

# **Gurdwaras in America**

## **The making of a Documentary**

**RAMESH & ASHA SETH\***

### **PART III**

*\* 231-B Jolly Maker (Towers) No.1, Cuffe Parade, Mumbai. 400005. The authors is a senior business executive.*

*@ For Parts 1 and 2, see SR Nov. 2004 and May 2005.*

#### **SEATTLE :**

Our main contact in Seattle was Harshinder Singh Sandhu, President of Kent *Gurdwara*. I had been in touch with Sandhu for almost a month. Finally the dates of the Documentary shows were confirmed. From Vancouver we were to reach Seattle, by the evening of 14th of October, well in time for the 'Golden Temple' documentary shows, which were fixed at the Kent *Gurdwara* for the 15th evening, and at the Renton *Gurdwara*, for the 17th evening. As it were, Asha and I managed to reach Seattle very late at night, on the 15th due to visa problem, described elsewhere.

Over the phone Sandhu had given us clear directions. We were to get down from the Bus at Seattle Airport. From there we were to ring up 'Mini Rate' Motel, and call for the courtesy pick up service. We were booked there as Sandhu's guests.

One Amar Singh Gagh owned the 'Mini Rate' Motel. Earlier, Harshinder Singh Sandhu had some business interest in the Motel, but not now. Gagh and Sandhu were related and they maintained a very cordial relationship. In fact, Sandhu was one of those persons with whom no one can resist having a cordial relationship. When we checked in, Gagh's son Gagandeep Singh was in the office. He had been informed about our impending arrival. He welcomed us. We were shown to our room and our luggage was transferred.

It is common knowledge that in America, Indians, especially the Patels, have a very large presence in the Motel sector. But, now and then, some other Indians too have entered the Motel sector, Sikhs in this case. There are Motels and more Motels. They come in all sizes, shapes and categories. In case of American Motels the rooms are labelled as units. This one, 'Mini Rate' had forty units, which are economy grade, having cheaper tariffs. In some Motels a light breakfast is included in the tariff, but not in this one. Of course, there was a coffee machine serving free coffee or tea throughout the day. Indeed in every city there are a number of Motels near the Airports. They are of varying standards. Some are non-starred properties like 'Mini Rate'. Some go all the way up to 5 Star rating. Actually, in Vancouver there is a Motel that extends into the Vancouver Airport terminal building itself. The passengers can walk into the terminal directly from the Motel.

#### **Blessed Volunteers:**

The next morning, being Saturday, we went to meet Sandhu at the Kent *Gurdwara*. We reached there by 10.00 A.M., and waited for Sandhu. In America, most office-bearers of *Gurdwaras* have regular jobs. They have to find time for the *Gurdwara* affairs out of their regular working hours. Only the Granthis are always available on the premises as they are employed by the *Gurdwaras*. As we waited, around 11.00 AM some people started gathering in the Kent *Gurdwara*. It was

Saturday; there a private religious function of some member of the Sangat. Weekends are a favourite time for such family functions, as most people have the day off. The family members and the friends of the people hosting the function had gathered in full strength. Their ladies took charge of the kitchen. Pretty soon, tea and snacks were spread out in the Langar hall. In common with other Gurdwaras, Jalebis were the standard sweet-dish.

Soon thereafter Sandhu arrived. He went into one of the rooms and sat down on the floor, on a *gaddi*. The room was used for multiple purposes. It also doubled as his office as well. Sandhu appeared to be around sixty. He was dressed in white, and had tied his turban in a rustic way. His beard was open. The face oozed geniality. He welcomed us warmly. Since he had seen our documentary the previous night, he showered high praises upon us.

Kent *Gurdwara* was a newly established House of Nanak. The other *Gurdwara*, at Renton, was the older one. Earlier, Sandhu used to attend the Renton *Gurdwara* and take active interest in its management. But for some years now he was discomfited by certain policies of the management there. The recent hardening of stand, more sympathetic to the hardliners, was not to Sandhu's liking. He favoured a more moderate line. So, instead of creating bad blood with the Renton *Gurdwara* management he quietly withdrew. Though, personally he remained on very cordial terms with them, as we later saw.

