broadcasting could have been affected. I cannot help thinking that Mr. Jayasekera, in particular, had been collecting information and planning events to broaden broadcasting activities as soon as he had finished his contributions to the major International Telecommunications Union conferences, which were assigned to him.

Mr. Jayasekera has had the opportunity of listening to grand opera at the La Scala in Milan and the Covent Garden in London and also at the Opera House in Geneva, seeing Classical ballet classes at the Ballet School of the La Scala in Milan, seeing the lavish production at the Coliseum Theatre in London of the Golden Toy, an English version of the Sanscrit Drama "Mrchchakatika", seeing performances in London and Colombo of the celebrated Indian artistes Ram Gopal and Ravi Shankar and of Srimathi Mrnlini Sarabhai in Geneva, and of presenting in Colombo the celebrated Indian dancer Srimathi Shanta Rao in a programme of Bharatha Natyam.

This wide and varied experience would have enriched the Broadcasting Service of Sri Lanka, if the government had not created a separate Department of Broadcasting in 1949, but kept the Broadcasting and Telecommunications Services together and separated them from the Postal Services.

In view of the foregoing facts it is not difficult to understand why Mr. D. P. Jayasekera declined to accept in the new Broadcasting Department any post lower than that of Additional Director-General, in 1949.

I offer my grateful thanks to Mr. D. P. Jayasekera, who is the most suitable and knowledgeable personality available at present to write a foreward to this publication - "This is Colombo Calling" - after reading the manuscript when it was under preparation.

I am very grateful to Mr. Charitha Ratwatte, Secretary, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Employment, and the Chairman of the National Youth Services Council of Sri Lanka for the courtesy and kindness of supplying to me photographs of his grand-father, Late Sir Cudah Ratwatte, Chief Adigar, his grand-uncle, Late Mr. I. B. Ratwatte Dissawe, the former Diyawadana Nilame, his uncle Late Mr. A. C. L. Ratwatte, a former Mayor of Kandy, and his father, Late Mr. J. C. (Patrick) Ratwatte - four eminent personages of this country who very graciously assisted the Colombo Broadcasting Service in 1938 by arranging to send to Colombo troupes of Kandyan dancers, drummers and singers to make some excellent recordings simulating the Kandy Esala Perchera to be sent to the B. B. C. as requested by it for a special programme it had arranged and broadcast on 23rd August, 1938, and also for his kind permission to publish the photographs in the present work.

It is very unfortunate that photographs of our Tamil artistes could not be included as their whereabouts could not be traced, but it is noteworthy to emphasise the names of a few of them, particularly the sisters of certain families as popular and regular artistes, Karalasinghal sisters, Padmini, and Nagamma, Kandiah sisters, Manoranjitham and 2 others, Paramanayagam sisters, Arundathie and Indranee, Sabharatnam sisters, Rajeswari and Nageswari, 2 Sherrard sisters, Kokiladevi (Sinhala, Tamil and Hindusthani) C. E. Maharajah R. Muttusamy and P. S. Mani Iyenger. An attempt was made to contact Padmini Karalasingham, later known as Mrs. Padmini Mahendra on telephone and I was informed that she had gone abroad. She was later appointed as a member of the Tamil Programme Committee.

My obligations for the Ceylon Radio Times for certain references and pictures, which are included in this book.

My sincere thanks and gratifications are due to Messrs. Muditha Kariyakarawana and Padman Samarawickreme of the Perali Publishers, Nugegoda, for so kindly undertaking to publish this book which relates the story of a very important activity of the government of this country.

Dissananda Printers of Nawala Road, Nugegoda, have done a good job of work with the least possible delay.

C. L. Pujitha-Gunawardana

23, Sri Maha Bodhi Rd,
Dehiwala;
25th May 1989.

Mr. C. L. Pujitha - Gunawardana passed away on 9th August 1989. This book is published posthumously as a mark of respect to the author by his beloved ones.

CHAPTER 1

Historical Background to Commencement of Broadcasting

In the year 1867 James Clark Maxwell made an announcement before the Royal Society that electric waves could travel with finite velocity, and in 1887, 20 years later, Henrich Rudolph Hertz showed that such waves obeyed reflection, interference and polarisation. It was found that broadcasting was practicable, and the first Wireless Broadcasting Station was opened in U.S.A. by the American Radio and Research Corporation in 1915.

2. Wireless Broadcasting was initiated in Great Britain by the Marconi Company in 1920 at Chelmsford, when Dame Melba created history in June the same year by singing before a microphone. In February 1922 the Marconi Company opened a new Broadcasting Station in Essex under Capt. P. T. Ekersley. Broadcasting as a means of public entertainment commenced when the Marconi Company started a Broadcasting Station in London in May 1922.

3. However, the fact the Postmaster General, United Kingdom had issued Wireless Broadcasting Licences only to owners of wireless receiving apparatus bearing the **BBC** mark is an indication that no recognition had been afforded to broadcasting activities of the Marconi Company.

4. The Report issued by the Broadcasting Committee appointed in 1935, and presented to the British Parliament by the Postmaster General by Command of His Majesty in February 1936, states:-

“Broadcasting in the United Kingdom began in November 1922. The British Broadcasting Company was formed by the principal British Manufacturers of wireless apparatus, and the Postmaster General agreed to issue, at an annual fee of not less than ten shillings, licences for the use of wireless receiving apparatus bearing the **BBC** mark, and to pay the company half the proceeds.

Difficulties arose from the use of apparatus not having the BBC mark and the first comprehensive review of the scope and potentialities of broadcasting was undertaken in 1923 by a Broadcasting Committee appointed by the late Lord Bentford (the Postmaster General) under the Chairmanship of Major-General Sir Fredrik Skyes. Rejecting alternative suggestions the committee recommended in their Report (CMD 1951) that the bulk of the revenue required for the service should be obtained from the receiving licence fee."

"Progress was rapid and in 1925 a second committee was appointed, under the Chairmanship of the Earl of Crawford and Balcarres, to advise as to the arrangement to be made after the expiry of the company's licence at the end of the year 1926. In accordance with the first of the principal recommendations in the Crawford's Report that the Broadcasting Service shall be conducted by a Public Corporation acting as Trustee for the national interest and that the status and the duties should correspond with those of the Public Service - the British Broadcasting Corporation was established by Royal Charter. The Corporation took over the service from the British Broadcasting Company and began to operate on 1st January, 1927, under the licence issued by the Postmaster General."

"Only two modifications of the Corporation Charter and licence are in operation by a Royal Supplemental Charter the Corporation has been empowered to utilise for capital expenditure the sum set aside to meet depreciation; and by Supplemental Agreement the share of the wireless receiving licence revenue accruing to the Post Office (to defray the cost of licensing system and other work undertaken in relation to broadcasting) has been reduced from 12 1/2% to 10%."

"The Broadcasting Service should at all times be conducted in the best possible manner and to the best advantage of the people."

"The actual Commissioners (Governors) should be persons of judgment and independence free from commitments and they will inspire confidence by having no other interests to promote than those in the Public Service."

There shall be a Chairman of the Corporation who shall be entitled to preside at meetings. The Governors have a joint responsibility, not divided for purposes of departmental supervision, and that they decide, after discussion with the Director General, upon major matters of policy and finance, but leave the execution of the policy and the general administration of the service in all its branches to the executive officers. The Chief Executive of the Corporation shall be called the Director General."

"The term 'transmission' means sending and receiving."

"The term 'telephone' means and includes any telegraphic, transmitting or receiving instrument used or intended to be used for the purpose of transmitting or receiving spoken messages or communications or music by electricity."

"The term 'Broadcast Matter' means concerts, lectures, speeches, addresses, weather reports, news, information, entertainments of any kind or description, and any other matter transmissible by wireless telegraphy."

"The term 'Station' means a sending and receiving equipment."

"The B. B. C. inaugurated the Empire Broadcasting Service at Daventry on 19th December, 1932 with 10 hours of transmission daily divided into 6 periods:-

- (1) Australia, New Zealand etc. 2 hours between 4.30 and 10.30 a.m. G. M. T.
- (2) Malaya and Far East 2 to 3 hours between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.
- (3) India, Burma and Ceylon 3 hours between 2 and 5 p.m.
- (4) South and East Africa, West Africa, British West Indies 5 1/2 hours between 5 and 11 p.m.
- (5) Canada: New Foundland, West Indies, North and South America 2 hours between 5 and 11 p.m.
- (6) Western Canada 1 hour between 3 and 4 p.m.

Background To The Inauguration Of Broadcasting In Ceylon

Ceylon Wireless Club: The enthusiasm of the new wonder spread to Ceylon, and the Ceylon Wireless Club was formed in November, 1922, exactly the same month and year the British Broadcasting Company began to function in the United Kingdom. The name of this Society was changed in July 1923 to Ceylon Amateur Radio Society and later to Radio Club of Ceylon and South India. The founder members of the Club were:-

1. Mr. Lachlan Macrae, the then Director of Education, who after retirement from Ceylon Government Service, joined the B. B. C and took over the appointment of Station Director, Glasgow Broadcasting, after spending 10 days in Edinburgh.
2. Mr. J. S. Dinwiddie, a Mercantile magnate.
3. Mr. R. F. Dias (later Dr. R. F. Dias) LL. D.
4. Mr. G. H. Jolliffe, a Planter,
5. Mr. C. A. Hutson, a Mercantile Magnate.
6. Mr. M. S. Rockwood.
7. Mr. A. E. Felasinger and
8. Mr. M. M. P. Gunewardena, Inspector of Telegraphs.

This Society rendered valuable services for the cause of the Colombo Broadcasting Service. It was this society, which started the printing and publishing of Radio programmes in its monthly bulletins, which later took the form of the "Ceylon Radio Times". This society further assisted the Government through the medium of its Programme Fund to obtain several B. B. C Recorded Programmes, and providing listening-in facilities at public institutions and hospitals, viz:

Deaf and Blind School, Mt. Lavinia
Hendala Leper Asylum.
Lady Havelock and Ridgeway Hospital.

Victoria Home for Incurables,
General Hospital, Colombo,
Eye Hospital, Colombo,
Anti - T. B. Hospital, Colombo,
de Soysa Lying-in Home,
Mental Hospital, Angoda,
Kandy Hospital. etc.

This society further organised a radio exhibition in 1930 to provide funds and afford publicity for Broadcasting.

Deliberations by the Government: Under the guidance of the Ceylon Wireless Club there was a strong demand by the public for broadcasting facilities. Steps were taken to meet this demand and the Government appointed a committee to report whether:-

- (1) Broadcasting should be permitted in Ceylon.
- (2) The operation of broadcasting should be under the State control and
- (3) A Board should be appointed to control broadcasting.

On the findings of this committee, it was decided by the Government that broadcasting should be undertaken by the State, and a Board be appointed with the Postmaster General as ex-officio Chairman to give effect to the recommendations of the committee. The other members of the Board were, representatives one each from the Press, Ceylon Wireless Club, Electrical Trade, Chamber of Commerce and the Police. It was finally decided to operate broadcasting under the Post and Telegraph Department following the example of France, Germany, Irish Free State, Denmark, South Africa and Queensland.

Rules and Regulations under the Telegraph Ordinance No. 1908: Early in 1923 another committee was appointed by the Government with the Postmaster General again as ex-officio Chairman with Hon'ble Mr. M. T. Akbar and Hon'ble Col. E. J. Hayward, to formulate Rules and Regulations under the amended Telegraph Ordinance governing the issue of licences for importation, use and sale of wireless apparatus. The Rules and Regulations so drafted were submitted to the Government for sanction and was published in the Government Gazette of 15th June, 1923.

Prof. R. Marrs, Principal, University College, Colombo, had installed in the Physics Department of the University College a small wireless apparatus for instructional purposes. So he made inquiries as to whether any difficulty would be placed for using the apparatus, under the Telegraph Ordinance. The ensued correspondence is reproduced below:-

Postmaster General's file No D.98/60
vol. 2 page 279 No. 19131/94006/02

No. 109/1
University College Colombo,
8/9 November, 1923

Sir,

Apparatus for Wireless Telegraphy.

"I have the honour to inform you that the Physics Department has in its charge a small wireless for instructional purposes and to enquire whether any difficulty is likely to be placed in the way of the instrument being used for the purpose indicated under the amended "Ceylon Telegraph Ordinance, 1908", a draft of which was published in the Government Gazette of June 15, 1929.

2. I suggest that under the terms of the amended paragraph (2) of section 4 of the ordinance No 15 of 1914 as published in the Government Gazette referred to, it would be sufficient if the Principal of this college were declared, when the occasion arises, be a person authorised by the Governor to instal, establish and maintain or work a telegraphy apparatus in the University College for instructional purposes.

3. It may perhaps be thought advisable to introduce a special rule or rules covering the use of wireless instruments for instructional purposes and including special terms as regards the issue and cost of licences in such cases.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Sgd. R MARKS
Principal, University College

The Hon'ble the Colonial Secretary

Separate paper in file 26 70/23
From the Principal, University College,
Date 9th November, 1923

No, 109

Referred to the Postmaster General to state whether this case comes under the rules which are at present in draft.

Sgd. C. Clemanti
Colonial Secretary

E, 381
Colonial Secretary's Office,
Colombo, 15th November, 1923

E, 396
19131/94006/02

The Hon'ble the Colonial Secretary.

Section 4 of the ordinance No. 15 of 1914 referred to by the Principal of the University College has been repealed by the amending ordinance No. 10 of 1923, which has substituted a new section providing for the issue of licences as prescribed by the rules made under that ordinance,

2. There will be no difficulty placed in the way of the apparatus already installed in the Physics Department of the University College for instructional purposes being retained to be used, The committee appointed to make rules considered the letter of the Principal and was of the opinion that it was not necessary to frame special rules in regard to the use of wireless apparatus for instructional purposes and that licences can be issued for such purposes under the rules already made.

3. The Principal should formally apply for a licence as soon as the rules framed are published. Stamp duty for licences may be waived in the case of all Government Departments. I may be authorised departmentally.

Sgd. M. S. Sreshta
Postmaster General

File No. D 98/60 vol 2
page 285

81/26970

Colonial Secretary's Office
Colombo 3rd December, 1923

Sir.

With reference to your letter No. 109 dated 9th November 1923, regarding the wireless apparatus in the Physics Department of the University College, I am directed to inform you that it is not considered necessary to frame special rules in regard to the use of wireless apparatus for instructional purposes and that licences can be issued for such purposes under the rules which have been framed.

2. I am to request you to formally apply for a licence as soon as rules framed are published

3. The Postmaster General has been authorised to waive stamp duty for such licences in the case of all Government Departments.

I am, Sir.

Your obedient servant.

Sgd. E. H. LUCETTE
for Colonial Secretary.

The Principal,
University College, Colombo.

Amended Telegraph Ordinance 1908 Gazette No. 7555 of
12. 11. 1926

Rules made by the Governor in Executive Council under Section 7 of the Ceylon Telegraph Ordinance 1908 and declared to be in force as from November 15, 1926.

By His Excellency's Command

Sgd E B. ALEXANDER
Acting Colonial Secretary

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Colombo, November 12, 1926.

Wireless Telegraph Rules.

Revocation

1. Rules published by notification dated January 11, 1924 in Government Gazette No. 7372 of February 1, 1924 as amended by notification dated April 15, 1925, and June 18, 1925 in Government Gazette No. 7456 of April 17, 1925 and No. 7470 of June 26, 1925, are here by revoked,

Installation &c of Wireless Telegraphs

2. (1) No person shall import for private use, install, establish, maintain, possess or work any wireless station or apparatus in any place in Ceylon, or on board any British ship registered in Ceylon, or shall install, establish or work any wireless telegraph station or apparatus on board any air craft. in Ceylon, unless such person has applied for and obtained a licence in that behalf from the Postmaster General provided that, where wireless telegraph apparatus form part of the personal baggage of a person arriving in Ceylon, it shall be lawful for the Customs Authorities at the post of importation to grant a licence to import such apparatus in Form G., subject to declaration being made by the importer in the form F.

(2) Any person desirous of obtaining a licence for experimental purposes or for broadcast listening-in shall make an application on the appropriate form A 1 to be obtained from any of the principal Post Offices and every such application shall have affixed to it a stamp of the value indicated in Rule 4 (2) provided that the Postmaster General may at his discretion grant wireless telegraph licences free of stamp duty to any officer of the Post and Telegraph Department. who is required to perform duties connected with wireless telegraphy.

(3) Every such licence shall be in the form B or B 1 and shall be subject to the conditions mentioned in the said licence.

Importation for Trade purposes and sale of apparatus

3. (1) No person shall import for trade purposes or sell any apparatus for wireless telegraphy, unless such person has applied for and obtained a licence in that behalf from the Postmaster General.

(2) Any person desirous of obtaining a licence for such importation or sale shall apply to the Postmaster General in the form C, and every such application shall have affixed to it a stamp of the value indicated in Rule 4 (2).

(3) Every such licence shall be in the form D, and shall be subject to conditions mentioned in the said licence.

Duration of all licences issued under these Rules and their Renewals

4 (1) All licences issued under these Rules shall be for a period of 12 months only, dating from the date of issue. Applications for renewals shall be forwarded on form E, in the case of Experimenters' and Traders' licences to the Postmaster General. In the case of broadcast listeners' licences, applications for renewals shall be made on form A 1 and handed to the Postmaster of the office from which the original licence was issued. Applications for renewals shall be made in all cases within fourteen days of the expiration of the licence and shall be accompanied by the original licence forms.

(2) The fee for and in respect of all licences chargeable with stamp duty shall be Rs 10/ per annum in respect of each station licence and in the case of traders licencees Rs 30/ per annum. The fee shall be paid by postage stamps affixed to the application form.

Specimen Broadcast Receiving Licence Form

Form B 1

Licence No.

Ceylon

Rule 2(1)

Broadcast Receiving Licence

Licence to import for Private use, Instal, Maintain, Possess and/or work a Wireless Telegraph Receiving set for broadcast
Listening only

Name in full.....

Address in full.....

is hereby authorised (subject in all respects to conditions set forth below) to import, erect, maintain, possess and/or work apparatus for the reception of public broadcasting only at (address

.....
for a period of one year ending on day of.....19.....

The payment of the fee of Rs. 10/-
is hereby acknowledged,

stamp of

Date.....day of.....19.....

Issuing office

Postmaster

If it is desired to continue to maintain the station after the date of expiration, a fresh licence may be taken out within fourteen days. Heavy penalties are prescribed by the Ceylon Telegraph Ordinance on conviction of the offence of establishing a wireless station without the Postmaster General's licence.

Conditions

1. The apparatus shall consist of a standard set of type approved by the Postmaster General.
2. It shall be used exclusively for the reception of public broadcasting service.
3. The station shall not be used in such a manner to cause interference with the working of other stations. In particular, reaction must not be used to such an extent as to energise any neighbouring aerials.

4. The licence and apparatus shall at all reasonable times be available at the address given therein for inspection by a proper authorised officer of the Postal Department.
5. The holder of the licence shall notify the Postmaster General of any changes of address within two weeks of the change.
6. The use of any apparatus at a place other than that specified in the licence is not permissible excepting with the consent of the Postmaster General.
7. If at any time the apparatus of the licensee interfere with the erection, working or use of any of the Postmaster General's telegraphs, the licensee shall at his own cost make any alteration to his apparatus.
8. There shall be no divulgence to any person (other than properly authorised official of His Majesty's Government or a competent legal tribunal) or any other use whatsoever made by any messages, excepting to those addressed to the licensee, which may be received by means of the apparatus licensed here in and the licensee shall be subjected in this respect to the penalties prescribed in the Ceylon Telegraph Ordinance. The licensee or any other person either on behalf or by permission of the licensee shall not reproduce or publish in the Press or disseminate by other similar means messages transmitted for general reception except the British Official News Service and received through the medium of the station.
9. The licensee shall be bound by the Rules made to regulate the use of wireless telegraphs, published in the Ceylon Government Gazette No. 7555 of November 12, 1926, and any other Rules made subsequently while the licence is in force. He shall also observe all the Rules made from time to time by the International Radio Telegraphic Convention, which are applicable to the licensed station.
10. If and whenever an emergency shall have arisen in which it is expedient in the Public Service that the Governor shall have control over the transmission or reception of messages by the licensed apparatus it shall be lawful for the Postmaster General or any officer

especially authorised by him to take possession of the said apparatus in the name and on behalf of the Governor and to remove or use the same in any way that he may deem fit.

11. The licensee shall be entitled to reasonable compensation (to be fixed by a sole arbitrator nominated by the Governor whose decision shall be final) to any damage to the licensed apparatus arising in consequence by the exercise of the powers conferred by clause 10.
12. The Postmaster General may at any time by notice in writing but without assigning any reason, revoke and determine this licence whereupon the licensee shall at once cease to work the apparatus and dismantle it to the satisfaction of the Postmaster General. The licensee shall not be entitled to any compensation through such revocation or the determination of the licence.

Experimental Stage Of Broadcasting In Ceylon

Mr. E. Harper, M. I. E. E., M. I. Radio E., Chief Engineer, Telegraphs and Telephones, was entrusted with the task of providing facilities for broadcasting. With the able assistance of Mr A. T. Kingston and Mr. H. S. Bryant (both A. M. I. E. E.) engineers and Messrs. A. Nadarasa, W. E. de Silva and B. Wijetilaka. Inspectors of Telegraphs and Telephones, Mr. Harper constructed a Radio Transmitter 1/2 kilowatt from the reserve apparatus of the Colombo Ship-to-shore radio equipment and other parts picked up from various sources of the department at the Telegraph Workshops, which was then situated at the corner of Lotus Road and the Main Street, Colombo Fort (present Sir Baron Jayatilaka Mawata). Nowhere in the official records had it been narrated that the 1/2 kw transmitter was built of accessories of a Sunken German submarine. The Government Wireless Telegraph Station was in operation from the year 1912, and as such wireless equipment parts were available and Mr. Harper would not have gone in search of the salvage of a sunken submarine. We were very fortunate to have had the services of an engineer of Mr. Harper's skill and ability. It was certainly a brilliant engineering feat of Harper to have constructed a radio transmitter in that era with odds and ends.

2. After a period of 1 1/2 years of experiments, Mr. Harper, the architect of the Colombo Broadcasting Service felt by the middle of 1924 that his experiments had reached a state of stability and that the service could be officially offered to the public. He waited for an opportune occasion to inaugurate the service.

3. The Secretary of State for the Colonies conveyed his assent for the introduction of broadcasting in Ceylon towards the end of May 1924, and the following communique was published in the Press on 26th May, 1924:-

“Press communique notifies for general information that the Secretary of State for the Colonies has approved the introduction of broadcasting in Ceylon.

2. Broadcasting will be under the State control though not necessarily operated by the State. For the present it has been decided that an unlimited number of licences for listening-in sets should be issued under the recently passed Wireless Telegraph Rules dated 31st January, 1924 and that a scheme of broadcasting should be undertaken by the Government Wireless Station at Colombo.
3. Government also propose to appoint a Broadcasting Advisory Board consisting of:-

The Postmaster General as Chairman,
Members of the Press,
Deputy of the Radio Society,
Representative of the Electrical Trade,
Deputy of the Chamber of Commerce,
Deputy of the Inspector General of Police.

(of whom three shall form a quoram) to recommend for the present the matter to be broadcast, and generally to advise the Postmaster General in matters connected with wireless broadcasting.

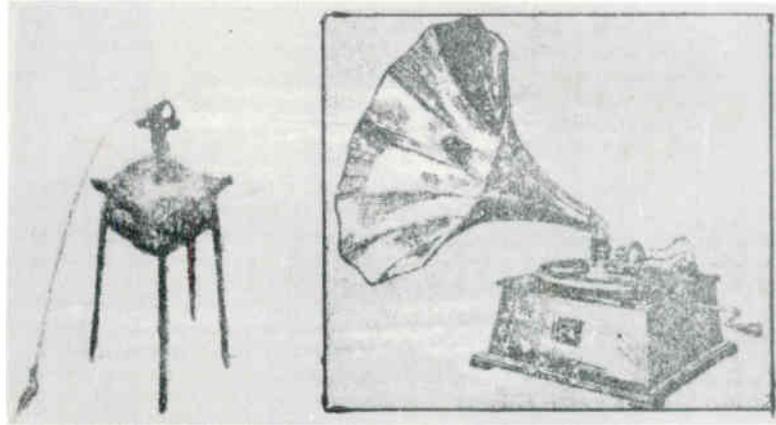
Official Inauguration of Broadcasting in Ceylon

Mr. E. Harper, who was a vice President of the Engineering Association of Ceylon, on learning that His Excellency the Governor, of Ceylon, Brigadier General, Sir William Henry Manning, G. C. M. G., C. B., K. B. E., was due to address a meeting of the Engineering Association of Ceylon, presided over by Mr. Cole Brown, Chief Railway Construction Engineer, at 2.30 p. m. on Friday, June 27, 1924, made arrangements to inaugurate the Colombo Broadcasting Service by broadcasting His Excellency's speech. At 3.30 p. m. music on gramophone records was broadcast by placing the microphone before a mechanically operated gramophone.

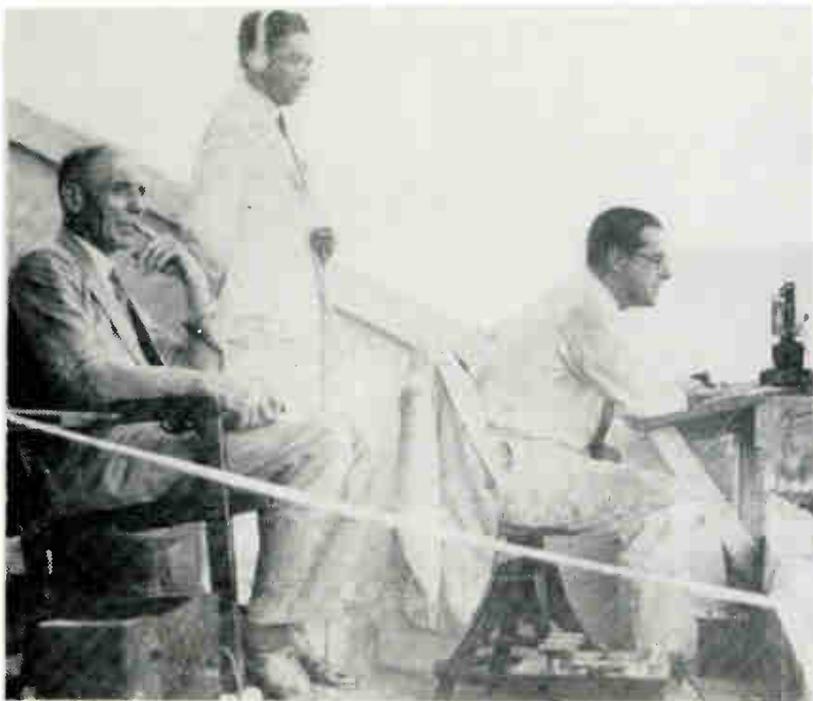
BROADCAST OF PROGRAMMES FOR LISTENERS

According to the availability of material, talent and funds, and in conformity with the mode prescribed, programmes published in the Press were broadcast twice a week on Thursdays and Sundays from July 1924. The department had to depend on volunteers for music. Programmes consisted mainly of gramophone record music, Share Transactions, Road Reports and Weather Reports. The time signal from the **Chatham Street Clock Tower** was an important feature of the programme from the inception. Colombo had followed the B. B. C. in opening the transmission with the time signal. After the service was well established the time signal was broadcast at 12 noon and 9 p. m. daily. There was no signature tune to open the transmissions. The **chimes of the tubular bells** enabled the listeners to tune their radio sets. However, during the World War II the 11.30 a. m. transmission was opened with a Sinhala vannam tune, which became so popular with the foreign military service men, they began to whistle the tune along with the broadcast. (Columbia gramophone record No. GE 15030) song sung by Jasmine Peiris, Charlotte Wettasinghe and Wilfred J. Peiris.

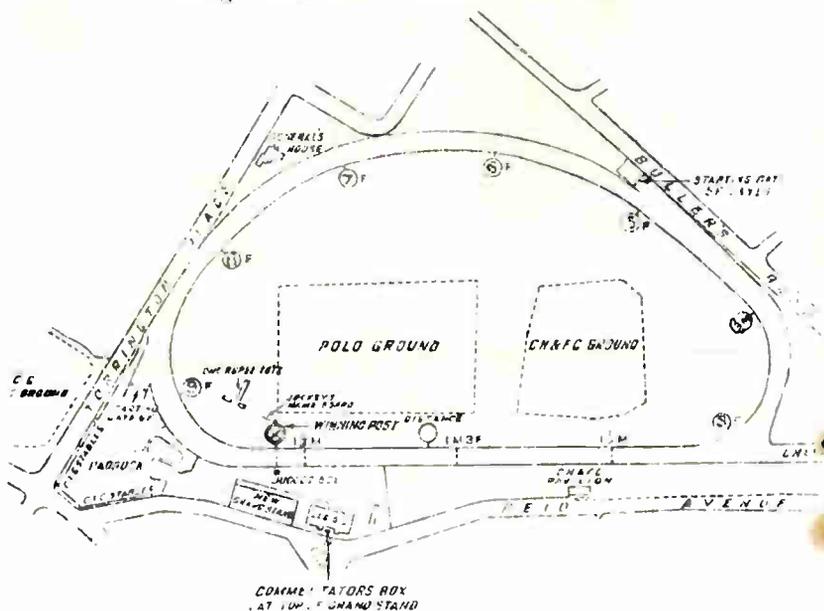
How Gramophone Record Music Was Broadcast At The Start



E. Harper – Microphone and stand-Mechanical gramophone.



Racing Commentaries at Colombo Race Course.



Plan of the Colombo Race Course.

SIX PIPS

If owing to unavoidable circumstances the time signal could not be broadcast at 12 noon and 9 p. m. the six pips were released to indicate the time. Before the introduction of the six pips the sound effects of the seconds of the clock were broadcast. The time signal of the Clock Tower so broadcast was checked by the Colombo observatory and in the event of the failure to broadcast the Colombo observatory used to enquire the reasons to ensure that the clock tower was functioning. The Clock Tower and all the clocks, which were synchronised at the C. T. O., Survey Department which was housed in Colombo Fort, Colombo observatory, Broadcasting Station, Torrington Square, and the Ship-to-shore Radio Receiving Station (CLO) all exhibited exactly the same time. The maintenance of the clocks was done by the District Inspector of Telecommunications, C. T. O. In the Ship-to-shore Radio Station there is a clock indicating the GMT time.

Administration Report of the Postmaster General for 1924.

The most authentic document of the Government Service under the British Rulers was the Administration Report issued by a Head of a Department detailing the important events during the year under review; and Mr. M. S. Sreshta, C. C. S., the Postmaster General in his Administration Report for the year 1924 had categorically asserted that **"the outstanding event in telephony was the inauguration of broadcasting from the C. T. O."** He had further averred, "it is perhaps, not realised that broadcasting as a means of public entertainment was commenced in the United Kingdom so recently as May, 1922 when the Marconi Company obtained permission to open a station in London. From July 1st broadcasting commenced on the improvised apparatus. The efforts of the Engineering Branch with the improvised outfit have been successful and have met with the public demand. Broadcasting concerts have been arranged and have been much appreciated. For a complete success of such concerts specially equipped Studio was considered necessary and arrangements were made to secure a suitable studio. Programmes were transmitted twice weekly on Sundays and Thursdays. By the end of 1924 the total number of licensees was 53." (In England 1,140,119).

Issue of Wireless Broadcast Licences. The issue of licences started in April, 1924. Mr. L. E. Heel was the first licensed Radio Listener. A licence had been obtained by **Royal Collage Colombo** in 1925 for its Radio Club.

Free Radio Licences. In terms of the Colonial Secretary's letter No. D. 81/26970 of December 3, 1923, addressed to the Principal University College Colombo, Radio licences were issued to His Excellency the Governor, the Postmaster General, who was the Director of Broadcasting, the Chief Engineer, Telegraphs and Telephones, Divisional Engineer, Radio, free of stamp duty. The stamp duty for a radio licence was Rs. 10/- At the early stage a licensee had the liberty to use any number of radio sets under one roof with a single licence.

Scholarships for Radio Engineers- Mr. E. Harper, the architect of the Colombo Broadcasting Service was so much impressed with the assistance rendered by the 3 Inspectors of Telegraphs and Telephones, recommended that they be sent to the British Post Office for a course of training in Engineering. The first scholarship was awarded to **Mr. A. Nadarasa**, who left for the course on August 10, 1925. On his return after the training course, he was responsible for designing, remodelling and constructing several radio transmitters, which were brought into use on.

- 5. 6. 30 1 kw transmitter brought into use on 16.12.25 radiating on 800 metres wavelength and a frequency of 376 kc remodelled to 428.5 metres and 700kl/es
- 1936 Power of the 1 kw transmitter increased to 2 1/2 kw
- 6. 6. 37 Construction of a new transmitter 5 kw
- 16. 12. 45 Construction of a new transmitter 15 kw

He was the first Sri Lankan Chief Telecommunications Engineer and Controller of Broadcasting, **Mr. W. E. de Silva's** scholarship was awarded in 1936 and **Mr B. Wijetilaka** did not wait till he was awarded the scholarship but went at his own expense, and on his return joined the Government Electrical Department as an engineer.

Transmissions of broadcasts from a studio- A studio was improvised in a small room of the Central Telephone Exchange and announcing duties were performed by the technical officers on

duty at the times of the broadcasts. The arrangement of the programmes was done in the Chief Telecommunications Engineers Office by the clerical staff. Prearranged programmes were published in the local newspapers. The programme so published in the newspaper on July 3, 1924 read as follows-

11.30 am Music

12 noon Time signal

The programme on a day in September was-

9.30 am Mail News

12 noon Time signal

9 to 9.30 pm Music

Sri Lanka (Ceylon) was the first in the British Colonies and South Asia to win the honour of opening a government controlled Broadcasting Station to transmit programmes of a high quality. India opened her first Broadcasting Station in Bombay in 1927, New Delhi started experimental broadcasts in November, 1935 and Madras in 1938.

Development Of Broadcasting-Stage 1

Financial Provision in Estimates:- Sri Lanka was fortunate that there were volunteers to assist the Colombo Broadcasting Service. A sum of Rs. 9000.00 was voted for 1925 for the purchase of new broadcasting equipment, which was selected and purchased from the United Kingdom by Mr. E. Harper, while on leave in England. A part of the equipment so purchased was received in Colombo in June 1925, and the remainder in September the same year. The new equipment assembled and constructed at the Telegraph workshop was officially brought into use at 12 noon on 16th December, 1925, by Sir, Hugh Clifford, the Governor of Ceylon. The power of the new transmitter was 1 kw, radiating on 800 metres, frequency 375 k /cs. The call sign was VPB, which was altered to ZOH in 1936.

Transmitter installed at Welikada- The main transmitting set at Welikada was built in order to provide a three-fold service of continuous wave, interrupted continuous wave and telephony. The design of the new plant was drawn in the office of the Chief Engineer, Telegraphs and Telephones and a large portion of it was constructed at the Telegraph workshops. A 1/2 kw quenched transmitting set was installed at the C. T. O. for emergency purposes.

Expanded Programmes After the installation of the new 1 kilowatt transmitter, it was possible to include more items to the programme and the day's programme on December 14, 1925, as advertised in the local Press was:-

11.30 am Time Signal.

12 to 12.30 pm Mail News, P. W. D. Road Report, News Bulletin, Weather Report

4.45 to 5 pm Market and Share Transactions, General News.

5.00 pm Time Signal

6 to 8 pm Bristol Hotel Orchestra.

The Programme published on 16th December, 1925, the day on which the new 1 kilowatt transmitter was officially opened by the Governor was:-

11.30 am	Time signal
12 to 12.30 pm	Mail News, P. W. D. Road Report, News Bulletin, Weather Report
4.45 to 5.15 pm	Market and Share Prices, General News
9.00 pm	Concert special
10.30 pm	Time signal.

The following Press Notice was also published in the local Press: The new broadcasting apparatus, which arrived recently has now been installed and will displace the improvised apparatus hitherto used. The Governor will today inaugurate the new service by a few remarks, which will be broadcast at 12 noon. The wavelength will be 800 metres."

Inauguration Of the 1 kilowatt Radio Transmitter:- It is apparent from the prearranged programmes published in the Press on December 14, and December 16, 1925, that the new transmitter was operating prior to December 16, and that the inauguration of the new plant had been an after thought. So the broadcast programme published in the local news papers on December 16. had to be interrupted at 12 noon to enable His Excellency the Governor, Sir Hugh Clifford to speak a few words on the occasion from the Queens House.

Those present for the in-formal inauguration were Mr. M. S. Sreshta. C. C. S., Postmaster General, Mr. E. Harper, Chief Engineer, Telegraphs and Telephones and a couple of technicians. There were no formalities at all, no ladies, no bouquets, no garlands, no reception. However, at 12 noon Mr. E. Harper stated, At last he was ready to bring into operation the **new broadcasting plant** for which the listeners were waiting so long and so patiently. The opening of the new station, was a step forward in the **development of broadcasting in Ceylon** and he invited the Governor, Sir High Clifford to **declare open the new plant.**

Sir High Clifford paid a tribute to Mr. Harper and his associates for enabling Ceylon to give a lead to all sister colonies of the British Empire in one of the most recent practice miracles, which science had wrought for men and women of our generation.

This broadcast, which was relayed from the Queens House to C. T. O. was fed to the new transmitter installed at Welikada.

Administration Report for 1925- Mr. H. W. Codrington, C. C. S., Acting Postmaster General in his Administration Report for 1925 had recorded: "Part of the broadcasting equipment referred to in last year's report was received in June and the remainder in September. The main transmitting set at Welikada was built in order to provide a threefold service of continuous wave, interrupted continuous wave and telephony. The design of the new plant was drawn up in the Chief Engineer's office and a large proportion of it was constructed at the Telegraph Workshops. The telegraph portion of the plant was brought into use in **October** and has proved very satisfactory.

Broadcasting on the new plant was inaugurated in December by His Excellency the Governor. Satisfactory reports of the reception both of telegraphy and telephony continues to be received. Up to the time of bringing into use the new plant, the broadcasting service was conducted on an improvised set with a power $1/2$ kw. The number of broadcasting listeners began slowly to increase and at the end of the year numbered 176. It is expected that with the introduction of the new equipment the number will increase at an accelerating speed.

The scope of the broadcasting service has been gradually extended during the year and now includes a broadcast twice daily of News, Weather Reports, Road Reports, Share Prices etc. in addition to musical programmes. The total number of broadcast programmes during the year amounted to 456 covering an aggregate of 415 hours. The musical programmes have hitherto been conducted on a purely voluntary basis and the thanks of Government are due to all those ladies and gentlemen, who have contributed towards them. It is hoped during the forthcoming year still further, to extend the scope of these broadcast programmes to add to their usefulness and interest.

The spark transmitting apparatus, which was originally installed at Welikada had been finally superseded by valve transmitter on interrupted continuous wave. A 1/2 kw quench spark transmitting set was installed at the C T. O. for emergency purposes.

The daily programmes during the Christmas season 1925 were:

25th Christmas Day	No programmes at all.
26th 4.45 to 5.00 pm	General News, Market and Share transactions.
27th 5.00 to 5.25 pm	Time Signal, Reuters News.
27th 11.30 to 12 noon	Selections from latest gramophone Records.
28th 12 to 12.30 pm	Mail News, P. W. D. Road Report Noon time latest news bulletin Weather Report,
4.45 to 5.00 pm	General News, Market and Share prices.
5.00 to 5.15 pm	Time signal, Reuters News summary.

Radio Licence Figures— Monthly record of licensees which had been maintained in the Chief Engineer's Office with effect from July, 1925. are as follows:

July	129
August	137
September	149
October	157
November	165
December	176

Talk on Broadcasting in Ceylon at a meeting; of the Engineering Association of Ceylon. Mr. S. Rajanayagam, B. Sc. (Gen.), B. Sc. (Eng), A. M. I. E. E., a former Chief Telecommunications Engineer, who is still living, when he was Engineer, Telecommunications, Radio, read a paper in 1935 before a meeting of the Engineering Association of Ceylon stating, "on 27 June, 1924, His Excellency the Governor broadcast a message on the occasion of a meeting of the Engineering Association of Ceylon. This is the date when

broadcasting was started in Ceylon, and it is interesting that this association is closely connected with the birth of the service. The usual date given, namely, 16th December, 1925, actually marks the opening of a new transmitter, and is incorrect as the date of opening of broadcasting itself."

At the end of his talk he had made the following acknowledgment

"The author's thanks are due to Mr. J. M. Baxter, Acting Chief Engineer, for his kind permission to publish this paper and to have access to official records, and to Mr. D. Lusk, Assistant Chief Engineer, and Mr. A. Nadarasa, Divisional Engineer, Radio for the valuable suggestions given in the course of the preparation of this paper."

Correct Date of Birth. Sri Lanka Broadcasting Baby born at 2.30 pm on Friday, June 27, 1924, after crawling for nearly 1 1/2 years stood up on Wednesday, December 16, 1925 with the help of a tin of imported milk food from the United Kingdom.

Horoscope of the Colombo Broadcasting Baby. Mr. E. Harper's Broadcasting Baby born at 2.30 p. m. on Friday, 27th June, 1924, a very auspicious day under the zodiac sign Libra, is a felicitous and an intellectual creature. If the baby was born at 12 noon on Wednesday, 16th December, 1925, as certain individuals misconceive, a very unfavourable, unintellectual, and a dreadful ill-fated day, it would not have survived by being the target of the Japanese bombers on 5th April, 1942.

Programmes and Reception outside Ceylon. Handling of programmes were entirely in the hands of the technical staff of the Post and Telegraph Department, until our first **broadcasting Announcer, Mr. R. R. Anderson of the Postal Clerical Service,** assumed duties. The Chief Engineer, Telegraphs and Telephones was the Controller of Broadcasting under whose directions the Announcer had to perform his duties. The listeners at the start were not interested on the quality of the programmes broadcast or of the entire service. The items broadcast were News, Weather Report, Road Report, Share Transactions, Music and the Time Signal of the Chatham street Clock Tower.

Technically the radio plant worked satisfactorily, and was appreciated generally by the listeners in Ceylon and abroad. Letters were received commending on the excellence of which the transmission was received over a great part of India. In fact letters conveyed that Colombo programmes were the means of keeping alive interest in broadcasting throughout India. Highly complimentary reports regarding quality and strength were received from places as distant as Karachi 1500 miles, foot of the Himalayas, 1700 miles, Burma 1500 miles, F. M. S 1450 miles and Andaman Islands 900 miles. Of total of 150 letters received commenting on the service 52 were from places outside Ceylon, 96 were couched in very eulogistic terms, only 19 having criticisms of minor character to offer. The programmes were gratuitous and the public spiritedness of many ladies and gentlemen, who willingly contributed their services deserve special mention.

Shifting of the Studio from the Central Telephone Exchange to the University College, Thurston Road, Colombo. In 1926 it was observed that the improvised studio accommodated in a small room in the Central Telephone Exchange was too small for amateur concert parties, which were then a regular feature of the broadcasting programme. Prof R. Marrs, Principal, University college, Colombo, very kindly lent the staff room of the college, and it was temporarily converted to a studio. Programmes comprising of lectures, Church Services from the Churches in Colombo Fort, and Kollupitiya. Dance and Concerts by Mr R. C. P. Beck, who provided free services for the first three months, were broadcast. A feature of the programme for the first three months of the year was the broadcast of excellent oriental music organised by several resident authorities.

Issue of Printed Broadcast Programmes. In the Estimates for the year 1926/27 an amount of Rs. 3000/- was passed for broadcast programmes. The first printed monthly programme, was out on 29th November, 1926. It was printed at the Government Press and issued to licensees at an annual subscription of Rs. 1/50 to meet the cost of postage

The Postmaster General of the United Kingdom in introducing a bill in the British Parliament in 1926 to take over the British Broadcasting Company said;

“Four years ago broadcasting was a little more than a toy, whereas today it is power. How great a power is not yet, perhaps, apprehended. It is power not only national but international;”

In the light of that expression, Sri Lanka could claim credit for (thanks to Mr. E. Harper) being among the first in the British Colonies to recognise the importance of such a power and place at the disposal of the population of Sri Lanka one of the most attractive amenities of the modern era at such an early date as 1924.

The number of licensees at the end of 1926 was 448 an increase of 272 over the past year. A total of 968 programmes aggregating 820 hours have been broadcast in 1926.

The names of the undermentioned gentlemen are worthy of record in that they had encouraged the development of the Colombo Broadcasting Service in its initial stage by giving talks of general interest to the listeners.

Dr. Joseph Pearson, Dr. R. L. Spittel, Dr. Nicholas, Dr. Wasey Woods, Dr. F. O'Brien Ellison, Prof. D. R. R. Burt, Prof. Leigh Smith and Messrs. A. J. Bamford, Superintendent Colombo Observatory, Ronald Ross, W. J. Bell and W. N. Rae.

B. B. C. Plays; Short plays from the B. B. C. were obtained early in 1927. The first such play received and broadcast was the “Wireless Drama”, which was produced by the Ceylon Amateur Dramatic Society under the direction of Mr. J. S. M. Pitterson.

Sports News: Broadcast of Sports News commenced in May, 1927 by Mr. S. P. Foerander of the Ceylon Observer

First B. B. C. Relay. The relay of the B. B. C. was attempted on the short wave system on 11th November, 1927, from the Albert Hall memorial Festival at which Edward the Prince of Wales (later King Edward VIII) gave an address. It was consid-

ered that the local apparatus worked admirably, the strength of the signals received was very weak. Further, considerable fading made the experiment a technical failure.

The first live musical programme in Sinhala; Ten percent of the broadcasting hours was attached to oriental music consisting of Sinhala, Tamil and Indian items, in 1927. The first live Sinhala musical programme was put over the air by Mr. M. G. Perera and his pupils. Messrs. C. R. Batuwantudawe and Don Manis Pattiaratchi were two of his pupils, who took part in the concert. Mr. M. G. Perera at the time conducting a music class for white collar workers.

Shifting of the Programme Office, Broadcasting Equipment and the Studio to Torrington Square. In December, 1927 it was considered that the arrangement of installing a microphone and a portable amplifier to the temporary studio at the University College, a few hours in advance and transmitting programmes via C. T. O. very unsatisfactory. The equipment at the C. T. O., studio at the University College and the Programme Office, were therefore, shifted to the premises vacated by the Lunatic Asylum, Torrington square, where the S. L. B. C. is at present accommodated with modern equipment and new buildings.

The first full fledged broadcast Announcer, code ABC, Mr. R. R. Anderson.

On 18th December, 1927 a European listener in India congratulated the Colombo English Announcer to be the best he had heard. This Announcer was also responsible for the arrangement of all programmes Western, Sinhala, Tamil and Muslim, under the direction of the Chief Engineer Telegraphs and Telephones and Controller of Broadcasting. The Postmaster General was the Director of Broadcasting. Almost from the inception of broadcasting in this country up to the end of September, 1934, Mr. Anderson performed dual duties of Announcer and Programme Officer. He complained to his immediate superior, the Chief Engineer, Telegraphs and Telephones that he was "tongue tied" before the microphone and asked for a change of duties. He was relieved of his announcing duties with effect from October 1.

