

## Golden Jubilee of

# MR. & MRS. HATIM ALVI



On Sunday the 29th of January, Grand Hotel Malir was the venue of the Wedding Anniversary Celebrations. It is an occasion of special interest, firstly because it was the wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Hatim Alvi.... a couple quite unique, both in their public and domestic lives. Secondly because it was the 50th anniversary, of their marriage!

Golden Jubilee celebrations of marriage seem to be a blessing granted to too few couples. So it happened that Hatim Alvi and his wife Safia Bano's four daughters and two sons along with their spouses decided to celebrate the occasion by inviting the near and dear ones from family and friends. The celebrations were to start at coffee time and continue till tea time. Some friends, well wishers and press were to be seen between 11:15 and 11:45 when the Alvi's arrived.

Mr. Agha the master of ceremonies gave a short speech of welcome and Best Wishes to the Couple and started the entertainment programme with Tilawat-e-Quran, by a Qari who had been a student of the school for Blind, Deaf and Dumb, this school has received selfless work by Mr. Hatim Alvi. This verse of the Quran recited by the blind Qari was then translated by Jamila, the granddaughter of the Alvi's. She translated it into English with clear pronunciation, in her well modulated voice. She sounded very confident, but I guess the only one who knew how nervous she was, was her charming mother (dressed in purple silk sari the severity of which was off set by pretty jewellery). The mother stood close by for giving the required moral support.

This was followed by Mr. Agha's witty remarks and humorous skits for which he is well known and loved by Karachites. Mr. Agha then presented Miss Rehana Yasmin, who delighted the audience with her songs. By this time a good number of the invitees were seen streaming in by the reception point, to be welcomed by the Alvi's oldest daughter and son first and all the other members of the family all of whom welcomed their friends and acquaintances very graciously. Another nice touch to the welcome was the offering of the *ittar* to every guest.

Seen in by the reception line between 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. were Begum Liaquat Ali Khan, with Mrs. Chagla, and Mr. Khaliq Chagla, Mr. and Mrs. Syed Ahmad, Mr. Abdul Kadir, Mr. and Mrs. Begum Wazir Ali, Mr. and Mrs. Cyrus Minwalla, Mr. and Mrs. Barlas, Mrs. Mohomedali Habib, Mr. and Mrs. Razzak Mohammed, Mr. and Mrs. Dinshaw Dastoor, Mr. and Mrs. Salim Mohamed, Mr. and Mrs. Anwar Japanwala, Mr. and Mrs. Ismail Habib and others.

Most friends and well wishers had come loaded with flowers and gifts, and Hatim Alvi Saheb and His Begum Sahiba were profusely garlanded. The ladies of the Alvi family and other lady guests were mostly dressed in saris suitable for morning wear, and the weather had turned into a lovely spring morning, so the best prints in silk and nylon georgett saris were to be seen.

Friendly Mrs. Aftab Alvi, well groomed and sunny natured Mrs. Mehar Alvi and their husbands were seen attending to each guest, the Alvi's vivacious daughter and her charming husband had come specially from E. Africa for the occasion. Popular Nargis Jeevanji who seems to be the pet of her parents was seen flitting all around meeting her large number of friends, relatives and acquaintances.

Mr. Agha master of ceremonies kept the audience in splits of laughter, he sang a few ghazals very well. Nirala, film actor, his witty programme was well appreciated by each and every one. Jamilla Karim and her cousin Sabilla Jiwanjee played the Sitar.

Everyone enjoyed seeing grand children garlanding their grand father and mothers. Everyone did justice to the delicious and tempting food served and prepared specially by our Grand Hotel, Malir. We might add that there was a vast variety of dishes.

After tea most of the guests began to leave for home, all with one thing in common, the feeling of a warm glow after having shared the pleasure of the celebrations of a charming family.