While Sandhu ceded primacy to the Renton *Gurdwara*, being the older and the more popular one, the people managing Renton conceded the personal stature of Sandhu. Most of the programmes at Seattle were co-ordinated between the two *Gurdwaras*. Whenever *Raagi Jathas* visited from India, both the *Gurdwaras* co-ordinated their schedules, and in-between them rotated the *Raagi Jathas* programmes. In arranging the visit of *Jathas*, Sandhu had an upper hand, as he had a lot of free time on hand. He was by then fully retired from active business, even though he was still not that old.

Our documentary on the Golden Temple was to be shown at the Renton *Gurdwara* that very evening. So, after eating *Guru ka Langar*, Sandhu took us to that *Gurdwara*, to check out the location and to see whether the arrangements were proper.

Seattle is a beautifully located city, along a long sea inlet. It has a safe harbour, opening on Pacific Ocean, a sort of gateway to the fast expanding East Asian region trade. The city is spread across numerous hillocks that give its topography an interesting character. One is always driving either uphill or downhill; rarely is a road straight and flat. Secondly, it is very green. The climate is cold, but it seldom snows, though there is plenty of drizzle all the year round. The real bad weather is shielded by Mount Olympus, to the north west of the city. There is much in common between Vancouver and Seattle weather-wise.

Half the population of Washington State lives in greater Seattle area, which has never lost its importance right from the time of the Gold rush, in late 19<sup>th</sup> century, which originally had made it a boomtown. Air space industry giant Boeing has its head quarters here, as also the Software giant Microsoft. Starbuck coffee, famous all over USA owes its origin to Seattle, so also the United Parcel Services (UPS). Seattle harbour, was the first in the whole world to realise the importance of, and

convert itself for, the coming age of containerisation of sea-going cargo. That attracted a great amount of import and export traffic to Seattle port.

### **Commuting:**

Sandhu drove us to Renton *Gurdwara*. The road meandered through green patches, up, down and around. From many a vantage point one could see the beautiful sights of the city, and its busy harbour. After driving for half an hour we arrived at the *Gurdwara*. Apart from some places like Manhattan Island in New York, America is a country of long distances and non-existent public transportation. "Did cars create America, or was it vice-versa?" For a touring Indian taxis are a very costly mode of transport. One cannot help converting the dollar fare into Indian rupees.

Once converted into Rupees the Taxi fares seem really prohibitive.

Renton *Gurdwara* has a fine building. The Diwan hall is located upon the 1<sup>st</sup> floor. *Langar* hall is on the ground floor. This is the pattern followed in most of the *Gurdwaras* in North America. The seat of Sri Guru *Granth Sahib* must remain above every thing else. Of course, in some *Gurdwaras* the *Diwan* hall and the *Langar* were both housed in adjoining rooms! But there never was a case where the *Langar* hall was situated over the *Diwan* Hall. Or for that matter, no other activity was ever carried out above the *Diwan* hall. From the certificate of the civic authorities, which was displayed there, I read that the main Diwan hall had a seating capacity of about 1000 people, perhaps the largest certified capacity in any *Gurdwara* in North America.

On the wall of the lobby leading to the *Diwan* Hall there were two very large portraits, only two. One was, of course, Guru Nanak Dev Ji's. The other was that of *Sant* Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale. This was the only *Gurdwara*, of the nearly one hundred and fifty *Gurdwaras* that we had visited during our three long tours where *Sant* Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale's portrait was displayed alongside Guru Nanak Dev Ji's at such a prominent place.

Bhai Gurdas has written about his attempt to capture the greatness of Guru Nanak Dev Ji by saying, "If my mouth had as many tongues as the hair of my body, and if each of such countless tongues sang the praises of Guru Nanak Dev Ji for a 1000 years each, even then Guru Nanak Dev Ji's greatness cannot be captured in words." Who in this wide world could stand shoulder by shoulder with the great Guru? None, indeed! He is in a class by himself, *sui generis*. **Seeing Guru Nanak Dev Ji's portrait reminded me of those inspiring words. Therefore, seeing Bhindranwale elevated to Guru Nanak's level was very jarring, despite his standing among the masses!**

Sandhu introduced us to the Secretary of the Renton *Gurdwara*, who welcomed us with a broad smile. When we inquired about the arrangement for the show—whether on a Projector or on the T.V.—it seemed that they had not even thought of this aspect. There was no T.V., and it being a Saturday afternoon, nothing could be hired at that time, neither a TV nor a Projector. It was then that Sandhu offered to loan them the big 62" TV, which he had hired for his *Gurdwara*, and which was still in Kent *Gurdwara*; that was definitely a sign of the very close and cordial bonds between the managements of the two *Gurdwaras*. I liked it. In that *pardes* such close

co-operation is badly needed. Immediately, a pick-up truck was arranged to bring the TV from Kent to Renton *Gurdwara*.