1934, and detailed to devote his full time on programme work with the designation, "Clerk Broadcasting", Code CBC. All the Announcers had to work under the CBC. Mr. Anderson devoted full time duties for the cause of the Colombo Broadcasting Service for 12 years, residing at the Broadcasting Station premises, which was said to have been haunted by the dead lunatics for over a decade, making occasional visits to see his wife and children, and in 1936, he again complained that he was suffering from neuresthenia and melancholia and appealed for a complete change of duties. He was reverted to his substantive appointment in the Postal Clerical Service in February, 1936, and retired at the age of 60 years as an Executive Grade, Special Class Postal Clerical Servant. He had been so tired of broadcasting he refused to step into the Broadcasting Station after he left. However, he listened to broadcasting programmes and whenever he happened to listen to a good talk in English on Buddhism he never failed to congratulate on telephone, Mr. C. L. P. Gunawardana.

The total number of licensees at the end of 1927 was 924.

First Buddhist Prelate to Broadcast from Colombo. Ven'ble Palane Sri Vajiranana, Maha Nayake Thera of Vajiraramaya Bambalapitiya was the first Buddhist Prelate to broadcast. It was a talk in Sinhala to all who understood Sinhala, broadcast on Monday, April 21, 1928 and given publicity in the printed programme as follows:

"Ven'ble Palane Siri Vajiranana Nayake Thero of Vajiraramaya Bambalapitiya has kindly consented to broadcast in Sinhalese. This we feel sure is the first step in the right direction and one which will be appreciated by our Sinhalese listeners. Other gentlemen in the foremost rank of Sinhalese orators are being approached in the near future."

Sermons and talks, which were regularly broadcast by this Ven'ble Maha Nayake Thera for nearly 20 years were eagerly listened to by all faiths who understood Sinhala. His broadcast talks were so popular that in 1940 the Hon'ble Minister of Communications and Works in the State Council, the Col J. L. Kotelawala, under whom broadcasting was administered directed that arrangements be made for the Ven'ble Maha

Nayake Thera to broadcast 2 sermons a month and that facilities be provided for the Ven'ble Maha Nayake Thera to broadcast from his room at Vajiraramaya, Mr. D. P Jayasekera Superintending Engineer, Radio, who retired as the Chief Telecommunications Engineer, giving considerations to Ven'ble Maha Nayake Thera's health; age and excellence, had on his own already provided the necessary facilities.

Instead of assigning 2 sermons a month, the Ven'ble Maha Nayake Thera was invited to broadcast in addition to Full Moon Poya Day sermon, a 30 minute talk on a topical subject to which he cordially agreed. During that period it was not customary to call for scripts of talks, specially from the clergy, and persons of integrity. A talk on "Caste and Class distinction" was on the programme by Ven'ble the Maha Nayake Thera, and the question of this talk was raised in the State Council by Dr. N. M. Perera. He objected to the talk being broadcast. A report was called for from Mr. Shirley da Silva, the Superintendent of Broadcasting, who had complete confidence on the Maha Nayake Thera. He replied that he was prepared to 'offer his neck' if any controversial matter happened to be included in the talk, and as such he saw no reason to delete the talk from the programme, to which the Hon'ble the Minister gave his assent.

Mr. A. M. Buhari, an Attorney-at-law, Matara had purchased a radio set in November 1937, and the first programme he had listened to was a sermon by Ven'ble Palane Siri Vijirana Maha Nayake Thera. After listening for one hour to the sermon he had written to the Maha Nayake Thera that the benefit he had derived by listening to the sermon itself was sufficient for his investment on account of the radio he had purchased. This letter was given full publicity in the local press, after which he had to expose to several of his Buddhist friends that several members of his community had expressed their displeasure for publishing his feelings on a discourse by a Buddhist priest and that he had to passify

them by explaining them that his observations were not on the religious sermon but on a general talk consisting of hints beneficial to all in a language understood by a majority who gave a hearing irrespective of race, creed or religion.

In 1947 after his Vesak Full Moon Day broadcast, Ven'ble Palane Siri Vajiranana Maha Nyake Thera expressed his inability to continue his broadcasts, his reason being that he was not able to maintain his eloquence due to age and sickness. However it should be mentioned that on the occasion of the registration of 10,000 Sinhala broadcast licensees, he rose from his sick bed at the General Hospital, Colombe and did broadcast, a three minute talk to make the event a success on June 28, 1947, from 7.49 to 7.52 pm.

In an article in the Ceylon Radio Times, the domestic journal of the Radio Club of Ceylon and south India "Uncle Dick" had placed the following observations - Ceylon Radio Times, June 1935 page 4.

"Ceylon is the only country in the world which has Bana Preaching as a regular feature of its broadcast programme. but it is presumed that, the broadcast authorities know what is most essential and good for you and I have been told that everything in Ceylon is stieky, that is because Ceylon is near the equator, but o'Lnaka thy apathy is appalling and this is the sticky limit. These thoughts sadden me, and I went to bed."

It is very unfortunate that the, writer had failed to remember that Ceylon is a Buddhist country and observe that religious features of interest to other faiths-are also included in the broadcast programme. However, listeners of other faiths too have appreciated sermons on Buddhism.

Talk on Departmental Matters by other Departments. Police Health, Education and Railway Departments started to introduce talks pertaining to those departments, into the programme in 1935. Services rendered by members of the public for the cause of the Colombo Broadcasting Service were

voluntary and no payment was effected. They were, however, lavishly enter-tained with whiskey, brandy, biscuits, chocolate cigarettes and cool drinks.

Horse Racing Commentaries. Broadcast of horse racing commentaries was started during the early stage of broadcast-ing and for this purpose a telephone line was constructed from Grand Stand to the Broadcasting Station, Torrington Square, for which the Post and Telecommunication Department paid a nominal annual rental of Rs. 1/- to the Ceylo Turf Club. Mr. M. P. Saunders was the commentator for a long period. Broadcast relays were attended to by Mr. A. W. Dhatma pala Inspector of Telecommunications and in his absence by Mr. B. S. Seneviratne, until horse racing was abolished on August 31, 1964.

At the end of the year 1928 there were 1290 wireless licensees, an increase of 366 over the previous year.

Bana Preaching on all Poya Day evenings. Broadcast of Buddhist sermons in Sinhala on the four Poya Day evenings of the month was introduced into the programme from January, 1929. Arrangement of this item was in the hands of Mr. T. A. W. Gunawardene, Chief Clerk, Chief Telecommunications Engineer's Office, until he retired in 1932. Later these Bana sermons were added to the programme once a fortnight on Sunday mornings, It was after the appointment of Mr. Shirley da Silva as Superintendent, Broadcasting Station, that Bana Preaching became a feature on all Poya Day evenings and Sunday mornings from September, 1937.

Here is the invitation letter, drafted in consultation with Ven'ble Palane Siri Vajiranana Maha Nayake Thera.

To Ven'ble.....
.....
.....

Ven'ble Sir,

I have pleasure in inviting you to deliver a radio sermon on the subject,.....
on..... 19..... from.....

2. I have no doubt you are aware that the majority of; the listeners are Sinhalese Buddhists, and it is very necessary that they should be satisfied.

3. Even the non-Buddhists, who understand the talks delivered in Sinhalese would like to listen to those that are delivered clearly and distinctly. Many of those non-Buddhists are ignorant of the elevated language and understand only the colloquial. Hence, the sermon should be in plain urbane language.

4. The broadcasting propaganda has nothing to do with caste, class or creed. Therefore, care should be taken to use words that will not hurt the feelings of the listeners.

5. The busy and the intelligent folk too listen to the radio sermons. To satisfy them the subject should be fully dealt with without unnecessary details and without going out of the subject. The facts also should be proved with reasonable arguments, and strict punctuality is very necessary.

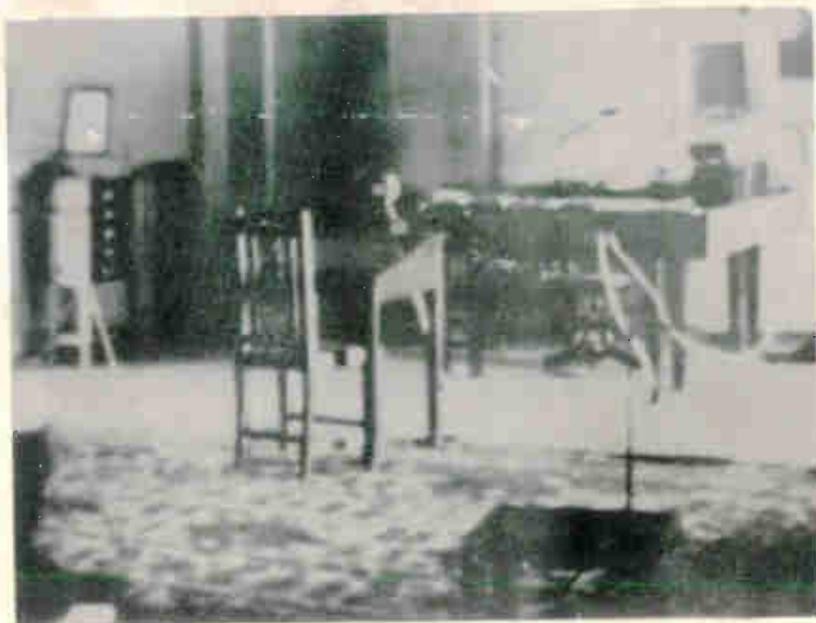
6. As each and every word is broadcast care should be taken to utter each and every word clearly and distinctly, and be avoid throat-clearing, prolong respiration and any unnecessary sounds of any nature.

7. The preacher should not be too near to nor too far from the microphone, Crying out at the top of the voice and sudden raising and lowering of the voice also should be avoided.

8. I hope you will please consider the foregoing facts and give us your kind help and co-operation in this Matter.

Yours respectfully,

Superintendent, Broadcasting Station



The broadcasting studio erected in 1927



English announcer E.Y.G. Rankine in studio



Farewell to Mr. W.E. de Silva on 16.12.1935 prior to leaving on engineering scholarship to the British Post Office

Note - after all the preachers got accustomed to the procedure this invitation letter was withdrawn and an invitation on a printed post card just mentioning the subject, date and time was issued,

Sinhala Music. Sinhala music, which was confined to a certain category soon gained popularity. Mention of the formation of a studio Orchestra was mooted by Mr. Charles Dias in a memorandum to the Chief Telecommunications Engineer and Controller of Broadcasting in 1929.

Economic Crisis- Although much attention was paid to the programme value in 1929, yet broadcasting received a general set back due to an economic crisis. The number of licences did not increase as anticipated, but a number of licensees did not renew their licences. Programmes had, therefore, to be curtailed as the vote for the entertainment of artistes had been exhausted. The Radio Club of Ceylon and South India came to the rescue, and started a Programme Fund. Dealers of radio apparatus too offered a contribution of Rs. 150/- per month. The Radio Club relieved the Government of the expense of publishing the monthly printed programme by incorporating in its domestic journal, the Ceylon Radio Times.

Radio Receiving Set for the Governor to monitor Programmes- A complete radio receiving set was constructed at the Telegraph Workshops and installed at the Queens House to enable His Excellency the Governor to monitor programmes.

The total number of radio licences at the end of 1929 was 1380, an increase of only 90.

Radio Exhibition - In the year 1930 the Radio Club of Ceylon and South India organised a Radio Exhibition at the Government Technical College, Colombo. It was declared open by the Director of Education, Mr. L. Macrae, and a large number of visitors attended the exhibition. The Chief Engineer, Telegraphs and Telephones and Controller of Broadcasting, Mr. E. Harper, on this occasion said that he could say without any doubt that the Colombo Broadcasting Service was the most economically maintained service in the whole world, which is due to the very large amount of voluntary work done not only by the members of the department but also by every one who was able to assist.

Change of Wavelength-From the inception up to the middle of 1930 the wavelength was 800 metres, frequency 375 k/cs. As a result of wave lengths allocated to the use of ships in the Washington Convention it was found necessary to remodel the transmitter on 428.5metres frequency 700 k/cs. In June 1930 the transmitter was accordingly remodelled by the engineering staff of the Post and Telecommunications Department under the direction of Mr. A. Nadarasa. Among those who were associated with him were Messrs. W. E. de' Silva, B. Wijetilaka and E. C. Wijekoon. The new transmitter consisted of a 500 watt oscillator driving a final amplifier of two 2.5 silica valves, which were modulated by two modulator valves, also in silica envelopes; the rest of the circuit was similar to the parts of the old transmitter. However, due to various atmospheric conditions normal to the tropics the increase in the range of the new transmitter was negligible. A radius of 30 miles was regarded as the maximum service area of the Station.

The year 1930 saw a gradual decrease of radio licences despite the fact that there was an increase in the number of programme hours. At the end of the year the number of radio licences was 1408 an increase of only 28.

Talks and Police Messages. A series of talks in English on agriculture was a new feature in the programmes of 1931. These talks were successfully relayed from Peradeniya using the Colombo - Kandy trunk telephone lines. Messages from the Police giving details of crime committed were frequently broadcast, and in one such instance it was possible for the Police to bring the offender to book. A motor car was stolen in Colombo and within 2 hours of the broadcast giving details of the crime, a listener reported to the Police that the car was found at the bottom of a ravine about 60 miles away from Colombo.

School Broadcasting. This service was mooted by the Director of Education and inaugurated in May 1931. 29 schools participated. The Assistant Director of Education, Mr. S. N. Godfrey took a leading part in the early stage. Its first Secretary was Mr. St. Elmo Wijekoon of Royal College who was succeeded by Mr. J. H. de Saram, Inspector of Schools and after his death by Mr. L. L. K. Gunatunga, when he

was attached to the Western Division. All programmes were arranged by the Education Department, while the Colombo Broadcasting Station provided facilities for broadcasting until the new Broadcasting Department was formed on October 1, 1949.

Experiments of short -wave broadcasting. A further change was made to the transmitter so that broadcasting could be carried out simultaneously with the ship-to-shore service. A proposal was also made to increase the power of the transmitter and experiments were carried out on the short-wave broadcasting using the old experimental ship-to-shore, which had been replaced by an up-to-date equipment with a view to giving an improved broadcasting service to the outstation listeners.

Mr. E. Harpers's Departure. Mr. E. Harper, Chief Engineer, Telegraphs and Telephones, Controller of Broadcasting and the Architect of the Colombo Broadcasting Service, presented a proposal to the Government to separate Telecommunication from Postal. The British Rulers did not agree. So Mr. Harper decided to leave Ceylon Government Service and go home. He did not go alone. The Assistant Chief Engineer, Telegraphs and Telephones, Mr. J. Penman, A. M. I. E. E., and Mr. F. E. Kennard, M. I. E. E., Principal, Government Technical College, Colombo joined Mr. Harper. On reaching home Messrs. Harper and Kennard started a business establishment using the first three letters of the name Harper and the first three letters of the Kennard, naming it Harken Electrical Company Ltd; at 18 A South End, Croyden, England. The most senior engineers, three in number, Messrs. A. T. Kingston, H. S. Bryant and R. P. Amarasinghe followed suit.

Incidentally the suggestion made by Mr. E. Harper to our British Rulers 50 years back and turned down resulting the early retirement of Mr. Harper, was implemented by the Hon'ble Minister, D. B. Wijetunga, the present Governor of the North Western Province.

Mr. E. Harper and his successor, Mr. J. Shillitoe had jointly innovated "Harper Shillitoe Flood Alarm Patrol Check System" bearing Indian Patent No. 11068/25, which had been designed to meet the difficulties experienced by the Railway

authorities in countries where the line is subject to flooding in many tropical countries at certain times of the year. A general description of the system has been published by the Siemens and General Electric Company Ltd., London W. C. 2, in May 1928.

On the retirement of Mr. E. Harper and Mr. J. Penman, Chief Engineer and Assistant Chief Engineer respectively, the next senior Divisional Engineer, Railway Signals, was appointed Chief Engineer, Telegraphs and Telephones and Controller of Broadcasting. During this period Railway Signalling was maintained by the Post and Telegraph Department, and Mr. J. Shillitoe was in charge of Railway Signalling.

A few months after the appointment of Mr. J. Shillitoe as Chief Engineer, Telegraphs and Telephones, the next three seniors, Messrs. A. T. Kingston (Radio), H. S. Bryant (Lines and Cables) who were associated with Mr. E. Harper to inaugurate broadcasting in this country, and Mr. R. P. Amarasinghe (Telegraphs and Power) British qualified, submitted their retirement papers, enabling Mr. J. M. Baxter, A. M. I. E. E. who assumed duties in 1929 as Divisional Engineer (Telephones) to rise to the rank of Assistant Chief Engineer. Mr. D. Lusk, A. M. I. E. E. became the Divisional Engineer, Radio, and Mr. A. Nadarasa, A. M. I. E. E., Engineer, (Lines and Cables) as Divisional Engineer (Telegraphs & Power). On the retirement of Mr. J. M. Baxter (Assistant Chief Engineer) in April 1936, Mr. D. Lusk succeeded him, and Mr. A. Nadarasa who has had a training in Radio Engineering at the British Post Office in 1925-26 took over the duties of Divisional Engineer, Radio. Mr. S. Rajanayagam, who was studying Telecommunications Engineering on scholarship in the United Kingdom, and who returned to the Island in 1934 was attached to the Radio Division as Engineer, Radio for a short period was transferred to Lines and Cables Division.

Messrs. D. P. Jayasekera and C. A. R. Ankettel, who had also been awarded scholarships to study Telecommunications Engineering in the United Kingdom returned to the Island in 1936. Mr. D. P. Jayasekera who was attached to the Telephone Division as Engineer for a few months was transferred to the

Radio Division in 1937. On his return after a course of training in the British Post Office in Radio Engineering Mr. W. E. de Silva was also attached to the Radio Division, and the trio, Messrs. A. Nadarasa, D. P. Jayasekera and W. E. de Silva expanded the Colombo Broadcasting Service to meet the growth that took place.

The number of radio licences at the end of 1931 was 1265 a decrease of 143.

Wireless Broadcasting Advisory Board- In 1932 it was decided to constitute an Advisory Board for broadcasting, and its first meeting was held at the Broadcasting Station, Torrington Square, Colombo 7, on November 21, 1932, with Mr. J. Shillitoe, Chief Engineer, Telegraphs and Telephones and Controller of Broadcasting as ex-officiated Chairman. The other members of the Board were;-

- | | | |
|---------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| 1. Mr. J. S. Dinwiddie | } | Radio Club of Ceylon and |
| 2. Mr. J. F. Ness | | South India |
| 3. Mr. S. N. Godfrey | | Assistant Director of Education |
| 4. Mr. J. S. M. Patterson | | Ceylon Amateur Dramatic Club |
| 5. Mr. Charles Dias | | Representative Sinhala Listeners |
| 6. Mudlr. C. Rasanayagam | | Representative Tamil Listeners |
| 7. Mr. H. H. M. Gazzali | | Representative Muslim Listeners |
| 8. Mr. E. C. Villiers | } | Ministry of Communications |
| 9. Mr. H. L. de Mel | | |
| 10. Mr. D. Lusk | | Divisional Engineer, Radio |
| 11. Mr. R. R. Anderson | | Secretary. Those who officiated as |
- Secretary after Mr. Anderson were, Messrs. H. de S. Gunewardene, F. S. Wijesuriya and D. E. Jayamaha, all members of the Postal Clerical Service.

Note - It was only in 1936 that All India Radio appointed its Advisory Board.

Opening of the B. B. C. Empire Station- On December 19, 1932 Rt. Hon. J. H. Whitley, the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the B. B. C., formally opened the new British Empire Station (short wave) in Daventry, England, enabling the B. B. C. programmes to be relayed in this country. The inaugural address of His Majesty the King George V was relayed satisfactorily by the Colombo Broadcasting Service on an improvised set.

Equipment to Receive B. B. C. Empire Station- The B. B. C. Empire Service at Daventry became very popular in this country, and the Colombo Broadcasting Service made arrangements to receive short-wave broadcasting from the B. B. C and relay them on our medium wave transmission. The first receivers were installed at the Ship-to-shore Station (CLO) which was then located at Torrington Square. A super-heterodyne receiver was joined by overhead wires to the studio. This was improved by the provision of an inverted V directional aerial designed by Mr. D. P. Jayasekera. The reception of the B. B. C. on this receiver was considered very satisfactory.

As the space at the CLO was insufficient for the provision of better directional aeriels, land which had been vacated by the I. D. H., which moved out of Bullers Road, present Buddhaloka Mawata, was utilised to construct a diamond directional aerial to receive the short-wave broadcasts of the B. B. C. Empire Station. A sensitive communication receiver was installed in a wooden hut constructed on this land.

When this land was allocated later to the Anglican Church authorities by the Government, the Divisional Engineer, Radio Mr. A. Nadarasa, and the Engineer, Radio, Mr. D. P. Jayasekera having considered to open a new Receiving Station north of the Kelani Ganga beyond Hendala, inspected several sites and chose a large coconut property as the most suitable site. Tests for receiving the B. B. C. broadcasts were also carried out at this proposed site. However, the cost of acquisition of this proposed land and the cost of providing high grade circuits to connect the aeriels to the Broadcasting Station, Torrington Square, compelled the abandonment of the proposal. Instead a set of double diamond aeriels were erected on the marshy land between Bullers Road and Thimbirigasyaya Road, the receiving equipment being in a wooden hut at Manning Town.

Christmas Broadcast Greetings- In the course a World tour, Mr. Malcolm Frost, a B. B. C. representative visited Ceylon to obtain first hand information regarding reception of the B. B. C. programmes in connexion with Christmas in

which the whole Empire participated. This and other B. B. C. programmes were successfully relayed in Ceylon on the improvised set installed at Bullers Road.

B. B. C. Recorded Programmes- A new feature of the year 1932 was the purchase by the Radio Club of Ceylon and South India of the B. B. C. Recorded Programmes and arrangements were made with the B. B. C. to permit Colombo Broadcasting Service to broadcast these programmes. Running commentaries of these programmes were strictly copyright and were intended for the private enjoyment of licensed listeners and not to be communicated to the public by means of loudspeakers, lantern slides, written notices or other means. Even recorded music was subject to a licence fee to the Performing Rights Society and the Phonographic Industry. Legal action was instituted against the infringement of the Copyright Act in the District Court, Colombo against a proprietor of a hotel in Colombo Fort, and Mr. C. L. P. Gunawardana had to give evidence for the prosecution on behalf of the Colombo Broadcasting Station which ended in a conviction. Mr. C. L. P. Gunawardana had also to produce in the District Court the schedule of recorded music broadcast during the period.

Monthly Meetings of the Broadcasting Advisory Board- For the purpose of getting expert guidance and advice in the choice of monthly programmes the Advisory Board began to meet once a month from November 1933 at the Central Telegraph Office, where the first radio transmitter 1/2 kw was accommodated.

The total number of licensees at the end of 1933 was 1664.

Mr. E. Y. G. Rankine as English Announcer- Mr. R. R. Anderson did not want to continue announcing duties. He was, therefore, relieved of those duties and detailed entirely to attend to programme work with effect from October 1, 1934. He was succeeded by Mr. E. Y. G. Rankine, who had been in active service in the Royal Navy during World War 1, and after the cessation of hostilities was attached to the Naval Wireless Station, Yatiyana, Matara. Later he had joined the Colombo Broadcasting Service as a technical officer. He was a persevering officer, who took a great interest in the discharge of the duties entrusted to him. He was released on 15 th February, 1940, to serve in the Ceylon Naval Vol-

unteer Force during world War II, and after cessation of hostilities he was back at the Broadcasting Station, Colombo on April 1, 1946. He retired on 21st July, 1948, and migrated to Australia, where he had died. He was the first announcer to be made permanent and pensionable.

Second English Announcer- Simultaneously with the appointment of Mr. E. Y. G. Rankine as announcer on October 1, 1934, a second English announcer was appointed. The department decided to appoint a female as the second announcer in view of the death of the wife of a very high ranking European Government official, who had collapsed inside the Broadcasting studio and died. There was no female to attend to the collapsed lady, who died before she was removed from the studio. A European by the name of Mrs. I. B. de Kretser was appointed as the second English Announcer on 1st October, 1934.

Names of the Members of the Broadcasting Advisory Board included in the Ceylon Civil List- In December, 1934; Mr. C. H. Collins, C. C. S., Deputy Chief Secretary was appointed as a member of the Broadcasting Advisory Board, and the names of all the members of the Board included in the Ceylon Civil List.

The number of radio licences at the end of 1934 was 2342 an increase of 678.

Greetings from two well wishers- In his New Year Greetings for 1935 to the Radio Club of Ceylon and South India, Mr. H. A. Burden, C. C. S., a former Postmaster General and Director of Broadcasting had stated:

“The public of Ceylon owes a great deal to the enthusiasm and voluntary efforts on the part of the members of the Radio Club, who have never been but helpful in backing up the efforts of the Ceylon Broadcasting Service. Close co-operation between the experts and the official administration in the matter of broadcasting can only redound to their benefit.”

Mr. E. Harper, the Architect of the Colombo Broadcasting Service in his New Year Greetings to the Radio Club has stated:-

It is a great pleasure to see that our baby (the Broadcasting Service) continue to thrive at an accelerating pace, thanks to the good work and enthusiasm maintained by the broadcasting staff and the members of the Radio Club."

Children's Programme in English- An innovation in 1935 was the introduction for children under 14 years a "childrens half hour" in English conducted by "Aunty Kirk" and continued in turn by "Aunty Jenny", "Aunty Peggy" and "Uncle Peter", "Aunty Joy" and "Uncle Nick", "Uncle Ted", and "Aunty Lorna". This programme gained high popularity and some of the children were able to come before the microphone and themselves contribute items, especially on their days of birth.

Experimental Short wave Transmissions 48.7 metres 6160k/cs. In the middle of 1935 short wave transmissions were started with a view to providing a favourable reception to the outstation listeners, as it was felt that during the monsoons it was not possible to receive on the medium wave our transmissions owing to static interference. These experiments were carried out between 8-30 and 10 pm. The power used in the aerial was 300 watts.

Silver Jubilee Celebrations of His Majesty the King George V of Great Britain and Northern Ireland- These celebrations were relayed from the British Empire Station on May 6, and 7 1935. A total number of 178 programmes were relayed from the B. B. C. Empire Station including the thanks giving service from St. Pauls Cathedral, and also the King's Christmas message.

The full programme broadcast by the Colombo Station in connection with the Silver Jubilee Day was:-

- 8.00 am Ceremonial Thanks Giving Service conducted by the Lord Bishop of Colombo relayed from St. Peters Garrison Church, Colombo, Fort.
- 9.45 am Proceedings of the Special Meeting of the State Council, which His Excellency the Governor addressed.

- 3.35 pm Relay of the B. B. C. Empire Station-direct transmission of the thanks giving service from St. Pauls Cathedral by Their Majesties the King and the Queen.
- 6.00 pm Special Jubilee Oriental concert by Mr. M. G. Perera.
- 7.30 pm An electric recording of the Thanks Giving Service relayed from the B. B. C. Empire station.
- 9.45 pm An eye witness account of the programme of the Jubilee celebrations by Phillip Thornton relayed from the B. B. C. Empire Station.
- 10.00 pm A programme for the Silver Jubilee entitled "Twenty Five Years", a review of the reign of King George V, congratulatory messages and speeches of His Majesty from Buckingham Palace.

May 7th

- 7.35 am onwards - Review of the troops from the Galle Face Green-Commentary by Col. L. Mac D. Robison.

Indian Radio Star- On 22nd June, 1935 from 8-15 to 9.45 pm Lalitha Venkataram, an Indian Radio Star broadcast a programme of South Indian Music accompanied with her veena.

Mr. O. Y. Perera- A member of the clerical service, named O. Y. Perera, who was officiating as Sinhala Announcer, died in 1935, and his vacancy was filled by Mr. T. Monis Ruberu, a technical officer attached to the Broadcasting Station until the end of 1937.

Broadcast of Sinhala songs and music from the B. B. C. Devar Surya Sena and Nelun Devi created history by singing Sinhala and Indian songs from the B. B. C. on 16th May, 1935 from 9.15 to 9.45 Ceylon standard time, and the complete programme was relayed by the Colombo Broadcasting station.

Empire Parliamentary Association Conference- Sir Baron Jayatilaka, one of our recent patriots, in a broadcast talk in the National and Empire Service of the B. B. C. stated:-

..The hearty welcome accorded to the representatives of the Overseas Parliamentary Associations by the Government and the various civic authorities, and public institutions must be regarded as a tribute to the new conception of the British Empire as a 'family of free nations' and a recognition of the important part which the Empire Parliamentary Association is playing in bringing the ideal nearer to full realisation. There were more than fifty delegates, who hailed from the four corners of the earth. They differed among themselves in race, colour, creed and language. Yet certain ideas and ideals held in common unified this collective elements into a harmonious whole. In the first place there was a common bond of allegiance to the King. Then, the members of the Parliamentary Association, the delegates were adherents of the Parliamentary system. They firmly hold the view that the representative form of Government based on democratic principles is the best form of Government yet devised by the wit of man. Most of the delegates had wrought and some of them suffered for freedom in their own lands. They all believed the realisation of ideals of the British Commonwealth of Nations would not only preserve the integrity of the British Empire and promote the welfare of each of its Units, but would contribute in no small measure to the peace and progress of the world. The integrity of views between men imbued with such ideas cannot but be extremely valuable to all who were privileged to participate in the gathering".

Royal College, Colombo centenary celebrations. On Saturday, 5th October, 1935, on the occasion of the Royal College, Colombo, centenary celebrations (Dinner) were broadcast from the Galle Face Hotel, from 9 to 10 pm, at which His excellency the Officer Administering the Government was present.

Social on 16th December, 1935 at the Broadcasting Station, Torrington Square- supposed to be the tenth anniversary celebration of Broadcasting in this country.- This social had been organised to bid farewell to Mr. W. E. de Silva, one of the three Inspectors, who had assisted Mr. E. Harper to construct and install at the C. T. O. the 1/2 kw radio transmitter which was used to inaugurate the Colombo Broadcasting Service. Mr. W. E. de Silva was leaving to the British Post Office for a training course in Radio Engineering. This social was con-

fined to the staff at Torrington Square and the Staff Officers attached to the Radio Division. A group photograph was taken with Mr. W. E. de Silva as the central figure and the Chief Engineer, the Assistant Chief Engineer and the two radio engineers on either sides. The notable absentee was Mr. R. R. Anderson, the Clerk Broadcasting (CBC). After the higher officers had left the organisers had broadcast live programmes from the party venue, which resulted in a reprimand by the Chief Engineer, Mr. J. Shillitoe the following day.

The Capital Account at the end of 1935

Particulars.	Rs.	Cts.
Cost of plant including all amounts capitalised since the plant was first erected	105,138	00
Less total depreciation	44,447	00
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	60,691	00
Additional total expenditure on renewals	20,684	00
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Value of plant as at December 31, 1935	81,375	00

The total number of licensees at the end of 1935 was 3053, an increase of 710 over the previous year.

B. B. C's Comments on the Welcoming of the New Year. The Director of the B. B. C. Empire Station in his New year Message for 1936 stated that a listening tour of the continental transmitters, just after midnight was a revelation as to the number of stations all welcoming the New Year vociferously, which could be picked up in the country on any modern receiver. But the Colombo Broadcasting Station was still unique in the way in welcoming the New Year, when it relayed to the far distant hills, Plains, jungles the sirens and the shrill whistles of the ships and tugs in Colombo harbour.

Siri Aiya and Programmes for Sinhala Children. A programme of interest to Sinhala children was innovated in 1936 by "Sirilatha Nanda" Mrs. D. N. Hapugala, It was continued by "Ariyaratna Mama" Mr. G. P. Ariyaratna, "Damayanthi Akka" Miss. Chandra Ranhoty, and "Siri Aiya" Mr. U. A. S. Perera. The duration of the Programme was 30 minutes, once a week. Siri Aiya with his eloquence in Sinhala speech and verse soon gave a new life to the children's programme, and its duration

was increased to 55 minutes. He was assisted by "Somi Akka" Miss. Eva de Silva to start with. After she left others who had characterised as Soma Akka were Misses Nanda Kevitigale Dhanawathie Munasinghe and Trelicia Abeykoon, later Mrs: Trelicia Gunewardene. Siri Aiya organised a Children's Club separating its members to four clans, viz - Chandra, Surya, Nanda and Maurya. His programme consisted of items of entertainment, education, religion, history, music etc. The members began to send their own poetical contributions and Siri Aiya replied them in his own extempore composition. His popularity spread to the four corners of the Island and among religious dignitaries, Ministers of State, high ranking government officials, educationalists, literaters, illiterates, rich and poor, young and old. He conducted this most interesting programme without any interruption for 13 years.

Programme for Tamil Children- A programme similiar to the English and Sinbala children was introduced during the same year and was conducted in turn by "Granny" Mrs. Chelliah, "Somasarma" Mr. A. M. K. Kumaraswamy, "Chinna Mami" Mrs. J. A. Gnanapragasam, and "Balar Sangham" Miss Gnanatheepam Moses.

Mr. H. de S. Gunewardene as CBC- Consequent on the appeal of Mr. R. R. Anderson for a shift from the Broadcasting Station, Mr. H. de S. Gunewardene of the Postal Clerical Service was selected for appointment as CBC in February, 1936 to succeed Mr. Anderson. He had further to officiate as Secretary to the Broadcasting Advisory Board until August 1942.

Remodelling of the 1 kw transmitter- Colombo Broadcasting Station was equipped with a 1 kw transmitter operating on a medium wave length of 428.5 metres radiating programmes during week days from 11 am to 10 pm, with intervals from 1.30 to 4.30 pm and 6.10 to 6.30 pm except when schools were in session programmes were in the air from 2 pm. Therefore there was very little time to carry out maintenance work. The technical staff at both the transmitting and receiving centres at Welikada and Torrington Square respectively had to carry out such maintenance work daily between 8 and 10 am. The transmitter had to be remodelled again to increase its power to 2.5 kw.

Curtalment of Live Programmes- During the middle of 1936 in view of the small vote allocated for the payment of artistes, which limited the scope for programmes as performers could hardly be expected to give their services voluntarily. After effecting payments to the Performing Rights Society and the Phonographic Industry, there was only Rs. 600/- per month left for programmes of interest to English, Sinhala, Tamil and Muslim listeners.

Sir Baron Jayatilaka's Recording- Colombo Broadcasting Station had purchased a recording machine with one turn table with facilities to record on discs. The duration of each recording was 3 minutes. Therefore it was not possible to record a continuous programme of a long duration. Sir Baron Jayatilaka was invited to give a talk for recording. He readily accepted the invitation and arrived at the Broadcasting Station. On his arrival he was informed that he had to pause for a while every 3 minutes. Without speaking a word he took his hat to his hand and walked away.

The total number of radio licensees at the end of 1936 was 3873, an increase of 820 over the previous year:

Talk by Hon'ble Sri Nivasa Sasthri- The Y. M. C. A., Colombo Fort, had made arrangements for a talk by Hon'ble Sri Nivasa Sasthri, a silver tongued orator of India at its premises, and at the instance of the Y. M. C. A. authorities Colombo Broadcasting Station provided a period of 30 minutes for the talk to be relayed. The talk continued for 47 1/2 minutes. Therefore the broadcast had to be terminated according to the scheduled time, on instructions from the Controller of Broadcasting. This action led to severe criticism by the listeners, the then Hon'ble Minister Sir John Kotelawala who examined the issue called it a "radio bungling" and expressed that if the complete talk could not have been broadcast, it should not have been allowed.

Inauguration of the 5kw transmitter and the Second Studio- As the existing transmitter was of limited power and offered limited effective transmission to a range of 50 miles only, it was decided to increase the power to 5 kw. In a country like Ceylon, it was considered essential to have two transmitters

as many oriental listeners took little interest in the relays of the B. B. C., and preferred programmes of their own language. It was estimated that the an additional transmitter would cost Rs. 75,000/-.

A 5 kw transmitter was installed by Mr. A. Nadarasa, the Divisional Telecommunication Engineer, Radio, who was responsible for its design and construction. In addition to the increased power the new transmitter had the following advantages over the old one. The carrier had a frequency of 700 kilocycles 248.5 metres and was controlled by a crystal, which had been cut to certain dimensions maintaining the required frequency so constant that the carrier could not vary more than 17 cycles either side of the operating frequency. The carrier frequency set up by the crystal was amplified by four stages of radio frequency amplification before it reached the aerial.

Air cooled valves were used in all the stages except the final, where there were two ten kw water cooled valves in parallel. The modulation of the carrier by speech or music was introduced in the second stage, and in consequence, was known as low power Modulation.

The design of the transmitter was such that the carrier could be modulated 80% without any appreciable degree of distortion.

A special feature of the transmitter was a net work of electrical filters that had been introduced between the final stage of the amplification and the aerial. These had been designed to pass only working frequency of the 700 kilocycles with no appreciable loss of power. A complaint against the old transmitter was that the second harmonic was loud enough to be audible. In the new transmitter the possibility of radiations on the harmonics have been effectively eliminated by the use of these filters.

In connexion with the installation of the new transmitter it was necessary to replace one of the old generators in the Wireless Station, Welikada machine room with a high tension D. C. generator which had been directly coupled to three phase A. C. motor working directly off the main Colombo power supply. It was capable of an output of 30 kw 10,000 volts D. C. This installation was in conformity with the latest practice of generating a high tension power supply for radio broadcasting transmitters. Associated with the generator was a special tension cubicle containing all the protective and switching apparatus designed to safeguard the operating personnel. Every part of the equipment carrying a voltage greater than 110 volts was so protected that access could not be obtained until the power had been removed and all condensers carrying dangerous voltages were rendered safe by short-circuiting.

Mr. E. C. Wijekoon, then District Telecommunications Inspector, Welikada' who had the advantage of having his official quarters at Welikada, Wireless Station, spared no pains working day and night, without claiming additional remunerations, in installing the transmitter.

A second Studio- As difficulties were experienced in broadcasting two live programmes of concert parties without allowing a few minutes interval, and also for providing facilities for rehearsals. another studio was also constructed, at Torrington Square.

The New Transmitter and the Second Studio- were officially declared open by Sir John Kotelawala, Hon'ble Minister of Communications and Works in the presence of a distinguished visitor, Mr. J. B. Clark, Director of the B. B. C. Empire Service on 6th June, 1937, amidst the undermentioned officials of the department.

1. Mr. J. R. Walters, C. C. S. Postmaster General and Director of Broadcasting,
2. Major J. P. Appleby, Assistant Postmaster General,

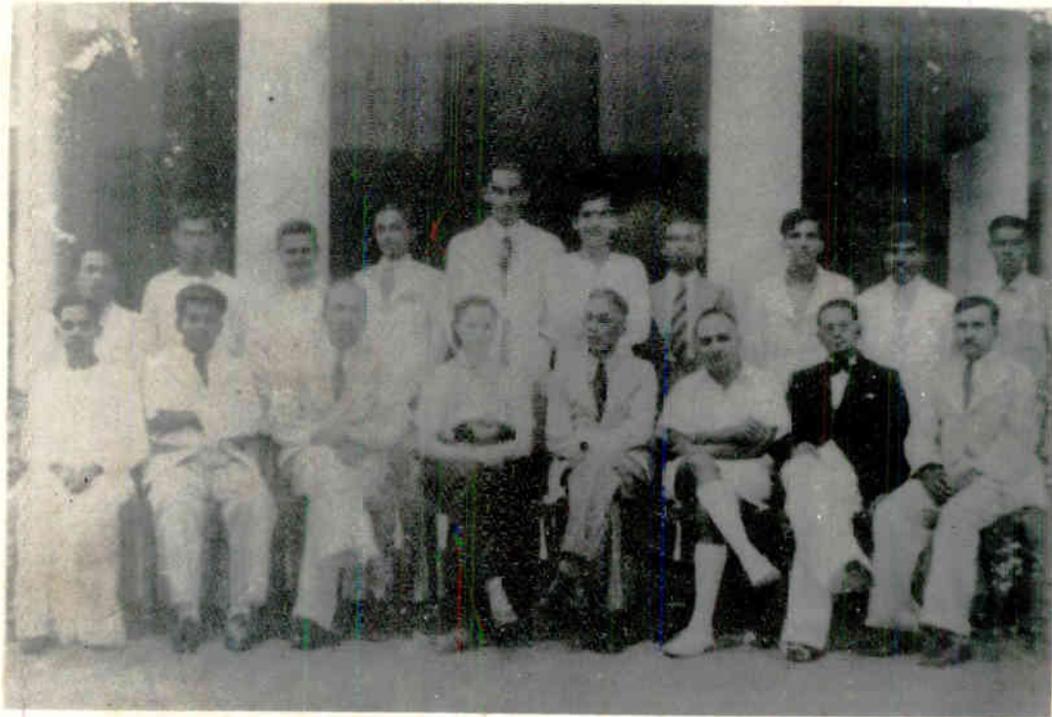


Kandy Esala Perahera sounds of which were recorded in 1937.



Ceylon Wireless telegraph staff-1912

Broadcasting Programme Staff- 1944



3. Mr. J. Shillitoe, Chief Telecommunications Engineer,
and Controller of Broadcasting,
4. Mr. David Lusk, Assistant Chief Telecommunications
Engineer,
5. Mr. G. A. Platt, } Divisional Telecommunication
6. Mr. A. Nadarasa, } Engineers

In opening the 5 kw transmitter Sir John declared, "I am speaking to you from the new studio, and my words are being broadcast on the new 5 kw transmitter the installation of which has been just completed. I am pleased to have the opportunity of using both for the first time. The opening of the new studio and the installation of the new transmitter mark an important stage in the development of broadcasting in Ceylon as listeners are aware that broadcasting started in 1923. The first studio was a very small room in the Central Telegraph Office, and subsequently a large room of the University College; Colombo, was used. In 1927 the present main studio was opened at Torrington Square. One studio was found to be insufficient for continuous programmes. With one studio and one waiting room it has been difficult to arrange for a concert party to be ready to take its place at the microphone as soon as the previous performers have left it. Further more a second studio was essential in view of the proposal to bring into use in the near future a second transmitter and thus provide two simultaneous broadcast programmes. The new and additional studio from which I am speaking to you is exactly similar in size to the existing one, and has been lined with sound-absorption panelling and provided with a control desk and an announcer's equipment uniform with those in the older room. The new transmitter, however, no doubt the future in which the listeners be most interested as it will considerably increase the power and the volume of the Colombo Station's output and increase its range, and it is hoped that it will greatly improve Ceylon broadcasting. I trust that we shall now attract listeners in Anuradhapura, Jaffna and other outstations where in the past they found difficulty to receive our programmes. Listeners in Malaya and South India will, no doubt appreciate the increase in the power of the Station. The transmitter represents an

unique achievement in that it was designed departmentally and a large number of component parts were made in the departmental workshops. The installation and testing were carried out by the staff normally attached to the Station. It is an intricate and elaborate piece of work employing the latest development in radio engineering. I must congratulate the Chief Telecommunications Engineer and the Radio staff of the Telecommunications Branch on the successful completion of the work. I have great pleasure in declaring open the new studio and inaugurate the new transmitter."

Mr. J. B. Clark, who was introduced to the listeners by Sir John, then Major, said "Though Ceylon was the first Colony to start organised broadcasting, and the Empire Broadcasting Service had tremendous help from Ceylon, which like other countries, such as Palestine, Egypt and Belgium, have faced with a problem, which they do not have to tackle in England. This was the problem of three languages, which was bound to present certain difficulties, but he should say that knowing that broadcasting in the Island is in the hands of the Minister, Major Kotelawala, the Postmaster General, Mr. Walters, and the Chief Telecommunications Engineer Mr. Shillitoe, the B. B. C. could feel sure the future of broadcasting in Ceylon was very bright. The B. B. C. has realised that broadcasting was a public service of very great consequence to the Empire as a whole, and must be developed in the Dominions and the Colonies as well as the Home Country. Dealing with Ceylon they knew that it was much more profitable that such money as was available in Ceylon should be devoted to the local development of the service. The new transmitter must be developed further to bring the programmes originating from Home and other parts of the world to a greater number of people in Ceylon. Finally he said that he wished good luck to broadcasting in Ceylon and felt sure that he would not be misunderstood that he had a special word of thanks to Mr. Shillitoe, who had been very largely responsible for his (Mr. Clark's) programme during the week. He thanked and congratulated Mr. Shillitoe for all he had done for the development of broadcasting in Ceylon.

CHAPTER V

Development Stage 2

Mr. W. Douglas Shirley da Silva

Up to August 2, 1937, Arrangement of broadcasting programmes was in the hands of the members of the Postal Clerical Service under the direction of the Chief Telecommunications Engineer, who was also the Controller of Broadcasting, while the Postmaster General was the Director of Broadcasting. The designation of this clerical servant was "Clerk Broadcasting" code CBC. The first to hold this designation was Mr. R. R. Anderson. He was succeeded by Mr H. de S. Gunewardene on February 1, 1936. As the Chief Telecommunications Engineer and his deputies preferred to be relieved of the responsibility of attending to programme work so that they may devote their full time on engineering duties, a search was made for a competent officer from outside the department. After interviewing a number of applicants, Mr. W. Shirley da Silva was selected. He was appointed on August 2, 1937 - August 1 being a Sunday - with the designation, Superintendent, Broadcasting Station.

The last of the CBCs - The Superintendent; Mr. Shirley da Silva. after 3 weeks of his assumption of duties reported to his immediate superior, the Chief Telecommunications Engineer that he had gained conversancy of the duties he was expected to perform and as such the CBC, Mr. H. de S. Gunewardene, could be relieved of his duties. He had further stated that he wished to have in his place, an officer competent to assist him in office administration. and in the arrangement of all oriental items, and also to look after the office in his absence. Mr. C. L. P. Gunawardana, the Chief Telecommunications Engineer's Subject Clerk for Broadcasting, was transferred to the Broadcasting Station as CBC,

and Mr. H. de S. Gunewardene to take over the duties of the Subject Clerk Broadcasting at the Chief Telecommunications Engineer's Office with effect from August 28, 1937. The designation CBC was withdrawn from Mr. C. L. P. Gunawardene. when Mr. Shirley da Silva was confirmed in his appointment and took over the Cash Imprest from Mr. C. L. P. Gunawardana. However, there were standing instructions that whenever the Superintendent was away on leave the Cash Imprest should be given over to Mr. C. L. P. Gunawardana, who should cover his duties.

Programme Office Staff- in August 1937

Superintendent	...	Mr. Shirley da Silva
CBC	...	Mr. C. L. P. Gunawardana
Typists	...	Mr. R. F. Fonseka
		Mr. St. Clair Ephrauma
Announcers English		Mr. E. Y. G. Rankine
		Miss. Pearl de Zilwa
Announcer Sinhala		Mr. T. M. Ruberu
Announcer Tamil		Mr. K. Vinayakamurthy
Office Peon	...	M D. Abraham
Studio Attendant	...	K. A. Dharmadasa
Cycle Orderley	...	S. Charles Silva

Gramophone Record Library - Colombo Broadcasting Station had no repertoire of gramophone records. It had to depend on gramophone records kindly lent by various gramophone record companies, and the Broadcasting Station was obliged to give such companies reciprocal publicity by broadcasting the number of the record, its make and the name of the company. Suppliers of records at the time were:-

Messrs Cargills Ltd H. M. V. and Hutching.
 Messrs. Millers Ltd. Columbia and Regal Zonophone
 Messrs Porolis Fernando & Company - Columbia (oriental)
 Odeon, Megophone,
 Messrs X. P. Paiva Decca, Imperial Broadcast, Rex,
 Parlophone, Brunswick, Panachord
 and Sterno

The needles used were Columbia Duro Gold

A start was made in the latter half of 1937 to purchase gramophone records, catalogue them at the Broadcast Programme Office, arrange them systematically and store them in such a manner that a recorded musical programme could be selected with the least possible delay. To avoid delay in purchasing the records through the normal channel, the Superintendent was authorised to purchase them direct without going to the Government Stores. However, before granting such an authority, Mr. D. F. C. Fernando of the Chief Telecommunications Engineer's Office and Mr. C. L. P. Gunawardana of the Broadcast Programme Office had to discuss the procedure to be adopted with the Office Assistant to the Attorney General, Mr. Hema H. Basnayake, who was so much pleased with the assistance rendered by the two officers, sent a letter to the Chief Telecommunications Engineer commending the two officers.

