

## **S. Amrik Singh (1935-2009):**

### **Technologist as a visionary who nurtured *The Sikh Review***

S. Amrik Singh who passed away at his Chandigarh home on the 11th Feb. 2009 was a many-splendoured personality. Born in a deeply religious family he had his early schooling in Faridkot, and later in 1953 proceeded to England to study electrical engineering.

On return, he joined the British firm, A.E.I. Ltd. in 1959. When the Company merged with GEC of India Ltd., his advise - both as a technocrat and a progressive administrator - was much sought for, in various capacities at Calcutta, Madras, Delhi, Baroda and - finally - Chandigarh, where he retired as chief General manager of Northern Zone.

Steeped in the Sikh lore and ideology he came in contact with (the Late) Khazan Singh pioneering and energetic organizer of the Sikh Students Federation in Calcutta. Other trailblazers of Youth Movement included Sr. Manjit Singh 'Calcutta' and the advocate Sr. Surjit Singh Mihhas who formed a core group to bring awareness of moral values among youth. Under the guidance of the untiring Sr. Khazan Singh, he actively participated in 'Punjabi suba' morcha of 1960 by mobilising funds and distributing literature to educate the Sikh masses about the great Sikh heritage.

In his spare time and on weekends he also involved himself in the Gurmat Prachar Society, which benefited from his dynamism and eloquence. It was also during his stay in Calcutta that he became the righthand man of the legendary Capt. Bhag Singh, Editor of ***The Sikh Review***. When the progressive monthly Journal started enrolling eminent personalities, he became its earliest representative way back in Sep. 1957. During his tenure in UK, his name was on the top of the list as the Representative in England. During his visits to London & Buckingham on weekends (he was then studying for his engineering degree at Rugby) to propagate the message of the upcoming magazine, by speaking in Gurdwara gathering, and then setting the magazine to the Sangat, after the Bhog, by standing in the passage!

On return to Calcutta, he joined the dedicated Sikh Review team led by legendary Capt. Bhag Singh and including Dr. Hari Singh Bindra, S. Mohan Singh Kalra, S. Kulraj Singh, I.R.S., S. Amar Singh and Mrs. Kuldeep H. Singh [all deceased] to name a few. Many key personalities really worked very hard to make this magazine a success. Soon, S. Amrik Singh and the other members of the team formed a trust to oversee the affairs of the societies. He was one of five foundation trustees. Wherever posted, he served this Journal with the same fervour.

After retirement he settled down in Chandigarh and helped his son to establish business of own, without slowing his efforts to enroll member-subscriber for ***The Sikh Review*** till the end of his life. Significantly, ten days before he went into coma he remitted Rs. 16,000/- collected by him as subscription for ***The Sikh Review***.

In spite of neurological problems - over the last few years, when he could not walk without help, he remained in ਚੜ੍ਹਦੀ ਕਲਾ high spirits. Whenever anybody asked him about his health he used to remark 'earlier I used to walk on two legs, but now, by the grace of God. I walk on shoulders of two people'!

In such a state of health he continued to arrange stalls of ***The Sikh Review*** at every Gurburb and similar gatherings of the Sikhs.

We pay our homage to this extraordinary man who made it a mission to promote the Sikh Review, first, as a student, as an executive in a prestigious British company, in retirement and, most importantly, as a physically challenged person, alternating as bed-ridden or on crutches with his spirit in ascendancy and his faith in the Sikh dynamism

everlasting.