After finalising other details, we were dropped at the 'Mini Rate' motel, with a promise that at 5.00 p.m., the President of Renton *Gurdwara* would pick us up in time for the show at the *Gurdwara*.

Jarnail Singh Punnu, the President of Renton *Gurdwara*, came at 5.30 P.M., half an hour late. In common with most of the office bearers of the *Gurdwaras* all over North America, he too had a free flowing beard. His face was relaxed and eyes merry. He had been held up at his work place, he told us. He worked in a metal fabrication workshop, which sub-contracted for Boeing Aircraft Company. Boeing and Microsoft both of Seattle origin, between themselves, hire half the work force of Seattle.

On the way to the Renton *Gurdwara*, he told us about himself. He was earlier living in Los Angles. After his wife's death he had married again. He and his second wife then shifted to Seattle. His grown up son from the earlier marriage was still in Los Angeles. There was no child from the second marriage. He had been in Seattle for a few years. Ever since coming to Seattle he had held on to only one job. Although, his job was on the shop-floor level his earnings were comfortable. The basic Indian frugality comes in handy!

#### **Full House:**

It was getting dark when we reached the *Gurdwara*. The big 62" TV had already been installed in the *Diwan* Hall. Due to the advance publicity, a many had gathered to watch the documentary. There were almost 500 people in the Hall. After the show was over we received the usual compliments. **What made us really happy was that so many people had collected, even in a place like Seattle. Through this documentary they'd renewed their bonds with their faith and with their motherland. That was our very aim in making the documentary.** They invited us over again on Sunday morning, to accept *Saropas* for the *seva* that we had performed, in presence of the full *sangat*. Punnu, the President promised to pick us up once again.

Sandhu invited us to his house for dinner that Saturday evening. He had also invited two of the visiting *Raagis*. He came to fetch us. Mrs Sandhu served an elaborate Punjabi meal, with *Sarson-ka-saag*.

The Sandhus have four daughters and a son. All four daughters were married in Seattle itself. Paul their son, married earlier that year. His wife was from India. Paul worked for a software company. Sandhu being retired devotes all his time to religious affairs, mainly in Renton *Gurdwara*: and in arranging *Raagi Jathas* from India.

Sandhu had started his life in a humble way, as a day labourer. Slowly, he rose in life. Thereafter, he got married. After marriage his luck changed. His father-in-law, who had settled in America for a long time helped him. Sandhu opened a hardware shop, which prospered. Buying a Motel, in partnership with a friend, was another big leap forward. When success becomes a way of life, one takes risks. Ultimately, Sandhu controlled four Motels, one of them as 'Howard Johnson' franchisee. All

Motels were in the same geographical area, in and around Seattle. And then, while he was still at the top, he decided to cash-in and get out.

When we visited him earlier towards the end of year 2000, the market for Motels was still good. But Sandhu had no regrets of having gotten out. With his son Paul more inclined towards taking up a job, Sandhu had to get out. He did just that! Perhaps the call of religion was also very strong. So, all in all, by cashing-out in good time, Sandhu was enjoying his retirement, while he was still in good health and had some more fruitful years for himself, and for *Waheguru*.

It had been some years that we, in India, had started reading about the overwhelming presence of Patels, Gujratis from India, in Motel trade. It was a measure of their success that the Americans had jokingly started the Motels as Potels, i.e. the Motels owned and run by Patels. Indian owned a sizeable chunk of Motels, especially in lower grade properties. The success of our compatriots warmed the cockles of our hearts.

### **A School for New Generation:**

Renton *Gurdwara* had recently decided to start a *Khalsa* School, mainly for Sikh children. We had earlier seen the *Khalsa* School in nearby Surrey in Canada, and were very impressed with it. The Seattle *Sangat* wanted to repeat the experiment of Surrey. To collect funds for the school they had mounted a collection drive. Although, Sandhu was no longer a part of the Renton *Gurdwara* management, still he was a very active collaborator in the fund-raising drive for the school, since he considered it to be a noble cause.