Chairmanship of the Broadcasting Advisory Board - In September 1937 Mr. J. R. Walters, C. C. S. the Postmaster General and Director of Broadcasting took over the Chairmanship of the Broadcasting Advisory Board from Mr. J. Shillitoe Chief Telecommunications Engineer and Controller of Broadcasting, who held the post from its inception, November, 1932. However, Mr Shillitoe retained his membership of the Board in his technical capacity.

Auditions for Radio Artistes- It was in October, 1937 that selection of radio artistes by audition was introduced. At the very first audition Miss. Daisy Daniel- later the popular Rukmani Devi - was presented by Mr. C. A. Fonseka a veteran musician and radio artiste. She sang two Sinhala songs, but the panel of judges did not consider her singing up to broadcasting standard. At the commencement these auditions were held at the Broadcasting Studio, Torrington Square, where the panel of judges could have seen the potential artistes. This procedure was found to be unsatisfactory. Arrangements were, therefore made to have the judges at the C. T. O and the prospective artistes in the broadcasting Studio. These auditions were conducted by Mr. C. L. P. Gunawardana from

the Commencement until the end of 1948 after his normal hours of duty. All the schedules pertaining to auditions were in his charge and kept confidential. Technical facilities were provided by Mr. A. W. Dharmapala.

New Features and New Arrivals- The new superintendent and his new staff introduced several new features. The first innovation was "You asked for it", which later took the form "Listeners Requests". This item gained popularity very soon, and had to be suspended as certain listeners began to abuse it. One listener, a youth asked for particular song coupling his name with the name and address of a girl friend. The father, of the girl friend, who had listened to the programme had felt embarrassed that the name of his daughter had been coupled with some one not known to him and who was not a resident of his house. The following morning he forwarded on letter to the Superintendent objecting to the announcement, that his daughter had not made such a request.

Appointment of Sinhala and Tamil Announcers- The Postmaster General did not consider it proper to continue the service of the technical officer, Mr T. M. Ruberu and the clerical servant, Mr. K. Vinayakamurthy as full time Sinhala and Tamil announcers. Applications were, therefore invited for the 2 posts, and after voice tests and interviews, Mr. S. Nadarasa, B. A., and Mr. D. M. Colombage, a school teacher, were selected and appointed on December 1, 1937 and January 1, 1938 as Tamil and Sinhala announcers respectively on a daily wage of Rs 4/08

All the announcers, English, Sinhala and Tamil at the time in addition to normal announcing duties had to visit the various gramophone record companies and select gramophone records for the daily programmes. For this purpose each announcer was provided with a G. P. O. push bicycle. The Sinhala and Tamil announcers had an additional task to perform, which the English announcers had not. The English announcers read the news bulletin prepared in the English text, but the Sinhala and Tamil announcers had to translate the English text to Sinhala and Tamil and read the bulletin.

The number of licensees at the end of 1937 was 4911, a rise of 1038 over the previous year.

Dr. G. P. Malalasekera as a member of the **Advisory Board**-Consequent on the death of Mr. C. Don Amaradasa, who had succeeded Mr. Charles Dias, as the representative of the Sinhala listeners at the inception in November, 1932, Dr. G. P. Malalasekera was appointed in March, 1938 to fill the vacancy.

Mr. J. R. Jayawardene (His Excellency the former **President of Sri Lanka Democratic and Socialist Republic**) as **Dramatist and Actor**: A short Sinhala playlet "Social Worker" written by Mr. J. R. Jayawardene was produced for broadcasting by Mudlr. B. A. Abeysekera on March 29, 1938. As this broadcast was a last minute arrangement by Mr. Shirley da Silva Superintendent of Broadcasting, it was not included in the programme sent to the Press for publication. It was scheduled between 5.30 and 6.00 pm and given due publicity over the air.

THE CAST

Mr. J. R. Jayawardene, Mrs. J. R. Jayawardene, Dr. G. P. Malalasekera, Mudlr B. A. Abeysekera, Mr. U. G. P. de Silva and Mr. C. A. Fonseka.

However: the programme had been listened to by many listeners, and a Kandyan lady from Ratnapura, was so much fascinated by the recital of the begger-actor, she sent a cash gift of Rs. 25/- to the Superintendent of Broadcasting to be given to the particular actor, who incidentally is Mr. U. G. P. de Silva, then Headmaster, Government Training College, still living.

Air Artistes- The leader of the Air Artistes, Mr Ananda Samarakone, the composer of Sri Lanka's National Anthem, returned to his homeland early in 1938, after a course of training of Indian Music at Shanthiniketan. His first broadcast contribution was a Radio drama entitled "Temple Bells", which was relayed from Ananda College on Veask Full Moon Poya Day, May 1938. At the request of the listeners the programme

was repeated on 10th July. The next contribution by the Air Artistes was "Renunciation" which was broadcast on 27th July the same year. It was also a relay from Ananda College. There was another drama by the Air Artistes, "Pilgrimage to Kataragama", after which he started to provide broadcast concerts under his own name, his chief associate being Miss Swarna de Silva.

Listening-in Facilities in Hospitals - On June 14, 1938, the 8th installation under the listening-in facilities at hospitals organised by the Radio Club of Ceylon and South India was officially opened by Sir Andrew Caldecot, the Governor of Ceylon at the Anti-Tuberculosis Hospital at Ragama. Among those present were the Minister of Health, Hon'ble Mr. W. A. de Silva, the Superintendent of the Anti-Tuberculosis Institute, Dr. C. I. de Silva, the Medical Officer in charge of Ragama Hospital, Dr. W. E. Ranawaka, the Chairman of the Hospital Wireless Fund, Dr. V. Van Langenburg, the President of the Radio Club, Mr. F. A. E. Price and its Secretary Mr. J. F. Ness.

Dr. Jazz an American Entertainer - A 30 minute programme of syncopated Piano music each day from 9 to 9.30 p. m. on July 16 and 30, 1938, provided by Dr. Jazz, was relayed from the Lounge of the Regal Theatre with the permission of the Management. Dr. Jazz did several broadcasts from the Studio too.

Mispronunciation of Sinhala Names by English Announcers - Mr. J. R. Walters C. C. S. the Postmaster General and Director of Broadcasting, who was provided with an official Radio set to monitor broadcasting, was listening to the English News bulletin read by the Announcer, Mr. E. Y. G. Rankine, who had mispronounced Sinhala village name "Kahatagasdigiliya". Mr. Rankine, who was an Anglo-Indian was not well conversant with Sinhala names but he always obtained the correct pronunciation from his Sinhala colleague. However he had mispronounced the village name on this particular day. The following morning a note was received from Mr. Walters, who had written Kahatagasdigiliya phonetically stating "Mr. Rankine to repeat the correct pronunciation 25 times

before he gets up from his bed tomorrow morning". Mr. Walters, an Englishman, who had entered Ceylon Civil Service and served in several provinces in this Island, had taken the interest to study the correct pron-unciation of the names of even the minor villages. There had been European Civil Servants who had studied Sinhala under our scholars a decade back and were well versed in Sinhala. According to an anecdote, such a European had addressed his domestic servant, එමබල මෙහෙකරුව, මෙහි එව, පසුගිය දිවාහාගයෙහි කාලක්‍රියා කළ සුකර පෝතකයා තෙලෙ නුගරුක මුල භූමදන කරව.

Application for an additional clerk to the Programme Office-
 The Superintendent tendered an application to his immediate superior, the Chief Engineer for an additional clerk to the Programme Office. This application was referred to the Postmaster General by the Chief Engineer stating that as he had already sent one of his best clerks, he was not in a position to spare any more. A few days later the Postmaster General, Mr. Walters walked into the Programme Office at 10 am when all the announcers should have been at their desks in the office. The Superintendent was away. Mr. Walters sat by the side of each announcer and checked the duties each announcer had to perform and satisfied himself as to the volume of work done by each announcer. While leaving the Programme Office Mr. Walters turned towards Mr. C. L. P. Gunawardana and said, "I came to find out whether I could reduce a clerk". So instead of giving an additional clerk, he withdrew a clerk, the one who was performing Tamil announcing duties before the appointment of Mr. S. Nadarasa as Tamil announcer.

Application for an additional telephone to the Programme Office. The Superintendent requested the provision of an additional telephone to his office. The only telephone provided was placed on the table of the Superintendent and the business on the telephone was so voluminous it was not possible to cope with the work when the Superintendent was away. It was refused on the ground that the finances did not permit the grant of the request. A few days later, the CBC, Mr. C. L. P. Gunawardana made a complaint to the Chief Engineer that he was not able to attend to his duties when the Superintendent was away from office due to the

fact the telephone kept on ringing five minutes once, and suggested the provision of a parallel telephone on his table. The request was unhesitatingly granted. However, in 1946 2 additional direct lines were provided, one to the Controller of Programmes and the other to the News Editor, Mr. D. E. Weerakoon.

Broadcast of Pirith - Though Mr. Shirley da Silva was not a Buddhist he revered Buddhist rituals. Broadcast of Pirith was being done by a society of Buddhist laity, which Mr. da Silva considered undesirable. He, therefore, approached the Maha Nayake Thera of Vajiraramaya, Bambalapitiya, and the Principal of Siri Perakumba Pirivena, Kotte, and arranged for the priests of the higher ordination to broadcast Pirith from the studio. This was done for several months. Certain Buddhist leaders objected to Pirith being broadcast from the studio and suggested that Pirith be relayed from Buddhist Temples, which procedure is being followed even now in addition to broadcasting of Pirith recorded on tape. Even Buddhist rituals are subject to adjustment according to individualism.

Competitions among Schools - In July 1938 Mr. Shirley da Silva, introduced another innovation to the programme. It was the competition among the higher grade school entitled "Spelling Bee" for "Walter Shakespeare Challenge Cup". The first contest was between Royal College, Colombo and St. Thomas, Mt. Lavinia, at 7-15 pm on Friday, July 15, 1938, compered by Mr. Peter Batten of the Editorial Staff, Times of Ceylon. It was a knock out competition and finally **Nalanda Vidyalaya** Colombo, emerged winners. Due to the declaration of World War II on September 3, 1939 no further competition for the Cup was organised, and the valuable Silver Cup was securely kept at the Broadcasting Station, Borella, till the end of 1948. If it is not available now, it has to be presumed lost "while moving from Borella to Torrington Square on 30th September, 1949.

Electircal Recording - Mr. D. P. Jayasekera returned to the Island in 1936, after a course of training in Telecommunications Engineering, and in the middle of 1937 he was attached to the Radio Division. At the time the Department had acquired a

single turn table MSS recording machine developed by the B. B. C., in 1936. On this machine recordings could be done on Acetate coated Discs. Mr. D. P. Jayasekera initiated a programme of recording work to train the staff at the Colombo Broadcasting Station in the technique of recording. He invited **Ven'ble Rambukwelle Sri Siddhartha Maha Thera**, then a lecturer oriental languages at the Ceylon University College, Colombo, who was also reputed for his excellence of reciting Pali gathas, Sinhala verses, vannah and reading prose passages in different styles for different occasions. A fair number of gathas, vannah and readings of prose passages etc. rendered by the Ven'ble Maha Thera were recorded. The Ven'ble Maha Thera brought with him a well noted artiste, Urapola Kiri Banda, in rendering ancient styles of Sinhala singing of vannah etc. Those were also recorded and broadcast over the normal service. With a view to testing the recording machine for the recording of drums, Mr. Jayasekera invited Mr. J. D. A. Perera, the well known artiste to recommend a suitable drummer and he brought S. Pani Bharatha, then a lad in his late teens to render Magul Bera for recording. This was the first Magul Bera recorded by the Colombo Broadcasting Station.

In order to train the Radio staff in long distance outside broadcasts using telephone trunk lines, Mr. Jayasekera suggested to the Chief Telecommunications Engineer, Mr. J. Shillitoe that the Kandy Esala Perahera be broadcast live using the Colombo-Kandy telephone trunk lines. Mr. Shillitoe accepted the proposal and invited the Elkaduwa Planter and broadcasting enthusiast, **Mr. F. A. E. Price** to give a commentary on the perahera. He also arranged with the authorities of the Queens Hotel, Kandy, for the use of the balcony overlooking the route of the perahera, for the transmission of the outside broadcast. Microphones suspended above the street picked up the perahera sounds as the Esala Perahera passed the Queens Hotel, Kandy, and these sounds together with the commentary of Mr. F. A. E. Price, who was standing on the 2nd floor balcony of Queens Hotel, Kandy overlooking the route of the perahera were transmitted on the Colombo-Kandy telephone trunk line to the Broadcasting Station, Torrington Square, Colombo, to feed the radio transmitters at Welikada.

When the date of the broadcast was fixed the telephone route carrying the Colombo-Kandy trunks were personally inspected by the District Inspectors of Telecommunications through whose areas the circuits ran, all working parties were engaged to clear the route and make permanent any temporary repairs. Transmission tests on the trunk circuits were taken under the personal supervision of Mr. A. Nadarasa, Divisional, Engineer, Radio.

Mr. A. Nadarasa with Mr. H. B. F. de Silva, District Inspector of Telecommunications, Welikada, in charge of the Transmitting Station and Messrs. E. C. Wijekoon and W. R. Ratnatunga, Inspectors of Telecommunications, watched the functioning of the transmitter while Mr. A. W. Dharmapala, Inspector of Telecommunications monitored, at the Queens Hotel the programme as it was fed to the telephone trunks. Further Mr. Dharmapala thoughtfully provided for the Chief Telecommunications Engineer, Mr. J. Shillitoe, to listen on headphones the broadcast as it was received at Kandy.

Re-Broadcasting of Kandy Esala Perahera by the B. B. C. -
Towards the middle of 1938 the B. B. C. made a request to the Director Ceylon Tourists Bureau to supply the recording of Kandy Esala Perahera so that it could be broadcast by the B. B. C. over the Empire Service on the final night of the Perahera. The Director of the Tourists Bureau, Mr Cyril E. de Pinto, C. C. S., sought the assistance of the Postmaster General and Director of Broadcasting, Mr. J. R. Walters, C. C. S., who in turn referred the matter to the Chief Telecommunications Engineer, Mr. J. Shillitoe, and Mr. Shillitoe mindful of the previous year's broadcast of the Perahera and its recording asked Mr. D. P. Jayasekera to contact Mr. de Pinto and to give him what ever assistance he could meet the request of the B. B. C.

Mr. Jayasekera met Mr. de Pinto and informed him that recordings of the Perahera had already been made the previous year, but he thought that they were not good enough for broadcast by the B. B. C. A recording of the actual perahera that year (1938) may not give sufficient time for a re-broadcasting by the B. B. C. on the final perahera night. Mr.

Jayasekera, therefore, suggested to Mr. de Pinto that suitable recordings of the Perahera sounds be made inside the studio of the Colombo Broadcasting Station and mixed with the existing records for back ground sounds. He also suggested that the drummers, members of the Kavikara Miduwa etc., who perform at the Dalada Maligawa be brought to Colombo and various recordings made. Mr. de Pinto was further informed that assistance be sought from The Diyawadana Nilame, Mr. T. B. Ratwatte, Dissawa. Mr. de Pinto went with Mr. Jayasekera to Kandy and saw the Chief Adigar, Mr. J. C. (Sir Cuda) Ratwatte, who he already knew and explained the proposal. The Chief Adigar gave his generous support, promised to contact the Diyawadana Nilame and arrange for the drummers etc. to come to Colombo, and also deputed his sons Messrs. A. C. L. and Patrick Ratwatte to make all arrangements to make the proposal a success. The drummers, musicians etc., were all accommodated in the bungalow of Mr. de Pinto. Mr. Jayasekera and the staff at the Broadcasting Station Torrington Square, made all the required recordings including elephant bells by making the people to walk up and down the corridors of the studio carrying clinging bells. and mixed them with the original perahera records for background sounds, and prepared a very satisfactory recording to be despatched to the B. B. C. **The re-broadcast of the Kandy Esala Perahera by the B. B. C. on 23rd August 1933** was a huge success, and Mr. C. E. de Pinto was profusely thanked by the B. B. C for his assistance.

The recording was carried out by Inspectors of Telecommunications Messrs. B. S. Seneviratne and A. W. Direkze while Telecommunications Inspectors D. S. Kasturiaratchi and M. Wimalaratne manned the control desk at Torrington Square.

Another Radio Exhibition - organised by the Radio Club of Ceylon and South India was held at the Ceylon University College, Colombo, on October 6, 7 and 8, 1938 with a view to popularise broadcasting in Ceylon. The organisers offered a prize of Rs. 30/- for the best home made radio receiver.

Call Sign of Colombo Broadcasting Station. From the inception of broadcasting in this country the Call Sign was VPB for both broadcasting and Ship-to-shore Station, While allowing the Ship-to-shore Station to use VPB, new call signs were assigned to the 428.5 medium wave metre band 700 k/cs frequency transmitter and the 48.7 short wave and 6160 k/cs transmitter, ZOH and ZOI respectively.

Short wave transmission carried out purely on an experimental basis were discontinued at the end of 1938.

The total number of licensees at the end of 1938 was 6007, an increase of 996 over the previous year.

Outstanding Items Advertised in the Radio Times of January 1939

FEATURES

- Scrapbook for 1903. (B. B. C. Recorded Programme) (15th).
"Consider, Your Verdict." By Peter Batten (Mondays)
Marjorie Sample and her pupils (19th).
"The Old Contemptibles" (22nd and 29th).
Songs, Grave and Gay, By Lorna Taylor (22nd).
Readings, By Master Tony Gabriel (26th).
Review of Dog Show, By B. W. Gillespie (8th).
"A Northern Evening from Brobleton." (8th)
PCJ Happy Station's Programme (11th and 18th).

CHILDREN'S CONCERTS

(On Wednesdays)

- By the Station Superintendent (11th).
By Victoreen Cramer (18th).
By Mrs. R. A. Spencer-Sheppard (25th)

"ON THE JOB" SERIES

(Talks discussing Careers for the Youth of Ceylon)

MEN

- "The Bar." By Dr. R. F. Dias, W. A., L. L. D., D. J., Colombo
(16th)
"Planting" By R. C. Scott, Chairman, P. A. of Ceylon (30th).
"Medicine." By Dr. Lucian de Zilwa (9th).
"Flying" By Flight -Lt. R. Duncanson (23rd).

WOMEN

- "Home Nursing" By Mrs. V. Gabriel (13th).
"Medicine" By Dr. (Mrs.) Mary H. Rutnam (20th)
"Teaching" By Mrs. C. L. Motwani (27th)

"GUESS THE ARTIST" SERIES

- Every Tuesday and Thursday (8.15 to 8.30 p.m.)
(Prices Offered to Successful Competitors)

PLAYS (Local)

Peter Batten and his Radio Players (6th)
J. S. M. Paterson (8th)
The Rev. J. S. H. Edirisingha (13th)
Agnes Marshall (20th)
Vincent Cox (27th)

PLAYS (B. B. C.)

"If I Were You." P. G. Wodehouse (1st)
"Murder in the Crisis" (3rd and 17th)
"The River Gildeth" (3rd and 17th)
"Storm in a Teacup" (17th)
"Hands Across the Sea." By Noel Coward (6th)

SONG RECITALS

Arnold Matters. B. B. C. (1st)
O. Peter Rust (11th)
Mrs. Lorna Taylor (22nd)
Winston and Orwell Foenander (22nd)
Mrs. Jas. T. Young (25th)
Mrs. Esma Joseph (30th)

CELLO AND PIANO RECITALS

Norimo Semino (Cello) and John Pauer (Piano) B. B. C. (2nd)
Beryl Bartholomeusz (Cello) and Mrs. Carmen Herft (Piano) (15th)

CHURCH ORGAN RECITALS

Mrs. R. A. Spencer-Sheppard (1st)
B. B. C. Item (20th)
Victoreen Cramer (22nd)

PIANO RECITALS

Rawicz and Landaure (1st)
John Simons B. B. C. (14th)
Patricia Rossborough (15th)
Mrs. Flower Munasinghe (18th)
Analeen Claasz (22nd)

**Independence
Day
Celebrations
February 4,
1948**



Mr. D.S. Senanayake



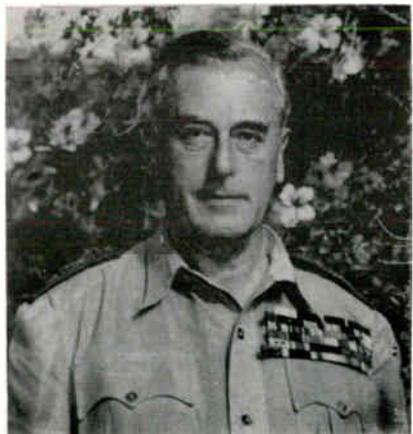
Mr. S.W.R.D. Bandaranaike



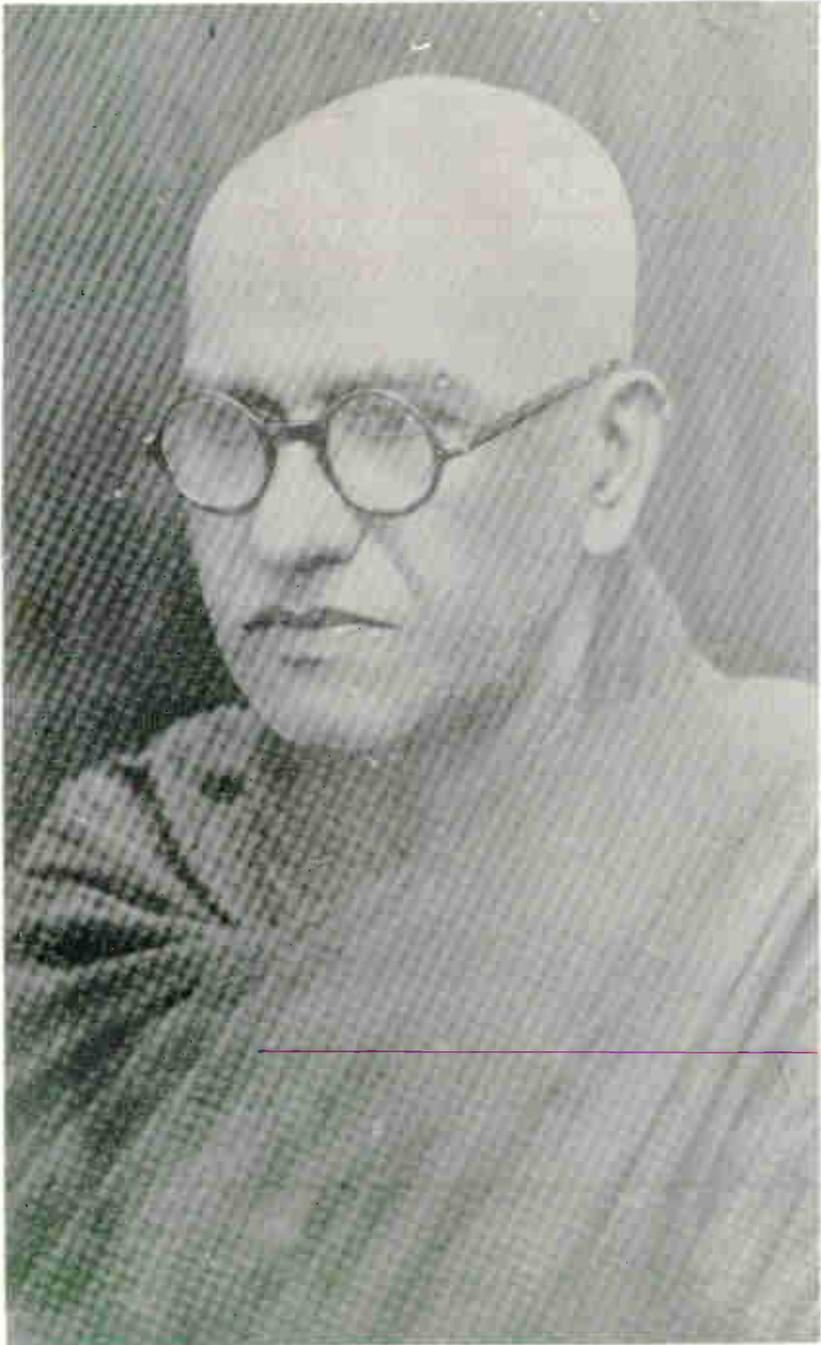
The Duke of Gloucester



Mr. J.R. Jayewardene



Lord Louis Mount Batten



Ven'ble Palane Sri Vajragana Maha Nayake Thero

SYNCOATED MUSIC

A. R. Bartholomeusz (5th)
From the B. B. C. (2nd, 9th and 25th)

CINEMA ORGAN RECITALS

Reginald Dixon (2nd)
Joseph Seal (3rd)
B. B. C. (24th)

OTHER INSTRUMENTAL ITEMS

Violin Eileen Rodrigo (15th)
Banjo. Dedrick Nagel (13th)
Mandolin. Mrs. R. V. Burns (22nd)
Accordeon. B. B. C. (17th)
Violin B. B. C. (23rd)
Cello B. B. C (11th)

HOTEL BANDS

(NICK'S VERSATILE SIX)

January 4th, 8th, 14th, 18th, 22nd and 28th
Promenade Concerts 8th and 22nd
(A. FELICE AND HIS BLUE STAR BAND)
January 7th, 11th, 15th, 21st and 29th
Symphony Concerts: 15th 29th

TALKS (B. B. C)

"London's New Year" By Anthony Weymouth (1st)
"This Racing Business." By Lord Brassey (3rd) and also on
other Tuesdays.
"World Affairs" (Wednesdays)
"Under Big Ben" By Howard Marshall (6th)
"The Royal Air Force." By Capt. H. Balfour (9th and 16th)
Short Story B. B. C (12th)

TALKS (LOCAL)

"Is Life Worth Living?" By J. J. Virgo (21st)
"Periodic Health Examination." By Dr. O. E. R. Abayaratne
(23rd)

- “Trincomalie” By Annesley de Silva (8th)
- Review of Kandy Dog Show. By B. W. Gillespie (8th)
- “The Tappal Bag” (Thursdays)
- “With Silent Friends.” By Shirley da Silva (Mondays)

SPORTS ITEMS

- Commentary on a Match in the F. A. Cup (7th)
- England-Wales Rugger (21st)
- Colombo Race Commentaries (28th)
- Sports Talk (29th)

CHURCH SERVICES

- St. Philip Neri's Pettah (1st and 22nd)
- St. Michael's and All Angels. (1st)
- Dutch Reformed Church (8th)
- Christ Church, Galle Face (8th)
- Colpetty Methodist Church (15th)
- St. Peter's (Garrison) Church (15th)
- Salvation Army (22nd)
- Cinnamon Gardens Baptist Church (29th)
- St. Andrew's Scots Kirk (29th)

EPILOGUES

- The Rev. J. E. Hardy (15th)
- The Rev. R. V. Metzeling (22nd)
- The Rev. G. H. P. Leembruggen (8th)
- Recorded (1st and 29th)

B.B.C. FEATURES

- “In Town Tonight” (Mondays)
- “Musical Games” (3rd)
- Madrigals and Part Songs (23rd)
- “Calling all Dogs” (6th)
- “Steamboat” (7th and 21st)
- Italian Pianoforte Music (7th)
- “Music Hall” (17th)
- Chu-chin-Chow (23rd)

Burns Songs (25th)
"Figaro" Act II (28th)
Songs of the Clans (14th)
"Hansel and Gretel" (14th)

B. B. C. MUSICAL PROGRAMMES

Empire Symphony Orchestra (2nd, 16th)
B. B. C. Military Band (5th, 15th)
R. A. F. Band (26th)

SPECIAL RECORDED PROGRAMMES

"Le Coq D'or" Suite (1st)
Hungarian Melodies and Gypsy Airs (1st)
"Nutcracker Suite" and "Bolero" (1st)
"Yeomen of the Guard" (1st)
The Music of Strauss (1st)
Slumber Music (1st, 2nd, 15th, 10th and 13th)
"Planters' Half Hour" (Mon, Wed. and Fri)
"W. Douglas" Programmes (Tues Thurs)
"You Asked for It" (Mondays)
"On the Good Ship Lollipop" (Mondays)
Roderick Ephraums' Programmes (Tuesdays)

FOR OUR SINHALESE FRIENDS

BANA SERMONS

POYA DAYS

Ven'ble Palane Siri Vajiranana Nayake Thero of Vajirarama.
Bambalapitiya (5th)
Rev. Pitakotte Somananda Thero of Siri Perakumba Pirivena,
Kotte (12th)
Rev. Kalukundayawe Pannasekera Thero of Vidyodaya College,
Maligakanda (19th)
Rev. Kamburugamuwe Mahanama Thero of Vajirarama
Bambalapitiya (28th)

SUNDAY MORNINGS

- Rev. Panditha Ahangama Pragnaloka Thero of Sri Vijayarama, Wellawatte (1st)
Rev. Hedigama Indajoti Thero of Dharmasastrodaya Pirivena, Kesbewa (8th)
Rev. Makuluduwe Piyaratana Thero of Vijayamangalaramaya, Kohuwela, Nugegoda (15th)
Rev. Madihe Pannaseeha Thero of Vrijirama, Bambalapitiya (22nd)
Ven Nawinne Sri Devananda Nayake Thero of Dharmasastrodaya Pirivena, Kesbewa (29th)

CONCERTS

- Eddie de Silva (3rd)
A. R. M. Ibrahim (15th)
Wilfred J. Peiris (16th)
Rukmani Devi (7th and 21st)
K. Albert Perera (22nd)
Sarada Sangeetha Samaja (24th)
W. Francis Perera (26th)
K. Lionel Perera (10th)
Station Orchestra (8th and 29th)
H. W. Rupesinghe (31st)

TALKS

- "Ceylonese and Their Diet." By H. E. D. Sugathadasa (3rd)
"Durutu Utsawaya." By the Rev. M. Piyaratne Thero (4th)
"Mind and Health." By Dr. W. S. Ratnavale (16th)
"Scouting in Ceylon" By J. H. de Saram (21st)
A Talk . By Ven. Palane Sri Vajiranana Nayaka Thero (23rd)

PUBLIC BROADCAST TALKS

- By Dr. E. W. Adikaram (20th)
By P T. Pandita Gunawardhana (27th)

MISCELLANEOUS

- Jataka Stories. By C. L. P. Gunewardene (17th)
"Facts About Our Ancient History." By Piyadasa Weerawardene (9th)
Humorous Interlude. By "Gamarala" (14th)

FOR OUR TAMIL FRIENDS

CONCERTS

Mrs. S. R. Rajalucksmy (1st)
Station's Studio Orchestra (22nd and 8th)
K. Chellatamby (25th)
Mrs. L. Lokasubramaniam (9th)
Gowri Thiagarajah (30th)

DEVOTIONAL SONGS

K. Chellatamby (6th)
K. S. Sithambaranathan (18th)
K. V. Kurukai (20th)
A. K. Thambimuttu (27th)

SPECIAL PROGRAMMES

"Poopradaksana." Weekly Newsletter (Sundays)

TALKS

K. V. S. Vas (7th and 21st)
Dr. W. S. Ratnavale's "Mind and Health" (26th)
M. K. Chettiar (13th)

OTHER CONCERTS

Mrs. M. A. J. Amath (17th)
M. A. Hassan Alliyar (18th)
Pali Bhai and her brother (11th)

SPECIAL THAI PONGAL ITEMS

Nagaswaram (from Madras Station)
"Pongal Feast" (From Madras Station)

FOR OUR MUSLIM FRIENDS

Husseni Schools Burdah Union (12th)
Muslim Missionary Association (4th)
Juma Athul Muslimeem Association (20th)

KORAN RECITALS

A. C. P. Mohideen (5th)
H S M. Salahudeen (19th)
M. R. Mohideen (26th)
Katheeb Mohamed Sabir (12th)

TALKS

N. M. M. Ishak (5th)
M. H. M. Munas (19th)
A. M. A. Azeez (28th)

Ways and Means of Improving the Quality of Sinhala Programmes Sinhala music at the time was patronised by a certain class of the race. The upper class had no taste for Sinhala music. Sinhala music lovers had adopted North Indian music as their own, and the majority of them were professionals. However, the Colombo Broadcasting Service created a tendency for Sinhala music among the young generation. It was at this juncture that the new Superintendent, Mr. Shirley da Silva and his assistant, Mr. C. L. P. Gunawardana decided to explore ways and means of improving the quality of Sinhala programmes.

An attempt was made to meet some of the leading Tower Hall artistes to get them together for broadcast programmes. It proved abortive and ended in a complaint against those who made the attempt. The only one conceded was H.W. Rupesinghe.

The Superintendent's next move was to summon the members of the Sinhala Audition Panels for a meeting, which was held at 5.30 pm on 3rd February 1939, at the Broadcasting Programme Office. The letter so sent is reproduced below:-

Office of the Superintendent,
Broadcasting Station,
Torrington Square,
Colombo, January 25, 1939,

Dear Sir,

I am not at all pleased about the quality and type of programmes broadcast for our Sinhala friends and would like to have your assistance to improve both.

With this object in view, I am summoning a meeting of all those who are serving on the recently formed Audition Panels. Will you please make an effort to come to this Station at 5.30 pm on February 3rd, so that we can discuss ways and means to bring about an improvement?

I shall be most grateful for your co-operation.
With Compliments,

Yours sincerely,
Sgd. Shirley da Silva
Superintendent

The collaborators present at the meeting were Dr. G. P. Malalasekera, Mudlr. E. A. Abayasekera, Mr. J. D. A. Perera, Mr. P. de S. Kularatne, Mr. S. L. B. Kapukotuwa, Mr. E. W. Kannangara, C. C. S. Mr. P. T. Panditha Gunawardhana, Dr. Julious de Lanarolle, Mr. J. N. Jinendradasa, Mr. U. G. P. de Silva, Mudlr. H. Guneratne, Mr. Wilmot A. Perera, Rev. J. Simon de Silva, Mr. M. E. Fernando and Mr. John M. Seneviratne.

All those gentleman welcome the idea and pledged their support, They undertook to provide programmes on which they were proficient and nominate capable personalities and dispersed thanking Mr. da Silva for the interest he was taking for the upliftment of the quality of Sinhala programmes.

Another new feature introduced was a series of talks in English entitled "On the job" discussing careers, by Dr. R. F. Dias, M. A. LL. D, District Judge, Colombo, founder member of the Ceylon Wireless Club in November, 1922, on the

subject "On the Bar", Mr. R. C. Scott, Chairman, Planters' Association on "Planting", Dr. Lucian de Zilwa, and Dr. (Mrs) Mary Ratnam on "Medicine", Flight Lieutenant R. Duncanson on "Flying", M:s. V. Gabriel on "Nursing" and Mrs. C. Motwani on "Teaching".

Yet another new feature introduced was "Guess the Artiste". Prizes were offered to the successful competitors among listeners. What the listeners had to do was to have a pen and post card and listen to the music piece broadcast and send the post card naming the artiste who played the music piece. The first post card with the correct name received by the Superintendent was entitled to the prize awarded by a local company.

Celebrity Concert by Western Artistes - On July 4, 1939 a variety entertainment by Western broadcast artistes, under the distinguished patronage of His Excellency the Governor, Sir Andrew Caldecot, arranged by the Superintendent, Mr. Shirley da Silva, was relayed from the Royal College, Colombo. Admission to the hall was by ticket issued by the Superintendent of Broadcasting to a limited number of broadcast licensees, free of charge. The hall was packed to capacity. It was the first of its kind, and all those who were present gained the opportunity of seeing some of their favourite radio stars in flesh, while others, who were not able to get admission to the hall, were able to listen to the complete proceedings of the concert, which was compered by Mrs. Clament Black.

The artistes, who contributed items to make the concert a great success were:-

Mr. Hallock Anandarajah - vocal

Mrs. Joyce Kennedy - vocal

Mr. Rupert Wagn and his double quartet consisting of Messrs. I. Pullenayagam, Douglas de Alwis, C. M. K. Pillay, H. S. J. Ferdinando, D. B. U. P. Lokubala-suriya, P. de Zilwa, S. C. Forbes, and E. L. Herft-violin solos

Instrumental Trio - Miss Madeliene de Zilwa -piano
Miss Audrey Dharmakirti - violin
Miss Beryl Ba.tholomeusz- cello

Miss Esme Joseph - vocal

Mrs. Lorna Taylor - vocal and piano

Radio Players - Sheila Mackenzie, Andre Willie and Peter Batten Showed the audience how a radio play is produced. Mr. A. R. (Sonny) Bartholomeusz - Piano syncopation. Miss. June Percival showed a distinct hit with a scene from "Madame Butterfly".

Misses Majorie Sample, Timmie Swan, Sheila Mackenzie, Patricia and Sheila Swan, gave a dance in tap, a fox trot waltz and blues.
Miss. Thelma Kaai and her Troubadours ended the programme with two excellent selections of Hawaiian music.

In this broadcast concert in which His Excellency the Governor was the Chief Guest, Mr. Shirley da Silva, the Superintendent of Broadcasting took for himself the honour of being the host, leaving the Head of the Department, Mr. J. R. Walters, C. C. S. to be a member of the audience in the front row. However, the broadcast was a great success. It was the first of its kind.

The following day a curt note was received by Mr. Shirley da Silva, the Broadcasting Superintendent from the Postmaster General, Mr. Walters, that in future functions of that nature should not be handled by the Superintendent, but should be entrusted to the Head of the Department, the Postmaster General, who is also the Director of Broadcasting.

A listener's view on Classical Music - A programme of highly classical music (recorded) was introduced on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12.45 to 1.30 pm in August 1939. It was lunch time music entitled "Fort Forty Five" arranged by W. Douglas. A European listener, who probably had no taste for classical music sent the following letter to the Station Superintendent, "Can you inform me if Mr. W. Douglas will be leaving the Island soon, and if he has accommodation for all his records, I can supply him with packing cases". Incidentally W. Douglas was no one else but the Station Superintendent, whose full name was W. Douglas Shirley da Silva.

Celebrity Concert by Sinhala Artistes - A concert by Sinhala artistes similar to the one broadcast by Western artistes from the Royal College, Colombo, was relayed from Ananda College, Colombo, on Wednesday, 2nd August, 1939 from 9 to 10 30 pm under the distinguished patronage of **Sir Baron Jayatilaka**. The programme was introduced to the listeners by Mr. U. G. P. de Silva. It was at this broadcast that Rukmani Devi and Eddie Jayamanne came to the fore front as singer and comedian respectively. Some of the Sinhala Radio Stars who participated were:-

Padma Wijetunga and sisters	- Orchestral
Sirimathie Perera	- Viridu
H. Don Vincent Peiris	- Violin
Rukmani Devi	- Vocal
Edwin Kottegoda	- Folk Lore
Padma Wijetunga	- Vocal
Chandra Seneviratne	- Vocal
Eddie Jayamanne	- Humour
Wilson Illangakoon and sisters	- Vocal
M. K. Vincent	- Vocal
Dannie Fonseka	- Vocal

Arrangements were in progress for a similar broadcast by Tamil artistes but due to the declaration of World War II on September 3, 1939, the proposal had to be dropped.

Broadcast of Bana on Wednesday Evenings - It was during this year that broadcasts of Bana Preaching on Full Moon Day and Wednesday evening was introduced in place of the four Poya Day evenings. This procedure was adopted to facilitate the arrangement of programmes as Poya Days do not fall on the same day of the week. However, the advice of the leading Buddhist clergy and the lay leaders were sought before hand. This procedure is being followed even now.

Music of the World - Another item of interest for the lovers of Western Music was a programme entitled "Music of the World" It was a Sunday afternoon feature, and an artiste was selected to represent each country. India was represented by Mrs. L. Lokasubramaniam and Ceylon by Miss. Sirimathie Perera. An English announcer had to introduce the

artiste to the listeners and announce the programme in Sinhala. It was written down in English text. The first two items were done in acceptable Sinhala. The third item was a Sinhala folk song, and the announcer, said මේ ලහට පල් කව්.

Free Issue of the Colombo Broadcast Printed Programmes
The following Post Office Communique was issued in the Press as well as the Ceylon Radio Times

‘All Radio licence holders, who wish to receive the Colombo Broadcast Programmes regularly, free of charge, will be provided with programmes, with effect from September 1, 1939. The programme will be issued every fortnight, and each issue will contain in addition to advance programmes for a fortnight, a broadcasting news letter from the Station. This letter will contain supplementary information in regard to any forthcoming broadcasts of special information and notices intended for listeners. The provision of advance programmes will, it is hoped, enable listeners to select items of interest to them well in advance for listening-in.

Licence holders wishing to receive these programmes are requested to apply on forms which will be issued to them, in due course, stating their radio licence number and office of issue, full name and address and enclose a postage stamp to the value of 50 cents to cover postage for one year of 24 fortnightly issues”

Talk at the Rotary Club Lunch G. O. H. Mr. Shirley da Silva the Superintendent, Broadcasting Station, was invited to deliver a talk on ‘Broadcasting’ at a Rotary Club Lunch at the G. O. H. Mr. da Silva sought the permission of the Postmaster General, to deliver the talk and to relay it. Permission was granted to deliver the talk but its broadcast was disallowed. Mr. da Silva, however, agreed to deliver the talk and change the topic to “When the Red Light Glows” which he meant was nothing else but broadcasting. At the Broadcasting Studio the glow of a Red Light indicates that broadcasting was on. This is what he said:

‘Compared with other countries in the East, broadcasting started early in Ceylon. The progress, mainly owing to depression has been slow.

In England broadcasting was initiated in June 1920, when Dame Melba sang before a microphone at the Marconi Station at Chelmsford. In February 1922 the Marconi Company opened a new station at Essex. These broadcasts were better and created public interest. As a result the British Broadcasting Company was formed in November, 1922.

It was in November 1922, that we in Ceylon formed our Ceylon Wireless Club. In July 1923, it changed its name to Ceylon amateur Radio society and later the same year to Radio Club of Ceylon and south India. It is clear, therefore, that, there were at that time in Ceylon a number of people keenly interested in wireless. So there came before the Government an application for a broadcasting licence.

The Government of Ceylon decided not to give broadcasting to a private company but to work it under the Post and Telegraphs. The Engineering Department had been making preparations. They had constructed a transmitter in the Central Telegraph Office, with parts picked up from various sources, and service was offered to the public with that station.

It is difficult to fix a date for the opening of broadcasting in Ceylon. The first station had been in an experimental stage for a long time. However, about June 1924 it had reached a stage when service was stable and in a position to be officially recognised. On June 27, 1924 the Governor broadcast a message on the occasion of a meeting of the Engineering Association of Ceylon. This is, according to an authority, the date when broadcasting started in Ceylon. The usual date given, December 16, 1925, actually marks the opening of a new transmitter, and it is incorrect to quote it as the date of inauguration of broadcasting in Ceylon.

At that time half a room in the present Central Telephone Exchange was the studio. The programme consisted mostly of gramophone records, talks and a little news. The arrangement of Programmes was left in the hands of the engineers.

More important; however, is the fact that the people in this country, inclined to amusement were unable to spend money on wireless during the trade depression. The first disadvantage has been oversome. The receiver of today is more selective and less expensive.

It should be mentioned that programmes contribute the most important side of broadcasting. This is a matter in which the public should take a greater interest. If the interest does not develop spontaneously, it must be created. It cannot be true that the public of Ceylon are unable to appreciate the amount of good broadcasting can do to the country.

The last cause, it seems is being gently removed. There are signs of an improvement in trade. The number of listeners is showing a marked increase month by month with more improved programmes.

The Tappal Bag of the Superintendent, which appeared in the Programme Supplement of November 1-15, 1939, which is reproduced below explains the views of some of the listeners on the broadcast programme.

Crowning of Pinnacle on Ruwanweli Mahaseya— The proceedings of the celebration relating to the crowning ceremony of the Pinnacle on Ruwanweli Maha Chetiya at Anuradhapura was relayed from 1 to 2 pm on 23rd November, 1939, using the Colombo - Anuradhapura trunk telephone line. The advertisement in respect of the ceremony, which was published in the Ceylon Radio Times reads as follows.

“Buddhist listeners especially, will be gratified to learn that satisfactory arrangements have been made by the Station to cover the important Ruwanweliseya Pinnacle Crowning Ceremony at Anuradhapura on November 23. The High Priest of the temple to whose co-operation I am indebted, and Sir Baron Jayatilaka will address the public at the scene of the ceremony and those addresses will be relayed.

I hope to arrange for an eye witness account on the event by H. Sri Nissanka, beyond question a very competent person for the purpose. I have no doubt that here is something, which will be eagerly awaited

by even far away Burma and Thailand. As a sentimental prelude to the ceremony of a great national importance, I have arranged for November 21 a feature to be broadcast from the studio. The two beautiful poems in Mr. Sri Nissanka's playlet entitled 'Our Lanka' will be sung by a special choir got together by Miss. Thelma Kaai, who it should be added set the verses to guitar music'.

The proceedings of the ceremony were recorded on discs and preserved at the Broadcasting Station, Kotte Road, Borella till the end of 1948. Mr. A. W. Dharmapala, then Inspector of Telecommunications was responsible for conducting the relay from Anuradhapura. This broadcast relay was highly successful technically.

Improved Sinhala Programmes - The interest taken by the staff handling Sinhala programmes could be envisaged from the following letter received from a member of the Sinhala Audition Panel.

"My congratulations on the distinct improvement shown of late in the Sinhala programmes, I feel that we are coming back to the standard we had achieved in February and March last year. Your efforts and the support given to you by the Sinhala staff in your office are beyond praise."

Listeners views on the Quality of Programmes - "The Tappai Bag" received by the Superintendent and published in The Radio Times Supplement in November, 1939, which is reproduced below, reveals what the listeners think of the programmes broadcast.

What The Other Listener Thinks

NEWS FROM CLIVE CAREY

I have just received a letter from Mr. Surya Sena telling me that you could like me to give a folk-song recital over the air on my return journey to England, which was timed for this month. Owing to the War situation in Europe I regret that I shall not be returning to England at present, and so shall not be able to take advantage of your offer. If I decide to pass thro' Colombo later, I will write and let you know or shall inform Mr. Surya Sena, in case you would like to repeat the offer - Clive Carey, 49, Wattle Avenue, Brighton, S. Australia. Oct. 8th.

SINHALESE PROGRAMS

I think there is immense improvement of late, and the Department is making all possible efforts for further improvement of the Sinhalese programs for which I shall be always grateful - Sinhalese listener from Kelaniya.

THE CHILDREN'S HOUR

I have enjoyed listening to your records, music and programs in general, especially the Children's Hour Miss B. Williams, Madras

TOM-TOM BEFORE BANA

I would be much obliged to know whether you can arrange for about two minutes' Tom-Tom beating just before the Bana preaching from the station. The beating of the Tom-Tom can be recorded, and broadcast before the Bana preaching begins. I shall be pleased if you will put this before the public and get their opinion. M. D. I. Sirisena 'Sirisevena.' Makola, Kadawatte

THE 'YORKSHIRE' TRAGEDY

I write to ask if nothing can be done to give more recent news in the midday news bulletings from the Colombo Station

Today (October 19th) London announced in the morning news the sinking of the "Yorkshire". As a regular Colombo caller the ship must have had many passengers from Ceylon on board and a valuable Ceylon cargo. And yet the station did not apparently consider this news of sufficient interest to be referred to in the 12.30 news bulletin. Surely some information must have been available locally about this ship? I note Delhi at 1.30 was able to announce that 226 persons had been picked up. Had Colombo, so much more closely concerned, no news?—Roland V. Norris, Talawakelle.

(Note by Superintendent : This information was not included in the morning bulletin from Reuters. The matter has been taken up)

ARTISTE'S PHOTOS

White congratulating you on your wonderful turnout of the Fortnightly Broadcasting Programs, may I put forward a suggestion? How would it be to add more colour to the program sheets by including the pictures of the artistes themselves? One would thus be able to more or less visualize the performers themselves, and perhaps appreciate their performance better— E. V. Rajapakesa, Upper Chatham Street, Colombo.

BANA PREACHING

The concert of Mr. Fonseka (Ramayana) on October 7th, proved very satisfactory and I am only too glad to write to you in that connection. Concerts of this sort would be to the great enjoyment of all listeners. As regards Poya day Bana preaching I think your decision is very fair and hope you will confirm your decision and not allow anyone to meddle with it for some time. I cannot understand why some Buddhist priests and others are attempting to stop Bana preaching on Poya days, your Department engages only one hour of the day leaving 23 hours behind. If the priests consider that Bana preaching at the studio is more attractive they can co-operate with the Department and fix a loudspeaking set at the Temple and make the Poya day more useful to the public. We hold a licence to obtain the benefit of it and leave the whole matter in your hands and we have always our sincere

Minister Sir John Kotelawala And His Advisors



Sir John Kotelawala



Dr. G.P. Malalasekera



Devar Surya Sena



Mudlr. E.A. Abayasekera



K. Kanagaratnam



Stanley F. de Saram

Broadcasting Programme Staff- 1941



(Standing) Mr. H. Wanasinghe, Mr. D.M. Colombage (Sinhalese Announcer), Mr. C.H. Fernando, Mr. S. Nadarasa (Tamil Announcer), Mr. M.D. Abraham. (Seated) Mr. C.L.P. Gunawardana, Miss. P. de Zilwa (Announcer), Mr. Shirley de Silva (Superintendent), Mr. C.E. Hettiaratchy (Announcer), Mr. C.E. Fernando. (On the ground -Mr. S.C. Silva and Mr. K.A. Dharmadasa)

confidence in your arrangements. It is left to me to listen to Bana preaching at home or temple, the priests and others have nothing to do with me in this connection— C. H. Gero, Kittampahuwa, Kelaniya.

APPRECIATION FROM TEN

We the undersigned (10 in number) beg to bring to your notice that we really appreciate your different programs to entertain licence holders and the public. Could you get a repeat in Sinhalese of "Ralahamy's Views on the War?" Iris-Ranawaka "Somevilla" Paranawadiya Road, Maradana

BEST AND FAVOURITE

.....I may add that Colombo is our best and [favourite local station and for the past five years we have listened to your Western programs every day and every night... I much appreciate the English Church Services you have on Sunday mornings— Mrs. L. M. Walsh, Waverley Estate, Attakatti P O, South India.

YOU ASKED FOR IT

We very much appreciate the programs broadcast by you. Ever since you have been the Superintendent of the Broadcasting Station you have done everything possible to interest every section of the Ceylon Public. "You Asked For It" is really very fine, and would you mind giving the Tamil listeners a similarity? — "Pekoe" Namunukula.

VERY GOOD CLASSICAL MUSIC

I have today sent a M. O. for my subscription to the Radio Club. I also write to let you know how much my friends and I appreciated your programs during the last year. They have been all one could wish for. I myself am not struck with the dance music of today but for the sake of others who are, I tune in. I prefer classical music and of late I have thought that your programs (of classical music) from the station's repertoire were very good. On the whole your programs are well worth tuning in for at all times. Wishing you and the Station all the success you deserve— A. Walkins Fallowfield Private Hotel, Madras.

A GRIEVANCE

A few weeks ago a listener wrote in, proposing the discontinuation of including names in your request programs. You may have judged, the result of fulfilling this request better than I. The names added the extra spice and flavour to the program. The stations Manila and Rome construct their musical programs mainly on requests from listeners. In playing the number asked for they not only give the name but the address also. The letter is totally unnecessary though it is announced. I Shall be much obliged if you would supply me with the reasons, for the discontinuation of names, as I have very vague ideas with regard to it-Vernon Disanayake, 49, College Street, Kotahena

Few November Features

"ALICE IN WONDERLAND"

LEWIS CARROLL'S master piece, "Alice in Wonderland" will be heard during the "Children's Hour" in November. It has been admirably dramatised for radio purposes, and not only children but adult listeners should not miss this weekly treat. The first instalment will be heard on Friday, November 3rd and "Uncle Peter" and "Aunt Peggy" who are producing it, can be trusted to do a very good job of the various instalments into which it has been divided.

"THE COLOMBO MUSEUM"

A series of talks in Sinhalese on the National Repository of Art, Treasures in Ceylon, the Colombo Museum, has been arranged.

A stone implement used by our ancestors long, long ago may be worth much more than a valuable ruby. An animal tooth dug out several feet below the surface of the earth may be more valuable than the Throne of the Kandyan King: Perhaps a solitary coin in circulation in the Island a millennium ago may be well worth several pounds sterling or a few words inscribed on a stone slab might throw fresh light on the ancient history and literature of this Island.

How many of us know the interesting history that lay beneath some of the exhibits in the Museum which the ordinary visitor passes over with a casual glance? Well, Mr H L. Caldera, a member of the Museum staff is to give us on November 7th the first of a special series dealing with the history of this interesting institution and how to see it.

"THRILLER ON THURSDAYS"

The broadcasting of plays in instalments is becoming more and more popular, and it is gratifying to note the enthusiasm of the listening public to those which Colombo has been providing regularly.

Last month hundreds of listeners were satisfied with the excellent production by Mr. Peter Batten and his Radio Players of the great Anthony Hope Serial. "The Prisoner of Zenda" following the various episodes with more than ordinary interest. This month we offer you something a little different though equally fascinating and thrilling a Detective Story in four episodes entitled "The Adventures of Alonza Mactavish," it will be put over every Thursday night in November by Mr. J. S. M. Paterson and his friends.

Mr. Paterson and his band of players have in the past been responsible for a number of splendid radio plays, so listeners are assured of good fare well put over.

"MALINI BY TAGORE"

On Armistice Day you will hear Malini by Tagore, there are dramatic moments as well as an abundance of beautiful poetic lines in this play, The three principal characters are Malini a princess, and the two friends Supriya and Kemankar

Characters:- Malini, Miss Sheila de Soysa; Queen, Nelun Devi; King, Leonard Peiris; Prince, Neville Wijeyekoon, Supriya Surya Sena; Kemankar, E. C. B. Wijeyesinghe; 1st Brahmin, Cecil de Soysa; 2nd Brahmin, Gerald Cooray; 3rd Brahmin, Lionel Gunasekera; Crowd of Brahmins:- Laksman de Mel, Dennis Coorey, Christopher Peries and Gamunu Dias.

Act.1.— The Balcony of the Palace facing the street; Act II— The Palace Garden.

"THE TWILIGHT HOUR"

A new feature in our November program to which attention is drawn is "The Twilight Hour," on Mondays from 6.30 to 7.30 p. m. By its provision we hope we would be able to meet to some extent, the criticism which has been made, that until 7.30 p. m daily. Western listeners are not catered for, It is our aim to make this feature as popular as "The Cocktail Hour." Readers are asked to look up the Monday programs to ascertain how it is to be put out. Suggestions to improve the "Twilight Hour" are welcome.

The number of radio licensees at the end of 1939 was 7621.

Programmes for Sinhala and Tamil Rural Listeners- Programmes of interest to rural listeners were introduced in April, 1940. These included Vannam, Viridus, Folk lore and talks, broadcast from 5 to 5.30 pm on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays for Sinhala, and on Tuesdays and Thursdays and Saturdays for Tamil listeners. It was formally inaugurated in Sinhala by Mr. Shirley da Silva, the Station Superintendent on April 1, 1940. He was not fluent in Sinhala speech. However, he wrote down his Sinhala speech in English text and read it for the satisfaction of the Sinhala listeners.

Announcer Released for War Services- The most senior Announcer, Mr. E. Y. G. Rankine, who had served in the Royal Navy during World War I, and after cessation of hostilities served in the Naval Wireless Station, Yatiyana, Matara, and later joined the Colombo Broadcasting Service, was released to serve under the C. N. V. F. in early 1940. The temporary vacancy was filled by Mr. Garvin E. Mack, who did not serve more than one year, and Mr. C. E. Hettiaratchy, who replaced Mr. Mack too did not remain till Mr. Rankine resumed duties.

Broadcasting and Music- Mr. Shirley da Silva, superintendent Broadcasting Station, in an article to the Ceylon Radio Times Programme Supplement for the first half of April, 1940, stated:

“Broadcasting, as every listener ought by now to know has three functions-

1. To entertain
2. To educate
3. To Inform.

In the earliest days broadcasting was confined to entertainment. Perhaps the idea was to gain a public first and create the listening habit. It was a new industry, and like every other new industry had to cultivate a selling price.

It is not to be denied that pioneers like Marconi were not deaf to the call of the microphone to culture. Music however, was to be the bread and butter of broadcasting programmes. Melba sang into the microphone before any one dared to talk into it. It is the

experience of the B. B. C. that most listeners would rather to hear the piano vamped or a song given than a silver tongue discourse.

This is the human natured and that is why the daily programmes of the B. B. C. were for a long time over whelmingly musical. Nor is that to be denied, for the B. B. C. has claimed the credit for the change in the musical heart of England.

It used to be said before that many Englishmen would if it were discovered that they had a passion for Beethoven.

Broadcast in short is the greatest ally that music has ever had on earth. It is the final step in the democratisation of music that, perhaps, had the beginnings in a community sing song among primitive men and women in the dark forest.

Recording of Traditional Sinhala Music and Songs- It was Mr. D. P. Jayasekera's suggestion to formulate a scheme to preserve traditional Sinhala music and folk songs including folk lore, and it was given effect to in June 1940.

Recording of Sinhala folk songs and folk lore with artistes as they became available continued with the single turn table recording machine purchased by the Post and Telecommunications Department's Radio staff, who had been trained in the technique of recording. It soon became apparenly that one single turn table machine was insufficient for the proper recording of folk songs and folk music of this country and the engineers were on, the look out for equipment which could be used for continuous recording for a fairly long duration. The Second World War started by this time, and any such equipment was not readily available. As soon as the War ceased the search for suitable equipment was renewed. Mr D. P. Jayasekera, who had by the time being appointed Divisional Telecommunication Engineer, Radio, consequent to the retirement of Mr. J. Shillitoe, Chief Telecommunication Engineer, was commissioned to look for, during his visit to the United Kingdom, and the U. S. A., equipment particularly wire recorders, which had been developed during the war for continuous recording. Mr. Jayasekera had examined various

models of wire recorders and recorders using plastic sleeves but was not satisfied with them for the purpose for the work contemplated. After discussions with Mr. A. Nadarasa, who had by then been appointed Assistant Chief Telecommunications Engineer, it was decided to get down 2 R. C. A. portable single turn table recording machines and design circuits to use them for continuous recording.

Appointment of a Special Committee- The following Committee was appointed by the Minister, Sir John Kotelawala, to assist the selection of material to be recorded in the departmental programme of recording the traditional and folk music of this country:-

Dr. G. P. Malalasekera (Chairman)
Mudlr. E. A. Abeyesekera
Mr. S. L. B. Kapukotuwa
Mr. Shirley da Silva (Superintendent of Broadcasting)
Mr. H. de S. Gunewardene (Postal Clerical Service)
Secretary.

This committee was reconstituted in 1947, by the Minister of Post, Telecommunications and Information, Mr. C. Sittampalam, by including two additional members, Messrs Devar Surya Sena and Mr. D. P. Jayasekera. Mr. C. L. P. Gunawardana of the Postal Clerical Service, who was handling the arrangement of Sinhala, Tamil and Muslim programmes was appointed Secretary, in place of Mr. H. de S. Gunewardene in addition to his normal duties.

Soon after the reconstitution of the Committee, a van specially designed to mount the Recording Machine, associated other equipment, such as Electrical Generating sets, Batteries, Lighting equipment, Radio Transmitters, Camp Beds, Cutlery, Crockery, Cooking utensils, kerosine Cookers etc., so that the technical staff could travel even to the remote villages together with the Members of the Recording Committee, to record Sinhala Folk songs and music in the villages then and there.

A comprehensive Report of the work done by the Committee together with a list of artistes and the songs recorded,

is appearing in Appendix. A The functions of the Secretary, Mr. C. L. P. Gunawardana, were:-

Summon meetings of the Committee in consultation with the Chairman.

Maintain the Minutes of the meetings, with copies to the Postmaster General.

Accompany the members of the committee to places of recording, make arrangements with the technical staff and book the Recording Van.

Make arrangements with the M. P. of the area or any other distinguished personality to get together reliable singers at a school or any such institution.

Effect payment to each artiste immediately after the recording.

At his discretion to record any reliable artiste who attends the Broadcasting Station for the purpose of recording and effect payment.

Accordingly he had recorded 9 vannah of the international fame. N. M. Gunaya and all the 32 Nadagam talam of Andiris Francisco of Ruhuna.

Recordings of Sinhala Folk Songs broadcast in Denmark- When the Colombo Broadcasting Station was located at the "Bower" 79 Kotte Road, Borella, a Danish Broadcaster, Historian and Traveller named Hans Seedorf had heard that the Colombo Broadcasting Station had made recordings of some of the folk music of this country and he came to the Colombo Broadcasting Station to hear some of the recordings that had been made.

He explained that during the time of the Sinhala Kings (King Senerat) a Danish Admiral had come to Ceylon with several Danish ships, anchored the ships off Batticaloa and travelled to Alutnuwara (Mahiyangana) where the Sinhala King was holding forte, to try and get permission of the Sinhala King for Denmark to establish one or more Trading Posts on the coast of Ceylon and engage in peaceful trade. Although the Danish Admiral's visit had not resulted in the establishment of any Danish Trade Posts in Ceylon, Mr.

Seedorf was desirous of commemorating the Admiral's visit to the King of Ceylon in a number of broadcasts over the Danish Radio describing the type of the country the Danish Admiral had passed through, the type of the inhabitants he would have met, their social customs, music etc. Mr Seedorf thought if the broadcasts were illustrated with recordings of folk music of the area through which the Danish Admiral had passed it would be invaluable. He was very pleased with the recordings he had heard at the Broadcasting Station and wanted copies saying that he would supply the blank discs. On being told that copies of recordings could not be given without the Ministry's permission he had seen the Minister and obtained the required sanction saying that after the broadcast he would hand over the records to the Danish Museum for safe keeping.

Copies of the recordings were accordingly supplied to Mr. Seedorf and on his return to Denmark, he had not only made the broadcasts that were needed but also had written a book on his visit to Ceylon, and therein thanked the officials of the Colombo Broadcasting Station for the help they had given him.

Private Broadcast Messages— A Post Office Communique issued by the Postmaster General states—

“Obituary Notices and Urgent Private Messages when relatives are required at the bed-side of a sick person, certified to be dangerously ill, are now accepted at all Postal Telegraph Offices for the purpose of being broadcast in one or more of the languages, English, Sinhalese, and Tamil as desired by the sender.

Messages must be written on the usual inland telegram form in English, and will be charged for at the rate of 40 cents per word of the English text for the first announcement in the language desired, and 20 cents per word for each subsequent announcement of the same message on the same day. The translation from English to Sinhalese and Tamil will be made at the Broadcasting Station,

These telegrams should be addressed 'BROADCAST, COLOMBO'. This address as well as instructions, the sender may give are not charged for.

For further information, apply to the nearest Post Office.

The full text of the Regulation, Rule 648 of the Post Office Guide is reproduced below.

Private Broadcast Messages

(Extract from the Ceylon Post Office Guide 1934,
pages 335 & 336)

1. The Colombo Broadcasting Service operated by the Telegraph Department is available for broadcasting:-

- (a) Obituary notices.
- (b) Urgent private messages when relatives are required at the bedside of a sick person whom the Hospital authorities or his Medical Attendant certifies to be dangerously ill.
- (c) Messages of public interest.
- (d) Urgent official messages sent by the Police when they refer to missing person.

A message under (c) is accepted only on condition that it will be broadcast if the Chief Engineer of Telegraphs approves it to be one of public interest; otherwise the message will be cancelled and the full cost refunded to the sender.

2. Messages for broadcasting may be handed in at any Postal Telegraph Office and should be addressed "Broadcast Colombo". It is optional for the sender to mention his name in the text, but the message form should be signed and the address furnished, not necessarily for transmission as in the case of ordinary telegrams

3. The charge on these messages will be 40 cents per word. The address is not charged for. Urgent official messages sent by the Police under (d) are accepted free of charge.

4. Broadcasting of such messages will take place twice a day, viz, at 12 noon and night generally between 7-0 and 8-30 p. m. and sometimes later. If there are two broadcast in the night the message will be emitted at the earlier broadcast. Senders of these messages may indicate, when necessary, the particular broadcast during which the message should be emitted by inserting as a "Service Instruction" which will not be charged for, the word Noon or Night, as the case may be. In the absence of any such indication the emission will take place at the very next broadcast after its receipt at the Broadcasting Studio.

If more than one emission is desired the Service Instructions should contain the words "Two emissions." The second emission which would be one the same day will be charged at 20 cents per word.

5. The Department accepts no responsibility beyond the actual broadcasting of the message and claims for refund will not be admitted.

Seraphina and Japanese Mandoline Banned for Broadcasting.
The use of seraphina and the Japanese Mandelene was banned with effect from July 1, 1940, following the example of All India Radio. Before such an action was taken, artistes particularly Sinhala, who used these two kinds of musical instruments were discouraged by paying higher remunerations to those who used better musical instruments.

Competition among Sinhala School Children— A Challenge
Shield was offered by Mr. E. W. Kannangara, C. C. S., a member of the Sinhala Audition Panel, who took a keen interest for the progress of the Colombo Broadcasting Service, especially Sinhala programmes, for a competition among Sinhala Schools under the caption "Do You Know". It was compered by Mr. L. L. K. Gunatunga of the Education Department, who retired as the Commissioner of Examinations. A number of schools in Colombo and its suburbs, both Sinhala and English, participated. The final contest, was held at 6.30 pm on

December, 18, 1940, between Homagama Government School and St. Mary's Girls School, Lauries Road, Bambalapitiya, and the winners were St. Mary's, Bambalapitiya. The Postmaster General, Col J. P. Appleby offered each member of the winning school, a small Silver Cup in, addition to the Shield, and the runners-up half a bushel of rice each, prizes presented by Mrs. J. P. Appleby.

The total number of radio licensees at the end of 1940 was 9736.

Registration of 10,000 radio Licences. Despite the World War II and fairly high prices of radio receiving sets the licence figures topped 10,000 on 10th March, 1941. The occasion was celebrated on 13th March 1941, at Kandawala, Ratmalana, the spacious residence of Sir John Kotelawala (then Lt. Col.) the Minister of Communications and Works, who took a great interest for the development of the Colombo Broadcasting Service. Invitations for the function were extended to V. I. Ps, High Ranking Government officials and all radio artistes, who were lavishly entertained by Sir John at his own expense. Messrs. C. L. P. Gunawardana, D. M. Colombage, S. Nadarasa and M. S. Ratnam, 4 officials of the Colombo Broadcasting Station, Programme Section were also invited not as officers but as artistes, who were conducting a popular radio programme entitled "News and Views". In his welcome speech Sir John declared, "Broadcasting in Ceylon began with makeshift apparatus. A regular service on a wavelength of 800 metres was inaugurated in 1924, the first licensee being Mr. L. E. Heal."

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Proceedings of the celebrations, including a variety entertainment by Radio artistes were relayed from the Minister's residence, with an introduction to the audience and the listeners in all the three languages Sinhala, Tamil and English by Mr. W. Sathasivam. Some of the artistes, who took part in the entertainment were, Messrs. U. A. S. Perera, Eddie Jayamanne Edwin Kottgododa, Misses. Madeleine de Zilwa, Audrey Dharmakirithi, Beryl Bartholomusz, Mesdames Esme Joseph, L. Lokasubramanium, Manorajitham Lokeswaram, Mr. M. A. Hassan Alliyar and Miss. Thelma Kaai.

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The celebrations were under the guidance of the Postmaster General, while the musical entertainment programme for the occasion and broadcasting was handled by the Superintendent of Broadcasting, who fell sick a few days before the function at which he was not available. So Mr. C. L. P. Gunawardana, who was present being invited as an artiste had to bear the responsibility for the broadcast programme.

Ceylon Lads Overseas - A special programme entitled "Ceylon Lads Overseas" was inaugurated by His Excellency the Governor, Sir Andrew Caldecot at 7.40 pm on Tuesday, December 2, 1941. It was a Tuesday feature and the programme included messages in music arranged for Ceylon Lads serving with His Majesty's Forces. Their kith and kin came before the microphone and they themselves broadcast the messages and music they suggested were played between the messages.

Unfounded allegations against the staff by Artistes- Certain unwritten allegations were received by the Superintendent, Broadcasting Station, from a Sinhala artiste, against the officer detailed to arrange all oriental programmes, Sinhala, Tamil and Muslim. On finding that the accusations made against the officer were baseless, the Superintendent referred the papers with his report to the Postmaster General, Mr. J. R. Walters, C. C. S., who did not wish to deal with the case, but decided to submit the proceedings to the Hon'ble Minister, Sir John Kotelawala, who always safeguarded his subordinates, when he found them innocent. After perusing the case, Sir John ordered that the artiste concerned should personally tender an apology to the officer, and if he were to fail, his name should be struck off the register of artistes.

There were 10,605 radio licensees at the end of 1941.

Bombing of Colombo by the Japanese - The year 1942 saw nothing of importance owing to World War II spreading to South East and South Asia. On Easter Sunday, April 5, 1942 Japanese Air Crafts bombed Colombo causing havoc and disturbance.

On this eventful day Ven'ble Madihe Pannasiha Thera (now Maha Nayake) was due to broadcast the Sunday morning Bana Sermon. Actually he was not the preacher scheduled to

broadcast that day. He had agreed to deputise the absentee, on the invitation of the broadcasting authorities. He was present at the studio, but owing to the air raid warning, the yellow signal, broadcasting transmission was suspended, and at a stand still. The broadcasting officers on duty at the studio had appealed to the Ven'ble Thera to go inside the air raid shelter provided at the Broadcasting Station. There upon the Ven'ble Thera had enquired from the officers where they intended to go for shelter to which they had replied that they were on duty and as such they should be at their duty posts. The Ven'ble Thera had retaliated saying that in the circumstance he was also prepared to be at the post he was expected to be that morning. The officers on duty were very much encouraged and stood by him at the duty posts till the all clear signal was sounded.

Tamil Announcer conscribed by the Information Officer- In May 1942 the services of the Tamil Announcer, Mr. S. Nadarasa, B. A., had to be terminated as he had been called for duty at the Information Department without any notice. Mr. S. Saravanamuttu, Postmaster and Signaller at the Ship-to-Shore Radio Station (CLO) very kindly came to the rescue, and performed announcing duties in Tamil until the vacancy was filled by Mr. S. Sivapathasundaram, who was the runner-up at the selection of Mr. S. Nadarasa, in December, 1937.

Retirement of Mr. Shirley da Silva, Superintendent, Broadcasting Station Colombo. Mr. Shirley da Silva, who had introduced a series of new features and innovations to the broadcasting programme, and brought the Colombo Broadcasting Service to a certain high standard in a short period of years, devoting his full time for the cause of the service, retired on August 1, 1942. It should be mentioned that he did not fail to bring before the microphone of the Colombo Station, any distinguished visitor, whose voice or performance, the radio listeners should have listened to, if such a personality passed through Colombo. He was a person worthy of holding a very high executive office in any Broadcasting Service. He would have done wonders if the present day facilities and funds were made available to him. His name is worthy to be recorded in bold letters in the annals of the Sri Lanka Broadcasting.

Mr. H. de S. Gunewardene of the Postal Clerical Service who gave over the duties to Mr. Shirley da Silva on August 2, 1937, took over again on August 1, 1942, as acting Superintendent.

R. A. F. Occupies the Race Course and its surroundings- All the employees both programmes and technical were put into much inconvenience and risk, coming and going out after dusk, during the period of the "black out" without proper transport facilities as Torrington Square and the Race Course were under the Royal Air Force. The employees had to 'surrender' to the R. A. F. at pistol point each time the employees passed the barrier. They were released after the identification on the production of a permit.

Procedure to be followed after an Air Raid- Clear instructions were in force to all the announcers to report for duty - a batch of technical officers were always on duty - immediately after the all clear signal consequent on an air raid - even it be the mid-night. Despite the fact that Mr. C. L. P. Gunawardana was not an announcer, these instructions were enforced on him too. However, these officers were fortunate that there was no occasion for them to face such a calamity. All the announcers, barring the female, were issued Post Office push bicycles for their travelling, but Mr. C. L. P. Gunawardana had to walk from Torrington Square, to Galle Road, Bambalapitiya and on instances after 8 pm continue the trudge to his residence at Dehiwala along Galle Road in the 'black out'. He was, in the circumstances, compelled to bring his difficulties to his immediate superior, the Chief Telecommunications Engineer, who had transferred him against his wishes to the Broadcasting Station. The result was that a Post Office push bicycle was forced on him. This is how the pioneers of the Colombo Broadcasting Service toiled hard for the cause of the service for no personal benefit.

News in Sinhala and Tamil in dialogue form- The news in dialogue form for Sinhala and Tamil listeners was an innovation this year. This feature, which gained high popularity was conducted in Sinhala by Messrs. C. L. P. Gunawardana and D. M. Colombage and Tamil by Messrs. S. Sivapathasundaram and M. S. Rutnam. It was introduced for the purpose of giving war news and other topical information to the listeners in a language understood by literates and illiterates. In order

to make this feature a success, the Police, Health and the Marketing Departments rendered valuable assistance by furnishing information pertaining to the respective departments.

Vaithiyanathan Committee. The Report of the Vaithiyanathan Committee appointed by the Minister of Communications and Works, Sir John Kotelawala, towards the end of 1940, was published as Sessional Paper XVII of 1941, detailing 21 recommendations. It was not possible to implement any recommendations immediately owing to the hostilities of the World War II.

The members of the Committee were:

- Mr. K. Vaithiyanathan, C. C. S., Chairman
- Mrs. Mildred Black
- Mudlr. E. A. Abeysekera
- Mr. H. H. M. Gazzali
- Mr. P. de S. Kulartne
- Mr. S. Nadesan
- Mr. S. Pararajasingham
- Mr. F. A. E. Price
- Mr. W. J. Price
- Mr. M. S. Rockwood
- Mr. Devar Surya Sena
- Mr. W. R. Watson, Assistant Director of
Education
- Mr. H. de S. Gunewardene, Secretary (Postal
clerical service)

Talks on Air Raid Precautions. Civil Defence Commissioner's Department started to broadcast talks in English on Air Raid Precautions, and immediately after the broadcast, the talks had to be translated to Sinhala and Tamil, record the translations on discs and rebroadcast the talks at short intervals for the information of the general public. These talks were highly technical. Dictionaries were not available at the Broadcasting Station. So Messrs. D. M. Colombage and C. L. P. Gunawardana in respect of Sinhala translations and Messrs. S. Sivapatha Sundaram and M. S. Rutnam in respect of Tamil translations experienced much difficulties in doing a good job due to the lack of facilities. These translators were, however fortunate that they had no occasion to face the music of the listeners, for any lapses.

Members Of Kandy Ratwatte Family



T.B. Ratwatte Dissawa



A.C.L. Ratwatte



J.C. (Patrick) Ratwatte



Sir Cudah Ratwatte

Available Photos of Noteworthy Engineering Staff



B.S. Seneviratne



M.M.P. Gunawardene



E.C. Wijekoon



A.W. Dharmapala



D.P. Jayasekera

News in Sinhala from the B. B. C.— News and talks in Sinhala started from the B.B.C. in June 1942.

Government Communiques— Broadcast of government notices and communiques began from July 1, 1942, with the news bulletins in Sinhala, Tamil and English.

Talks "To You-Madam" by Mr. D. N. W. de Silva — A weekly talk in Sinhala by Mr. D. N. W. de Silva, well known journalist, entitled "To You-Madam" under the nom-de-plume "Nelun Kotelawala" was started from July 2, 1942. He assumed the name Nelun Kotelawala as he was residing in the house "Nelun" at Kotelawala Gardens. These talks gained high popularity, and the then Minister of Health, Hon'ble Mr. George E. de Silva, and another listener, conveyed their sentiments thus:—

"I listened to a very interesting talk from your station last night. It was intended mainly for Sinhalese women and I assure you it would have been appreciated by all women who understood Sinhalese, for it was in very plain and understandable language and contained much useful advice to all.

As a man and a father I appreciated it very much. It was time that somebody should have given this type of straight talk to our women and I must congratulate you on inaugurating this series, which I hope will prove more and more interesting each week."

July 3. 1942

Sgd. George E. de Silva
Minister of Health

"Several of us down this road, men and ladies listened last night to the first of a series of special talks to ladies. We were all anxious to know whether the talk was the same stereotype form we hear on the radio and from public platform.

Genuinely we were delighted to find a new avenue of approach to a delicate subject. Frankness is what is wanted even if it is going to offend the ultra-sensitive. We hope that these talks will result in a general reform of the ways and habits of our people."

Sgd. M. Pieris
Kotahena, July 3, 1942

Lost Horizon- The Radio Play "Lost Horizon" based on the novel by James Hilton was broadcast from the Colombo Studio at 8.45 p. m. on Sunday, August 23, 1942. This is how the programme was advertised in the Ceylon Radio Times.

LOST HORIZON

"Those who saw the film version of the novel some years ago may ask themselves if the high enchantment of Shangari-La does not wholly arise out of the obvious scenic appeal; the towering ice caps of the Himalayas, the vast plateau and the all pervading atmosphere of the mystery which is Tibet - how shall these be conjured out of the ether? The listener is invited to discover both the mystery and intimacy of a hidden civilisation to fly with the Englishman Company into the Valley of Lost Horizon, to wait upon the mysterious presence of the High Lama, and to share in imagination the restless fate of Mallinson for whom quietness of the soul is a terror and stranglehold upon life.

In this brilliantly constructed play the High Lama will be played by Devar Surya Sena, who took a leading part in the original B. B. C. and New York production. Genuine Tibetan songs accompany the play's action. It is produced by Devar Surya Sena and Howard Jones."

Characters in order of speaking

Mallinson	B. G. Thornley
Conway	Anthony Warner
Bernard (an American)	D. M. Ames
Miss. Brinklaw (a lady missionary)	Elanche Spencer Sheppard

Henderson	} Two Travellers	Derek Pelham
Rutherford		Howard Jones
Chang	} of the Lamasary of Shangarila	Devar Surya Sena
The High Lama		Nelun Devi
lo Tsen		

Shifting of Colombo Broadcasting Station; from Torrington Square to Kotte Road, Borella- Britain declared war on Germany on 3rd September, 1939. Naturally Ceylon a Crown Colony under the British Empire had to get involved in world War II. Japan entered World War II and joined Axis, and very soon swift over a greater part of South East Asia, occupying Burma, Dutch East Indies, Malaya and Singapore. Ceylon then became a front line base from which Great Britain had to operate the war. A decision was taken to construct a large number of air fields in various parts of the country. One such air field was in Colombo itself, the run-away running through the present Independent Memorial Hall. The Race Course and Golf Links round about were all taken over by the R. A. F. and the Post and Telecommunications Department had to quickly vacate all the Establishments that were located in the buildings at Torrington Square. Thus the Ship-to-Shore Radio Receiving Station (CLO), the Broadcasting Station's Control Room, Studios, Radio Laboratory and the Telecommunications Engineering Training School, all had to be quickly removed.

The Ship-to-Shore Receiving Station was removed to one of the Government Quarters at Manning Town, the aerials being erected on the marshy grass fields, which were adjacent. The moving of the two Broadcast studios at Torrington Square presented a problem as a spacious building was necessary. Fortunately there was a large bungalow "The Bower" No. 79 Kotte Road, Borella, with considerable garden space belonging to a member of the family of Mr. Dudley Fernando an engineer of the department, who very public spiritedly stepped forward to help the department out of the difficulty and persuaded his relations to agree to have the building vacated and offer it on lease to the department. This bungalow

was only a short distance from Borella junction through which telephone circuits for linking the studios at Torrington Square with the transmitters at Welikada ran, The cost of linking "The Bower" to the transmitters at Welikada was thus minimal. At the new premises it was possible to provide 2 small studios, office accommodation to the Programme Staff, Recording Room, Record Library, Room for the Engineering Staff, Radio Laboratory, Overheadline Construction and Cable sections of the Engineering Training School. The Studios at the Bower were constructed very rapidly under the direction of Messrs. A. Nadarasa, D. P. Jayasekera, and W. E. de Silva, the Inspectors of the Radio Division, viz: Messrs. B. S. Seneviratne, D. S. Kasturiaratchi, M. Wimalaratne and A. W. Direkze, working day and night to wire the 2 studios and Control Room. Broadcast artistes were transferred to the new premises without causing any interruption to the broadcasting service in the afternoon on September 3, 1942.

Special Broadcasts for Military Servicemen- A notable feature in 1943 was the introduction of short wave transmissions on 612 metres 4902 k/cs for the use of the military service necessitating changes in the broadcast programmes. In the early stage of the war there was only one transmitter operating on 428.5 metres 700 k/cs frequency. Programmes for the services were special broadcasts in Afrikan, Dutch, Hindustani. For Ceylon Lads Overseas there were special broadcasts per week consisting items of music, news and messages.

Members of the military services were allowed to use radio receiving sets without a licence, and there were 405 free licensed radio sets.

Development - Stage 3

Controller of Broadcasting Programmes- The technical officers attached to the Broadcasting Station were not in favour of the designation Superintendent, Broadcasting Station being assigned to the Head of the Broadcasting Programmes Office, as that designation would infer that they are also under him, when in fact and truth they are directly under the Chief Telecommunications Engineer. But as the post offered to Mr. Shirley da Silva was Superintendent, Broadcasting Station, no change in the designation was effected. But when Mr. da Silva retired and Mr. H. de S. Gunewardene who was acting was selected to fill the vacancy, the Postmaster General decided to change the designation to Controller of of Broadcasting Programmes, code CBP, with effect from August 1, 1943, and take over the administration of the Broadcasting Programme Office from the Chief Telecommunications, under whom it had functioned from the inception, to enable the Chief Telecommunications Engineer to devote his full time on technical broadcasting.

"Between Ourselves"- Dr. G. P. Malalasekera was invited to broadcast in Sinhala a weekly talk on a topical subject. He agreed very kindly and adopted the "nom-de-plume Wimala Charma". entitled "Between Ourselves". These talks gained high popularity. He stopped on his own in a few months.

Additional Announcers - Colombo Broadcasting Station had 2 English, 1 Sinhala and 1 Tamil Announcer up to 1943, when it was decided to recruit an additional announcer to each section so that there be 3 English, 2 Sinhala and 2 Tamil announcers. The posts were advertised and according to the prevailing scheme Messrs. Moses W. Fernando and N. V. Balasubramaniam were selected as additional Sinhala and Tamil announcers. In 3 months time the newly recruited Sinhala announcer, Mr. Moses Fernando, tendered his resignation as he

did not wish to continue, and left the service in search of better prospects. The vacancy was filled by Mr. D. T. L. Guruge, who was the runner up at the interview at which Mr. Moses Fernando was selected. Several candidates were tried for the post of English announcer. Some left on their own as they did not like the work, while others were found unsuitable after the training. Finally Mr. Livy R. Wijemanne was retained after a good training by Mrs. Pearl Ondatjee and Mr. C. E. Hettiarachy, two commendable announcers. Three or four years later Mr. Wijemanne too submitted his resignation but withdrew it on the advice of Mr. Richard Weerasuriya, the then Controller of Programmes, before it reached the Postmaster General.

“This is Colombo Calling” - The English announcers introduced the Colombo Broadcasting Service saying “This is Colombo Calling” following the British Broadcasting Corporation's introduction at that time “This is London Calling”. The Sinhala announcers had adopted the term කොළඹින් කථා කරමි of which certain Sinhala listeners began to humiliate saying කමින් කථා කරමි. The Sinhala Staff attached to the Programme Office began to consider for a more suitable expression in Sinhala. On June 19, 1944, at 10 50 am Mr. D. M. Colombage, the senior Sinhala Announcer was scheduled to broadcast a talk in Sinhala in the School Service, and Mr. C. L. P. Gunawardana had to introduce the speaker to the listeners. He started by saying මේ කොළඹ ඉවත් විදුලි ප්‍රචාරකය and then introduced the speaker. After his broadcast talk Mr. Colombage came to Mr. C. L. P. Gunawardana and thanked him for innovating an appropriate Sinhala term which all were looking for. Dr. G. P. Malalasekera and Mudlr B. A. Abayasekera, the 2 Sinhala members of the Broadcasting Advisory Board agreed that there could not be a better expression and congratulated Mr. C. L. P. Gunawardana.

But after our independence, when the Colombo Broadcasting Service on October 1, 1948, was given over with new buildings and up-to-date equipment to a new Broadcasting Department under a B. B. C. expert, he ordered that the service be introduced in English, Sinhala and Tamil

as "Radio Ceylon". Sinhala and Tamil listeners were not at all pleased with the change, and the Radio Round-up by Aerial, which appeared in the Times of Ceylon of January 28, 1950, he commented, "There is nothing so ridiculous and jarring as the opening announcement "Radio Ceylon" introducing oriental programmes from Colombo. Whoever is responsible for this brainwave cannot be credited with initiative or imagination. If this English introduction to Sinhala programmes is intended to convey to those outside the Island that it is a Radio Ceylon broadcast, which is on the air, little purpose will be served. It is not too late to adopt something are sensible". However the S. L. B. C is correctly following the Colombo Broadcasting Service's announcement in Sinhala

Security Service at the Colombo Broadcasting Station During War- During the World War II Colombo Broadcasting Station was guarded by the Army and the Police on weekly rotation. Entry to the Station was by permit signed by the Controller of Programmes. All radio artistes were issued permits to enter the Station for broadcast assignments, and this permit, which was issued a couple days in advance served as a reminder for the assignment, valid only for that purpose. Once a Head of a Government Department, who had failed to bring the permit had to go back and bring it as he was not allowed admittance by the security guard

Below is a specimen of the permit.

Permit to enter the Broadcasting Station

Please bring this permit along with you, as you will not be allowed to enter the Broadcasting Station without it.

This permit is valid only for the date mentioned below. It must be surrendered to the guard on duty at the entrance.

Bearer.....
 is/are due to broadcast on.....19 at.....
 am/pm ...

Controller of Programmes

Broadcasting Station
 Box no: 574,
 Colombo..... 194

World war II Cessation of Hostilities- Victory over Europe was celebrated on 7th May, 1945, but Japan continued and capitulated on August 14, 1945. During the period of the Japanese capitulation, the Controller of Programmes, Mr. H. de S. Gunewardene was on 3 weeks leave and his duties were covered by Mr. C. L. P. Gunawardana, who on hearing the news of the Japanese capitulation to the U. S. A. from the B. B. C. early in the morning, rushed to the Broadcasting Station, Kotte Road, Borella on the G. P. O. push bicycle forced on him by the Department. On his arrival at the Broadcasting Station, he heard the telephone on his office table ringing. When he lifted the telephone receiver the Postmaster General at the other end of the telephone line asked, "I say where have you been all this time, I have been ringing you for the last half hour". Mr. C. L. P. Gunawardana had no alternative but to say; "Sir, my office hours are from 9 a. m. to 4.30 pm, yet on hearing the B. B. C. news I am here at 8 am". The Postmaster General at the other end then said, "that's alright; His Excellency the Governor wants all information regarding His Majesty's speech on the B. B. C. pertaining to the victory. Furnish all details direct to His Excellency". The senior Inspector of Telecommunications attached to the Radio Laboratory, Mr. B. S. Seneviratne was detailed to monitor B. B. C. transmissions, and His Majesty's speech was on the air without any prior announcement. Mr. Seneviratne conveyed the information to Mr. C. L. P. Gunawardana, who was placed in a very precarious position as he had no authority to contact His Excellency direct, not even a Head of a Government Department, had such authority. It was a very urgent matter and time could not be lost by even telephoning the Postmaster General. However, he had the intelligence to contact the Private Secretary to His Excellency and convey the information and fulfil his obligation while safe guarding Postmaster General's interests.

Special broadcast programmes were arranged to suit the occasion by interrupting the day's normal programmes.

15 kw Transmitter- Mr. A. Nadarasa, Superintending Telecommunications Engineer in charge of Radio, who had assisted Mr. E. Harper to construct the 1/2 kw transmitter on which the Colombo Broadcasting Service was inaugurated on 27th June, 1924, and who was responsible for designing and constructing 2.5 and 5 kw transmitters, had further designed and constructed a 15 kw medium wave radio transmitter and brought it into use of 16th December, 1985 without any excitement or formalities.

Water cooled valves were used for this transmitter. Broadcasting transmitters were installed in one wing of Welikada Wireless Station while the ship-to-shore radio and telegraph transmitters were in the other wing. both wings having been constructed specially for these purposes.

During the course of World War II, it has been decided by the allied Governments to allocate to Ceylon a short wave radio transmitter to expand Ceylon short wave broadcast service. Accordingly a 7.5 R. C. A. short wave transmitter, which has been working some where in the Middle East or Egypt was received in Ceylon, and was cleaned, installed and tested by the staff at Welikada Wireless Station.

Later a second 7.5 kw R. C. A. short wave transmitter was received and installed specially for Radio SEAC programmes. When this transmitter was being erected at Welikada by the District Telecommunications Inspector Mr. E. C. Wijekoon and his staff for Radio SEAC, Lord Louis Mount Batten had made a visit to Welikada Wireless Station to examine its operations.

The number of Radio licensees at the end of 1942, 1943, 1944 and 1945 were 11,393, 11,838, 11,417 and 11,939 respectively.

Sunil Santha - In the year 1941 a youth with a pleasant appearance walked into the Broadcasting Station with a sitar. He introduced himself as Sunil Santhi and informed the Superintendent of Broadcasting that he was a student of oriental music following a course of training in a North Indian Institute and that he was enjoying a holiday at home town. He had come to the Broadcasting Station with a sitar in hand to find whether he could get a broadcasting assignment. The Superintendent of Broadcasting, Mr. Shirley da Silva having

interrogated him for a few minutes, advised him to renew his application on completion of his training course, Mr. da Silva was inquisitive to ascertain whether the name Sunil Santhi was the name given to him by his parents. In reply to the inquiry he was informed that his actual name was Don Joseph John.

He came back to the Broadcasting Station, this time not alone, but with an accomplished radio singer. Mr. Surya Shankar Molligoda. Both went direct to the Controller of Programmes, Mr. H. de S. Gunewardene and informed him of their mission. The Controller replied that all potential artistes should conform to the requirements laid down and that they should appear before an audition panel. Both argued that Sunil Santhi's case was quite different and that he was a graduate of Bhatkande University, who had obtained the Sangeetha Visaradha degree and as such he should be exempted from that requirement. The Controller was adamant that there could not be any exemption. He was quite right, but he decided to obtain the views of Mr. C. L. P. Gunawardana, who was in charge of oriental programmes. He, while conceding that the Controller's decision was correct, suggested a compromise, that Surya Shankar Molligoda may, on his own responsibility, allow Sunil Santhi to sing 2 songs, which would be subject to an audition by a panel, and that Sunil Santhi should accept the panel's recommendation. This was agreed to by all parties, and they left the Broadcasting Station happily. While leaving Mr. Molligoda invited Mr C. L. P. Gunawardana to visit his studio at Bambalapitiya and listen to the singing of Sunil Santhi. Accordingly Mr. Gunawardana, a few days later, visited Mr. Molligoda's studio along with the senior Sinhala Announcer, Colombage and listened to Sunil Santhi. and was pleased that he would be a very popular singer. The panel which listened to the broadcast of the 2 songs by Sunil Santhi in Mr. Molligoda's concert, recommended that Sunil Santhi's name be included in the list of Sinhala artistes.

Most of the favourite songs of Sunil Santhi were recorded and played back at the Station for the information of the 2 Sinhala representatives of the Broadcasting Advisory Board and they remarked that Sunil Santhi would in time to be, a fitting competitor of Mr. Ananda Samarakone. However, Mr. Samarakone had an advantage over Sunil Santhi, who made a slight change to the same music later. Mr. Samarakone was a good composer of songs, which Sunil Santhi lacked. He relied for his composition of songs on the "Hela Haula".

In an article on Sunil Shanthi in a Sinhala publication it is mentioned that certain individuals fall and die, while certain others die and fall, but Sunil Santha did not fall into either of the categories. However by his refusal to appear before his own guru Mr. Ratnajankar, who was brought to Radio Ceylon in order to re-grade Sinhala artists, wasn't a committal of suicide!

Announcers were recruited to the Colombo Broadcasting Service by our British Rulers, purely for their voice and as such they were temporary employees, in that if the voices were to fail there were no jobs for them to be given. In the same manner broadcasts were offered to singers purely for the voice. If the voice were to fail they would not be given broadcasts, Sunil Santha should have gone before his guru and shown that he was maintaining his singing voice. His refusal to do so—made him to lead somewhat a miserable life.

Dearth of English Announcers— The 2 experienced English Announcers, Mrs. Pearl Ondaatji and Mr. C. E. Hettiaratchy tendered their resignations on their own and the vacancies advertised. Selection of suitable candidates became a problem to the department. However, for the time being Mr. Kenneth de Pinto and Mrs. Ruth Ludovici were selected. Both of them did not remain long and Mr. Livi R. Wijemanne, who joined in 1944 became the most senior English Announcer, leaving out Mr. E. Y. G. Rankine, who was still in the C. N. V. F. During this period it happened to be mentioned at a meet-

ing of the Broadcasting advisory Board that presentations of programmes by certain announcers were not to the expected standard and a listeners in the course of expressing his views on the presentations of programmes (Western) had referred to the male English Announcer as the "Baritone Dog" and the female Announcer as the "Sprano Cat" Mrs. Ludovici's vacancy was filled by Miss. Olga de Zoysa and Mr. de Pinto's by the resumption of duties by Mr E. Y. G. Raukine, who was released by the C. N. V. F.

W. D. Amaradeva (W. D. Albert perera) He was introduced to the Colombo Broadcasting Service by Mr. P. L. A. Somapala as a violin accompanist of Mr. Somapala's party. Later he assisted Sunil Shantha as his violin accompanist. He was given assignments to broadcast violin solos. He was not known as a singer then.