Renton *Gurdwara* had already acquired the neighbouring plot of land. Soon they would start constructing the school building. The main purpose of *Khalsa* Schools is to promote the knowledge of Sikhism and the Sikh/Indian way of life, among the local Sikh children. It was felt that the Sikh children were not being devoted enough time by their parents, since in most families both the husband and wife go to work. Therefore, it was decided that the *Gurdwaras* must take the lead in keeping the children on the right path, and to inculcate in them the correct religious and moral values; hence the *Khalsa* Schools. Remarkably, the *Sangat* fully reflected this mood of realism and was open hearted with its contribution. The collection for the school was being solicited from far and near. It was one such person, seeking to collect funds that we had earlier met in Abbotsford also.

On Sunday morning Jarnail Singh Punnu, the president of Kent *Gurdwara* came to our Motel to fetch us. Since Asha was to go to the Kent *Gurdwara* I alone went to the Renton *Gurdwara*. Punnu was driving. There were only the two of us in his car. The previous evening after the documentary-show, he had been all praises; and had insisted that on Sunday morning we accept the *Saropa*, in presence of the entire *Sangat*. In such matters one invariably thrives on words of praises and upon such tokens of appreciation. So we had agreed. But this morning there was a subtle change in Punnu's demeanour. Soon he came out with it.

"Some people are unhappy that you have purposely not shown the destruction of the *Akal Takht* in greater detail," he said in a tone of mild complaint. "They attribute it to your being Hindu." I had heard this complaint even earlier, but more obliquely. At some other places, too, some hardliner-members had not appreciated a Hindu couple making and showing such a politically neutral documentary. From their point

of view if we had shown the destruction of *Akal Takht* or the “Operation Blue Star” in greater details it could’ve been of use to further fan the fires of separatism. The Renton *Gurdwara* generally adopted a more hard line in such matters, the presence of the large portrait of Bhindranwale as a counterpoise to Guru Nanak’s portrait outside the Diwan hall was a clear indication.

### **Pain & Pleasure:**

Normally, by then, my wife and I had learnt to take all such criticisms in our stride. After all, such detractors were in hopeless minority. By and large, the *Sangat* had appreciated our efforts and showered their blessings upon us. We were more than content, indeed very happy at the overall reception. But that day, with Punnu, I felt that I must rebut, something I had never done earlier.

“I want you to know that we did our filming in 1998,” I gently explained to Punnu. “By that time the *Akal Takht* had already been rebuilt. Still, in the running commentary we have explicitly mentioned that the *Akal Takht* building was badly damaged in ‘Operation Blue Star’ in 1984.”

He nodded his head quietly, and said, “But you might have added that the government had killed *Sant Jarnail Singh Ji* during the ‘Operation Blue Star,’ he added. He was obviously very unhappy at the memory of the *Sant Ji*’s death.

“Punnu *Ji*,” I addressed him in an effort to explain our point of view in greater detail, “did you note the title of our documentary, it is *Sri Harmandir Sahib—A Pilgrimage*? Our sole purpose was to show the *Sangats* of various *Gurdwaras* in America all that they would see in person when they make a visit to Sri Harmandir Sahib. The basic theme is religion and faith, and not politics. Now tell me when you go to Sri Harmandir Sahib now, will you go to bathe in the *Sarovar*, eat the *Langar*, pay obeisance to Sri Guru *Granth Sahib* and listen to the *Kirtan*, or would you go out looking for the damage to the structure of *Akal Takht*? None of that damage is visible today. Please, think about it coolly.”

While I looked at his face carefully he mulled over my outpouring for a moment. Then he laughed. “You are right,” he said. “It was a great effort on your part. Very few people could have shown all that you had shown. As it is, while seeing the documentary I felt as if I was sitting inside the *Sri Harmandir Sahib*. However, some people will keep making all these meaningless comments. Please do not mind. We really appreciate your efforts.”

“Our purpose was to show *Sri Harmandir Sahib* to the *Sangats* of American *Gurdwaras* in all its glory,” I said. “By and large, we have been treated very well. We are so happy that we made this film and brought it to America, and earned goodwill of the *Sangat*. It is enough to last our lifetime.”

“That’s why we want to present the *Saropa* to you,” he said happily.

The legacy of ‘Operation Blue Star’ was always staring at us. At many places, before the actual show, despite knowing that the documentary was about Golden Temple, some people would come to us and ask, “Is it about the 1984 *Gallughara*?”

Very calmly we had to say, “No, it is about the pilgrimage to the Golden Temple. We’ve shown all the ceremonies there that take place during 24 hours, like you would see, as if you were there in person.”