Official Radio Receiving Set for Mr. C. L. P. Gunawardana- Consequent on the recommendation made to the Postmaster General by the 2 Sinhala representatives of the Broadcasting Advisory Board that an official radio be provided at the residence of Mr. C. L. P. Gunawardana to enable him to monitor Sinhala programmes a Mullard radio from the Radio Laboratory was provided at Mr. Gunawardana's address. A small loud speaker was also provided in the programme office on a wall cabinet behind Mr. Gunawardana's writing desk to enable Mr. C. L. P. Gunawardana to monitor programmes and rush to the studio when a warning was given by the Control Room that there was no Announcer in the studio, specially during Schools broadcastings were in session.

Release of the senior Tamil Announcer to the B. B. C.- The services of the senior Tamil Announcer, Mr. S. Sivapathasundaram was lent to the B. B. C. He was responsible for the production of the weekly Newsletter in Tamil from the B B C. During his absence Mr. S. Cunjithapatham, a technical officer

attached to the Radio Control Room acted as Tamil Announcer. Mr. Sivapathasundaram resumed duties after Radio Ceylon started to function in October, 1949.

Unauthorised Singers in Sinhala Concerts- The following memorandum was submitted to the Postmaster General regarding Sinhala Concerts,

P. M. G.

May I submit that unless a restriction is enforced that music teachers, I mean Sinhala, should not bring their pupils, who have not been passed by Audition Panels, to broadcast concerts under their leadership, it will be difficult for the Station to maintain the required standard of music

For example, Mr....., who is a special grade artiste and who is paid rather a high fee of Rs. 75/- for a 30 minute concert, broadcast a programme from 8.30 to 9 pm on Tuesday, August 20. The concert on the whole was not satisfactory, even comparing it with a concert by a grade 2 artiste, whose fee is Rs. 35/-. Of the 9 items of his programme 5 were provided by 2 of his pupils, a boy about 7 years of age, and a girl of about 9 years.

In the Tamil section when a reservation is given to an artiste, that artiste alone sings during the whole period of 30 minutes, but in the Sinhala Section, the artiste with whom the contract is entered takes the leadership and introduces various singers to his programme. In many cases the vocal assistants have not passed auditions, but are introduced by the leader on his own responsibility. This has been the practice for a number of years, and therefore Sinhala Announcers are not in a position to stop novices taking part in a concert by a recognised artiste.

As things are going from bad to worse, may I suggest that the matter be referred to the Sinhala members of the Broadcasting Advisory Board or in the alternative authorise the Announcers to disallow singers who have had no broadcasting experience.

I wish further to suggest that a circular letter be sent to all Sinhala artistes requesting them to furnish a list of names of the members of each party so that we may be able to eliminate any unauthorised singers.

Retention of Mr. in the special grade may also be reviewed if he does not improve the standard of his concerts.

Sgd, C. L. P. Gunawardana
22. 8. 46

The following circular letter was issued by the Postmaster General, Col. J. P. Appleby to all Sinhala artistes.

Dear Sir/Madam,

It has been brought to my notice that certain artistes have introduced to their parties unauthorised singers, including friends, relations and pupils, who are novices. As a result of this practice, I have received many complaints from listeners that the quality of Sinhala programmes broadcast is deteriorating. As I am endeavouring to provide better programmes for Sinhala listeners, I ask your co-operation in this matter. To achieve an improved standard it is necessary to strict broadcasts to those artistes, whose contributions have been accepted as suitable for broadcasting, and to those who continue to maintain a good standard.

I shall, therefore, be glad if you will furnish to the Controller of Programmes a list of names of members of Your concert party, particularly the vocal assistants as early as possible. If the list includes artistes, who have not been accepted by a panel, the prior approval of the Controller of Programmes must be obtained to include such artistes.

I have instructed the Controller of Programmes not to accept engagements from any artiste, who is not willing to conform to these requirements.

Yours faithfully,
Sgd. J. P. Appleby
Postmaster General.

Mr. Richard Weerasuriya as Centroller of Programmes- Mr. H. de S. Gunewardene, who was appointed as Controller of Programmes for a term of 3 years on August 1, 1943 did not wish to continue any longer as a certain newspaper started a campaign against him. The post was, therefore, advertised and Mr. Richard Weerasuriya was selected for appointment. The runner-up was Mr D. E. Weerakoon, the broadcasting News Editor. Mr. H. de S. Gunewardene reverted to his substantive post in the Postmaster General's Office retaining the Secretaryship of the Broadcasting Advisory Board. Mr. Weerasuriya took over the duties of Controller of Programmes in August 1946.

Mr. H. de S. Gunewardene went back to broadcasting in March 1949 to make preliminary arrangements for formation of the New Broadcasting Department till the B. B. C. "expert" Mr. John M. Lampson took the over helm. He came back to the Postmaster General's Office in 1950 and joined his erstwhile colleague, Mr. C. L. P. Gunawardana in the Investigations Branch of the Postmaster General's Office until he was awarded a scholarship to the British Post Office on return from which he was appointed Assistant Administrative Secretary. He retired as Administrative Secretary.

Recording of Traditional Sinhala Music- During this year the Committee, which was appointed by Sir John Kotelawala to record Sinhala music and songs was re-named as Committee Recording Sinhala Folk Songs and Music, did a few recordings at Kandy, Katugastota and Colombo.

Staff at the Broadcasting Programme Office 1946-

1 Controller of Programmes

- 1 Clerk to assist the Controller in arranging all oriental programmes, Sinhala, Tamil and Muslim. conduct auditions for the selection of new artistes in addition to office administrative work.**
- 1 Clerk in charge of gramophone records, issue of fortnightly printed programmes to subscribers, and payment of salaries to the staff.**

- 4 Typists
- 2 Sinhala Announcers
- 2 Tamil Announcers
- 3 English Announcers
- 1 News Editor
- 2 Studio Attendants
- 2 Office Peons
- 1 Bicycle orderley

All Announcers had, in addition to announcing duties and other studio work, effect daily cash payments to the artistes, select gramophone records for the daily programmes. The Sinhala and Tamil Announcers had to translate news bulletin prepared in English and broadcast the news bulletin in Sinhala and Tamil.

The number of radio licensees at the end of 1946 was 14,227

Recommendations of the Vaithyanathan Committee - Vaithyanathan Committee's Report issued as Sessional Paper XVII of 1941 was released and its recommendations were given effect to in 1947. The 2 important recommendations were:-

1. Construction of an up to-date Broadcasting House in keeping with other countries of the world, and
2. Appointment of 3 Programme Committee for the composition of Sinhala, Tamil and English programmes

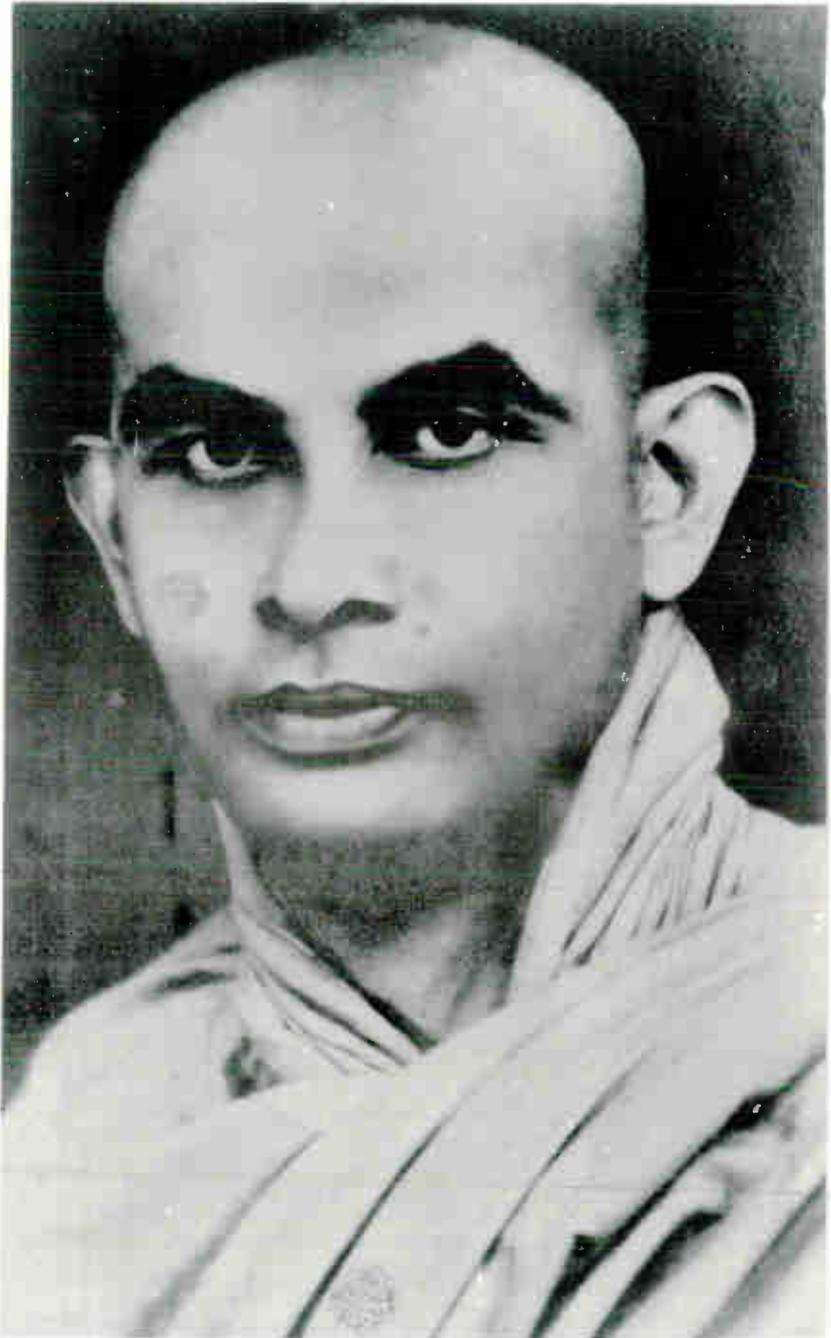
The construction of a new Broadcasting House was started in 1947. The Broadcasting Advisory Board too was reconstituted and Programme Committees appointed. The Chairmen of the 3 Programme Committees were:-

Sinhala	...	Mudlr. E. A. Abeysekera
Tamil	...	Mr. K. Kanagaratnam
English	...	Dr. K. J. Rustomjee

The Controller of Programmes officiated as the Secretary of the English Committee while Mr. C. L. P. Gunawardana was the Secretary of the Sinhala committee. The Tamil and the English Committee's met at the Broadcasting Station while the Sinhala Committee meetings were held in the Education Office.

Recording Of Sinhala Folk Songs And Music





Ven'ble Madihe Pannasiha Maha Nayake Thero

Registration of 10,000 Sinhala Radio Licensees- With the valuable co-operation extended to the Sinhala Programme Committee by the Sinhala Programme staff, and the introduction of a series of new weekly features to the Sinhala programme, such as, Buddhi Mandalaya (Brains Trust), Half Hour with Sinhala Authors, Half Hour with Sinhala Classics by available Sinhala Scholars. Poets' Corner by Mr. U. S. A Perera (Siri Aiya), Mr. K. H. de Silva (later Mohn), Mr. Ananda Kaviratne, Post Bag by Dr. G P. Malalasekera, Story Time by Mr. D. S. Ponnampereuma, Home Flash by Mr. Cyrus W. Surendra, Indian Review by Panditha William Alwis, World Review etc. the number of Sinhala Radio licensees began to increase steadily.

For the first time an article in English on "Vesak" was published in the Programme Supplement No. 185 of the Ceylon Radio Times for May (1 to 15) 1947, and it is note-worthy to mention the inclusion of the following 2 Items in the Vesak Programmes on Vesak Full Moon Day, May 4, 1947 (Sunday)

9.46 am Pealing of bells marking the exact time of beginning of Vesak Poya

9.47 am Sabdha Pooja announcement of the auspicious Hour.

Registration of 10,000 Sinhala radio licensees was celebrated on 28th June, 1947 by broadcasting a special programme to suit the occasion organised by the Chairman of the Sinhala Programme Committee Mudlr. E. A. Abeysekera. It included a talk in brief in Sinhala by the Ven'ble Palene Sri Vajiranana Maha Nayake Thero of Vaijirama, Bambalapitiya. while being an inmate of the Planter's Ward, General Hospital, Colombo and another by the Bishop of Chilaw, Rev. Fr. Dr. Edmund Peiris.

The complete programme was pre-recorded and produced by Mudlr. E. A. Abeysekera, Chairman of the Sinhala Programme Committee. Dr. Ian Sandeman, Director of Education recorded his talk in Sinhala a few days prior to the broadcast. It was played back for him to listen. He himself observed that he had a peculiar accent to the Sinhala letter ඌ and

asked Messrs. C. L. P. Gunawardana, D. M. Colombage and M. Wimajaratne who were present at the recording for a remedy. He had that accent when speaking words such as කරනම and කියනම. It was suggested to him to say කරන්නම කියන්නම etc. He readily accepted and re-recorded the talk accordingly, and was very much pleased at the re-recording. He profusely thanked the members of the staff.

THE PROGRAMME

- 7.30 pm Introduction by Mudlr. E. A. Abeysekera
- 7.35 pm Message from Sir John Kotelawala
- 7.42 pm Message from the Postmaster General
- 7.45 pm Music by Mr. Lionel Edirisinghe
- 7.49 pm Message from Ven'ble Palene Vajiranana Maha
Nayake Thero
- 7.52 pm Recitation of Sinhala Poems by Miss Hilda
Mendis
- 7.55 pm Message from the Rev. Lakdas de Mel
- 7.58 pm Songs by Devar Surya Sena
- 8.02 pm Message from Bishop Rev. Fr. Edmund Peiris
- 8.05 pm Songs by a choir of school boys
- 8.08 pm Message from Dr. Ian Sandeman, Director of
Education
- 8.11 pm Song recital by Mr. Ananda Samarakone
- 8.15 pm Message from Dr. G. P. Malalasekera
- 8.18 pm Message to children from Siri Aiya
- 8.22 pm Message from the Rev. S. J.
de S. Weerasinghe
- 8.25 pm Song Recital by Mr. Saranagupta
Amarasinghe
- 8.29 pm Message from Mr. D. W. Wickremearatchi
- 8.52 pm Song Recital by Mr. Wilfred Perera
- 8.36 pm Watin Pitin by Mr. J. Wijeweera
- 8.40 pm Song Recital by Wasantha
- 8.43 pm Song "Sri Lanka Matha" by Devar Surya
Sena

The Chairman of the Sinhala Programme Committee was so happy at the success of the special broadcast, mostly due to the valuable co-operation extended by the Sinhala Broadcasting Staff, both Programme and Technical, he sent a letter of appreciation to the Postmaster General, Col. J. P. Appleby, who in turn endorsed the sentiments expressed by Mudlr. Abeysekera and emphasised of the good team work done by, the staff responsible. A word of praise was on Mr. Richard Weerasuriya, Controller of Programmes, Mr. C. L. P. Guna-wardana, who was handling Sinhala Programmes, Mr. D. M. Colombage, Senior Sinhala Announcer and Mr. M. Wimalaratne the Technical Office in charge that day.

Article on Vaesk For the first time since the circulation of the Ceylon Radio Times started, an article on religion (Vesak) appeared in the Programme Supplement No. 185 of May 1947. The article was edited by Ven'ble Piyadassi Thero of Vajiramaya, Bambalapitiya, at the instance of Mr. C. L. P. Guna-wardana. On reading this article Col. J. P. Appleby, the Postmaster General and Director of Broadcasting was highly taken up had expressed his appreciation to the two Sinhala Buddhist members of the Broadcasting Advisory Board and enquired as to who was responsible for the grand idea.

How to introduce the News Bulletin- Up to the middle of 1947 News Bulletins were introduced in the following manner "This is Colombo Calling - here is the news", and it was read by the announcer. Then came the new instruction from Postmaster General "In future all announcers; English; Sinhala and Tamil should introduce the News Bulletin, e.g. "This is Colombo Calling here is the news read by Mark Fernando." This procedure had been followed by Radio Ceylon, and also by the S. L. B. C. till 1988 but after the spread of terrorism the news reader's name has been dropped!

Reconstitution of the Folk Songs Recording Committee
The Committee appointed by Sir John Kotelawala in 1937, Minister of communications and Works under the state Council, was reconstituted on the recommendation of the Postmaster General, by the Minister of Posts and Telecommunications in the House of representatives in August 1947.

Dr. G. P. Malalasskera (Chairman)

Mudlr. E. A. Abayasekera

Mr. S. L. B. Kupukotuwa

Mr. Devar Surya Sena

Mr. D. P. Jayasekera, Superintending Engineer Radio

Mr. C. L. P. Gunawardana, Postal Clerical Service,
Secretary

The first to record a number of vannam when testing out the recording machine purchased in 1936 at the request of Mr. D. P. Jayasekera, was Ven'ble Rambukwelle Siddhartha There of the staff of the Colombo University College. As he was a member of the Buddhist clergy he was reluctant to do a recording of vannam, but after listening to his own voice he was very pleased that he had done it. A vivid description of the work done by this Committee and how the priceless collection of treasure has been disposed of after the abrupt ending of the Committee's functions is appearing in Appendix A.

Exposition of "Sanchi Relics"- The Holy Relics of Arahath Sariputta and Meggallana, the two Agrasrawakas of the Lord Gauthama Buddha, better known as Sanchi Relics were brought to this country from London by Mr. Daya Hewavitarne during the month of veask 1947. These were received at Coombo Jetty and taken in procession for exposition in the Colombo National Museum. The procession route, was gaily decorated, was covered by radio commentaries from Colombo jetty to its destination by Mr. L. L. K. Gunatunga at the Grand Oriental Hotel, enroute by Mr. G. P. Malalasekera and Mudlr. E. A. Abayasekera and at the museum by Mr. H. Leelananda Caldera, During the whole period of the exposition at the Museum Mr. Leelananda Caldera broadcast a daily commentary for 5 minutes at 5 pm.

Sound Effects of Thewa Hewisi- It was during this exposition of Sanchi Relics that drummers who were performing hewisi thewawa at the Colombo Museum were brought to the

Broadcasting Station, Kotte Road, Borella, at the instance of Mr. C. L. P. Gunawardana, and the hewisi sounds were recorded on discs for use immediately before and after the broadcast of Buddhist rituals. This record was played by the Announcers with the assistance of the technical staff immediately before and after broadcast of Bana Sermons until Radio Ceylon was formed.

Exposition of Sanchi Relics at Dalada Maligawa, Kandy. Agra Srawaka Relics were later taken for exposition at Dalada Maligawa, Kandy and the Maha Nayake Theras of Malwatte and Asgiriya together with the Diyawadana Nilame made arrangements for the exposition by placing the Dalada Relic in the middle and the Relics of Sariputta on the right and Moggallana on the left of the Dalada Relic. This exposition drew a large number of devotees as it was a very rare occasion when they could pay homage to the Tooth Relic of the Buddha and the Relics of the two Chief Disciples.

How to answer a call on the Telephone: One day the Postmaster General, the Head of the Colombo Broadcasting Service, made a call to telephone No. 9797, the broadcasting Programme Office; which was placed on the office table of Mr. C. L. P. Gunawardana. An Announcer answered the telephone and as it was the voice of a stranger and not that of Mr. Gunawardana, he enquired "who is speaking". The Announcer retorted "who is speaking there" in the top of his voice. The reply was "P. M. G. I want Mr. Gunawardana". The telephone receiver was handed to Mr. Gunawardana to whom the Postmaster General issued certain directives. The announcer immediately made an apology for his rudeness. The following day the Postmaster General issued a general Office order to all the officers of the Department that when answering a telephone call "do not say 'hello' or any other term state your name and designation".

The number of radio licensees at the end of 1947 was 19,938.

Dual Broadcast Transmissions- Broadcasting of simultaneous transmissions started in this country on 4th February, 1948, the appointed Day under the Ceylon Independence and the National Day of Religious Observance. The new medium wave transmitter on 325 metres 923 k/cs radiated programmes of interest to English speaking listeners; while the old transmitter on 428.5 metres and 700 k/es radiated programmes of interest to oriental listeners. The full programme for the occasion was arranged by Messrs. Richard Weerasuriya and C. L. P. Gunawardana with the concurrence of the English, Sinhala and Tamil Programme Committees.

THE FULL PROGRAMME

- 6.00 am Conch, Magul Bera, Temple Bells, Church Bells, Kovil Bells, heralding the dawn of the "Appointed Day"
- 6.30 am Close down.
- 7.27 am Surappattuwa - Invitation to the Buddhist Clergy to assemble for Maha Pirith.
- 7.30 am Magul Bera and Maha pirith relayed from Rajamaha Viharaya, Kelaniya, with an introduction by Dr. G. P. Malalasekera.
- 8.30 am Messages from the Maha Nayake Theras of Malwatte and Asgiriya Chapters.
- 8.45 am Sabdha Pooja, Hewisi, Udekki, Vannam, Pontheru etc. from the lawn of the Broadcasting Station, Kotte Road, Borella.

- 9.15 am A message from His Excellency the Governor General, Sir Henry Monk Mason Moore, followed by translations in Sinhala and Tamil.
- 9.45 am Message in English and Sinhala by Hon'ble Mr. D. S. Senanayake the Prime Minister, followed by a translations in Tamil. (note-The Prime Minister him self broadcast the message in English, while the Sinhala version was translated and broadcast by Mr. D. P. Jayasekera, then Superintending Engineer Radio, and the Tamil version by Hon'ble Mr. C. Sittampalam, Minister of Posts and Telecommunications.
- 10 10 am The National Anthem-God Save the King.
- 10.15 am Religious Service in Sinhala including a message from His Grace the Most Rev. Dr. Thomas Cooray O. M. I., Archbishop of Colombo, followed by a solemn Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament Relayed from St. Joseph Church, Colombo.
- 10.45 am Natheswaram by P. Vellasamy.
- 11 00 am Recital of Tamil Songs by N. P. Balachandran.
- 11.30 am Message to Parents and Teachers, and School Children in English and Sinhala by Dr. Ian Sandeman, Director of Education.
- 12 00 noon Recorded messages in English followed by translations in Sinhala and Tamil expected from Clamen, Atlee, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, Harry Truman, President, U. S. A., Field Marsha Jan Smuts, Prime Minister of the Union of South Africa, Eamon de Valera, Prime Minister of Eire, Joseph Chifley, Prime Minister of Australia, Lord Louis Mountbatten, Governor General of the Dominion of India, M. Ali Jinnah, Governor of the Dominion of Pakistan, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister of the Dominion of India, Liaquat Ali Khan, Prime Minister of the Dominion of Pakistan
- 5.20 pm Tribute to Mahatma Gandhi by Jayantha Padmanabha
- 5.45 pm Talk in Tamil "After 150 years" by A. S. Murugananda.

- 6.00 pm A United Christian Service of Thanks Giving Intermission arranged by the National Council of Ceylon. The Service conducted by the Chairman of the National Council, the Rev. G. Basil Jackson of the Methodist Church assisted by Ven'ble A. J. Kendal Baker, Archdeacon of Colombo, the Rev. N. B. Jansz Moderator of the Presbytery of Ceylon, the Rev. S. J. de S. Weerasinghe of the Ceylon Baptist Council, the Rev. J. S. Jeyasingham of Jaffna Diocese of the Church of South India, The Preacher Rt. Rev. Lakdasa de Mel, Assistant Bishop of Colombo relayed from Wolfendhal Church
- 7.15 pm Mangalam Kavi
- 7.30 pm Thanks Giving Prayer as Recited in every Mosque in the Island.
- 8.00 pm Special Musical Programme in Sinhala by Lionel Edirisinghe
- 8.15 pm Land Marks of Ceylon History in Sinhala by Dr. G. P. Malalasekera
- 8.45 pm Station's Announcements
- 8.50 pm Message to Ceylon by Phillip Noel Baker, Minister of Commonwealth Relations and Arthur Creech Jones, Secretary of State for the Colonies - Empire relay
- 9.00 pm Bana Preaching by Ven'ble Palane Siri Vajiranana Maha Nayake Thera
- 9.30 pm B.B.C. News with special reference to Ceylon Independence Day
- 9.45 pm Voice of Sri Lanka - Special "Appointed Day" comprising of Past Patriots - Poetry and Songs devised, and presented by Devar Surya Sena
- 10.00 pm Epilogue by Dr. E. Stanley.

**BROADCAST PROCEEDINGS ON THE OCCASION OF THE
OPENING OF PARLIAMENT AFTER
INDEPENDENCE
10th February, 1948**

HIGH LIGHTS OF THE CEREMONIES

Cavalcade to the Assembly Hall, Independence Square
Procession up to the entrance to the Dais

The Principal Ceremony of the Special Announcement by the H. R. H. the Duke of Gloucester of the Grant of Dominion Status to Ceylon was held in a Special Hall near the present Independence Square utilising a war time Hanger converted to an Assembly Hall, most tastefully decorated using "ralli palam" and other traditional Sinhala decorative styles under the direction of Mr. H. R. Premaratne, Construction Engineer P. W. D.. An important feature of the Hall was a gigantic "Makara Thorana" erected at the entrance to the Hall by Kandyan craftsmen.

Throne Speech by H. R. H. the Duke of Gloucester and His Majesty the King's Message

Address in Reply

Unfurling of the Lion Flag by the Prime Minister, Hon'ble Mr. D. S. Senanayake

Broadcast Speech in Sinhala to the Nation by Hon'ble Mr. D. S. Senanayake.

Day's Full Broadcast Programme

- 6.00 am Conch, Magul Bera, Temple Bells, Church Bells. Kovil Bells.
- 6.25 am Hewisi, Udekki, Vannam, Pantheru etc.
- 7.00 am National Songs in Sinhala by the Children's Radio Club.
- 7.45 am Natheswaram Music.
- 8.00 am "Under the Freedom's Flag" arranged by Iromi and presented by Leslie.
- 8.40 am The Lamp of Independence - a hymn in dedication to the First Prime Minister of Ceylon, Hon'ble Mr. D. S. Senanayake by Christie Seneviratne - Hubert Rajapaksa (tenor).
- 8.45 am Speeches from abroad.
- 9.15 am Ceremonial State Drive from Queens House to Torrington Place. Commentaries in English by Mr. C. E. Hettiaratchy, Mr. Norah Bowie, Mr. D. E Weerakoon Mr. F. A. E. Price, and Mr. Peter Snaw. In Sinhala by Messrs. Cyrus W. Surendra; A. W. Kaluaratchi, C. D. R. B. J. Bandara, and in Tamil by Messrs. S. Nadesan, M. S. Ratnam and N. Balasubramaniam.

- 10.30 am Ceremonial opening of Parliament. Commentaries in English by Miss. Sita Jayawardene and Mr. Stanly de Saram, in Sinhala by Mudlr. E. A. Abeysekera and Tamil by Mudlr. K. Sabaratnam.
- 11.15 am Unfurling of Lion Flag preceded by the sound of Magul Bera, and the address to the Nation by the Prime Minister, Hon'ble Mr. D. S. Senanayake. Commentator Mr. D. S. O'Riordon.

Vote of thanks by the Leader of the House, Hon'ble Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike, who declared. "Once again we are free. Now after a long slumber of servitude, we are again awakening to a new life of freedom. Political freedom comes alive only when it is utilised to achieve other freedoms—freedom from poverty, freedom from disease, freedom from ignorance and from fear."

- 11.30 am C. L. I. Band.
- 12.00 noon Independence Song in Tamil by the students of Maradana Tamil Government school.
- 12.30 pm Sinhala Music
- 1.00 pm Cricket Fifth Test Australia vs India. A ball to ball commentary relayed from Australia.
- 1.30 pm Lunch Time Music
- 2.90 pm Interval
- 4.30 to 9.15 pm Normal Daily Programme.

Note- A series of talks in Sinhala on "Our Heritage" broadcast during the Independence Week appear in Appendix F.

INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATION AT KANDY

11th February, 1948

- 4.00 pm Commentary on the Welcome to H. R. H. the Duke and Duchess of Glouster - Relayed from Kandy.

12th February 1948.

- 9.25 pm The Prime Minister, Hon'ble Mr. D. S. Senanayake hoisted the Lion Flag of the Sinhala Kings of Kandy over the Pattiruppuwa (Octagon) at Dalada

Maligawa. The flag staff was fitted by removing the tiles of the Octagon. The Union Jack, which was hoisted in Kandy for the first time on March 2, 1815, 133 years back was lowered before hoisting the Lion Flag.

The hoisting of the Lion Flag was done in the presence of the Duke and Duchess of Gloucesster, the 2 Chief Kandyan Adigars, Sir Tikiri Banda Panabokke and Mr. Lawrence Nugawela, the Diya-wadana Nilame Mr. C. B. Nugawela Dissawe and the Government Agent, Kandy, Mr. S. F. Amara-singhe. The Duke and the Duchess and all those who accompanied the Royalty watched the Raja Perehera from the Old Palace of the Kandyan Kings

First Vesak Full Moon Day Programme after gaining independence. An elaborate programme was arranged for the First Wesak Full Moon Day since gaining independence after 133 years under the British rule. It included among many other features for the occasion 2 important talks by 2 distinguished speakers, Justice E. A. L. Wijeyewardene, the acting Chief Justice, and Dr. G. P. Malalasekera, the then acknowledged Buddhist leader of this country and a member of the Broadcasting Advisory Board, a representative of the Sinhala listeners appointed by the Minister himself to vet scripts of broadcast talks. The subject of the talk was "Wesak Musings". The Minister of Post and Telecommunications issued a directive to the Controller of Broadcasting Programmes to obtain the scripts of both the talks for his scrutiny. The Controller submitted that the 2 speakers were dominant Buddhist superiors, one the highest in the Judiciary, and the other his own advisor, and as such it is not within his jurisdiction to request them to submit scripts. The Minister exempted Justice E. A. L. Wijeyewardene and insisted for the script of Dr. Malalasekera, resulting the broadcast of gramophone records in place of Dr. Malalasekera's talk.

This obnoxious treatment of the Minister gave way to the hue and cry and was taken up at the very next meeting of the Broadcasting Advisory Board. A no confidence motion on the Minister of Post and Telecommunications was passed by the

Advisory Board. Thereupon the Minister had no alternative but to dissolve the Broadcasting Advisory Board, many members of which had given voluntary services from the inception in 1932. As some of the members of the Advisory Board were members of the Programme Committees formed in 1946, Programmes Committees were also dissolved by issuing a curt letter "your services are not necessary".

The outgoing members of the Sinhala Programme Committee were:

Mudlr. E. A. Abeysekera-Chairman
Dr. G. P. Malalasekera
Mr. Devar Surya Sena
Rev. S. J. De S. Weerasinghe
Mr. Lionel Edirisinghe

The new Committee appointed by the New Minister was:

Mr. S. L. B. Kapukotuwa - Chairman
Ven'ble Dr. Parawahera Vajiranana Nayake Thera
Dr. O.H. de A. Wijesekera
Dr. Nanda Deva Wijesekera
Mr. P. B. Elangasinghe
Mr. V. T. Nanayakkara, M.P.

This new Committee in, order to execute the new policies of the new Minister - non-Sinhala - and his alien Permanent Secretary, opened the gates of the Broadcasting Station wide to every man Jack in order to "inject new blood". Experienced artistes were neglected and novices began to throng into the Broadcasting Station, which was flooded with complaints from listeners. Dr. O. H. de A. Wijesekera tendered his resignation and his vacancy was filled by Mr. Daya Hewavitarne. Press started to criticise Sinhala Broadcast programmes and the following editorial appeared in the Daily News of November 9. 1948:

SINHALESE RADIO PROGRAMS

Public discontent over the quality of the Sinhalese Program of the Ceylon Broadcasting Station appears to be increasing in volume This in spite of the fact that the Minis-

ter of Posts and Telecommunications gave an assurance to the public that he would improve matters. A new set-up was ordered: the old Program Committees were scrapped and fresh ones appointed in their place; the composition of the advisory Board was altered. The public was promised new and better programs, particularly in the Sinhalese section, and a new era was expected to dawn for Sinhalese listeners who had been fed for years on third-rate produce *ad nauseam*. In 1941 the Vaithianathan Commission on Broadcasting in Ceylon said: "The principal complaint is that the Sinhalese and Tamil Broadcasts do not occupy a proportionately adequate number of hours of the program. The second complaint is that in the composition of the Sinhalese and Tamil sections of the program the best available talent is not used to advantage. A third complaint is that in the Sinhalese and Tamil programs there is not that variety of interest of material which is found in the Western. On behalf of the Sinhalese listener the question has also been raised whether the Colombo Broadcasting Station should not actively encourage the musical and cultural advancement of the Sinhalese."

Apropos of the first complaint, we believe that the situation has been improved by allotting a larger share of the program to items for non-Western listeners. It is regrettable however, that in spite of the frequent injections of "new blood" into the Sinhalese section, the standard of the radio entertainment available for Sinhalese listeners has actually deteriorated. This was perhaps to be expected seeing that no effort has been made by the broadcasting authorities to devise ways and means to improve the quality of performance of local artistes by organising a Studio Orchestra of competent Oriental musicians who could set up a new standard or by exercising rigidly critical control over the quality of talent that is put over on the air. To fill in the extra time allotted to the Sinhalese program the Sinhalese Program Committee seems to have opened the studio gates and let in every local

performer without bothering to separate the sheep from the goats. Even the Audition Board, whose function this should properly be, is selected, we understand, at random by the Program Committee and thus is often composed of judges who have no real claim to sit on such a panel. A recent editorial in the Dinamina, inspired by the growing dissatisfaction among Sinhalese listeners, outlined some of the major defects in the organisation of the Sinhalese section of the Station and demanded the appointment of a fresh investigation into the organisation of the Broadcasting Station on the lines of the Vaithianathan Commission.

Some of the charges made against the Station authorities are truly alarming. There have been occasions on which political propaganda and partisan religious propaganda have been allowed over the air; which would lead us to conclude that no thorough examination of the scripts is enforced. Some of the music that is broadcast is shockingly poor in quality. We commented recently in these columns on the stuff that is allowed to masquerade on the air as Sinhalese Drama and can only add that most of the performances seem to be arranged and put over by people who have absolutely no idea of the special needs and technique of radio drama and, therefore, are hopelessly bad judged by any critical standards. We notice that in yesterday's Sinhalese program there were as many as four talks on various subjects; is also rather amusing to find radio time allotted to an ayurvedic physician for a discourse on "The Use of the Stethoscope." Some of the frequent complaints are directed at the organisation of the Sinhalese section. It often happens that a scheduled feature is cancelled or postponed without due notice to the author or the public. It is not likely that the quality of the radio programs in Sinhalese and Tamil will be improved until a determined effort is made to develop national drama, music and literature. But it is not difficult to weed out some of the objectionable features of local Broadcasting practice immediately.

Songs Artistes Sing Must be Their Own - The New Programme Committee expected Sinhala Artistes to sing only the songs composed by the singer himself. A comment on this matter, which was published in the Times of Ceylon on Wednesday evening, March 9, 1949, reproduced below explains the situation.

"Mr. Hubert Rajapaksa, the Colombo Radio artiste complained today that he has been 'slighted' by the broadcasting authorities. He said, "I was asked to give a Sinhalese broadcast recital on Monday night from 8 to 8.30 pm. I submitted my programme on March 2 on note paper which contained my address and my telephone number. When I arrived at the Broadcasting Station at 7.50 pm I was shown my programme with 2 songs scored out and on the official form attached Mr. S. L. B. Kapukotuwa, Chairman of the Sinhalese Programme Committee, had written in his quaint phraseology, songs 2 and 4 must be omitted as artistes are expected to have their own songs. The 2 songs he had deleted were 'Lanka Rajindame', a song composed by Mr. Sam de Silva and never sung on the wireless. 'Yamuna', a well known song, which the composer specially requested me to sing and which I was looking forward to doing. Among the songs left was a composition of Mr. Sam de Silva's. If by his curious sentence Mr. Kapukotuwasa meant that I, and presumably other oriental singers must sing, only my compositions, then I am afraid he is expecting more from me than I can do. One would think that when songs are deleted from a programme the authorities would have the courtesy to inform the singer early to avoid hasty rehearsed song at the last moment. When such courtesy is absent and were those in authority behave in this idiotic manner, is it to be wondered at that oriental programme suffer".

Only the Best

Mr. S. L. B. Kapukotuwa, Chairman of the Sinhalese Programme Committee interviewed on the subject that at a gathering of Sinhalese Radio artistes recently he made it

clear that one of the ways of improving Sinhalese programmes was for artistes to broadcast their own compositions. Artistes were paid handsome fees. In the case of a top grade artiste the fee was anything up to Rs. 125- for a half hour recital. The public therefore had a right to demand the best programme. He was anxious that there should be no repetition of songs of music ad nauseam. On receiving Mr. Rajapaksa's script he had vetoed it and promptly sent it back to the broadcasting authorities."

The motive of the Chairman was good. It was to improve the quality of the Sinhalese broadcast programmes, but the course of action adopted was impracticable. A good singer may not be a good composer and vice versa. If the rule had been strictly adhered more than 90% of our popular Sinhala artistes would have had to be de-barred from broadcasting. The very few who possessed both the qualities, to mention names were Messrs. Ananda Samarakone, Saranagupta Amarasinghe and Arthur M. de Alwis. All these 3 artistes sang only their compositions. Most of the songs broadcast by P. L. A. Somapala and Chitra were the compositions of Arthur M. de Alwis. The ruling proposed, if continued to be enforced would have had an illeffect on our art and culture. Talented singers should have the freedom to set to music some of our poems from Sinhala classics such as

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without allowing oppertunities to introduce ill-bred stuff such as

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Additional Medium Wave Transmitter- The medium wave transmitter 325 metres and 923 k/cs frequency, which functioned for Independence celebrations for dual transmissions was set apart for Western Programmes on special occasions, as from July, 1948.

Old Favourites



Eddie Jayamanne



Victoreen Cramer



Hubert Rajapaksa



Don Manis Pattiaratchi



Rukmani Devi



Saranagupta Amarasingha



Nona Subeida



B. Eddie de Silva



Madeleine de Zilwa



PRESENTED TO

C. S. P. Gunawardhana Esq.

BY THE MAHA BODHI SOCIETY OF CEYLON
Presentation in appreciation of services rendered during the Exposition of
Agrasrawaka Relics

Creation of New Posts- Four new posts were created this year. A Programme Assistant each to the Sinhala and Tamil programmes, a Librarian and a Receptionist. Experienced members of the Programme staff also submitted applications for all the four posts. Four Selection Boards were appointed for selecting suitable candidates. Of the departmental applicants only Mr. C. L. P. Gunawardana was fortunate to be selected. In keeping with the normal procedure the Selection Boards recommended 3 names in order of merit for each of the 4 new appointments. Excepting the Sinhala Programme Assistant's post for which a departmental candidate was Selected, the recommendations for the other posts were accepted. They were, Miss Moni Alias, Tamil Programme Assistant, Miss Sujatha Udugama, Librarian and Miss Mary Kurukulasuriya, Receptionist.

The 3 names selected in order of merit for the post of Sinhala Programme Assistant were:

1. Mr. C. L. P. Gunawardana
2. Mr. K. H. de Silva
3. Mr. R. N. H. Perera.

The first was a Sinhala Buddhist, who had over 12 years experience of the work proper to a Sinhala Programme Assistant, and one who had acted for the Controller of Broadcast Programmes on several instances. The second also a Sinhala Buddhist well versed in Sinhala, who was later awarded the honour "Maha Kavi." The third was a Sinhala non-Buddhist, a trained teacher.

The other 3 posts were promptly filled, but there was several months delay in making the appointment of the Sinhala Programme Assistant.

The delay in making the appointment led to inquiries from the Hon'ble the Minister of Posts and Broadcasting by several members of Parliament, who were given different versions and in the middle of August, 1948 Mr. R. N. H. Perera was appointed. However, Mr. R. N. H. Perera, could not retain his appointment for more than a year.

Radio Transmitter for Outside Broadcasts- From the inception of the Colombo Broadcasting Service on 27th June, 1924 up to the year 1948 even long distant outside broadcasts from places such as Anuradhapura, Kandy etc., were transmitted on telephone trunk lines, and for the first time a radio transmitter was utilised for outside broadcasting to relay commentaries on 1948 Easter Racing and Tennis Championship meet from Nuwara Eliya.

Commentaries on the opening of the Dutugamunu Pilgrims Rest, Anuradhapura, Galle Races from Boossa and the visit of the Prime Minister, Hon'ble Mr. D. S. Senanayake to the Hydro Electric Scheme, Norton Bridge were also relayed the same year on radio transmitters.

However, the most comprehensive outside broadcast by the Colombo Broadcasting Service on a radio transmitter was from Mahiyangana. In 1948 the Mahiyangana Chetiya Restoration Society of which the Rt; Hon'ble D. S. Senanayake, our first Prime Minister was the elected President decided to inaugurate the Chetiya Restoration Programme at a grand function organised for the Binara Full Moon, which fell on 17th September, 1948, during the customary annual festival and perehara season at Mahiyangana. The Government Agent, Kandy made a request to the Post and Telecommunications Department stressing the importance of the occasion that the entire proceedings of the programme be broadcast, if at all possible. Mr. D. P. Jayasekera, Superintending Telecommunications Engineer (Radio), who was given in charge of the matter, contacted the Government Agent, Kandy, in order to see what could be done. As no land telephone lines then existed linking either Weragantota on the left bank of Mahaweli Ganga or Mahiyangana on the right bank of the river to Colombo, Mr. Jayasekera having thought of investigating the possibility of operating the direct broadcast over a temporary radio circuit, asked the Government Agent, Kandy, to send a high ranking official of the Kandy Kachcheri and also to arrange for a representative of the Mahiyangana Restoration Society to meet him at Weragantota Rest House on a day

suitable for them and to intimate to him the date fixed so that all the matters connected with the ceremonies at Mahiyangana, and the proposed broadcast be discussed as Mahiyangana was a remote place to reach. No telephone lines were available and certain difficulties expected on account of high ranges of hills that lay between Colombo and Mahiyangana.

A date was fixed at which were the former Minister of Justice, Hon'ble Dr. Nissanka Wijayarathne, then Assistant Government Agent, Kandy, representing the Government Agent, Kandy, Hon'ble Mr. D. B. Welagedara, former Deputy Minister of Plan Implementations, then Divisional Revenue Officer, Minipe, and the Hon'y. Secretary of the Mahiyangana Restoration Society, and several other officials of the Kandy Kachcheri and Mahiyangana Restoration Society.

The programme contemplated for the inauguration ceremony was fully discussed by those present and in view of the impracticability of the quick construction of telephone lines to link Mahiyangana to Kandy, Mr. Jayasekera explained that the only solution appeared to him was to use a radio link for the purpose, the operation of which also could be attended to with difficulty. Any way he had stated he would do what ever possible to meet the request of the Government Agent Kandy.

There were accommodation difficulties, too. The Rest House Keeper, Weragantota, overhearing parts of the conversation of the representatives, had informed the Assistant Government Agent, Kandy, very respectfully that the entire Rest House had already been reserved for the Prime Minister and others who were to accompany him. Mr. Jayasekera had then said that no accommodation was necessary for the staff of the Post and Telecommunications Department. but he would appreciate if 2 blocks of land, which lie adjacent to the Rest House premises were cleared of scrub jungle for the use of his staff and the construction of aerials etc.

Ultimately when the days for the ceremony came round on 17th and 18th September, 1948, the Divisional Revenue Officer, Minipe; Mr. D. B. Welagedera had excellently cleared 2 large blocks of land adjacent to the Rest House premises, Weragantota, and had also provided temporary toilet facilities for the use of the departmental staff.

Arrangements were made by Mr. Jayasekera to provide a temporary radio link to connect Weragantota to the Radio Receiving Station at Manning Town. Instructions were also issued to test out one 250 watt R. C. A. transmitter as the main transmitter for the radio link, and 2 other small transmitters to serve as a control telephone circuit and as a stand by. All these transmitters were from a large stock of radio transmitting and receiving equipment, which Mr. Jayasekera had thoughtfully purchased for the department from a surplus stock of equipment the American servicemen had brought to Ceylon during world War II.

The 250 watt R. C. A. transmitter was tested by Mr. E. C. Wijekoon, then District Inspector of Telecommunications, and the staff at Welikada Transmitting Station, and the 2 smaller transmitters by Telecommunications Inspectors, Messrs; B. S. Seneviratne and S. Sivaparagasam, and the staff at the Radio Laboratory.

Some considerable time had to be devoted by Mr. P. Jayasekera himself to decide what might be a suitable frequency to use for the temporary radio link in view of the high range of hills that lay astride the path from Weragantota to Colombo. He further decided to move up a 5kw petrol engine driven electric generator to provide the necessary power adequately. Also he decided to organise a session of the Sinhala Folk Songs Recording Committee on the same date so that folk songs of the area could be recorded, and further made arrangements for the recording of the proceedings of the inauguration programme in case the functioning of the radio link became unsatisfactory due to any cause.

Three telephone circuits over Mahaweli Ganga between Weragantota and Mahiyangana Chetiya premises were also erected by the District Inspector of Telecommunications, Kandy.

A considerable working staff moved to Weragantota and Mahiyangana several days before the broadcasting date. The Radio Laboratory staff under Telecommunications Inspector, Mr. B. S. Seneviratne, linked up the aerials for the transmitter operated the transmitter and power generators with the assistance of Telecommunications Inspector, Mr. S. Sivapragasaa. The recordings were done by the District Telecommunications Inspector (Radio) Mr. P. A. Gurusinghe, while Telecommunications Inspector, Mr. A. W. Dharmapala and his outside broadcasting staff operated the amplifiers and microphones. The District Inspector of Telecommunications, Kandy, was present with his working staff to render any assistance necessary. A tent was erected on a well situated high ground adjoining Weragantota Rest House Premises for the use of the members of the Sinhala Folk Songs Recording Committee. The members present were; Dr. G. P. Malalasekera (Chairman) Mudlr. E. A. Abeysekera, Devar Surya Sena, Mr. D. P. Jayasekera and its Secretary, Mr. C. L. P. Gunawardana. An adequate supply of tarpaulin and camp beds were taken to provide, shelter for the departmental staff if such a provision was found necessary.

The electric generator taken for departmental use provided electricity to Weragantota Rest House during the Prime Minister's stay there:

Commentaries in Sinhala on the proceedings of the ceremony were done by Dr. G. P. Malalasekera and Mudlr. E. A. Abeysekera, and the senior Sinhala Announcer, who happened to be there with the broadcasting staff conveyed on the telephone circuit a short news item for the noon news bulletin.

The direct broadcast from Mahiyangana, the low lands of Minipe, on September 17 and 18, 1948 to the sea coast of Colombo over the Kandyan Plateau, a height of about 6000 feet, was a huge success and the temporary radio circuit functioned magnificently.

Recording of Veddha songs rendered by Mahiyangana veddhas who were present at the ceremony, the sound effects of the Maha Perahera along the streets of Mahiyangana including the customary veddha perahera on the final night were all recorded on discs.

The Full programme arranged by Mr. K. D. David under the auspicious of the Colombo Fort Pushpadana Society and broadcast on September 17 and 18, 1948 is in Appendix B.

Permanancy of Announcers - Although our British Rulers did not agree to make Announcers established officers of the Government Service stating that they were employed purely for their voice, and in the event of the voice being unsuitable, they could not be given any other employment in the department, yet after gaining independence, Ceylon Government decided to make announcers permanent and pensionable. The most senior announcer, Mr. E. Y. G. Rankine, who had resumed duties on April 1, 1946, after serving in the C. N. V. F. for 4 years during World War II, was the first to be made permanent and pensionable. He decided to retire on 21st July, 1948, and settle down in Australia, where he had passed away. His vacancy as English Announcer was filled by Mr. Mark Antony Fernando, who was under training for some time.

The next senior announcer, **Mr. D M. Colombage** was made permanent on the retirement of Mr. Rankine. Mr. D. M. Colombage the first full fledged Sinhala Announcer, recruited as a daily paid employee on 1st January, 1938, succeeded Mr. E. Y. G. Rankine, as a permanent and pensionable announcer. He was versatile and was able to serve in any capacity even at the spur of the moment.

Once when Mr. E. M. W. Joseph, better known as "Sooty Banda", was broadcasting a weekly feature in English under the nom-de-plume Puwakpitiye Ralahamy he was disappointed by his associate who was also one Mr. Colombage. being absent for the broadcast Mr. D. M. Colombage, who was inside the studio at the time the programme was to start stepped forward and filled the breach to the satisfaction of the listeners. On another occasion when a tabla accompanist of a violinist failed to turn up for the broadcast, Mr. D. M. Colombage filled the breach so confidently, no listeners had observed that the tabla accompanist was a novice.

Anniversary Celebrations of the All Ceylon Buddhist Congress at Badulla- The Presidential address of the All Ceylon Buddhist Congress 1948 by Dr. G. P. Malalasekera at Dharmaduta College, Badulla, was relayed on December 26, 1948 using the telephone trunk lines. The request for the broadcast by the Congress was not favourable considered. So Mr. Daya Hewavitarne, on behalf of the Buddhist Congress, after much agitation with the Minister, Mr. C. Sittampalam was able to get the matter through.

This trip to Badulla gave Dr. Malalasekera, the Chairman of the Sinhala Folk Music Recording Committee, an opportunity to do some recordings of Veddha songs. He made arrangements for the Recordings Committee and the staff to travel to Budulla. Unfortunately the veddha village was under water at the time. However, he was able to record the voice of Tissahamy, the famous veddha leader, who was under remand in Badulla Prison, with the kind permission of the Prison authorities. Tissahamy gave a good contribution of veddha songs, some of which were his own compositions. An item recorded was played back for him to hear. He did not know that it was his voice. He had the impression that some one hiding was repeating his songs and made search under the recording machine to find out who he was.

Sri Lanka's National Anthem- Hon'ble Mr. E. A. P. W. Jeyaratne (later Sir Edwin) the Minister of Home Affairs was responsible for the initiation of the National anthem of Sri Lanka. Mr. J. R. Jayawardene, His Excellency the former President of Sri Lanka's Democratic and Socialist Republic, the then Minister of Finance was associated with the Home Minister and the Committee, which examined all the recorded Sinhala National Songs made available at the Broadcasting Station, unanimously agreed that Mr. Ananda Samarakone's H. M. V. recorded song "Namo Namo Matha" as the most suitable song for Sri Lanka's National Anthem. It was used for the first time at 11.00 am on February 4, 1949, First Independence Anniversary Day. It was sung to music by a choir of girls of Muscaus College, Colombo, trained by Rev. Fr. M. Jayakody. It should be mentioned that Mr. Richard Weera-

suriya, the Controller of Broadcasting Programmes spared no pains to assist the committee in selecting the National Anthem. There was an unsuccessful agitation by a certain music party to boost its own composition.

The First Independence Anniversary Day. February 4, 1949
Ceylon Government decided to celebrate the First Independent Anniversary on February 4, 1949 on a grand scale. Here in the complete broadcast programme arranged for the occasion:-

TRANSMISSION 1.

- 6.00 am Conch, Magul Bera, Temple Bells, Church Bells, Kovil Bells the heralding the dawn of the Independence Commemoration Day.
- 6.15 am Magul Bera, Hewisi Perehera and Mangala Pirith relayed from Sri Jayawardhanaramaya, Welikada.
- 7.10 am Magul Bera and Maha Pirith relayed from Vidyodaya Pirivena, Maligakanda.
- 8.00 am Firing of 21 Gun Salute to Ceylon from H. M. S. Birmingham followed by Parade and Review of all Services and fly-past relayed from Galle Face Green. Commentaries in Sinhala by Mr. H. L. Caldera on 428.5 metres medium wave, in Tamil by Mr. M. S. Ratnam on 325 metres medium wave and in English by Lt. Col. A. Mutucumaru on 61.2 metres 4902 k/cs short wave.
- 9.15 am Tamil music, a recorded programme of devotional and patriotic songs.

TRANSMISSION 2.

- 10.00 am Independence Commemoration - Recitation from the Quran. "Dhua" in Arabic with translation into Tamil by Al Haj Senator A. R. A. Razik Fareed arranged by All Ceylon Moors Association and the Moors Islamic Cultural Home, Dematagoda and presented from the Studio.

- 10.30 am A United Christian Service of Thanks Giving and Intermission arranged by the National Christian Council of Ceylon. The Service conducted by the Rev. A. Vandergert, Chairman of the National Christian Council assisted by the Rev. S. F. Pearce, Chairman, Ceylon Baptist Mission, who will read the Old Testament Lesson; the Rev. K. S. Jeyasingham representing the Jaffna Diocese of the Church of South India, who will read the New Testament Lesson and the Vne'ble A. J. Kendall Baker, Archdeacon of Colombo will read the Intercession and Pronounce the Benediction. The Preacher will be the Rev. G. B. Jackson - relayed from Wolfendhal Church. The Service will be attended by His Excellency the Governor-General and Mr. D. S. Senanayake, Prime Minister.
- 11.30 am Day of Freedom - Edited version of the "Appointed Day" 1948.
- 12 noon Independence Commemoration Messages - In English by Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike, Minister of Health and Local Government.
- 12.10 pm Message in Sinhalese by Mr. E. A. P. Wijeyeratna, Minister of Home Affairs and Rural Development.
- 12.20 pm Message in Tamil by Mr. C. Sittampalam, Minister of Post and Telecommunications.
- 12.30 pm Goodwill from other lands - Edited version in English of messages broadcast by distinguished visitors from overseas.
- 1 00 pm Cutting of first sod at site of Independence Monument by Sir John Kotelawala, Minister of Transport and works - Eye witness account in Sinhala by Mr. Anandatissa de Alwis on 428.5 metres, by mudlr. K. Sabaratnam in Tamil on 325 metres and in English by Mr. D. E. Weerakoon on 61.2 metres.
- 1.30 pm Lunch time Music - Special Independence Commemoration Day Programme presented from the studio by the Band of H. M. S. Birmingham.
- 2.00 pm Close down.

TRANSMISSION 3

- 3.45 pm Cricket - Second Test trial at Colombo Oval - Eyewitness account of the play by Captain George Pereira.
- 3.55 pm Inauguration of Independence Memorial Building at Torrington Square - Commentaries in Sinhala by Mr. A. P. Gooneratne, Mr. H. L. Caldera and Mr. C. W. Surendra on 428.5 metres, in Tamil by Mudlr. K. Sabaratnam, Mr. M. Kanapathipillai and Mr. V. N. Balasubramanium on 325 metres, and in English by Mr. Stanley F. de Saram, Mr. R. H. Basset and Mr. D. S. O'Rioden on 61.2 short wave.
- 4.00 pm Arrival of Hon'ble Mr. D. S. Senanayake, the Prime Minister, Singing of National Songs in Tamil.
- 4.05 pm Arrival of His Excellency the Governor-General. National Anthem - God Save the King.
- 4.10 pm Magul Bera.
- 4.15 pm Arrival of Runners Bringing Messages of Goodwill from Pt. Pedro, Dondra, Batticaloa and Colombo. The messages will be handed to 4 girls, who will read them and hand them over to the Prime Minister.
- 4.20 pm The Prime Minister will ceremoniously place the messages with "Navaratna" and "Paslo" in a satin-wood box, which he will then deposit in a recess in the foundation stone. Magul Bera, Laying the Foundation Stone by the Prime Minister and the release of Pigeons.
- 4.35 pm Address by the Prime Minister in Sinhala; English and Tamil translations.
- 4.55 pm Display by Junior Cadets.
- 5.15 pm Singing of National Songs in Sinhala.
- 5.20 pm Departure of His Excellency the Governor-General.
- 5.23 pm God Save the King.
- 5.25 pm Tea Time Music.
- 5.40 pm Birthday Greetings.
- 5.45 pm Tamil Music.
- 6.00 pm Special Pooja and "Apishokam" ceremonies relayed from Pillaiyar Kovil, Wellawatte.
- 6.30 pm Solemn Benediction Service celebrated by His Grace, the Most Rev. Dr. Thomas Cooray, O. M. I., Archbishop of Colombo, relayed from St. Lucias Cathedral.

- 7.00 pm News and Announcements in Tamil.
- 7.10 pm News and Announcements in Sinhala.
- 7.20 pm News in English.
- 7.30 pm Cricket - Second Test Trial at Colombo Oval. Eyewitness account by Mr. D. E. Weerakoon
- 7.45 pm Goodwill from other lands - edited version in Tamil of messages broadcast by distinguished visitors overseas.
- 8.20 pm Ceylon Independence Commemoration Day - messages for Ceylon of the First Anniversary of the Independence by Sir Oliver Goonetilleke, High Commissioner for Ceylon in U. K., the Rt. Hon. Lord Soulbury, Chairman on Constitutional Reforms in Ceylon 1948, and the Rt. Hon Philip J. Noel-Baker-Empire Relay.
- 8.30 pm Goodwill from other lands - edited version in Sinhala of messages broadcast by distinguished visitors overseas.
- 9.00 pm Independence Week 1948 recalled. Presented by "Guru".
- 9.25 pm Station Announcements.
- 9.30 pm B. B. C. News.
- 9.40 pm News Analysis.
- 9.45 pm Under Freedom Flag - a recorded programme of patriotic music of many lands.
- 10.30 pm "The Appointed Day" 1948 - a programme arranged and presented by Major Alexander Moyes.
- 11.00 pm The National Anthem "Namo Namo Matha".

A New Broadcasting House- Soon after moving into the new studios at the Bower, No. 79 Kotte Road, Borella, which was hurriedly got ready in order to release the accommodation the Broadcasting Section occupied at Torrington Square, it became apparent that the facilities available at the Bower, Kotte Road, for the activities that had to be accommodated there, were quite inadequate. The broadcasting activities were expanding at a fast rate, and so were the other activities like the telecommunication laboratory and the telecommunications engineering school, which were also accommodated at the Bower, Kotte Road. The lack of accommodation was painfully felt in that sufficient

comfort could not be provided for the artistes, contributors of programmes and the programme staff in the nature of waiting rooms, rest rooms etc.

The engineers, therefore, considered the construction of the new broadcasting studio complex as soon as circumstances permitted. They considered the construction of entirely new buildings to provide an adequate number of modern studios with plenty of room for the engineering and programme personnel and sufficient provision for waiting rooms, rest rooms, committee rooms, a canteen etc. for the convenience of artistes, employees, visitors etc., and suitable accommodation to house the most modern technical equipment, aerial system etc. that were contemplated.

Available literature on the subject involved were carefully studied by Messrs. A. Nadarasa and D. P. Jayasekera. At the first opportunity that offered itself, Mr. D. P. Jayasekera undertook a trip to new Delhi at his own expense to have a look of the New Broadcasting Stations that had been constructed there.

Several sites in Colombo were kept in mind both for ease of access by artistes and staff and least expense in connecting the proposed studios to the transmitter at Welikada Wireless Station. Two sites which loomed large with the eyes of the engineers were the two ends of the Race Course, one including the Princess Club, and the other, the now accommodating the headquarters of the Rupawahini. Sketches of the lay out of the new buildings were made and studios for acoustic treatment of the new studios and design for aerial systems etc. were undertaken.

With the construction of new studios at Torrington Square, it was decided to shift the laboratory which was housed at the Bower, Kotte Road to Dickmans Road, Havelock Town, which was in close proximity to the Havelock Town Post Office, the Training School to the new Post Office Savings Bank building at Galle Road, Kollupitiya.

The extent of the land required for the new Station of the sites contemplated and the approximate cost of the buildings made the engineers think that it would not be likely the government would allocate the land required at either sites chosen or provide funds for the new buildings that were planned. They, therefore, opted to get back to their original accommodation at Torrington Square and construct 6 new studios in the unbuilt up spaces occupied by the Ship-to-shore Receiving Station (CLO), which had been in the meantime been accommodated at Manning Town and where it was decided that it would remain for some time at least. The structure for the studios and the Control Room were designed by the Chief Architect of the P. W. D. to meet the requirements laid down by Messrs. A. Nadarasa and D. P. Jayasekera, the acoustic treatment of the studios being carried out according to the studies undertaken by Mr. D. P. Jayasekera, the speech and music circuits of the studios and Control Room being designed and wiring diagrams worked out by Mr. W. E. de Silva. The scheme was relatively inexpensive as the existing buildings were used with suitable modifications for offices etc.

The Chief Architect at the time was Mr. T. N. Wynne Jones and his deputy Mr. H. J. Billimoria, who became Chief Architect when Mr. Wynne Jones retired. The two architects designed in consultation with Messrs. Nadarasa and Jayasekera, and supervised the construction of the structures for the 6 new studios that were built. They also designed and constructed the facade for the entrance to the Broadcasting Station, which still remains.

The 6 new studios with all modern facilities should be regarded as monuments of Messrs. A. Nadarasa, D. P. Jayasekera and W. E. de Silva, 3 pioneer engineers, 2 of whom were associated with the Colombo Broadcasting Service

from its experimental stage until the service was transformed to a Trade and Publicity Bureau called Radio Ceylon on October 1, 1949. The members of the Telecommunications Inspectorate, who were associated with the above mentioned engineers, who brought the New Studios into working order were Messrs. B. S. Seneviratne, D. S. Kasturiaratchi, M. Wimalaratne, S. Sivarpagasam, A. F. M. Perera and B. M. C. Peiris. Mr. D. P. Jayasekera's studies in other countries facilitated the construction of the 6 new studios.

It has to be mentioned with regret that the present generation has completely neglected the pioneers, who had worked with vigour for the cause of the Colombo Broadcasting Service. Even in the Broadcasting Commission Report issued in 1955 as Sessional Paper XX, page 13, paragraph 15 (e) it is stated "the installation of a more powerful 3.5-5 kw medium wave transmitter designed by a Ceylonese engineer" without mentioning his name. The name A. Nadarasa should have been stated in bold letters.

Radio South East Asia Command - With the entry of Japan on the side; of the Axis, Germany and Italy in world War II and the rapid over-running by Japan of Asian territories in South East Asia, which had been under control of the French Dutch and the British governments. broadcasting activities in Sri Lanka (Ceylon) assumed great importance, and had to expand their services as a part of the conduct of the war.

Arrangements had been made to put over the broadcast transmitters of the Ceylon Government located at the Transmitting Station, Welikada, special programmes devised by the British authorities for forces fighting the Japanese, particularly in Burma and Malaysia. At first this service took the form of prepared broadcast materials being read over by a special officer appointed for the purpose, who visited the Colombo Broadcasting Service studios at specific times. It was quickly found that this service had to be expanded and that a new unit for Radio SFAC was formed to relieve the Colombo

Broadcasting Service of the additional load that the Programme Section had to handle in view of the difficulties, which experienced owing to inadequate accommodation.

A 7.5 short wave transmitter was supplied by Radio SEAC and it was installed by the Colombo Radio staff in the new wing of the Transmitting Station, Welikada, which also accommodated the Colombo Broadcasting Station's transmitters.

A bungalow "Calverly" in Turret Road, present Dharmapala Mawata, No. 229, now forming parts of the Buddhist Ladies College, was hastily acquired, and a Programme and a new studio etc. for Radio SEAC was constructed there. The studios, Control Room etc. were done under the direction of Messrs. A. Nadarasa and D. P. Jayasekera, Assistant Chief Telecommunications Engineer and Superintending Telecommunications Engineer, Radio respectively. The provisional of directional aerials at Welikada for the Radio SEAC transmitter presented some difficulties as they broke down while being erected. However, the difficulties were overcome much to the surprise of the high ranking officers of Radio SEAC Headquarters, Lord Louis Mountbatten visited Welikada and inspected the transmitter and the directional aerials and was well satisfied.

Radio SEAC programmes were completely under the control of the Director of Radio SEAC specially appointed for the purpose, thus relieving the Colombo Broadcasting Service from the responsibility for Radio SEAC programmes and programme materials.

Radio SEAC installed a very powerful 100 kw short wave transmitter at Ekala, Jaala. Its maintenance and operation were the responsibility of the Radio SEAC staff. The Programme circuits linking Radio SEAC studios with the 100 kw transmitter being provided and maintained by the Colombo Broadcasting Service staff.

The formal transfer of Radio SEAC to the ownership of the Ceylon Government took place in 1949. With this transfer the Ceylon Government acquired the Powerful 100 kw

transmitter used by signing an agreement with the United Kingdom where by the B. B. C. was given facilities for the continuance of the use of the transmitter for a maximum period of 8 1/2 hours per-day for 2 years. Nearly all the employees of Radio SEAC were temporary transferred to the Ceylon Government on their then existing terms and conditions of service, under the Director-General, Radio Ceylon.

High Frequency Broadcasting Conference 1948 After the end of World War II in 1945 the Allies together with other like minded Nations contemplated a New World Order and established a body called United Nations to replace the old League of Nations. Such international bodies like International Telecommunications Union, which handled special subjects were specialised agencies of the United Nations.

Ceylon's First Independent Anniversary Commemoration celebrated in Mexico City. Mr. D. P. Jayasekera celebrated the First Independent Anniversary Commemoration of Ceylon by convening a small party for delegates from the Asian countries of India, Pakistan, Burma and Indonesia held at the Prasada del Sol, a new hotel, which had just come up at Mexico City. The "Excelsior", leading Newspaper of Mexico City carried an account of the function with a group photograph of those who attended the conference.

The International Telecommunications Union in order to embark on a programme of reconstructions and developments in accordance with the ideals of the United Nations held a plenipotentiary conference in Atlantic City and adopted a new Telecommunications Convention. An Administrative Radio Conference was also held in Atlantic City and this revised the frequency allocation table, which allowed radio frequencies for different purposes. The war years brought about tremendous developments in broadcasting, particularly high frequency broadcasting, which covered large areas of the world using high power short wave transmitters and very efficient directional antenna system. Great importance was attached by the major countries to high frequency broadcasting necessitating an orderly and agreed sharing of the available frequencies for high frequency broadcasting services of different

Panel Of Buddhist Preachers



Ven'ble Narada Maha Thero



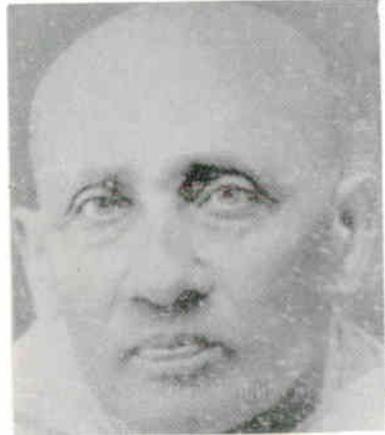
Ven'ble Kalukundayawe
Sri Pannasekera
Maha Navake Thero



Ven'ble Karaputugala
Sri Dhammaloka Thero



Ven'ble Induruwe Sri Uttarananda
Maha Nayake Thero



Ven'ble Ahangama Sri Pragnaloka Thero



Ven'ble Makuluduwe Piyaratana
Nayake Thero



Ven'ble Karaputugala
Dhammawansa Thero

Expert Exponent Of Sinhala Folk Songs And Folk Lore



U.A.S. Perera
– memorable Siri Aiya



Ven'ble Rambukwelle Siddhartha
Maha Thero

Group Of Notable Sinhala Artistes



(On the ground) Amaradeva, Chitra, P.L.A. Somapala, Chinta, Sarathsen
(Seated) Noel Perera, Marcus Perera, Susil Premaratne, P.L.A. Gunapala.

countries, Thus a High Frequency Broadcasting Conference was convened at Mexico City towards the end of 1948 to initiate steps to bring about order in the use of high frequencies for broadcasting.

At the time Ceylon had just become independent with the status of a Dominion in the British Commonwealth, and was not a member of the International Telecommunications Union. Ceylon's interest in telecommunications had been looked after by the United Kingdom's Government along with British Colonies. When requirements for Ceylon for high frequency broadcasting were sent to London for presentation to the International Telecommunications Union, it was found that these requirements clashed with those of some other British Colonies, notably Malaya and Singapore. The United Kingdom's Government advised the Ceylon Government that it would be best that Ceylon sends its own delegate to the High Frequency Broadcasting Conference, in Mexico City to present Ceylon's requirements to that conference. The United Kingdom's Government to have the Ceylon delegate included in the British delegation looking after the interests of the British Colonies until Ceylon is admitted as an independent member of the International Telecommunications Union.

By the time the correspondence passed between London and Colombo the Mexico City Conference had commenced and became necessary to quickly send Ceylon's delegate to the Mexico City Conference. The choice fell on Mr. D. P. Jayasekera, Superintending Telecommunications Engineer, Radio, and he was given just one and a half day's notice to get ready and leave for Mexico City. So Mr. Jayasekera left in November, 1948, and after delays in Paris, Azores, Newfoundland and Washington due to bad weather - many of the air ports being fog-bound - Mr. Jayasekera rushed to Mexico City and presented the Ceylon requirements for high frequency broadcasting. The Mexico City Conference worked till April, 1949, laid down considerations and standards for all requirements of high frequency for broadcasting, approved technical standards, and prepared one basic plan. Mr. Jayasekera's efforts in Mexico City won for Ceylon an allocation in the face of stiff competition, which won the full approbation of the Ceylon Government.

Having come so far almost half way round the world, Mr. Jayasekera obtained permission to stay one month longer in U. S. A., to enable him to visit Television companies and gain a sound knowledge of the working of television service and also the latest technique of broadcasting in use in the U.S.A.

Before the one month's stay in the U. S. A. expired a regional radio conference to allocate frequencies in the medium and tropical bands for broadcasting and other radio services on a regional basis was summoned to meet in Geneva, Switzerland. M. Jayasekera was instructed to proceed to Geneva, attend the conference and file Ceylon's requirement, for services coming under the purview of that conference. It was at this conference that Mr. Jayasekera obtained frequencies for regional broadcasting stations in Ceylon, which he had contemplated establishing using the 250 watt R. C. A. transmitters and other transmitters, which he had purchased from the services surplus equipment at very nominal prices, and prepared to put into working order by the engineering staff of Welikada Wireless Station.

On his return to Ceylon by the end of 1949, he found that a new Broadcasting Department had been formed, and that he had been, without his knowledge and consent seconded for service in the new Broadcasting Department as Superintending Engineer. He immediately called on Mr. R. N. Bond, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications, and protested against the procedure adopted in seconding him for service and stated that he was not willing to go to the new department in any capacity other than the Director-General or in the alternative as Additional Director-General conditionally that he would be the Director-General on the termination of Mr. J. M. Lampson's contract. He was offered the post of Additional Chief Engineer, which he refused. Consequently Mr. N. S. Wikremesinghe, Superintending Telecommunications Engineer, a junior colleague of Mr. Jayasekera, after discussing the issue with his senior colleague, Mr. D. P. Jayasekera, agreed to assume duties as Additional Chief Engineer of Radio Ceylon, on condition that he would be the Chief Engineer, when the then holder of that post retires.

Meanwhile a decision had been taken by the International Telecommunications Union to convene at Florence in Italy the second stage of the High Frequency Broadcasting Conference which adjourned in Mexico City in April 1949. The second stage of High Frequency Conference commenced at Florence in the middle of 1950 Mr. D. P. Jayasekera was nominated to attend the conference as the Ceylon's delegate. By this time Ceylon had been admitted to the International Telecommunication Union for membership, and Mr. D. P. Jayasekera represented Ceylon at this conference as the first delegate to represent independent Ceylon, whereas in earlier conferences he had been accommodated as a member of the delegates of the British Colonies.

The second stage of the conference met in Italy in 1950, first in Florence and second in Rapallo. During the progress of the Rapallo conference the international situation deteriorated due to the starting of the Korean war and the major countries did not favour the signing of an agreement governing High Frequency Broadcasting till the Korean war situation became clearer and proposed the adjournment of the conference. While the matter was being discussed Mr. Jayasekera made a speech suggesting among other matters that the enormous amount of work so far done be handed over to the Secretary General of the International Telecommunications Union to continue the work with the assistance of the experts from such countries as were to send experts from Geneva for the work. This speech was greeted spontaneous applause from the delegates present - the only time a delegate's speech at the Florence-Rapallo Conference was greeted with spontaneous applause.

The Last Statement of Expenditure & Revenue of the Colombo Broadcasting Service

1948-1949

Expenditure	Rs. cts.	Revenue	Rs. cts.
Administration & Operation	199,637.93	Licence fee	246076 00
Maintenance	1030,545.87	Miscellaneous	4125. 17
Rent & Electricity	42033.97	Services to other	
Free Services	35,264.65	Departments	47960. 00
Pension & Liabilities	42292.73	Excess	1085930.20
Annutics	34316.22		
	1384091.37		1384091.37

APPENDIX - A

Recording of Sinhala Traditional Music and Folk Songs

In the year 1936 the Post and Telecommunications Department purchased a single turn table recording machine developed by the British Broadcasting Station. This machine was carefully tested and arrangements made to train the staff of the Colombo Broadcasting Station in using the machine to make recordings and also to record suitable local artistes for broadcasting at appropriate times. Thus the entire Kandy Esala Perehera (Esala is the Sinhala month equivalent for the month of August) of 1937 and 1938 were recorded, and a special set of records were made to simulate the Kandy Esala Perehera to be sent to the British Broadcasting Station, London, to be put on the air at a special broadcast the British Broadcasting Corporation had planned to coincide with the last day of the Kandy Esala Perehera August, 1938. In succeeding years the Colombo Broadcasting Station continued to make recordings of Sinhala folk songs by artistes as they were available at the Broadcasting Station from time to time. One of the well known artiste so recorded was the famous Kandyan dancer, Nittawela Gunaya, whose recording of the Ukusa Vanna-ma was broadcast repeatedly on subsequent occasions in the Colombo Broadcasting programmes much to the delight of the listening public.

2. At this time Mr. D. P. Jayasekera, Engineer Radio, conceived the idea of the recording of Sinhala folk songs on an extensive scale so as to preserve the Sinhala folk music existing in the country as well as to provide materials for Sinhala broadcast programmes. Continuous recording was necessary for the purpose, and Mr. A. Nadarasa, Divisional Engineer, Radio, and Mr. D. P. Jayasekera, Engineer Radio made a careful search for recording equipment then available to permit continuous recordings and also be portable so as to permit the equipment to be transported even to villages to record the folk music found in such villages.

3. In order to help the engineers in assessing the value of Sinhala folk songs and music for the purposes of preservation, educations, enter tainment etc., the Hon'ble the Minister of Communications and works was advised by the Postmaster General to obtain the servoces, in an advisory capacity, of reputed scholars. The following committee was appointed in 1940:-

1. Dr. G. P. Malalasekera (Chairman),
2. Mudl. E. A. Abayasekera,
3. Mr. S.L. B. Kapukotuwa,
4. Mr. Shirley da Silva, Superintendent of
Broadcasting,
5. Mr. H de S. Gunewardene, Secretary of the
Broadcasting Advisory Board, as Secretary.

4. The Second World War had started in the meantime and due to it and the consequent lack of facilities the committee did very little work. The services of the unofficial members were honorary and voluntary. The Secretary to the Committee was engaged in other official work as well, However, with the single turn table MSS recording machine recording was done with such artistes as could be brought to the Colombo Broadcasting Station.

5. The search for suitable portable recording machines by the engineers resulted in the purchase of 2 RCA portable machines, which arrived in this country in the year 1945. With this machine the committee travelled to Kandy in August 1946, and recorded Kandyan vannam at Trinity College, Kandy and St. Anthony's College, Katugastota, and other Sinhala folk songs at Lorensz College Maradana. In order to record the folk music of the country on the scale contemplated, a van designed by Mr. D. P. Jayasekera to carry not only the recording machines, batteries, power generators, cables etc, but also to provide seating accommodation for the members of the Recording Committee and the engineering staff. Special provisions was also made to have side tarpaulin, which could be unrolled to provide spacious tents on either side of the vehicle to accommodate camp beds for the use of the committee members and staff for sleeping in remote areas where other suitable

accommodation was difficult to find. 12 camp beds were provided and in addition provision was made to carry cooking utensils, cutlery and cockery to prepare meals for the committee members and the staff. The District Inspector of Telecommunications in charge of the recording work was asked to recruit as one of the labourers, a person who could cook. The choice was so good that all those, members of the committee as well as the staff, enjoyed the meals provided.

6. In August 1947, Mr. C. L. P. Gunawardana of the Broadcasting Program Office was appointed Secretary to the Committee. He too had to attend to his new duties in addition to his normal work of arranging all oriental programmes and other administrative work. A proper account of recording work already done by the committee had not been maintained due to the Secretary having been stationed at an office away from the Broadcasting Station. A start was made by the new Secretary to maintain a systematic catalogue of the recordings done by him.

7. The maiden trip of the newly constructed van was to made to Kandy to record the sounds and music of the Esala Perehera on the final night, on the new recording machine. The running commentary was done from the 2nd floor balcony of Queens Hotel. While preliminaries were being made for the recording and the commentary, the first President of the Sri Lanka Republic, Mr. William Gopallawa, then the Municipal Commissioner, Kandy was present at the spot. A few minutes before the commentary and the recording were to start music from a carnival, which had been organised began to blast. the recording was to be a flop. Fortunately, the Municipal Commissioner was found among the crowd on the ground floor of the Hotel. The matter was brought to his notice and he immediately telephoned the carnival authorities and stopped the nuisance.

8. The committee's work was systematically started on December 20 1947 at Rahula College, Matara. There was a large gathering present consisting of potential recording artistes and onlookers, both literate and illiterate. It was an extremely difficult task for the members of the committee to make a selection those fit to record. The whole morning was spent in selecting artistes and the recording was done in the afternoon. 23 items of folk songs, thovil kavi, manthra, saudam etc., were recorded on discs, an elderly person recorded a certain item, which he named it 'Driving away of Wild Boars". It was a humorous one. Soon after recording it was played back for the crowd to listen. The crowd not only enjoyed it, but was also bewildered as to the immediate effect of the recording. The Police had to be summoned to keep away the crowd. A young girl of about 18 years of age came forward to present her songs for recording. She made several attempts but the committee was not satisfied with her singing. She made a final appeal and the committee listened. She recited the following verse:-

පළමු කෙළි දිය බිබි සිට ගොය ලීඳක් කැවුලු අයක්	ගොන්නුය
දෙවනු රත්කම්පලා ගස් උගුලන්ට උපමා කිවෙක්	ගොන්නුය
තමන් ගොන්නුය ගමන් ගොන්නුය දෙවනු කෙටුනුවන්ම	ගොන්නුය
මෙවැනි තනතුරු මෝඩ ගොන් සිටි කැනට ආ මේ අපිත්	ගොන්නුය

The members of the committee had no alternative but burst into laughter. The members of the committee spent the night at Matara Rest House.

9. The following morning the committee visited Tissamaharama. A fairly large gathering was present at Debarawewa Mixed School where 14 items of folk music were recorded. The members of the committee and the staff were the guest of Mohn D. D. Senanayake of Tissamaharama, who entertained them at lunch. The committee spent the night at Hambantota Rest House .

10. On March 6 ,1948 a trip was made to Deniyaya. where the M. P. Mr. V. G. W. Ratnayake had made arrangements to record at his estate bungalow. The visitors were the guests of Mr. Ratnayake. 23 items mainly of Bali Kavi and Rabau Kavi were recorded till late evening.

11. On March 26, 1948 North Central Province was visited. Recordings were done at Maha Vihara, Anuradhapura, and Gal Vihara, Nallaulachiya, where 32 items of music, folk songs and folklore were collected. Unlike in the Southern Province where people readily came forward to record, the residents of the Kandyan districts were reluctant to give away their collections. When the drummers of the Maha Vihara were requested to exhibit a few performances which they do at important festivals at the Sri Maha Bodhi Vihara, they flatly refused. They had the fear that the recordings would be a step to prevent them from earning their daily bread, and that very soon their absence from festival would be felt. Ancient ceremonies would be conducted by producing recorded sound effects through amplifiers. Attempts to rid them of their misconception were not of any avail, until Ven'ble Revetha Nayake Thero of Maha Vihara and Atamasthana came to our aid. The Nayake Thero himself recorded an account of the ancient dedication of the Maha Vihara to the Maha Sangha by reading from an old manuscript. The night at Anuradhapura was spent by camping out in Isurumini Vihara premises and at Nallaulachiya Gal Vihara premises.

12. At Horowapotana too the committee experienced the same difficulty in pursuing the singers to record, Mr. Poholiyadde Dissawa, the then M. P. had made arrangements for a few exponents of folk songs and music to be present at the Rural Court premises. The view of the singers there was that whatever they had inherited should be confined to their family circle and should not be given out. With much persuasion 32 items were recorded on discs till after midnight. One of the singers, a fairly old person, shed tears after listening to his own voice and repented that he was not able to do it earlier, when he could have done better.

13. At the Broadcasting Studio Mr. N. M. Gunaya of international fame recorded II various vannam in May 1948 Mr. Kiri Banda of Urapola at his old age recorded again. His singing was upto high standard at that time too.

14. On June 3, 1948 the committee visited Ratnapura and recorded 23 items at Sivali Vidyalaya. Mr. H. Weragama rendered valuable assistance in collecting men suitable for recording. He entertained the committee and the staff at lunch at the Rest House, Ratnapura. The committee travelled to Hiramadagama the same evening. They were welcome by Mr. E. A. Delgoda. The committee and the staff were the guests of Mr. Delgoda till the recording was over the following evening. A large number of vannam with sound effects of udekki, talam, pantheru and dancing in addition to kamath kavi, nelum kavi etc., were recorded.

15. On September 17, 1948 the committee visited Mahiyangana on the occasion of the restoration ceremony of the ancient chetiya by the Prime Minister, Hon'ble D. S. Senanayake. The sound effects of the Maha Perahera, the veddha perahera, which commenced after midnight were recorded. Songs and dialogues of some of the veddhas present were also recorded on discs.

16. Three reputed exponents of traditional music and songs from Nuwara Kalawiya were brought to Colombo on July 22, 1948 by Mr. Poholiyadda Dissawe, M. P. They were the village folk of Pahala Diwulwewa a remote village of Horowapotana. A large number of items was recorded at Sravasti, the hostel of the M. Ps. Almost all the M. Ps. were present, including the Prime Minister, Hon'ble Mr. D. S. Senanayake, the Leader of the House and the Minister of Local Government Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranayake at the recording. The men, in addition to recording traditional songs, entertained the M. Ps with extempore kavi, one kavi for each M. P. When it came to Mr. W. Dahanayake's turn, he generously handed over a five rupee note to the singer. All the members present had to follow Mr. Dahanayake's generous example and the singers were highly benefited. A petition in impromptive verse was submitted to the Minister of Local Government explaining the difficulties experienced by the villagers due to lack of water for drinking.

17. On December 27, 1948 the committee visited Badulla where there was not much response as most of the villages were under water at the time. A few items were recorded. The most important of them were the recordings of the famous veddha, Tissahamy, who was then a remand prisoner on a charge of murder at Badulla Prison. Special permission was obtained from the authorities. The items so recorded are worthy of preservation. When one of the songs recorded was played back for him to hear, the veddha did not believe that it was his own voice. He had the impression that someone was repeating his songs in hiding and he began to search under the recording machine.

18. At the Broadcasting Studio, Mr. Andiris Francisco of Nakulugamuwa, Matara District, recorded nadagam songs, all the 32 nadagam talam were recorded.

19. The committee decided to record and film the ancient Kandyan Bali ceremony known as Kohomba Kankariya and the Mahasoan Samayama, a thovil dancing ceremony of Matara, which were in danger of dying out. The committee recommended to the Postmaster General, the then head of the Broadcasting Service, to obtain the services of the Government Film Unit. It also made a tentative programme to visit Ambalangoda for recording nadagam songs, and also a veddha village in the Uva Province.

20. Early in January 1949 the Secretary to the Committee who had done so much work during 20 years, severed connection from the Broadcasting Service. The Department did not make arrangements to avail of his services nor appoint a suitable officer to succeed him as Secretary. Therefore the functions of the Recording Committee came to an abrupt ending.

21. The total number of recordings done on discs from August 1947 till the end of 1948 were 324. These recordings were done for:-

1. Preservation;
2. Education; and
3. Entertainment

22. The recordings were in the charge of a technical officer, Mr. P. A. Gurusinghe, District Inspector of Telecommunications. He was the officer, who actually did all the recordings. The records were labelled and systematically arranged and kept in a cupboard specially made for the purpose. There were clear instructions to all concerned to keep the recordings as Master Records and that the originals should not be used for broadcasting. If any such was required for broadcasting a duplicate be obtained for the purpose. The technical officer too was transferred.

23. In addition to the records containing traditional music, there were several recordings of bana sermons of Ven'ble Palane Vajiranana Maha Nayake Thero, Ven'ble Narada Thero, Ven'ble Heenatiyana Dhammaloka Thero, Ven'ble Panditha Ahangama Pannaloka Thero and Ven'ble Pitakotte Somananda Thero. All on discs, each 45 minutes in duration. A variety of Sinhala songs and music by Surya Shankar Molligoda, Sunil Shantha, P. L. A. Somapala and Chitra, C. T. Fernando etc., which were very popular among broadcast listeners were also recorded. All these recordings were done on the responsibility of the Secretary with the co-operation of the technical staff without the assistance of any Announcer.

24. The Times of Ceylon in its weekly Radio round-up of January 28, 1950 stated:-

“The transfer of the Secretary of the Sinhalese Folk Songs Recording Committee has been responsible for the complete inactivity of the committee last year. In 1948 the committee was responsible for the recording of 238 folk songs of Ceylon. Early last year the Secretary of the committee was transferred to the Postmaster General's Office and as no one was appointed in his place the committee did absolutely nothing despite the fact that financial provision has been made in the Budget Estimates. Some of the members of the Committee do not know where they stand today. Even the Chairman of the committee does not know whether he was still the Chairman of the committee.

he replied, "I do not know, I suppose I am nominally the Chairman, but the committee is not functioning now as we have no Secretary."

25. This Press article drew the attention of Mr. D. E. Weerakoon, the then Controller of Broadcasting Programmes, and he invited the Secretary to the defunct Recording Committee to catalogue the records. The Secretary readily accepted the invitation. He visited Radio Ceylon and saw the records which had been systematically arranged and kept in a cupboard dumped on the floor of a room, a large number in pieces. There were no labels on them and the register in which the records had been scheduled was not made available. It was, therefore, a very difficult task for him to attend to the work undertaken. However, he catalogued 223 of the 324 items recorded and which were found in a good condition, and submitted his report. The authorities did not take action even at that time to resuscitate the matter. The Hon'ble the Minister was not a Sinhalese. The Permanent Secretary and the Director General of Broadcasting were aliens, and their neglect is an irreparable loss. It is opportune even now to ascertain the present position of the 223 items which were found in good condition in 1950. If they are not available the damage done to Sinhala culture, whosoever is responsible cannot be restituted.

Colombo Broadcasting Service had taken steps quite early for the preservation of the recordings and instructions had been issued to all concerned, programme and technical, that the original recordings should be preserved as master records, and how and when the recordings should be used, copies should be taken for broadcasting purposes using the special needle for the play back. But after the transfer of the technical officer, who was in charge of the recordings and the Secretary of the Recording Advisory Committee, the collection of the recordings had been abused and ruined.

In regard to the words of recorded songs, a circular letter was being drafted to all who had recorded calling for the words of the songs, but owing to the transfer of the Secretary out of broadcasting resulting the defuncting of the committee's work. the matter could not be proceeded. However, on an oral request made by the Secretary at the

Broadcasting studio to Mr. Andiris Francisco, the words of all the nadagam songs recorded by him were handed over to the Secretary with whom they are still available.

With much regret and reluctance mention has to be made that the changes effected to the Broadcasting Services after the dawn of independence had marred the progress of Sinhala traditions and culture which were being gradually resuscitated by the Colombo Broadcasting Service by the policies of "injection of new blood" as reiterated in editorials of certain news papers, reconstitution of Advisory Boards and Programme Committees, and even the working staff with new faces. The pearls collected by the old regime were cast before swine, causing an irreparable damage to Sinhala culture. There would have been several others like Kirihamy Mohottala and Mudalihamy of Horowapotana who would have recorded folk music in the very old traditional style, which cannot be revived now. The members of the Recording Advisory Committee, distinguished members of the public, who had given voluntary services, at times camping out at night without proper sleeping facilities were humiliated by the new government.

The places visited by the Recording Advisory Committee and the Recording staff during 1947 and 1948 with a comprehensive programme and the names of the well wishers were:

Matara	...	Mr. C. Justin Wijewardene
Tissamaharama	...	Mohn. D. D. Senanayake
Deniyaya	...	V. G. W. Ratnayake, M. P.
Anuradhapura	} ...	Ven'ble Hammilawa Sri Sumana
Nallaulatchiya		Revata Nayake Thero of Atmasthanana
Horowapotana	...	Mr. Poholiyadde Dissawa, M. P.
Ratnapura	...	Mr. Harold Weragama
Hiramadagama	...	Mr. E. A. Delgoda
Mahiyangana	...	Mr. Ratnayake, D. R. O. Alutnuwara
Badulla	...	Superintendent of Prison, Badulla

In the year 1957, the then Director of Cultural Affairs late Mr. N. Q. Dias made an attempt to revive the programme of recording Sinhala folk songs and music, and at his request, the Secretary of the defunct Recording Advisory Committee, forwarded a report of the work done by that committee, vide Cultural Department's correspondence No. CA/U 2/8 starting

from 11th May, 1957 to 5th July, 1957. In 1978 the Hon'ble the Minister of Cultural Affairs made a similar attempt, and the Secretary of that Recording Committee forwarded for the Minister's information with copies to the Hon'ble Minister of Broadcasting and Information and late Mr. Devar Surya Sena, a surviving member of the Recording Committee, a report of the work done. The Secretary did not receive even an acknowledgment from either of the Ministers. The reply received from late Mr. Devar Surya Sena is reproduced below:-

Devar Surya Sena
M. A.L.L. B. A. R. C. M. O. B. E.
Phone: 25922

Gitanjali
10, Alvis Place,
Colombo 3
14/2/78

Mr. C. L. P. Gunawardena,
No. 23, Sri Mahabodi Rd.,
Dehiwala.

Dear Mr. Gunawardena,

Its a long time since we last met, but I remember you well, especially during our travels recording that previous collections of sinhala folk charts and songs, accompanied by the Van with recording equipment.

Your detailed factual report on our Committees work is highly concernable and worth-while. It is both tragic and deplorable to learn of the callous treatment meted out to a valuable collection. Resulting on the loss of 106 items, Besicallly I thought which lot had been lost during the move from Cotte Road to Torrington Square.

I shall ask Mr. C. de S. Kulatilleke to recorrect, restore and abulate these recordings.

Whilst serving on the Board of the Ceylon Baoadcasting Corp. 1966-1970, I was responsible for pressing for the appointment of a Record Officer and Reserve Librarian, We chese Kulatilleke. Once again my hearty thanks and commendation of your Excellent Report.

With sincere good wishes.

Sincerely,
Surya Sena

The paragraph relevant to the recording of folk songs of the report of the Broadcasting Commission 1953 issued as Sessional Paper xx of 1955 is reproduced below:

187. The Majority of the artistes and listeners who sent memoranda and gave oral evidence before us expressed appreciation of Sinhalese folk songs. Their request was for more and better folk songs apart from their musical value, these songs have other appeals to the majority of Sinhalese people. Folk songs are the spontaneous expression of relatively undeveloped music and poetry of simple and unsophisticated people which reflect their life with its hardships, joys, sorrows and sufferings in a way that has a natural and a real appeal to them. Whilst therefore, there was general appreciation of folk songs, themselves, the folk songs programme of Radio Ceylon were not free from criticism. Often the folk songs broadcast were not genuine or were rendered by artistes who knew very little of the life of the people and the background that gave birth to such folk songs. The singing of folk songs must catch the atmosphere of the folk pattern of life. The rural singer himself—the bard of the village must be brought more to the fore if items of folk songs are to really satisfy the listeners. We were informed that several years back under the direction of the Education Department, a special committee toured the country and carried out an all-Island survey of folk songs. They recorded about a thousand songs, sung in the traditional setting of the village life of the artistes who sang them. These records are said to have been handed over to Radio Ceylon, and they, are today either lost or damaged. There is no definite information of the places where they were recorded nor of the wording of the songs or sometimes even of the names of the artistes. Some of these records have been so frequently used that, they are worn out and need replacement. Some further endeavour should be made to make a complete recording of all folk songs with written script of their

texts and full information regarding the artistes, In this task, the fullest use should be made of the available records, perhaps replaying them and perparing scripts from them wher ever that is possible. As the method of using these records may put them out of service altogether, it might be necessary to consider whether copies of these records cannot be made retaining the original only for purpose of record.

The mention by the Broadcasting Commission 1953 (quoted above) that recording of folk music was initiated under the direction of the Education Department, and the recordings so made, about 1000 were handed over to Radio Ceylon, is based on misinformation supplied to the Broadcasting Commission. The Secretary of the Recording Advisory Commiitee would vouch that recording of folk music of this country was initiated by the Colombo Broadcasting Service under the control of Post and Telecommunications Department. Mr. C. L. P. Guna-wardana who officiated as Secretary to the Recording Advisory Comntity till the end of recording work by the Colombo Broadcasting Service, except for a short period at the very beginning when Mr. H. de S. Gunewardena functioned as Secretary.

Mr. D. P. Jayasekera, sucessively Telecommunications Engineer, Radio, Superintending Telecommunications Engineer Radio and presently retired Chief Telecommunications Engineer has recently (1988) informed me that the programme for the recoadings of Sinhala music, which was done up to the end of 1948 was only to record a cross section of the folk music available in the country as a prelude to a compachensive and a detailed recording various aspects of the folk music of the people of this country. Long-drawn ceremonies lasting several days like Bali and Thovil, were to be recorded in full, using a large tent, which he proposed to erect at the Wireless Transmitting Station, Welikada. During the nume-rous trips to various parts of the country on inspection of Telecommunications Services for which he was responsible, and that he lost no oppertunity to ascertain details of folk music and folklore and reputed artistes like dancers and drummers from the various people he met from far off villages.

Old Favourites



A.M. de Alwis



K. Regina Perera



A.R.M. Ibrahim



Vasantha Sandanayake



Greeta Janet de Silva



Titus Samaraweera



H.W. Rupesinghe



Ceciliana Dias



M.K. Vincent

Thus, once he was on circuit in Nuwara Eliya - Welimada area he went to Uda Pussellawa beyond Nuwara Eliya and instead of coming back to Nuwara Eliya and going to Welimada through Hakgala he had chosen to take the estate road for the use of which he had a pass, through Kirklees Estate, to Welimada. On the way he had seen a typical Sinhala village gentleman of the typical village Headman or Vel Vidane type walking down the road. Mr. Jayasekera stopped and asked the gentleman where he was going and having been told that he was going to Welimada, Mr. Jayasekera offered him a lift, which was accepted. On the way Mr. Jayasekera ascertained from the old gentleman many aspects of the village folk lore of the area including the fascinating history of his family.