By and large the reply satisfied them. Of course, once someone watched the movie, he would forget the *Gallughara*, and invariably come back, to thank us for the favour done to the cause of the *Panth*.

On Sunday morning the Renton *Gurdwara* honoured us with *Saropas*. It was done before a full house. It was so gratifying to see our hard work duly appreciated collectively by the large *Sangat*. Of course, individually many of them had verbally conveyed the same sentiments to us earlier.

After partaking *Langar* at the Renton *Gurdwara* we were picked up by Sandhu at 3 PM, for some sight seeing. There were six of us, Sandhu, Ashaji, three Granthis and myself. Sandhu took us to see some Waterfalls, which are the local attraction. The local people compare them to the beauty of Niagara Falls. Situated some 50 miles outside the city they're a big tourist attraction.

By the time we returned to the motel I was very tired. Sandhu invited us to visit the local Boeing factory on Monday, but we decided to take the city tour instead. Seattle is a beautiful city!

It was a five-hour city tour, in a mini bus, starting from downtown. The mini-bus had eight tourists, including us. The driver also doubled as the guide. He drove to various vantage points to give us a good idea of the town's layout. What surprised us the most was that at a lesser public Square, they had a big statue of Lenin. That must have been the only one of its kind, in any public square in the US.

### **Gold Rush:**

There was a Museum dedicated to the Klondike gold rush, which took place towards the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. While the gold was found in Canada, across the border, it was Seattle's economy that had gained the most from it. This was both the embarkation point for the gold prospectors, as well as the supply centre for mining gear and food. Most of the thousands of prospectors came to a sorry end. The few, who struck it rich, also lost their fortunes eventually. But those who supplied the prospectors' needs and equipment made the most amount of money. With the result, from an obscure sleepy town Seattle became a thriving city. Even before Los Angeles and San Francisco, it was America's gateway on the west coast of the US. At one time it had the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest skyscraper in USA after Manhattan, New York. The Gold Rush Museum brings out vividly the whole story of those turbulent days. There are photographs and other relics of those days. There is so much to see that one cannot do justice to this museum during a short halt of the city tour.

Very near to this museum there is another milestone, the building where United Parcel Service (UPS) was born. Today's worldwide courier giant UPS had a humble beginning in that building. Not only UPS, even Starbuck Coffee also originated in Seattle. Those were the old success stories. Boeing and Microsoft are the current success stories. There is something in Seattle, which breeds the spirit of entrepreneurship

### **The amazing Salmon:**

We were then taken to see the migratory route of Salmon fish, which is through a Lock on the Sound that forms part of the present Seattle harbour. Salmon fish has a peculiarity. Though the fish may swim many a sea, but when the time comes to lay eggs, a Salmon must go back to the place where it was originally hatched. Salmon

fish is known to have swum hundreds of miles to go back to its hatchery, to lay its eggs. Some miracle of nature! One such spawning ground is located inside the state of Washington. Since Seattle is located on an inlet of the Pacific Ocean, the fish used to swim from the Pacific all the way up the inlet (called Sound) for spawning. For centuries it continued like that.

Earlier, in the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, in order to improve the port capacity, a dam was built on the Sound, and Locks were built to allow larger vessels to come in and go out of the Seattle port. This had interfered with the annual migration cycle of Salmon. The locks cut off the access of Salmons to the old hatcheries. In order to help the annual migration of Salmon a stepped channel was built, to bypass the dam and the Lock. As a result Salmon use that channel to swim to their spawning ground. There is an underground observation gallery from which one can see the migration of fish through plate glass windows. When we visited the place it was not the peak migration season. Still, we could see some stray batches of fish swimming upstream to the spawning ground. It is amazing to see the fish jump up the steps of the channels. We were told that in the peak season the stream is thick with fish.

That annual migration of salmon, back to their original spawning waters, strangely reminded me of the Indians who are settled in these distant shores, both in America and Canada. **Very much like the salmon they all, regardless of the region they belong to in India, think of India and of their own region in India, when they or their children are of marriageable age. They all want to find a suitable match only from India. There is something primeval in this urge.** Maybe, after a few decades, after a few generations, when the newer generations become more Americanised, a thought which puts a shudder in the minds of the present day Indian parents, those generations will start thinking differently. Perhaps by then the parents may not be the deciding factor. The marrying couples will decide for themselves.