Going further down the road at the place called Loonuwatte, Mr. Jayasekera noticed a big brown patch on the hill side some distance away from the road and enquired from the old gentleman what that brown patch was and the old gentleman replied that it was near the entrance to a maze of an underground tunnel locally known as "Sthreepura". Mr. Jayasekera then asked him for any information he knew about the "Sthreepura". He replied that he himself had not gone to see the tunnel, but he had heard that a school teacher of the local school had gone into the tunnel with a group of school boys but did not go very far because they had got frightened. At the entrance to the tunnel there was a verticle pit at the bottom of which was the entrance to the tunnel. The height of the tunnel was such that one could walk direct comfortably and the width was such that 2 or 3 persons could walk abreast. Walking down the tunnel there was a junction at which other tunnels branched out, but to his knowledge no one had a full survey of the tunnel. He had heard that once a European planter working in one of the estates in the area had tried to explore this tunnel. He had walked it seems, a mile or 2 till he came to an underground stream, which crossed the tunnel and had turned back at that point. When he went down the tunnel his dog had accompanied him, but when he turned back the dog did not come back with him. Evidently the dog had swum across the stream and got lost in the maze of the tunnel.

Several days later the dog was seen at a place near Nildandahinna several miles away, and was returned to the owner. Obviously the maze of the tunnel had another entrance near Nildandahinna.

On further inquiries in subsequent visits to the area Mr. Jayasekera had ascertained that during the times of the Sinhala Kings who reigned at Kandy, and when Kandy itself was threatened, the King and His Court moved to Hanguranketha, where there was a place for the King. When the foreign threats became more serious, the Queens and ladies of high rank moved further towards Uva and entered the tunnels, which came to be aptly known as "Sthreepura". The entrances at the tunnel were closely guarded as access to the system of the tunnels was carefully controlled by specially selected guards. Once inside the tunnel the presence of a person was quite unknown to the people of the area until the person emerged from one of the entrances.

In addition to the entrance at Loonuwatte people believe that there are entrances at different places - one such being a place near the present Rest House at Ella in the Uva Province. The closely guarded secrets about the extent of the system of the tunnels and entrances to them evidently died with the possessors of these secrets, and so far nobody seems to have taken the trouble to explore the system of the tunnels.

On this trip Mr. Jayasekera had come to understand that there was at Welimada a reputed drummer whose forte was playing on the "thammattama" and also very capable "Bali Edura" named Kiri Banda at a village called Ettalapitiya on the road between Welimada and Badulla.

With this information in mind Mr. Jayasekera had thought he could arrange a programme of folk music recording in the Welimada - Ettalapitiya area, and on an off day with the assistance of volunteers from among the departmental staff of the area, explore the system of tunnels, the entrance to which was at Loonuwatte in Welimada. The recording session was planned for about March, 1949 during which time normally good weather prevails in the area.

When Mr. Jayasekera returned to Colombo after the circuit he set himself to gather equipment that would be necessary to explore the tunnel, thus magnet to field telephones, miles of D-8 telephone wire, searchlights, miles of power cables, portable petrol engine driven electric generators, out of the war surplus material that had been bulk-purchased by the department were collected.

The plan of operation was as follows:-

The departmental staff volunteering to explore the tunnel were to be divided to groups of three. One of the three carrying field telephone, another carrying a search-light and the third a long stick with a spike at the end.

A second group of three equipped similarly was to follow some distance behind the first group.

Another group of three at the head of the pit forming the entrance to tunnel one person tending the petrol engine driven generator, and the other paying out the telephone and the power cable.

There would be another group of three at the pit head ready to move into the tunnel to relieve any body if such a necessity arose.

Unfortunately the plan could not be executed as Mr. Jayasekera had to leave the country at the end of 1948 to go to Mexico City and attend the First High Frequency Broadcasting Conference that had been convened to meet there in November, 1948, and on the adjournment of the conference in April, 1949. Mr. Jayasekera was directed to proceed to Geneva to another International Telecommunications Union conference which had been convened to allocate Medium and Tropical band frequencies for various radio services of countries. Mr. Jayasekera finally returned to the country at the end of 1949 and found that a new department of broadcasting had been created with foreigners occupying all the important posts, and recording of folk songs stopped, the special van designed and constructed for folk songs recording in outside areas modified to transport departmental staff and the equipment for recording dissipated. The equip-

ment - field telephones, search-lights, telephone and power cables etc. for exploring the system of tunnels had been distributed among sections of the department or sold by auction.

Therefore the work of recording of the folk songs of the country and the idea of exploring the "Sthreepura" tunnels were dropped.

A sum of Rs. 9000.00 was voted in the Estimates for 1948 - 1949 for the recording of Sinhala folk music of which Rs. 315/- had been "wasted" during the first 3 months - October to December 1948. The balance Rs. 8685/- may have been utilised for some other work the Director-General of Radio Ceylon considered more important or transferred back to the Treasury. The well planned programme for the upliftment of our Sinhala culture started during the British period collapsed with the dawn of our independence. **Who is responsible?**

List of Recordings done at
Matara, Tissamaharama, Deniyaya, Anuradhapura,
Horowapotana and the Studio

දිනය	ගීය හෝ වාදනය	ශිල්පියාගේ නම
20.12.47 මාතර	1. වන්තම-උඩැක්කි උපත	ඒ. වයි. අමරසේකර සහ ඒ. වයි. අමරපාල
	2. වන්තම-ලංකා විස්තරයක්	ඒ. වයි. අමරසේකර සහ ඒ. වයි. අමරපාල
	3. සවිදුම	මාලිමබඩ මෑතොදිස්ත මිත්‍ර පාසලේ ශිෂ්‍ය පිරිස
	4. නෙළුම් කවි	මාලිමබඩ මෑතොදිස්ත මිත්‍ර පාසලේ ශිෂ්‍ය පිරිස
	5. අත්තගහ මැනිරීම	වික්කාරවව්ගේ ජයසේන
	6. ගොයම් කවි	ආනන්ද පේෂකර්ම විද්‍යාලයේ ශිෂ්‍ය පිරිස, මාලිමබඩ
	7. නෙළුම් කවි	එස්. පී. විදානගමාවච්චි හෙක්මාව
	8. සවිදුම	ජී. ඩී. පිරිස්
	9. දෙරකඩ අස්ත	ඩී. සී. එදිරිසිංහ
	10. උරන් ඇල්ලීම-විකට	එච්. ඩී. දෙන් ජේමිස්
	11. නාඬගම සින්දු	ඩී. එච්. කේ. දිසානායක
	12. { කරක්ක කවි පාරු කවි පාල් කවි	පී. එස්. ඇම්. ජනකපාල
		පී. පී. ආර්. පැලිස්
		කේ. ජී. පියදස
	13. මංගල අෂ්ටක	පී. ජී. ඩී. ප්‍රේමචන්ද්‍ර
	14. සවිදුම	පිංගියා ගුරුන්තාන්සේ
	15. මන්ත්‍ර	පී. ජී. ඩී. ප්‍රේමචන්ද්‍ර
	16. චූර්ණිකා	එච්. ඩී. දෙන් ජේමිස්
	17. වැද්දෙකුගේ යකඩ තැලීම	ජී. ඩී. එච්. කන්ඩමබි
	18. පාල් කවි	ඩබ්ලිව්. කේ. කරුණාදස
	19. හිඟන කවි	පී. ජී. ආර්. පැලිස්
	20. සිව්පද - හැලිගෙඩිය	ලියනගේ සුගතදස
	21. ලියනෝරා නාඩගම	ජී. එච්. පී. ආරියදස
22. ජාතක කවි	ටී. ඩබ්ලිව්. කේ. එන්දේරිස්	
23. සවිදුම	එස්. දනෝරිස්	

21.12 47 24.	ප්ලේග් හස පාලේ ගැන	සුපර	වෝල්ටර් මබෙස්කර
25.	කර්නාගල විහාර	ප්ලේග්-සුපර	වල්. එම්. ජනාස
26.	කුරුක්කන් කඳු	සුපර	ඒ. ඩේ. ආනාසක
27.	මහරාජ කඳු	ප්ලේග්-සුපර	මබ්ලි. ඒ. ජෝන් ඩ්‍රැන්සිස්
28.	කුරුක්කන් කඳු	සුපර	එම් එද්වර්
29.	පල්කඳු	ප්ලේග්-සුපර	එම්. මබ්ලි. එද්වර්
30.	වෙස්සන්තර සන්තෝච්චි	ප්ලේග්-සුපර	මබ්ලි. ඒ. ජෝන් ඩ්‍රැන්සිස්
31.	නෙදම කඳු	ප්ලේග්-සුපර	එම්. එම්. කැරැකොවස් හස පිරිස
32.	ප්ලේග්	ප්ලේග්-සුපර	එම්. එම්. කැරැකොවස් හස පිරිස
33.	සුපර	ප්ලේග්-සුපර	ඒ. ඩී. ඩී. කේ. ඒ. පසසිරිස
34.	සලොක	ප්ලේග්-සුපර	ඒ. ඩී. ඩී. කේ. ඒ. පසසිරිස
35.	කාලෙ භාස්චි සුපර	ප්ලේග්-සුපර	ඒ. ඩී. ඩී. කේ. ඒ. පසසිරිස
36.	චාලොකාල මෙහෙයවේ	ප්ලේග්-සුපර	මබ්ලි. ඒ. ජෝන් ඩ්‍රැන්සිස්
37.	ප්ලේග්	ප්ලේග්-සුපර	වල්. ඩී. ආරාන්ත
38.	ප්ලේග්	ප්ලේග්-සුපර	එම්. එම්. කැරැකොවස් හස
39.	චාලොක-සුපර	ප්ලේග්-සුපර	මබ්ලි. ඒ. ජෝන් ඩ්‍රැන්සිස්
40.	මබ්ලි	ප්ලේග්-සුපර	මොරොකො යක්ෂයෝ
41.	මබ්ලි	ප්ලේග්-සුපර	මොරොකො යක්ෂයෝ
42.	ප්ලේග්-සුපර	ප්ලේග්-සුපර	මොරොකො යක්ෂයෝ
43.	කඳු කඳු	ප්ලේග්-සුපර	වල්. පොලිස්
44.	ප්ලේග්-සුපර	ප්ලේග්-සුපර	මොරොකො යක්ෂයෝ
45.	මබ්ලි - ස්ඵී මණ්ඩා	ප්ලේග්-සුපර	වල්. මොකොනස්
46.	මබ්ලි - නර්සිංහ	ප්ලේග්-සුපර	වල්. මොකොනස්
47.	සෙක් කඳු	ප්ලේග්-සුපර	වල්. මොකොනස්
48.	සුපර	ප්ලේග්-සුපර	වල්. මොකොනස් හස ඒ. ඩී. සරෝ
49.	මබ්ලි	ප්ලේග්-සුපර	වල්. සරෝ
50.	මබ්ලි නානා කඳු	ප්ලේග්-සුපර	වල්. මොකොනස් හස පිරිස
51.	මබ්ලි - මුසා	ප්ලේග්-සුපර	වල්. මොකොනස් හස පිරිස
52.	ප්ලේග්-සුපර	ප්ලේග්-සුපර	වල්. මොකොනස් හස පිරිස
53.	කැමරුන් - සහරා	ප්ලේග්-සුපර	වල්. මොකොනස් හස පිරිස

82.	මංගලම් සිරසපාද	එස්. සිල්වා
83.	ගමන් හේවිසිය	සිංහල විර්ද්ව සහ සමදරා
84.	පෙරහැර හේවිසිය	ඩී. පංචා
85.	උක්වාකාලම හා දෙකාලම	ඩී. පංචා
86.	තීන්තූන - සෙම්බඩ	ඩී. පංච
87.	කිත් හතර	ඩී. පංචා
88.	කිත් පහ	ඩී. පංචා
89.	ගල් විහාර මුරපදය	සිංහල විර්ද්වා
90.	උත්සව පද-හේවිසි	සිංහල විර්ද්වා
21.3.48. 91.	දස්කොන් සින්දු (1) හොරව- පොකාන	කිරිභාමි මොහොට්ටාල
92.	දස්කොන් සින්දු (2)	කිරිභාමි මොහොට්ටාල
93.	රකිකා වන්නම	කිරිභාමි මොහොට්ටාල
94.	උරහා වන්නම	කිරිභාමි මොහොට්ටාල
95.	සිව්පද - යසෝදරාව	කිරිභාමි මොහොට්ටාල
96.	දස්කොන් සින්දු	පී. ඩී. මුදලිභාමි
97.	දස්කොන් සින්දු (4)	පී. ඩී. මුදලිභාමි
98.	ඉංග්‍රීසි හටන-සිව්පද	පී. ඩී. මුදලිභාමි
99.	කිරිලා වන්නම	කිරිභාමි මොහොට්ටාල
100.	ආයින්තා වන්නම	කිරිභාමි මොහොට්ටාල
101.	තර්ක කවි	කිරිභාමි මොහොට්ටාල
102.	සිව්පද	කිරිභාමි මොහොට්ටාල
103.	සිව් පද	පී. ඩී. මුදලිභාමි
104.	දස්කොන් සින්දු (5)	පී. ඩී. මුදලිභාමි
105. }	සංගාර කවි	කිරිභාමි මොහොට්ටාල සහ
106. }		පී. ඩී. මුදලිභාමි
107.	සිව් පද	කිරිභාමි මොහොට්ටාල සහ පී. ඩී. මුදලිභාමි
108.	බෝගම්බර වැව - සිව්පද	කිරිභාමි මොහොට්ටාල සහ පී. ඩී. මුදලිභාමි
109.	පුරාණ සින්දුවක්	පී. ඩී. මුදලිභාමි
110.	යසෝදරාවත - විලාප	කිරිභාමි මොහොට්ටාල හා මුදලිභාමි
111.	දළදා කුමාරයාගේ සින්දු	කිරිභාමි මොහොට්ටාල හා මුදලිභාමි
112.	කිදුරු හොරණුවේ සින්දු	පී. ඩී. මුදලිභාමි

113.	රුවන්වැලි වර්ණනා	කිරිභාමි මොහොට්ටාල හා මුදලි භාමි
114.	ගජගා වන්තම	කිරිභාමි මොහොට්ටාල
115.	මැඩියා වන්තම	පී. ඩී. මුදලි භාමි
116.	මැඩියා වන්තම	පී. ඩී. මුදලි භාමි
117.	බෞගරාජ වන්තම	කිරිභාමි මොහොට්ටාල
118.	ඇලගමසිකියා හා වාදය	කිරිභාමි මොහොට්ටාල
119.	උකුසා වන්තම	පී. ඩී. මුදලි භාමි
120.	පෙරහැර හේවිසිය	ලංකා විරිදු පතික්කියා සහ පිරිස
121.	යුද පෙරහැර හේවිසිය	ලංකා විරිදු පතික්කියා සහ පිරිස
122.	වෛතඨි - තිත් දෙක සහ තුන	ලංකා විරිදු පතික්කියා
123.	හේවිසි තිත් තුන	ලංකා විරිදු පතික්කියා
124.	වෛතඨි හා තිත් හතර	ලංකා විරිදු පතික්කියා
125.	සවිදම්	ලංකා විරිදු පතික්කියා
ඉවන් විදුලි මන්- දිරය	126. නැටුම් සිරිම	එන්. එම්. ගුණයා
	127. ග්‍රාහක වන්තම	එන්. එම්. ගුණයා
	128. උදර වන්තම	එන්. එම්. ගුණයා
	129. තුරභා වන්තම	එන්. එම්. ගුණයා
	130. සැවිළා වන්තම	එන්. එම්. ගුණයා
	131. ගජගා වන්තම	එන්. එම්. ගුණයා
	132. උකුසා වන්තම	එන්. එම්. ගුණයා
	133. උදර සහ මේස වන්තම	එන්. එම්. ගුණයා
	134. අසදාස වන්තම	එන්. එම්. ගුණයා
	135. මුසලඬි වන්තම	එන්. එම්. ගුණයා
	136. අජටක හා පත්තිනි කන්තලව්ව	මොහොට්ටිභාමි කපුරාල
	137. යාදින්න	මොහොට්ටිභාමි කපුරාල
	138. කවි - සවනග්ගනය	බබා ගුරුත්තාන්සෙ
	139. දළඳ පෙරහැරේ සින්දු	පොඩි ගුරුත්තාන්සෙ
	140.)	
	141.) දළඳ කවි	පාර්. ජී. පොඩි මහත්මයා
	142.)	
	143. තේ දලු සවිදම්	ඊ. ඩබ්ලිව්. දන්ගමුට
	144. උකුසා වන්තම	ඩී. ඩී. ජී. පොඩි මහත්මයා
	145. බෙබදු වන්තම	ඩී. ඩී. ජී. පොඩි මහත්මයා
	146. විකා සිව්පද	ඩී. ඩී. ජී. පොඩි මහත්මයා

147.	දළ සන්ද	ව. චන්. චන්දෝර්ස්
148.	සිරස සංඝ	එස්. ලෝන් ජේම්ස් අල්ඩ්වයිහාම්
149.	ෆීල්ඩ්	ඩී. ඩී. සිසිලෝ
150.	අණ්ඩ	සර්නෝල්ස් අර්නාන්තෝස්
151.	මල්කම්	සර්නෝල්ස් අර්නාන්තෝස්
152.		
153.	අක්ක සර් හා මන්ඩ්	මල්කම්. එම්. එස්. අල්ඩ්වයිහාම්
154.	තර්නෝල්ස් සංකර්	එම්. මල්කම්. සිම්සෝන්
155.	ස්කොඞ්	එම්. මල්කම්. සිම්සෝන්
156.	මන්ල් සිටප්	එම්. මල්කම්. සිම්සෝන්
157.	මිලිසර්මරා සර්	මනසාං ලෝර්ස්
158.	තාමගම සන්ද් -	සහ සංකකය
159.	තාමගම සන්ද් -	ස්මිත් හැන්
160.	තාමගම සන්ද්	
161.	තාමගම සන්ද් -	
162.	සමලීලා කුමරිය	
163.	තාමගම සන්ද් -	මී ජෝන්
164.	තාමගම සන්ද් -	එක රරණා
165.	තාමගම සන්ද් -	
166.		
167.	තාමගම සන්ද් -	
168.	තාමගම සන්ද් -	
169.	තාමගම සන්ද්-හර් මලි	
170.	තාමගම සන්ද් -	
171.	තාමගම සන්ද් -	
172.	මිලිසර්මරා -	සමලීලා ජෝර්ජ්
173.		මල්කම් මානො
174.		චන්දා

APPENDIX - B

RESTORATION OF ANCIENT MAHIYANGANA CHETIYA

Complete Programme arranged by
Fort Pushpadana Society

17th September, 1948

- 6.00 am Administering of Ata Sil for a gathering of 5000 devotees by Ven'ble the Maha Nayake Thera of Asgiriya
- 6.30 am Buddha Pooja
- 7.00 am Morning alms for devotees
- 7.45 am Dharmanusasana by the Ve'ble Maha Nayake Thera of Asgiriya
- 8.00 am Talk by Hon'ble J. R. Jayawardene, Minister of Finance
- 8.45 am Dharmanusasana by Ven'ble Karandana Sri Jinaratana Nayake Thera
- 10.25 am Buddha Pooja
- 10.30 am Noon alms for Bhikkus
- 12 noon Interval
- 3.00 pm Buddha Vandana - arranged by Dr. W. E. A. Fonseka
- 3.30 pm "Gilanpasa" a Talk by Ayurvedic Dr. P. C. A. Perera
- 4.00 pm Gilanpasa for devotees
- 4.30 pm Dharmanusasana by Ven'ble Narada Thera
- 6.00 pm Administering of Ata Sil, Sabdha Pooja and Perahera

18th September, 1948

- 8.00 am Inauguration of the Restoration Ceremony by Hon'ble Mr. D. S. Senanayake and other distinguished visitors.
- Talks by Mr. C. A. S. Marikar
Hon'ble Mr. A. Ratnayake, Minister of Food
Mr. S. Sathasivam.
- 12 midnight Annual Perahera by Veddhas

APPENDIX - C

Panel of Buddhist Priesthood Nominated to Deliver Discourses on Buddha Dhamma

1. Ven'ble Pelane Sri Vajiranana Maha Nayake Thera
2. „ Narada Thera
3. „ Makuluduwe Piyaratana Thera - Nayake
4. „ Kamburugamuwe Mahanama Thera
5. „ Karaputugala Dhammaloka Nayake Thera
6. „ Morontuduwe Dhammananda Nayake Thera
7. „ Kalukondayawe Pannasekera Maha Nayake Thera
8. „ Karandana Jinaratana Nayake Thera
9. „ Kiriwattuduwe Pannasara Nayake Thera
10. „ Madihe Pannasinha Maha Nayake Thera
11. „ Panditha Ahangama Pannaloka Thera
12. „ Pitakotte Somananda Thera
13. „ Heenatiya Dhammaloka Nayake Thera
14. „ Karaputugala Dhammawansa Thera
15. „ Karandana Pannalankara Thera
16. „ Kotabhene Pannakitti Thera
17. „ Bentara Sumanatissa Thera
18. „ Dr. Parawahera Vajiranana Nayake Thera
19. „ Hedigama Indajoti Thera
20. „ Induruwe Uttarananda Maha Nayake Thera
21. „ Mirisse Gunasiri Thera
22. „ Piyadassi Thera
23. „ Panditha Galapathe Khemananda Thera
24. „ Kirulapone Sri Wimala Nayake Thera
25. „ Magamma Seelalankara Thera
26. „ Kotikawatte Saddhatissa Nayake Thera
27. „ Hettimulle Vajirabuddhi Nayake Thera
28. „ Kalagoda Dhammaratana Thera
29. „ Hammalawe Saddhatissa Thera
30. „ Kotaneluwe Chandajoti Thera
31. „ Ampitiye Rahula Thera
32. „ Kirillapone Sri Wimala Nayake Thera

APPENDIX - D
POPULAR RADIO ARTISTES
Sinhala

1. M. G. Perera
2. D. M. Pattiaratchi
3. H. W. Rupesinghe
4. Kokiladevi
5. Regina Perera
6. T. C. Senanayake
7. A. Sadiris Silva
8. H. Don Vincent Peiris
9. Post and Telegraph Dramatic Club
10. T. V. Edwin Perera
11. M. K. Vincent
12. Greeta Janet de Silva
13. Sirimathie Perera
14. Saranagupta Amarasing
15. K. Lionel Perera
16. A. R. M. Ibrahim
17. Ananda Samarakone and Air Artistes
18. Wilfred J. Peiris
19. C. A. Fonseka
20. Mahinda College, Galle
21. Negombo Minerva Players
22. Sri Vaisaka Vidyalaya, Wellawatte
23. Kurunegala Public Service Dramatic Society
24. Surya Shankar Molligoda
25. Devar Surya Sena and Nelun Devi
26. T. Terence Fernando
27. Vasantha Sandanayake
28. Nirmala
29. Susil Premaratne
30. Rukmani Devi
31. Wilfred Perera
32. V. P. Anulawathie
33. V. P. Leelawathie
34. Cecilia Dias
35. C. Irving Fonseka

36. P. L. A. Somapala
37. Chitra Perera
38. Arthur M. de Alwis
39. U. A. S. Perera
40. Lionel Edirisinghe
41. Sunil Shantha
42. Vincent Weerasekera
43. Sarath Wimalaweera
44. A. Athukorala
45. Wilson Illangakoon
46. Titus Samaraweera
47. G. R. Edward
48. Nona Subeida
49. Jereet J. Peiris
50. Mohideen Begg
51. B. Eddie de Silva
52. Vincent Perera
53. Chandra Wanigasekera
54. N. R. Dias
55. Priscilla Opatha
56. N. K. Kariyawasan
57. Tilakasiri Fernando
58. W. D. Albert Perera -
Amaradeva
59. P. L. A. Gunapala
60. Percy Wijewardene
61. R. A. Chandrasena
62. Sriyawathie Perera
63. B. S. Wijeratne
64. Joseph Seneviratne
65. Chandra Seneviratne
66. Eddie Jayamanne
67. A. Ahamed Mohideen
68. N. Chandrasena Silva
69. C. T. Fernando
70. Vincent de Alwis
71. Kingsley Jayasekera
72. Premawansa Ranatunga
73. Swarna de Silva
74. Somachandra
Pattiaratchchi
75. W. Chularatne
76. Berty Samarakone
77. R. K. Romlus
78. Ananda Kaviratne
79. Donald M. Gunaratne
80. D. Ranasinghe
81. Peter Fernando
82. W. Don Edward
83. Edwin Kottegoda
84. C. D. S. Karunajeewa
85. Sarath Obey Kumar
86. J. E. Sederaman
87. P. T. Madawala
88. D. D. Dannie
89. Juliana Dias
90. J. Wijeweera
91. G. M. Piyadasa
92. A. D. E. Perera
93. R. L. D. B. Perera
94. Daphne Abeysekera
95. Padma Wijetunga
96. Cressie Peirss
97. L. H. Fonseka
98. Vivien de Silva
99. Edmund
Abeygunawardene
100. N. Wilbert Perera
101. T. G. Wilson
102. Denie Fonseka
103. Dharmadasa Dias
104. W. T. H. Mendis
105. D. P. Jayasiughe
106. K. Albert Perera
107. W. Francis Perera
108. A. A. Perera
109. Jayanthi Hatangala
110. A. L. M. Perera
111. Hubert Rajapaksa
112. Vineeth Jayasuriya
113. Kanthi Wakwella
114. M. L. Wijesekera
115. Tilakawathie

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|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| 116. Madurawathie | 120. P. K. Juan Fernando |
| 117. D. L. Marasinghe | 121. Pearl Vasudevi |
| 118. D. Wickremasinghe | 122. Milton Perera |
| 119. Anandatissa de Alwis | 123. M. Edward Perera |

Tamil and Hindustani

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| 1. Kokiladevi - (Mrs. W. S. Ratnasabhapathy) | 24. P. Balakrishnan |
| 2. Post and Telegraph Dramatic Club | 25. Vijayalakshmi Kanagaratnam |
| 3. V. Ratnum | 26. K. Sithambaranathan |
| 4. K. V. Kurukkal | 27. K. Balasubramania Iyer |
| 5. V. Akinimutupillai | 28. T. Kailasapillai |
| 6. K. Sellathamby | 29. A. M. Mohideen Begg |
| 7. Srikanthi Ponnambalam | 30. D. S. Mani Bhagawathar |
| 8. Arundathie and Indranee Paramanayagam | 31. M. J. Nasoordeen |
| 9. Padmini and Nagamma Karalasingham | 32. Sheik Ammer |
| 10. Nageswari and Rajeswari Sabaratnam | 33. M. A. J. Ahamat |
| 11. Gowrie Thiagarajah | 34. M. Abdul Rahim |
| 12. L. Lokasubramaniam | 35. Mohamed Ghouse |
| 13. Manoranjitham Lokeswaram | 36. Raneesavundranayagam |
| 14. S. Ratnasamy Iyer | 37. Mutulakshmi Sanker Iyer |
| 15. S. M. Moothathamby | 38. Ranees Sherrard |
| 16. P. S. Mani Iyengar | 39. Princy Sherrard |
| 17. Thavamani Ammal Kathiresu | 40. Gnanatheepam Moses |
| 18. C. R. Maharajah | 41. S. Somasundaram |
| 19. M. A. Hassan Alliyar | 42. J. A. Gnanapragasam |
| 20. R. Mutusamy | 43. Thavamani Devi |
| 21. Sita Ratnam | 44. A. K. Thambimuttu |
| 22. V. Palaniandipillai | 45. S. R. Rajalakshmi |
| 23. C. S. Sankara Sivam | 46. R. N. Krishnan Iyer |
| | 47. W. Sathasivam |
| | 48. Rukmani Kanniah |
| | 49. V. N. Balasubramaniam |
| | 50. Dr. R. Pestonji |
| | 51. Thavamani Devi |

Muslim Quran Recitals

1. Moulvi Abdul Hassan Alim
2. „ H. S. M. Salahudeen
3. „ Burham Dhuskey
4. „ A. C. A. Wadood
5. Katheeb Mohamed Sabir

Western - Vocal

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Devar Surya Sena and
Nelun Devi | 14. Anthony Abeysinghe |
| 2. Hubert Rajapaksa | 15. Hector Edirisinghe -
Yodelling |
| 3. Hallock Amandarajah | 16. Suvinetha Malalgoda
de Alwis |
| 4. Robert Guthrie | 17. H. J. V. Fernando |
| 5. John R. Murray | 18. R. T. Macnab |
| 6. Lorna Taylor | 19. Rosemary Van
Langenburg |
| 7. H. R. Thomas | 20. Arlene Morgan |
| 8. Noel Gunasekera | 21. Decima Kelaart |
| 9. Esme Joseph | 22. John Molligoda |
| 10. Cläre Arnolda | 23. Gerad Crake |
| 11. Irene Hunter | 24. Phillis Ashton |
| 12. Thelma Kaai | 25. Dinah - E de Selfa |
| 13. Winston and
Foenander | |

Instrumental

1. Madeline de Silwa - Piano
2. Audrey Dharmakirthi - Violin
3. Beryl Bartholomeusz - Cello
4. Laurette Potger - Piano
5. Mrs. R. A. Spencer - Sheppard - Piano
6. Marjorie Poulrier - Piano
7. Vincent Rodrigo - Piano
8. Irene Sansoni - Piano
9. Carmen Foenander Herft - Piano
10. Analeen Clasz - Piano
11. A. R. Bartholomeusz - Piano
12. Malini Jayasinghe Peiris - Piano

13. Italia Dhammalankara - Piano
14. Doris de Zilva - Cello
15. Adrien Daniels - Violin
16. E. M. C. Babapulle - Violin
17. Conrad Martinez - Piano
18. Herbert Ebert - Piano
19. Hilda Naidoo - Piano
20. Flower Munasinghe - Piano
21. E. E. Spencer - Cello
22. M. K. Menezes - Violin
23. Elmer de Haan - Piano
24. Helen Bartholomeusz - Piano
25. Clement Coomaravel - Piano
26. Swarna Wickremesinghe - Violin
27. Eileen Rodrigo - Violin
28. Dedrich Nagel - Banjo
29. Clare Ames - Piano
30. Chitra Ranawaka - Piano
31. Lorna Taylor - Piano
32. Rupert, Oscar and Hugh Wagn - Orchestral
33. A. Felice and His Blue Star Band - G. O. H. Orchestra
34. Nick's Versatile Six - Galle Face Hotel Band
35. Paul Weiss and his Viennese Orchestra - Galle Face
Hotel Band
36. Ceylon Police Band
37. Victoreen Cramer - Piano
38. Lemishi Band - G. O. H.

Weekly Sports News

1. S. P. Foenander
2. D. E. Weerakoon

Racing Commentaries

1. M. P. Saunders
2. D. E. Weerakoon

Rugger Commentaries

1. Noel Gratton
2. Stanley de Saram
3. L. Mac D. Robinson

Church Services

- St. Peter's Garrison Church, Colombo Fort
- St. Phillip Neri's Church, Pettah
- St. Michael's and All angel's Church, Polwatte, Kollupitiya
- Dutch Reformed Church, Bambalapitiya
- Christ Church, Calle Face
- Methodist Church, Kollupitiya
- Baptist Church, Cinnamon Gardens
- St. Andrew's Soct Kirk, Kollupitiya
- St. Paul's Milagiriya, Bambalapitiya
- Salvation Army, Slave Island
- St. Mary's Church, Lauries Road, Bambalapitiya

APPENDIX - E

Monthly figures of radio licences for the First Fifteen Years. A list showing separately, licences of each nationality, Sinhala, Tamil, Muslims, Burghers, English etc., from 1939 up to the end of 1948 was maintained at the Broadcasting Station, Kotte Road, Borella. It was the practice at that time to broadcast the figures with the news bulletins at noon in Sinhala, Tamil and English at the beginning of each month for the information of the listeners.

1924	December	53	1927	September	762
1925	July	129		October	835
	August	137		November	872
	September	149		December	924
	October	157	1928	January	960
	November	165		February	985
December	176	March		1005	
1926	January	195		April	1037
	February	211		May	1070
	March	234	June	1095	
	April	238	July	1137	
	May	252	August	1165	
	June	266	September	1194	
	July	278	October	1245	
	August	305	November	1261	
	September	340	December	1290	
	October	370	1929	January	1315
November	402	February		1331	
December	448	March		1341	
1927	January	504		April	1348
	February	531		May	1350
	March	560		June	1353
	April	594		July	1358
	May	618		August	1359
	June	647		September	1362
	July	670		October	1363
	August	715	November	1370	
			December	1380	

1930	January	1400	1933	May	1496	
	February	1403		June	1516	
	March	1410		July	1549	
	April	1417		August	1546	
	May	1425		September	1579	
	June	1434		October	1605	
	July	1441		November	1628	
	August	1412		December	1664	
	September	1406		1934	January	1749
	October	1386			February	1757
	November	1397			March	1806
	December	1408			April	1846
1931	January	1402	May		1900	
	February	1255	June		1942	
	March	1228	July		2016	
	April	1225	August		2070	
	May	1225	September		2108	
	June	1224	October		2170	
	July	1239	November		2249	
	August	1258	December		2342	
	September	1265	1935	January	2453	
	October	1263		February	2496	
	November	1259		March	2549	
	December	1265		April	2610	
1932	January	1257		May	2678	
	February	1260		June	2731	
	March	1263		July	2789	
	April	1270		August	2829	
	May	1276		September	2899	
	June	1279		October	2955	
	July	1281		November	3003	
	August	1300		December	3053	
	September	1328	1936	January	3162	
	October	1344		February	3210	
	November	1345		March	3294	
	December	1348		April	3352	
1933	January	1384		May	3406	
	February	1432		June	3467	
	March	1449		July	3529	
	April	1453		August	3582	

1936	September	3646	1939	December	7621	
	October	3736		1940	December	9736
	November	3794			1941	December
	December	3873		1942		December
1937	January	3956	1943		December	11838
	February	4026		1944	December	11417
	March	4151	1945		December	11939
	April	4199		1946	December	14227
	May	4359	1947		December	19938
	June	4423		1948	December	23415
	July	4503				
	August	4552				
	September	4621				
	October	4690				
	November	4805				
	December	4911				
1938	January	5010				
	February	5100				
	March	5192				
	April	5272				
	May	5334				
	June	5430				
	July	5511				
	August	5588				
	September	5679				
	October	5750				
	November	5880				
	December	6007				

APPENDIX - F

OUR HERITAGE

- Dr. S. Paranavitarane "Sculpture" February 1 at 7.15 pm
Mr. H. L. Caldera "Inscriptions" February 2 at 7.30 pm
Dr. M. D. Ratnasuriya "Sinhalese Verse" February 3 at 9 pm
Ven'ble Welivitiye Soratha Nayake Thero "Sinhala Prose,
February 6 at 6 pm
Mr. Martin Wickremaasinghe "Sinhalese Customs" February 11
at 6.30 pm
Dr. Julious de Lanarolle "Sinhalese Language" February 15
at 7.15 pm
Dr. O. H. de A. Wijesekara "Sinhala Drama" February 20 at
8.00 pm
Mr. S. L. B. Kapukotuwa "Sinhala Music" February 22 at
7.15 pm
Ven'ble Dr. Parawahera Vajiranana Thero "Sinhala Literature"
February 23 at 6.15 pm
Mr. E. A. Delgoda "Sinhala Arts and Crafts" February 25 at
6.30 pm
Dr. N. D. Wijesekera "Sinhala Folk Lore" February 28 at
8.00 pm
Mr. W. A. Silva "Sinhala Novel" February 29 at 7.15 pm

THE NEW LANKA

- Ven'ble Yagirala Pannananda Nayake Thero "Introduction"
February 1 at 10.30 am
Rev. W. M. P. Jayatunga "Social Service" February 7 at
8.15 pm
Ven'ble Hisselle Gnanodaya Nayake Thero "Religiousness"
February 8 at 10.40 am
Rev. Fr. D. J. Anthony "Place of Religion" February 8 at
7.15 pm
Mr. L. H. Mettananda "Education" February 9 at 6.15 pm
Bibile Kumarihamy "Family and the Home" February 10 at
9 pm

- Dr. H. K. de Silva "Sanitation and town Planning"
February 13, at 8 pm
- Mr. Sydney Ellawala "Rural Development" February 14 at 8 pm
- Mr. W. P. Wijetunga "Discipline" February 15 at 10.40 am
- Mr. P. B. Bulankulame Dissawe "Agriculture" February 16
at 7.30 pm
- Ven'ble Revatha Nayaka Thero "Ideals" February 17 at 9 pm
- Mrs. Chandra Godakumbura "Child Welfare" February 18
at 6.30 pm
- Mr. Arya Pathirana "Transport" February 22 at 10.40 am
- Mr. C. A. S. Marikar "Unity" February 29 at 10.40 am

PLAYS

- "Sri Wickrama Raja Sinha" Mr. C. D. S. Karunajeewa,
February 12 at 7.30 pm
- "Vijaya" Mr. C. A. Fonseka, February 13 at 8.15 pm
- "Raja Sinha II" Mudlr. E. A. Abeyasekera, February 20
at 8.15 pm
- "Advent of the Portuguese" Mr. U. A. S. Perera, February 21
at 7.15 pm
- "Dutugamunu" Mr. J. N. Jinendradasa, February 27 at 8.15 pm

APPENDIX - H

A CHRISTMAS EVE MESSAGE

BROADCAST BY H. E. THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF,
ADMIRAL SIR GEOFFREY LAYTON, K.C.B., D.S.O.

on December 24th 1942

It is now some six months since I last spoke to you over the wireless. Then, the situation was critical. In Egypt, in Russia, in the South West Pacific, on the Indo-Burman frontier, we were on the defensive. More than that; in many places we were retreating. The outlook was depressing, and we were only at the beginning of the eighty critical days.

Since then there has been a great change. The news is heartening. In North Africa we are attacking, though there is much hard fighting yet to come before the Axis is thrown out of Africa. In Russia our Allies have once again staged a winter offensive. In the South-West Pacific we are now undertaking what I might call an offensive defence. But I do urge you — do not be carried away by the spate of good news. We have a long, long way to go before final overwhelming victory is achieved. In Ceylon we still have our part to play — a very vital part indeed.

What a change this year has seen for Ceylon. Up till the time of Japan's treacherous attack last December, Ceylon was scarcely affected by the war. Life was going on much as usual. Good prices were being obtained for the Island's produce. Everyone was prospering. Ceylon was in no danger of attack by the Axis Powers.

On December 8th, the situation was literally changed overnight. An attack on Ceylon was not only possible, but even probable, though few realised that it would come as soon as it did. The Civil Government took several vitally important decisions. A Civil Defence Organisation was set up. Rice and petrol rationing were introduced and the whole of the food situation was reviewed. At the same time steps

were taken to strengthen the defence of the Island. In March I was appointed Commander-in-Chief to co-ordinate all defence measures. Had this included the civil defence measures, for in totalitarian war they are just as important as the purely military ones.

In February and March reinforcements of men, guns, aircraft and supplies arrived in the Island. A vitally important airfield was rushed to completion. I cannot speak too highly as the foresight of the officer who conceived the idea of constructing it: nor of the drive with which he tackled the job. But he would have been quite unable to carry out this task of construction, if he had not found an equal determination to help on the part of the civil authorities. As you know, and as the enemy learnt to his surprise and cost that airfield was completed, and was in operational use on Easter Sunday. Its existence undoubtedly saved Colombo from far heavier damage than it actually received.

Nevertheless, the fact remained that the enemy had been able to launch this attack. And a couple of days later they attacked Trincomalee also. The people of Ceylon awoke to the realisation that they were in the war good and proper. They realised that attacks must be expected either by air, or by sea, or by both.

There were certain repercussions from these April attacks, which I need not describe to you, but which caused me, as your Commander-in-Chief, very considerable anxiety at the time. I am glad to say that that anxiety no longer causes me concern. I have now, however, an anxiety of another sort. I notice that with the recent turn of the tide in the fortunes of the United Nations — and mark you, the tide has turned — make no mistake about that — I notice, I say, a tendency to assume that Ceylon is now out of danger of direct attack. After a brief and exciting appearance in the front line. It is thought that we can all sit back and take it easy. This is a most dangerous assumption to make. I do most solemnly warn you against this feeling.

In Japan, we are faced by a powerful enemy. In spite of the naval and air losses inflicted by our Allies, the Americans, in the South-West Pacific, she still has ample resources for a

full scale attack against Ceylon. Recently, an article in "Ceylon Review," by an officer with wide experience of the Japanese, put forward this view. He said: "The Japanese is most dangerous when there is no news of him and no contact with him. At such times he nearly always proved to be either where he was least wanted, or where it was believed impossible to go. These were frequently the same place." This applies with particular force to Ceylon.

The spirit of belief that the Japanese will not, and cannot, come, is just what the Japanese would like us to think. Nothing is more fatal in war than to assume that the enemy won't attack: that the weather is unsuitable; that the distance is too great. The Japanese have still enough aircraft carriers to give their fleet the necessary air cover. They have aerodromes at Port Blair in the Andamans, and Sabang in the north western corner of Sumatra, which are within range of Ceylon for heavy bombers.

We must be determined never to give the Japanese the advantage of finding us unprepared, either militarily or mentally, should he decide to attack Ceylon again.

Now, it is not only the Fighting Services, with whom I include the Civil Defence Services, whose job it is to guard against surprise. Every member of the civil population can, and must, help. It can be done by every man and woman continuing to do his job; without thought of personal gain or comfort; with the fixed determination not to relax his or her effort until we have seen this thing through. When I say that we must not relax. I do not mean all work and no play, That would never do; for the keenest intelligence and enthusiasm would be blunted by lack of recreation and amusement. No. Enjoy yourself while carrying out your work. But keep, all the time, a deep underlying spirit of resolution and determination to fight this war to its successful conclusion, for the sake of future generations, and also of ourselves.

Tonight is Christmas Eve. We can afford to allow ourselves the luxury of looking backwards for a moment. Last April we survived, with credit, a determined attempt by the Japanese to destroy the harbour facilities in Colombo and

Trincomalee. The defences of the Island have grown tremendously since then and all armies are now better trained and better equipped to meet the enemy. The relations between the men of all the Services and the people of Ceylon are excellent. I wish to take this opportunity of expressing my gratitude to all those people both European and Ceylonese who have done so much to help to entertain the men of the three Fighting Services. Those who help day after day without one murmur of complaint, in the Canteens and Clubs, etc., those who organise and take part in the entertainment programmes, those who invite officers and men to their bungalows both in Colombo and up-country — to all I just say 'Thank You; you are doing a good job and I pray you will keep it up to the end.'

We are maintaining, and hope to improve still further, our export of rubber, tea, copra and plumbago, which the United Nations rely on us to send. We can therefore pride ourselves that we have played some part here in Ceylon to bring about the end of the beginning. But, as I have already emphasised, we must not allow this justifiable feeling of pride, nor our feeling of thankfulness that we have so far been spared the ravages of invasion, to fall into any false sense of security. We have still much to do. I am not satisfied, for instance, that we are producing all the rubber we could.

There is yet another way in which everyone can help to win the war. It is a way in which you can give a satisfactory visible benefit to yourselves. I am convinced that those who are now earning higher wages and salaries than they have ever done in their lives do not realise the vital necessity of saving and investing as much as they can. By saving money we help to keep down the cost of living, and, at the same time, provide a nest egg to carry us over those bad months which will assuredly come to Ceylon after the war, when demobilisation takes place and before reconstruction has got going. In England there is now a form of compulsory saving as well as a voluntary one. If every man continues to spend all he receives it will merely force up prices and so he will not be one cent better off than he will not be one cent better off than he was before. The Government has recently appointed a special officer to organise an Island-wide Saving Campaign.

EPILOGUE

Telecommunications mean telegraphy and telephony with or without wires. Wireless telegraphy was opened to the public in this country at the Central Telegraph Office in July 1912. It is a Ship-to-shore service. Another wireless telegraph station was opened at Yatiyana, Matara, known as the Matara Wireless Station, during World War I in 1914 for the British Royal Navy. It was closed down in 1942, during World War II, and its equipment removed. It was manned by the British Royal Navy.

The use of wireless telephony or broadcasting, which was found practicable in 1915 by the Americans was inaugurated in this country in 1924 by the engineers of the Post and Telegraph Department.

Interest in Broadcasting in this country was initiated by a group of enthusiasts, who formed the Ceylon Wireless Club in November 1922, the very same month and year the British Broadcasting Company was established in the United Kingdom. The British Government took over the British Broadcasting Company in 1926, and the British Broadcasting Corporation came into existence on January 1, 1927, under a licence issued by the Postmaster General of His Majesty.

According to the records of the Post and Telecommunications Department of this country a Broadcasting Service was officially inaugurated on June 27, 1924 using an experimental 1/2 kilowatt transmitter with parts which were available in the department. Experiments had, however, been carried out on broadcasting early in 1923 by Mr. E. Harper, Chief Engineer, Telegraphs and Telephones and a team of his assistants. A new 1 kilowatt transmitter using parts imported from the United Kingdom by Mr. Harper was quickly built and the Broadcasting Service was carried out on the 1 kilowatt transmitter as from December 16, 1925. The correct age of Broadcasting in this country would be 65 years on June 27, 1989.

Broadcasting of programmes of interest to listeners was started on July 1, 1924, twice a week on Thursdays and Sundays, and the items broadcast were advertised in the English Newspapers. Broadcast of the time signal - chimes and strokes - of the Chatham Street Clock Tower was an important feature of the programme consisting of News, Road Report, Weather Report, Share Transactions and gramophone record music. The time signal was relayed from the Clock Tower by means of a telephone transmitter connected by telephone wire to the Radio Control Room.

Daily programmes were transmitted from December 16, 1925 commencing from 11.30 am. In 1935 the time of opening the session was advanced to 11.15 am and was on till 1 pm and then from 5 to 5.30 pm and again from 6.45 to 10.00 pm. In the following year the opening time was further advanced and Programmes were on from 11 am to 1.30 pm and again from 4.30 to 10 pm. During the World War II there were 3 transmissions, transmission I commencing from early in the morning at 6.30 am to relay the B. B. C. News Bulletin for 30 minutes, after an interval of 4 1/2 hours the transmission was on again at 11.30 am; transmission II for schools from 2.30 to 4 pm and transmission III from 4.30 to 10 pm with 2 B.B.C. news relays at 5 and 9.30 pm.

Salutations - The National Anthem under the British Rulers was "God save the King", which was broadcast to end the day's programme. Transmissions were opened with the chimes of the Tubular Bells and the Announcer's salutations "Good Afternoon" or "Good Evening" depending on the time period, in English; in Sinhala "Ayubowan", and in Tamil 'Namas-karam'.

Radio Control Room log Book - A register was maintained at the Radio Control Desk by the technical staff to record programme items which went over the air. This register recorded each and every broadcast item and also all the incidents occurring inside the studio during broadcasting hours.

The pre-arranged programmes published in advance in the Ceylon Radio Times, the daily programmes advertised in the daily Newspapers; and even the copies of the daily programmes circulated to all members of the staff concerned early in the morning could not be reckoned as actual broadcast items as they were subject to last minute alterations.

Prior to the establishment of a gramophone record library at the Colombo Broadcasting Station in 1939, the technical officer, at the Control Desk were expected to log the number and make of each and every commercial gramophone records which were daily broadcast in terms of the agreement signed with the Performing Rights Society and the Phonographic Industry.

The Radio Control Desk officers were further expected to make log entries of the arrival and departure of the Postmaster General, the Chief Telecommunications Engineer and any other high ranking officials concerned with broadcasting activities or any other high ranking Government officials visiting the Broadcasting Studios during broadcasting hours.