At 2.00 P.M. we were dropped off near the Space Needle, the famous emblem of Seattle. We had lunch in the nearby Produce market. Later, we purchased our ferry ticket for going back to Canada.

#### **Farewell:**

It was our last evening with Sandhu. He and his family had been very kind to us. He had put us up in a motel, given us home-cooked food everyday, and seen to it that the *Gurdwaras*, Kent and Renton had properly appreciated our efforts in making the documentary on the Golden Temple and in travelling to and around the US to show it in the various *Gurdwaras*. Sandhu is a very rare type of genuine person, with whom one would like to maintain a life long friendship.

We had taken a bus from Vancouver to Seattle, and earlier had plans to do the same on our return trip. But in the lobby of 'Mini Rate' motel we found that there was a daily ferry trip from Seattle to Victoria harbour, the capital of British Columbia, Canada. Victoria is very near Vancouver. Earlier, when we were in Vancouver we had heard so much about Victoria as a superb tourist destination, but had been able to visit it due to our tight schedule. Now, we decided to make good that omission. So after Seattle it was going to be Victoria.

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[Concluded]

## The Many Splendoured Sikhs of Canada

**TARLOCHAN SINGH, MP\***

*\* Chairman, National Commission for Minorities, Lok Nayak Bhavan, Khan Market, New Delhi.  
Email: chairmanncm@ncm.delhi.nic.in*

THE INAUGURAL AIR INDIA FLIGHT from Amritsar to Birmingham and Toronto provided me an opportunity to visit Toronto, an important city of Canada. I have been trying for last many years that Air India should introduce flights from Amritsar. I could succeed when I became member of the Parliamentary Advisory Committee of Civil Aviation Ministry. I am hopeful that more destinations would be covered from Amritsar. This flight has proved a boon for the Sikhs settled in UK and Canada.

More than half a million Sikhs are settled in Canada, concentrated in Vancouver and Toronto cities and adjoining areas. The Sikhs have made tremendous progress in economic field and with their efforts have earned goodwill with the white Canadian population. There are 8 Sikh Members of Parliament and the Canadian Federal Government is having a Sikh Cabinet Minister for the last five years. Many Canadian governments have Sikh Ministers and several elected members of the Legislative Assembly.

Sr. Gubax Singh Malhi is four times Member of Parliament from a suburb of Toronto and he has been organising the Baisakhi day in the Parliament complex. Another Sikh, a young person, Mr. Mandeep Singh Bains wearing the Kirpan has been elected Member of Parliament from Toronto. Many Sikhs are occupying Government posts and are on high positions in the private companies. A Sikh, Mr. Sekhon is Captain of the Canada Basketball team. In addition to agriculture, the Sikhs are now in business and everywhere you see the Sikh run restaurants, shops and other business houses. Famous wrestler, Tiger Jeet Singh is living in a 10-acre farmhouse. Quite a good number of Sikhs are also having farm houses. I attended a reception at the palatial house of S. Sukhwinder Singh Sandhu. At a function of S. Gurjeet Singh Chadha, President of the World Punjabi Organisation, Canada Chapter, I could meet the leading Sikh businessmen. One Sikh recently donated half a million dollars for making of a ward in the name of Shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji in the Government hospital. The Sikhs have the incorrigible habit of having fights and rivalry while electing the Gurdwara Management Boards. There are many Gurdwaras. I was fascinated to see a hugh Sikh Book Shop run by the Nishkam Sewak Jatha.

On the basis of my meetings with various Sikh organisations, I found that Sr. Hari Nam Singh Khalsa is the most popular Sikh in Toronto. He is always requested to settle disputes arising in Gurdwara committees or in any other Sikh organisation and he is the one who blesses the newly-wed couples. S. Hari Nam Singh Khalsa, born as a Jew in Toronto, turned to the Sikh way of life through the efforts of Yogi Bhajan. He is free from group politics and is running a yoga centre and a Sikh academy for the help of Sikh students. He produces a weekly half-hour programme '**Insight into Sikhism**' for a TV channel, which is telecast every Saturday. This popular programme is providing much-needed information about Sikhism to the Canadian people. S. Hari Nam Singh Khalsa is also engaged in Punjabi teaching classes. He

is the one who addresses all religious congregations of the Sikhs and is heard in rapt attention. A tall, handsome, white Sikh, he is fully devoting his time and talent towards preaching of Sikh thoughts.