The following 2 incidents, which were logged in this register may be noteworthy:-

1. The collapse and the death of the wife of a top ranking European Government Official during a broadcast rehearsal inside the studio.
2. Yelling of an English Announcer, on a very very hot afternoon just after the broadcast of the noon News Bulletin and before the commencement of the Lunch Hour recorded musical programme, forgetting that the microphone was on, to the Studio Attendant 'Charlie open all the Studio doors, it is bloody hot inside.' - at this period air conditioning equipments were not available.

This log book was the most authentic and valuable document of the Colombo Broadcasting Service.

Ceylon Wireless Club - The few enthusiasts, who formed the Ceylon Wireless Club in November, 1922 which changed its name to Radio Club of Ceylon and South India should be

given credit for creating an interest for broadcasting in this country, which led to experimental work and consequent start of a broadcasting service by the engineers of the Post and Telegraph Department in the middle of 1924. This Society had rendered extraordinary services for the development of broadcasting in, this country by financing when in need and also by providing listening - in facilities for patients in several hospitals and other similar institutions.

Mr. E. Harper, M. I. E. E., M. I. Radio E, who was a member of the Engineering staff of the British Post Office was recruited by the Secretary of State for the Colonies for the post of Superintending Engineer of Telegraphs and Telephones of the Post and Telegraph Department. After the initial experimental successes of Marconi in Radio communications in the second decade of the 20th century, several countries of the world started experiments in broadcasting Mr. Harper too Started his eperiments in the early 1920's and in 1924 - by this time he had been appointed Chief Engineer, Telegraphs and Telephones - his experiments had advanced to a sufficient degree to enable him to start a broadcasting service with 1/2 kilowatt transmitter, which he and those associated with him had built with parts available to him. He opened a regular Broadcasting Service with this transmitter on June 27, 1924, when the address of the Governer of Ceylon to the Engineering Association of Ceylon was broadcast. He soon built a new and a better transmitter in 1 kilowatt power output with parts he had specially ordered from the United Kingdom. This transmitter was brought into use on December 16, 1925, and the programmes broadcast were extended. He was in charge not only in the engineering work, but also was in charge of the programmes broadcast. He had been appointed Controller of Broadcasting as well. Mr. Harper, therefore, is really the father of broadcasting in this country.

A team of young engineering enthusiasts assisted him and the Ceylon Wireless Club, which had been formed a short time earlier gave him a great deal of encouragement and help.

Mr. Harper was very far seeing in his ideas of development and mooted the separation of the telecommunication service from the postal services in order to facilitate the rapid and extensive growth of the telecommunication service. He installed a small auto-telephone exchange for the use of the telephone engineering service, in order to give a training to his young staff.

He selected the more promising Inspectors and sent them to the United Kingdom for a training in the British Post Office. He further mooted the idea of selecting graduates from the University College, Colombo and send them to England to study electrical engineering with emphasis on telecommunications at the City and Guild Engineering College, London, to take up the B. Sc. Engineering Degree which was to be done in 2 years, and follow $1\frac{1}{2}$ years of practical training in various branches of the British Post Office and the B. B. C. Four scholars, namely Messrs. S. Rajanayagam, C. A. R. Ankettal, D. P. Jayasekera and N. S. Wickremesinghe were selected and trained under the scheme. In course of time they all occupied high posts in the Ceylon Government. The scheme was later extended to take a few more graduates but in their cases the insistence of taking an Engineering Degree was omitted and only a practical training in the British Post Office was insisted on.

Mr. Harper did not serve the full period he could have served under the Ceylon Government but retired earlier to go back to England to start an electrical business concern specialised in Radio.

Mr. J. Shillitoe, A. M. I. E. E., who had been recruited as a specialist in Railway Signalling, by the Secretary of State for the Colonies for service in Ceylon at the time when all the electrical signalling system of the Ceylon Government Railway were installed and maintained for the Railway Department by the Post and Telegraph Department. Although Mr. Shillitoe did not possess any prior great knowledge of automatic telephony or radio broadcasting, he picked up sufficient knowledge in the two subjects to efficiently discharge his duties in these 2 subjects as Chief Engineer. He had the innate ability to mix well with people, and this helped him a great deal to handle the broadcasting service, particularly programme activities as he, as the Chief Engineer was Controller of Broadcasting as well.

Together with Mr. E. Harper he invented and patented a Flood Alarm device, which came to be known as the Harper Shillitoe Flood Alarm and Petrol Check System bearing Indian Patent No. 11068/25.

His keen interest in matters pertaining to broadcasting helped the expansion of this service in many ways.

Mr. A. Nadarasa, A. M. I. E. E. As an Inspector of Telegraphs and Telephones, he was one of the officers selected by Mr. E. Harper to assist him in his early experiments in broadcasting. Mr. Nadarasa picked up early the work quickly and helped Mr. Harper efficiently in building a 1/2 kilowatt experimental transmitter. He was the first among the Inspectorate to be trained in England in Radio Engineering. He left for England on August 10, 1925. On his return after training he helped to remodel the 1 kilowatt radio transmitter, the wavelength of which was 800 metres to radiate on 428.5 metres and increased its power to 2 1/2 kilowatts. He became Divisional Engineer, Radio. He had further designed and supervised the installation of a 5 kilowatt medium wave broadcast transmitter in June 1937. He later designed a 15 kilowatt medium wave broadcast transmitter, which was brought into use on December 16, 1945. In both these transmitters he used water cooled valves for the first time in this country. During the war emergency period he helped Radio SEAC in installing a transmitter and erecting aerial systems for their use. He successively became Assistant Chief Telecommunications Engineer and Chief Telecommunications Engineer being the first Sri Lankan to hold these posts.

Mr. Nadarasa took a big hand in the rapid moving of the broadcasting studios and the Control Desks from Torrington Square to the "Bower" Kotte Road, Borella, in order to release the Torrington Square premises to the Royal Air Force. He further took a prominent part in designing, constructing and equipping the 6 broadcasting studios at Torrington Square, which are in use even at the present time. He retired as the Chief Telecommunications Engineer.

Mr. D. P. Jayasekera, B. Sc. (Gen) London, B. Sc. (Hons.) (Eng.) London, A. C. G. I., A. M. I. E. E. He is one of the Ceylon University College Graduates, who was an awarded

Engineering Scholarship to the United Kingdom. He returned in 1936 after his training course in Telecommunication Engineering. He was attached to the Telephone Section for a few months and in 1937 was detailed to work as Engineer, Radio with Mr. Nadarasa and retired as Chief Telecommunications Engineer. He was the first Sri Lankan delegate to International Telecommunications Union Conferences to represent this country. In 1947 he attended the first Colonial Civil Aviation Conference held in London and also the first International Civil Aviation Organisation Conference held in Montreal.

Mr. W. E. de Silva was also one of the 3 Inspectors picked up by Mr. Harper to help him in the construction and installation of the radio equipment, which was used to inaugurate the Colombo Broadcasting service, and to whom a scholarship to the British Post Office for a practical course in Radio Engineering was awarded in the year 1936. From the inception of broadcasting in this country up to his untimely death in 1949, he devoted his full time and energy for the cause of broadcasting in this country. On his return after the scholarship, he was detailed to officiate as engineer, radio, under Mr. D. P. Jayasekera, Superintending Engineer, Radio. He was also one of the engineers, who was involved in the rapid construction of the Studios and the Control Room at the "Bower" Kotte Road, Borella, in order to release for the use of the R. A. F. the space used at Torrington Square. Actually, after Mr. Harper and his European associates left it was the Nadarasa, Jayasekera and de Silva trio, which helped the expansion to the Broadcasting Service, Colombo to what it was in 1949. The setting of the 6 studios and the control desk equipment, which are still being used at Torrington Square was the work of this same trio.

Sir John Kotelawala - Special mention has to be made of Sir John Kotelawala, as minister of Communications and Works in the State Council for a long period. He was a very popular figure among all who were associated with broadcasting, and he was the Patron of the Sinhala Broadcasting Artistes' Association. He took a keen interest in the development of the Colombo Broadcasting Service and spent his private income to give it publicity by convening occasional

celebrations at his residence, Kandawala, Ratmalana, at which invitees including Ministers of State, V.I.Ps., high ranking government officials and all broadcast artistes were lavishly entertained. When he was temporarily residing at Maharagama during world War II, he did not fail to invite a few selected members of the Colombo Broadcasting staff and artistes for his semi-official functions held at his residence. The very few invited were Messers. H. de S. Gunewardene, C. L. P. Gunawardana, A. W. Dharmapala, U A. S. Perera with his Radio Children's Club. After broadcasting was taken out of his portfolio and when the Press started to criticise Sinhala programmes, he had remarked at a private party of his, with a pain of mind that he was very sorry that broadcasting was taken out of his portfolio.

Mr. R. R. Anderson - He was Sri Lanka's first broadcast Announcer and the first "Clerk Broadcasting", who was in charge of the Broadcasting Programme Office. He had performed distinguished services from the inception by residing at the Broadcasting Station premises, which was said to have been haunted by the dead inmates of the former Lunatic Asylum, making occasional visits to see his wife and children for a continuous period of 11 years. He was regarded to be the best Announcer an English listener living at the foot of the Himalayas had heard. Mr. Anderson was so much disgusted of his work at the Broadcasting Station, he appealed to be relieved of his duties and reverted to his substantive appointment in the Postal Clerical Service in 1936. He left the Broadcasting Station with the determination not to step back. He retired at the age of 60 years as a Special grade postal Clerical Servant.

Mr. Shirley da Silva - He took over to steer the Broadcasting programme Office on August 2, 1937, from the Chief Telecommunications Engineer, who was also the Controller of Broadcasting. His designation was Superintendent, Broadcasting Station". Very soon he introduced a series of innovations and won popularity though funds and facilities were limited. He did not leave any opportunities for his successors to implement any new ideas. He was energetic and hard working. He was away during day time and worked in the office till late at night. He was fortunate that he had a team of an able and a loyal staff. Before he took over the duties of

the Superintendent of the Broadcasting Station, he was the Harbour Correspondent of the Newspaper "The Times of Ceylon" and as such he knew how to contact distinguished foreigners passing through Colombo, and bring such personalities before the microphone to enable radio listeners to enjoy not only good music but also hear the voices of high statesmen any eloquent speakers. When eminent Violinists passed through Colombo Mr. da Silva did not fail to bring them before the microphone providing suitable piano accompanists for them and entertained the foreigners at his own expense. They were not paid a fee. Mr. da Silva did not receive an entertainment allowance and he had to spend from his paltry salary of Rs. 330/- per mensem. After 5 years of commendable service, he retired on July 31, 1942, and left for India.

Mr. H. de S. Gunewardene - He succeeded Mr. R. R.-Anderson as "Clerk Broadcasting", code CBC, in charge of the Broadcasting Programme Office and served in that capacity until Mr. Shirley da Silva assumed duties as Superintendent, Broadcasting Station on August 2, 1937, 1st being a Sunday. When Mr. da Silva retired on July 31, 1942, Mr. H. da S - Gunewardene came back to the Programme Office as acting Superintendent. He was appointed Controller of Broadcasting Programme on August 1, 1943, on a 3 year contract at the end of which he decided not to renew his contract. He was back again at the Broadcasting Station in March 1949 entrusted with the task involved in creating a separate department of broadcasting. As soon as a foreigner was to steer the new department, Mr. Gunewardene bade good bye to broadcasting and joined his erst' while colleague, Mr. C. L. P. Gunawardana at the Investigations Branch of the Postmaster General's Office. He was awarded a scholarship to the British Post Office and retired as an Administrative Secretary.

Mr. C. L. P. Gunawardana - (author of this book) whose work in the department has been recounted elsewhere was in the know of all the work of the department recapitulated in this epilogue and was in touch with the work of most of the officers mentioned in this book having a direct share in the department's work pertaining to broadcasting and radio, whose friendship with the author has a sustaining source of information

in compiling this book. He was the last to hold the designation "Clerk Broadcasting" CBC. He has officiated as clerk announcer and controller of programmes on one and the same day.

Mr. Richard Weerasuriya, A. T. C. L., - Controller of Broadcasting Programmes. He succeeded Mr. H. de S. Gunewardene in November 1946 on a 3 year contract. He was strict but harmless and did not allow his subordinates to fall into difficulties. He was able to maintain the quality of the western programmes with the concurrence of the Western Programme Committee of which he was the Secretary. He was responsible for arranging a fitting programme with the assistance of Mr. C. L. P. Gunawardana for the Independence Day celebrations on February 4, 1948. He gave his full support to the Home Affairs Minister, Sir Edwin Wijayaratne to select Sri Lanka's National Anthem by providing all the available recorded National Songs. He had passed away after retirement.

Change of the designation Superintendent, Broadcasting Station to Controller of Broadcasting Programmes - This change was effected as the designation Superintendent, Broadcasting Station would imply that the engineering officers are also under him, which was not. Therefore the engineering officers are also under him, which was not. Therefore the engineering officers protested against it. But the department could not make a Change till Mr. Shirley da Silva retired as the post was so advertised.

Mr. M. M. P. Gunewardene - He had joined the post and Telegraph Department as a Postmaster and Signaller, and was among the first batch of signallers recruited for wireless telegraphy introduced into this country in July 1912. He had later joined the Engineering Branch of the department as an Inspector of Telegraphs and Telephones and detailed to work at the Colombo Broadcasting Station. He was District Inspector Radio for a considerable period. He was also a founder member of the Ceylon Wireless Club formed in November, 1922. In addition to his technical duties he had to pursue legal action against radio pirates under section 20 of the Telegraph Ordinance 35 of 1908. During the last years of his service, he had to serve as District Inspector of Telephones, Nuwara Eliya Division - taking over privately owned Estate Telephone Exchanges.

Mr. E. C. Wijekoon - He had been recruited as an Inspector of Telegraphs and Telephones in the year 1922. After he had undergone the normal course of training at the Government Technical College and the department, he was attached to the Wireless Transmitting Station at Welikada, where he had served as Inspector, District Inspector and Engineer, wireless and retired at the age of 60 years. He was responsible for the testing and installation of almost all the wireless transmitters at Welikada, and also the erection of the aerial systems which were brought into use there, including the 7 1/2 kilowatt short wave R. C. A. transmitters for Radio SEAC for which Lord Louis Mount Batten, who had inspected it has commended him. He was also responsible for testing out and commissioning a large number of 250 watt R. C. A. transmitters, which Mr. D. P. Jayasekera had acquired from the United States Army surplus equipment, which came in very handy when reliable telephone facilities had to be provided at short notice at the Gal Oya Irrigation and Land Settlement scheme and Mr. Jayasekera decided to use these transmitters to provide a radio link between Colombo and Gal Oya as provision of land lines to the Gal Oya site would have been expensive and their maintenance very difficult because of the presence of wild elephants in the area through which these would have had to be constructed.

When the request for telephone communications to Gal Oya was received Mr. Jayasekera visited Gal Oya and at that time the furthest human settlement on the road to the dam site at Inginiyagala was a tiny village consisting of 3 houses and some jak trees. The line of the dam at Inginiyagala was marked on the Inginiyagala rock by a large white X. Mr. Jayasekera selected a suitable site for the transmitter and the aeriels near Inginiyagala, and the Irrigation Department (Mr. Abraham was the resident engineer) cleared the land and provided temporary buildings for the radio transmitter and power generator and also quarters for the maintenance staff.

The radio telephone link provided functioned most satisfactorily and Mr. A. E. C. de S. Gunsekera, the Deputy Director of Irrigation, who was specially entrusted with the work of getting the Gal Oya scheme going was highly pleased that he was able to give instructions to the Gal Oya staff

every morning and also receive reports in the evening of each day's work. These 250 watt transmitters were also used by Mr. Jayasekera to relay events at the Mahiyangana Chetiya when the restoration work was initiated by the late Hon'ble Mr. D. S. Senanayake, Prime Minister on September 17 and 18 1948. The availability in the department of these 250 watt transmitters enabled Mr. Jayasekera to obtain frequencies at the International Telecommunications Union Region 3 Conference for establishing Provincial Broadcasting Transmitter Stations at such places as Anuradhapura, Kandy, Uva etc.

Mr. A. W. Dharmapala - He was also a 1922 recruit to the Inspectorate, who has had an uninterrupted service for the Colombo Broadcasting service. He had all throughout his career as Inspector and District Inspector being attending to relays of outside broadcasting operated on telephone circuits in which he gained considerable experience and achieved great success. His fondness for being well dressed was an asset to the department in that he could be sent to meet very high and important personages of the country, whose speeches and addresses had to be broadcast, when he had to contact them and attend to all the necessary work in connexion with outside broadcasting. He opted to serve in the new Broadcasting Department in 1949, where he had risen to the rank of engineer, outside broadcasting. He had retired at the age of 60 years and since had joined the majority.

Mr. B. S. Seneviratne - He too had joined the department as an Inspector, and he too has had an uninterrupted service for broadcasting in this country. He was attached to the Radio Control Room and the Radio Laboratory. He was responsible for almost all the important relays of the B. B. C. Empire Station. After the introduction of using radio transmitters for long distant local relays, while Mr. A. W. Dharmapala conducted the outside broadcast at the spot, M. Seneviratne with the assistance of Inspector, Mr. S. Sivapragasam, operated the transmitter. Such transmissions were received at the Manning Town Receiving Station (CLO) and were fed to the transmitter at Welikada for broadcasting. He was also responsible for testing out and commissioning a large number of small radio transmitters, which had been purchased by Mr. D. P. Jayasekera from the United States army surplus equipment.

These small transmitters (radio) came in very handy when communication facilities had to be provided at short notice at a number of air fields, such as Kankasanturai, Vavuniya, Hingurakgoda etc., when internal field aviation services were started in 1947.

These transmitters and receivers with portable and collapsible antennae thus received and commissioned by Mr. B. S. Seneviratne and his staff were offered by Mr. D. P. Jayasekera as an experiment for the use of the Police at a by-election in the Ambalangoda area - an area where the people were said to be well known for quick tempers. Mr. Jayasekera suggested to the Police authorities that the Police Units attached to the Polling Stations be provided with one of the small radio communication sets so that it could be in telephone contact with all such Police Units and a central Police unit in command with the whole area. The Police accepted the offer with gratitude and made available all the transport necessary to carry the equipment and the staff. The experiment was a huge success and no disturbances were reported during the bye-election. The success of this experiment seems to have prompted the Police to have their own radio section with equipment and staff to meet such demands.

Mr. Seneviratne and his staff at the Radio Laboratory had repaired 3 or 4 walkie-talkie sets bought from the U. S. army surplus stores and these were offered by Mr. Jayasekera to the Police for use at a Veil festival procession held in Colombo. The experiment was a success and the police use walkie-talkie equipment in similar circumstances at present.

Messrs. D. S. Kasturiaratchi, M. Wimalaratne at the Radio Control Room and Mr. A. W. Direkze at the Radio Laboratory, all Inspectors, in addition to their normal duties, were responsible for wiring the studios at the "Bower", Kotte Road, Borella and the 6 new studios at present used by the S. L. B. C. They were all responsible for the recording of important programme items inside the studios and outside broadcasting. Messrs Kasturiaratchi and Wimalaratne extended their valuable co-operation at all times to the programme staff. They were the silent workers manning the Control Room without whom there would have been no satisfactory

broadcasting. Mr. Kasturiaratchi remained in the Telecommunications Service and retired as engineer. Mr. Wimalaratne opted to go to the new Broadcasting Department and retired as engineer. He has since joined the majority.

Mr. A. W. Direkze was an intelligent Inspector, who was detailed to give lectures to students at the Government Technical College and later went to Singapore.

Mrs. Pearl Ondaatjee nee de Zilwa, daughter of Dr. Lucian de Zilwa succeeded Mrs. I. B. de Kretser, the first female announcer, code ABL - male announcer ABC; Her proficiency in music (western) was very helpful to the Superintendent in arranging selected recorded musical programmes, both classical and light. She was a conscientious worker, who did not mix with others but was cordial with her associates on duty. Early in 1945 she tendered her resignation to go abroad.

Mr. C. E. Fernando He is another officer, who should not be forgotten. He was a senior member of the Postal Clerical Service, who had served for broadcasting in this country. He was transferred from the Chief Telecommunications Engineer's Office in 1939 to the Broadcasting Programme Office, and as he was proficient in stenography, was placed in charge of correspondence work. Towards the latter part of 1939, when the Broadcasting authorities decided to establish a gramophone record library, and the Superintendent Broadcasting Station was authorised to purchase gramophone records direct from dealers without going through Government Stores, Mr. Fernando, in addition to correspondence work, was in charge of the gramophone records library, and catalogue them systematically and arranged them in such a manner, so that a particular record could be picked up promptly for any Programme. He had arranged the library so well, when in 1947, the then Governor, Sir Monk Mason Moore visited the Broadcasting Station with Sir John Kotelawala, and stepped into the record library, His Excellency was very pleased at the arrangement of the library. A post of Librarian was created in 1948. Mr. Fernando was taken back to the Post and Telecommunications Department, from where he retired at the age of 60 years as Administrative Assistant.

Mr. S. Nadarasa, B. A. He joined the Colombo Broadcasting Service as the Tamil Announcer on December 1, 1937 and fulfilled his duties very efficiently till April 1942. Immediately after the bombing of Colombo by the Japanese on April 5, 1942, he was recruited as the Information Officer and when the activities of the Information Department on matters pertaining to war ended with the cessation of hostilities, Mr. Nadarasa joined the Education Department as a Superintendent of Examinations and passed away after retirement as a Buddhist Monk. He was a regular visitor to Vajiraramaya, Bambalapitiya, in yellow robes.

Mr. D. M. Colombage He was the first full fledged Sinhala Announcer, recruited to the Service on January 1, 1938. His contribution to the Colombo Broadcasting service are mentioned elsewhere.

M. D. Abraham He was the only member of the minor staff, who has had an uninterrupted service as a faithful and a hardworking office peon, against whom there were no complaints whatsoever. He was clean in his dress and loyal to his superiors. Even the cup of tea prepared and served by him was so palatable, his absence was felt by the staff when it was done by any one else. He went to the new Broadcasting Department and retired at the age of 60 years and had joined the majority.

Mr. S. Saravanamuttu A word of praise should be noted to the credit of Mr. S. Saravanamuttu, a Postmaster and signaller who was attached to the Ship-to Shore Radio Station (CLO) during World War II for so kindly agreeing to cover the duties of the Tamil Announcer, Mr. S. Nadarasa, who was compulsorily taken over by the Information Officer after the bombing of Colombo by the Japanese on April 5, 1942. Mr. Saravanamuttu very efficiently attended to Tamil announcing duties for several months and brought to the notice of Mr. C. L. P. Gunawardana of the Broadcast Programm Office that the runner-up at the selection of Mr. Nadarasa as Tamil Announcer was available at Jaffna, and if necessary he could be called up. With the approval of the Postmaster General, the runner-up, Mr. S. Sivapathasundaram was appointed to fill the vacancy of Mr. S. Nadarasa.

Dr. G. P. Malalasekera and Mudlr. E. A. Abayasekera These 2 distinguished scholars, who were associated with the Colombo Broadcasting Service as advisors and well wishers, in the light of their very wide experience and intimate knowledge of the country's literature, culture, customs etc., rendered an exemplary service for the development of broadcasting, especially of Sinhala programmes. They introduced new ideas and they themselves broadcast on matters on which they had special knowledge, and also participated in items under the leadership of others in order to make such items very popular. Both were members of the Broadcasting Advisory Board. Dr. Malalasekera was the Chairman of the Sinhala Folk Songs Recording Committee and Mudlr. Abayasekera was the Chairman of the Sinhala programme Committee. They were available for advice and assistance at any time, and while on their trips in the departmental van in recording Sinhala Folk Music to remote areas camping out at night in spite of their rest being disturbed by hoards of mosquitoes, they were happy.

Devar Surya Sena, M. A., LL. B., A. R. C. M. An admirable personality, who had set aside his high qualifications devoting his career for both western and oriental including Sinhala folk music. He was the first to broadcast Sinhala and North Indian Music from the B. B. C. Even his speech sounded musical. His Wife Nelun Devi was his musical partner, He was a member of the Sinhala Folk Songs Recording Committee and he enjoyed very much the visits of the committee to remote village areas and ruined cities. He was so much grieved at the loss and damage caused to Sinhala Folk Song recordings, he had stated in a letter to the Secretary to the defunct Committee, "it is both tragic and deplorable to learn of the callous treatment melted out to our valuable collection". He was always in the alert to learn anything pertaining to the Folk music of our country which he did not already know.

Mr. K. Kanagaratnam - A former Auditor General and M.P. He was able to come in close contact with the Colombo Broadcasting Service at its last stage, after retirement from Government Service and he did his best with the available facilities and talent to uplift the progress of Tamil programmes. He was the Chairman of the Tamil Programme Committee and he had the able assistance of Mrs. Padmini

Mahendra (nee Karalasingham) a very popular radio artiste from almost the inception. He was a very popular figure not only with the Tamil artistes but also with all the members of the Programme staff. He made an attempt to resurrect Tamil folk music and convened a meeting of the Tamil Programme Committee and invited the Secretary of the Sinhala Folk Songs Recording Committee to obtain his experience of the recording work already done and the response received from the public by the Sinhala Committee during its visits. However, before a start was made the Tamil Recording Committee suffered the same fate as the Sinhala Committee due to the changes effected to the administration.

Mr. H. H. M. Gazzali He watched the interests of the Muslim listeners in the Broadcasting Advisory Board from its inception in 1932 until it was dissolved by the Mr. C. Sittampalam the Hon'ble Minister of the Post and Telecommunications Services after the dawn of our independence in 1948, consequent of a motion of no confidence in the Minister being passed by the Advisory Board. Mr. Gazzali was also a member of the Special Commission on Broadcasting appointed in 1940 under the Chairmanship of Sri Kandiah Vaithyanathan.

A trio of very popular Western Musicians Madeleine de Zilwa (piano) Audrey Dharmakirti (violin) Beryl Bartholomeu (cello) used to practice regularly at the residence of Mrs. de Sousa (Audry Dharmakirti) to contribute regular broadcasts as a trio Programmes of classical western music, which were highly appreciated by the lovers of western music.

Mrs. R. A. Spencer-Shpperd She used to give regular broadcast piano and organ recitals, and was a piano accompanist for several vocalists, male and female.

Death of Mahathma Gandhi Colombo Broadcasting Service on hearing the tragic death of Mahathma Gandhi on January 30, 1948 extended Ceylon's sympathy by joining All India Radio's day of mourning by dropping all musical programmes, both live and recorded broadcasting Mahathma's favourite song "Ragu Pathi Radhava Raja Ram"

Significance of the month of June for Broadcasting.

- June 1920 - Dame Melba created history if singing before a microphone at Chemsford, England.
- June 1924 - Inauguration of broadcasting in Sri Lanka
- June 1925 - Parts of equipment for 1 kw transmitter received
- June 1930 - Remodelling of 800 metre band transmitter to 428.5
- June 1937 - Inauguration of 5 kw transmitter and opening of the second studio
- June 1938 - 8th installation of listening-in facilities at hospitals opened
- June 1939 - Broadcast of a concert for the first time before a distinguished audience
- June 1940 - Appointment of a Committee for recording traditional sinhala songs and music?

Relays of the B. B. C. Empire Station The Empire Station was opened at Daventry on November 19, 1932, and the Colombo Broadcasting Station did not fail to relay important B. B. C. programmes. Daily morning 6.30 am and 9.30 pm C. S. T. News Bulletins were broadcast and these relays were not omitted for whatever reason. Besides the news relays, the outstanding relays were those connected with the Silver Jubilee of King George V on May 6 and 7, 1935, His death on January 20, 1936, Proclamation of King Edward VIII, commentary on the funeral King George V on January 28, 1936, which was listened to by a great audience throughout the world than any broadcast in the history of wireless. The broadcast message in march 1936 of King Edward VIII to his subjects throughout the British Empire, and his pronouncement of his abdication, his allegiance as a private person to his younger brother, King George VI on December 11, 1936, and the ceremonies of the Proclamation of King George VI on December 12, 1936, the Royal wedding of Princess Elizebeth were all broadcast by the Colombo Broadcasting Station.

However an exemption had to be made to the principle that the 9.30 pm B. B. C. news relay should not be deleted for whatever reason on, 14th October, 1948. At the end of the exposition of the Sanchi Relics, better known as the

Agra Srawaka, Sariputta and Moggallana Relics in 1947-1948, three representatives of the Mahabodhi Society, including Van'ble Dr. Parawahera Vajiranana Nayake Thera interviewed the Controller of Programmes with the idea of realying Maha Pirith from 9 to 10 pm on October 14, 1948. The Controller refused the request on the ground that the 9.30 pm B. B. C. News relay could not be omitted and offered the period the 10 to 11 pm. Both parties not being able to arrive at a settle ment, the Controller of Programmes summoned Mr. C. L. P Gunawardana for a solution, and giving due consideration for the importance of the Buddhist ritual agreed to omit the B. B. C. News relay and assign the period 9 to 10 pm for the Maha Pirith realy from the venue of the ceremony. While leaving the representatives of the Mahabodhi Society thanked Mr. Gunawardana for his prudent gesture. Special note of appreci- ation of the arrangement made by the Broadcasting authorities on this matter appeared in News Paper, Sinhala Bauddhaya, which is reproduced in full in Appendix G.

The momentous B. B. C. relay was the announcement of the British Prime Minister, Mr. Neville Chamberlain at the emergency meeting of the British Parliament on Sunday, September 3, 1939 declaring war on Germany - World War II. On this Sunday, incidentally the Assistant Chief Telecommuni- cations Engineer, Mr. D. Lusk had directed the senior Tele- communications Inspector, B. S. Seneviratne of the Radio laboratory to monitor the B. B. C. Empire Station, transmission II which was due to start at 10.45 am G.M.T. 4.15 pm C.M.T. on 13, 16, and 19 metre bands (short wave) and to relay any important broadcast. Mr. Seneviratne on hearing the B. B. C. announcement of the declaration of war on Germany, relayed the proceedings by cutting out the local programmes enabling the listeners of our country to hear the important news simultaneously with those of the United Kingdom, which perhaps no other country had heard.

Preparation of Broadcasting News From the inception of broadcasting this country up to the date of appointment of Mr. D. E. Weerakoon as News Editor and the provision of a Reuters News Service to the broadcasting Station in 1945, news bulletins were prepared by the Superintendent of Broad casting/Controller of Broadcasting programmes by picking news

items from the daily newspapers. The English Announcers read the news bulletin so prepared, while the Sinhala and Tamil Announcers translated the news to Sinhala and Tamil and read the translations. After the introduction of the Reuters News Service, Mr. Weerakoon with his Journalistic experience was able to prepare a satisfactory news bulletin. Sinhala and Tamil Announcers translated the prepared news bulletin and read it.

Deviation from traditionalism Colombo Broadcasting Service was responsible for making a modification of necessity in the duration of Buddhist sermons. In the ancient past Buddhist temples were situated in places away from residential areas and on Poya Days devotees visited temples after dusk and remained there till the following morning, rituals were being followed during the whole night with short intervals for relaxation. The duration of a Dhamma sermon was 3 hours with a 10 minute interval for relaxation. Invariably, the gathering at each temple was up to capacity. The preacher sat in the centre of the preaching hall so that all around could see and hear him. Amplifiers and loud speakers were not known, but the preachers were able to speak loud and speak continuously for 3 hours. It was customary then for a matured devotee to sit prominently in front of the preacher on the floor, a sort of a respondent without whom the preacher found it inconvenient to speak continuously for such a long period. Circumstances prevented the Colombo Broadcasting Station to conform to that traditionalism and also to assign such a long period. The duration of a sermon had to be reduced to 1 hour and to do away with the presence of a responding devotee. However, there were eminent preachers at the time, such as Ven'ble Palane Siri Vajiranana Maha Nayake Thero, Ven'ble Narada Thera, Ven'ble Morontuduwe Dhammananda Nayake Thero, Ven'ble Makuluduwe Piyaratana Thera, Ven'ble Heenatiyana Dhammaloka Thera etc., who were able and willing to meet the requirements of the Colombo Broadcasting Service. This procedure won popularity among both the clergy and the laity and the ancient course was allowed to be forgotten. Broadcasting of Bana preaching on Poya Days started in January 1929 and when the Post and Telecommunications Department transferred the activities

of broadcasting to a new department on October 1, 1949, more than 2000 sermons had been broadcast on subjects selected practically from all the Sustras of the Sustra Pitaka, Digha Nikaya, Majjima Nikaya, Samyutta Nikaya, Anguttara Nikaya and Khuddaka Nikaya. This inestimable service of the Colombo broadcasting Station can be considered to have contributed in no small measure to the better conduct of a large section of listeners.

Oriental Music - Sinhala Colombo Broadcasting service deserves credit for creating a tendency among the high class of the Sinhala generation to gain a taste for oriental music, which was being patronised by professional and the patron of the Tower Hall. The high bred who were interested only in western music, more or less despised oriental music, began to lend an ear, thanks to Messrs. Charles Dias, M. G. Perera, Devar Surya Sena, Nelun Devi, Hubert Rajapaksa, Saranagupta Amarasinghe, Ananda Samarakone, some of the fore-runners. The names of the few artistes, who provided voluntary services during the initial stage - they were entertained with biscuits, chocolates, whiskey, soft drinks - were Messrs. M. G. Perera, Don Manis Pattiaratchi, A. A. Perera, T. C. Senanayake, H. Don Vincent, Mrs. W. S. Ratnasabhpathy (kokiladevi) who provided Sinhala, Tamil and Hindustani concerts, Hubert Rajapaksa, who sang Sinhala and Western songs, K. Lionel Perera, T. V. Edwin Perera, K. Regina-Perera, A. R. M. Ibrahim, Cecilia Dias, M. K. Vincent, and Greeta Janet de Silva before she reached her teens and who was considered as the Local Shirley Temple (sic)

Sinhala music lovers had followed North Indian Music as the music of our progenitors over 2500 yrs ago, and as soon as new Hindi gramophone records were released our Sinhala music lovers very smartly imitated the rytham of the new Hindi songs and at times coined Sinhala in place of Hindi words. Messrs. Saranaguptha Amarasinghe, Ananda Samarakoon after a course of training at Santhiniketan in India introduced Bengali music for which our Sinhala listeners showed a preference. Sunil Shantha a few years later introduced music of the same type with a variety. Thanks to Colombo Broadcasting Station gained a large number of followers. However the old Scool musicians followed ragas and thalas,

vocalists like N. Romles Silva, who also appeared in Sinhala drama produced at the Tower Hall had these songs put on commercial gramophone records, which became highly popular, particularly in rural areas of the country. In this connection such songs "mano ramya Lanka" and "Peradeniye mal uyana" come to my mind.

Mr. D. P. Jayasekera, in initiating a programme of recording of the Sinhala folk music to the Recording Committee, had in his mind the ascertainments of the extent of the existence of people competent to render the wide variety of Sinhala music (recitation and singing etc.) which had been patronised and promoted by Sinhala Kings and Nobles over many centuries, particularly during the time of the Kings who ruled at Kandy. The name of King Veera Parakrama Narendrasinge, who ruled at Kandy stands out prominently. Members of the Recording Committee hoped that in course of time their efforts would result in the revitalisation of Sinhala music as it existed in ancient times.

Administration of the Colombo Broadcasting Service

The control of both programme and technical employees was in the hands of the Chief Telecommunications Engineer, who was also the Controller of Broadcasting from the inception until August 1, 1943, when the Postmaster General and Director Broadcasting took over the administration of the Programme section. During the period of the Chief Telecommunications Engineer was in charge of both sections, the Chief Engineer, the Assistant Chief Engineer and the Superintending Engineer, Radio, made surprise checks of both sections, but after August 1943, the engineers confined their checks to the technical staff. Controllers of Programmes were appointed on a contract basis and their salaries were not attractive. So they restricted their duty to normal office hours. There were complaints against the programme staff on the night shift and the Postmaster General, Col. J. P. Appleby suggested that the 2 senior members of the Clerical Service be given shift duties so that one may be on duty from 2 to 9.30 pm. After 2 weeks trial, the order was withdrawn as it could not be enforced on the clerical service.

Favouritism Complaints against favouritism were also received. One such complaint received by the Postmaster General, Mr. J. R. Walters, C. C. S., was referred to the

Superintendent of Broadcasting, Mr. Shirley da Silva for report. Mr. da Silva admitted that he always showed favour to good and popular artistes and added that even such favourites were subject to strict discipline. Once Rukmani Devi, one of the so called favourites deserted her broadcast engagement and gave a public performance at an outstation. This matter was brought to the notice of the Hon'ble Minister, Sir John-Kotelawala, who ordered that the artiste be suspended for 6 months. Similarly a member of the clergy, who had included unwanted remarks in his sermon, Suffered the same fate.

Military Police Raided Colombo Broadcasting Station

In the middle of 1944 two military Policemen raided the Colombo Broadcasting Station at about 8 pm. during a programme of Hawaiian music was being broadcast and while the Ceylon Police were guarding the Broadcasting Station. The 2 Military Policemen had rushed to the studio in which the programme was being broadcast and stood at the studio door rifles with fixed bayonets ready to charge the wanted absconder. After the programme was over, and when the Announcer opened the door, he was stunned to see 2 soldiers ready to charge him. The 2 soldiers were disappointed to see that the exodist was not the person they were after but was an employee of the Broadcasting Station. They had to tender an apology and explain their mission to the Announcer. The programme advertised in the daily newspaper indicated that it was a recital by a mobilised serviceman, whom they had to arrest for vanishing from the military camp and the authorities thought that it was a good opportunity to apprehend the offender.

Rules and Regulations Rules and Regulations were strictly followed. Once a Trade Union of the Post and Telecommunications Department made a request for a broadcast announcement that the annual general meeting of the Union had to be postponed owing to unforeseen circumstances. This request was turned down by the Contoller of Programmes. There-upon the Trade Union appealed to the Postmaster General, who was also the Director of Broadcasting against the rejection of their request. The postmaster General Mr. A. Ignatius Perera contacted on the telephone, as usual, Mr. C. L. P. Gunawardana, on matters of such nature and enquired as to the reason for the refusal of the Trade Union's

request. The Postmaster General was referred to the revelant Rule, Post Office Guide 648. He did not interfere.

Mr. Munidasa Kumaratunga's Broadcast Talk in Sinhala
During the 25 years Sri Lanka Broadcasting was under the Post and Telecommunications Department, Mr. Munidasa-Kumaratunga, one of the greatest Sinhala scholars in the recent past was given an opportunity to broadcast only one talk and it was in 1940, as all knew he was a great critic. There were at that time no facilities for pre-recorded programmes and scripts were not called for in advance from distinguished scholars and as such the script of his talk could not be demanded. Even if it was done he would not have agreed. So Mr. C. L. P. Gunawardana who was handling the arrangement of oriental programmes had to obtain the consent of the 2 Sinhala members of the Broadcasting Advisory Board for the assignment of the talk. The 2 Advisory Board members, Dr. G. P. Malalasekera and Mudlr. E. A. Abayasekera unhesitatingly approved the idea holding Mr. Gunawardana responsible for any repercussions. Mr. Gunawardana took the risk and made a personal invitation to Mr. Kumaratunga, which he kindly accepted. The talk was scheduled for broadcasting at 7 pm and Mr. Kumaratunga arrived sharp on time. It was a 15 minute talk. Mr. Gunawardana took him into the studio, arranged the microphone for Mr. Kumaratunga, who preferred to broadcast being standing. Mr. C. L. P. Gunawardana occupied the Announcer's desk. He did a platform speech with movements and gestures. This talk was appreciated by all who had listened to it. The 2 Board members thanked Mr. Gunawardana for arranging the talk.

Significance. of the Month of June for broadcasting

- June 1920 - Dame Melba created history by singing before a microphone at Chemsford in England.
- June 1924 - Inauguration of Broadcasting in Sri Lanka.
- June 1925 - First consignment of equipment for the 1 kilowatt radio transmitter from the United Kingdom received in Ceylon.
- June 1930 - Remodellin of 800 metre band transmitter to radiate on 428.5 metres.

- June 1937 - Inauguration of the 5 kilowatte transmitter and the opening of the second studio.**
- June 1938 - 8th installation of listening-in facilities at Hospitals opened.**
- June 1939 - Broadcast of a celebrity concert for the first time before a distinguished audience.**
- June 1940 - Appointment of a Committee for recording traditional Sinhala songs and music.**

FINAL

After a quarter of a century of Vigorous service with limited funds, limited facilities, limited talent and limited staff, the Engineers, Inspectors, and the members of the Clerical Service of the Post and Telecommunications Department had brought with the advice of talented well wishers, the Colombo Broadcasting Service to a satisfactory high standard, undergoing tremendous difficulties in maintaining, of course without interference, to the satisfaction of over 25,000 listeners, especially during the emergency period - 6 years - of the World War II, a new Broadcasting Department called Radio Ceylon emerged on October 1, 1949.

Of the Telecommunications Inspectors only 2 opted to serve in the new department - some of the lower grades, who had been recruited mainly for radio work preferred to go while the rest remained in the Post and Telegraph Department. Of the members of the Clerical Service barring one the rest remained in the Post and Telegraph Department.

In the year 1947 there was a whisper, to open a radio museum, but it was too late as a new department was on the verge of springing. Broadcasting under the Post and Telecommunications Department was a service to the public and not a Publicity or a Trade Bureau. It stood strictly to its name Broadcasting Service.

Considering the difficulties, embarrassment and obstacles undergone by the pioneers of the Colombo Broadcasting Service for 25 years in conducting experiments, designing, constructing, remodelling, installing and maintaining equipment and also searching for talent for programmes accommodated in delapidated buildings without proper conveyance for transporting in an era, when broadcasting was considered in the words of the Governor, Sir Hugh Cliffore "a practical miracle" the present employees of the S. L. B. C. should feel that they are living in second paradise.

The names of the officials and unofficials associated with the establishment and the development of broadcasting in this country are:-

Ministers of State - Sir John Kotelawala

Directors of Broadcasting - Mr. M. S. Sreshta, C. C. S., Mr. H. A. Burden, C. C. S., Mr. J. R. Walters, C. C. S., Col. J. P. Appleby, Mr. A. Ignatius Perera.

Engineering - E. Haper, M. I. E. E., M. I. Radio E., Mr. A. T. Kingston, A. M. I. E. E., Mr. H. S. Bryant, A. M. I. E. E., Mr. J. Shillitoe, A. M. I. E. E., Mr. D. Lusk, A. M. I. E. E., Mr. A. Nadarasa, A. M. I. E. E., Mr. S. Rajanayagam, A. M. I. E. E., Mr. D. P. Jayasekera, A. M. I. E. E., Mr. W. E. de Silva, Mr. B. Wijetilaka, Mr. H. B. F. de Silva, Mr. M. M. P. Gunawardene, Mr. E. C. Wijekoon, Mr. A. W. Dharmapala, Mr. B. S. Seneviratne, Mr. W. R. Ratnatunga, Mr. S. B. Fonseka, Mr. A. W. Direkze, Mr. S. Ratnavale, Mr. K. Ramanathan, Mr. D. Kasturiaratchi, Mr. M. Wimalaratne, Mr. B. D. P. Jayasekera, Mr. C. W. Fernando, Mr. A. F. M. Perera, Mr. E. G. Apittel, Mr. T. M. Ruberu, Mr. W. R. Fernando, Mr. W. L. Fernando, Mr. George Wijesinghe, Mr. H. M. Caldera, Mr. H. Kresham and Mr. K. M. C. Fernando.

Programmes and Office Administration - Mr. R. R. Anderson, Mr. C. L. P. Gunawardana, Mr. H. de S. Gunawardene, Mr. Shirley da Silva, Mr. C. E. Fernando, Mr. R. F. Fonseka, Mr. St. Clair Ephraums, Mr. C. H. Fernando, Mr. M. D. Gunapala, Mr. K. E. Siriwardene, Mr. I. L. M. Izzadeen and Mr. Richard Weerasuriya.

News Service - Mr. D. E. Weerakoon and Mr. C. Ganegoda.

Minor Staff - M. D. Abraham, Varliyanu Perera, M. Sarnelis, Martin Parनावितarne, G. K. Wilson, M. D. Peter, P. K. Juwan Fernando, P. K. W. Perera, Deeman Perera, M. E. Perera, A. John, Marshall Perera, H. Wanasinghe, S. C. Silva and S. Amarasinghe.

Announcers - Mr. R. R. Anderson, Mr. E. Y. G. Rankine, Mrs. I. B. de Kretser, Mrs. Pearl Ondaatji, Mr. O. Y. Perera, Mr. T. M. Ruberu, Mr. K. Vinayakamurthi, Mr. S.

Nadarasa, Mr. D. M. Colombage, Mr. G. E. Mack, Mr. C. E. Hettiaratchy, Mr. M. W. Fernando, Mr. S. Sivapathasundaram, Mr. N. V. Balasubramaniam, Mr. Kenneth de Pinto, Mr. D. T. L. Guruge, Mr. L. R. Wijemanne, Mrs. Ruth Ludovici, Mr. Mark Antony Fernando, Miss Olga de Zoysa, Mr. S. Cunjithapatham, Miss. Eva de Silva and Mr. R. M. L. de Sylva.

Clergy and the Members of the Public - Ven'ble Palane Siri Vajiranana Maha Nayake Thero, Ven'ble Dr. Parawahera Vajiranana Nayake Thero, the Rev. S. J. de S. Weerasinghe, Mr. L. Macrae, Dr. R. F. Dias, LL. D., Mr. J. S. Dinwiddie, Mr. G. H. Jolliffe, Mr. C. A. Hutson, Mr. M. S. Rockwood, Mr. A. E. Felasinger, Mr. H. J. Crosskey, Mr. J. F. Ness, Mr. F. A. E. Price, Prof. R. Marrs, Prof. D. R. R. Burt, Mr. R. C. P. Beck, Mr. J. S. M. Patterson, Mr. Charles Dias, Mr. C. Don Amaradasa, Dr. G. P. Malalasekera, Mudlr. E. A. Abayasekera, Mr. Devar Surya Sena, Mudlr. C. Rasanayagam, Mr. H. H. M. Gazzali, Mr. E. W. Kannangara, C. C. S., Mr. P. T. Panditha-Gunawardhana, Dr. Julius de Lanerolle, Mr. J. D. A. Perera, Mr. Stanley F. de Saram, Mr. U. G. P. de Silva, Mr. L. L. K. Gunatunga, Mr. S. L. B. Kapukotuwa, Mr. K. Kanagaratnam, Mudlr. K. Sabaratnam, Dr. K. J. Rustomjee and Mr. U. A. S. Perera.

The achievements yet to be recorded should be enunciated to the credit of Messrs. A. Nadarasa, D. P. Jayasekera, W. E. de Silva, E. C. Wijekoon, A. W. Dharmapala, B. S. Seneviratne, A. W. Direkze, all technical officers and the only non-technical officer, the author of this publication, for their long, uninterrupted, enthusiastic and priceless services for the cause of the Colombo Broadcasting Service 1924-1949.

The Colombo Broadcasting Baby born at 2.30 pm. on Friday, June 27, 1924, was transformed to a new organisation called itself Radio Ceylon at the age of 25, years on Friday September 30, 1949 maintaining a very good career undergoing tremendous difficulties. Let this publication be a Monument for all the pioneers, who spared no pains to introduce broadcasting to this country and brought it to a satisfactory standard with the minimum facilities made available for a period of 25 years.

THE END