

It was bitterly cold in Mafeking and they had no wood, making do with some bits of an old peach tree that they cut down. However we were very comfortable.

It was most interesting being back in Mafeking where I had spent a lot of my younger days. We visited the various fortifications, Game Tree, Cannon Kopie from where the Boers fired their big guns the firing of which was signaled from the look out tower on the top of Dixons Hotel by the sounding of a bell. Then everyone took cover.

The local Blacksmith, Gerrans, built a cannon out of pipes. This did not have much of a range and the shell was a round ball which bounced and did a certain amount of damage to walls etc. but did not explode. The country round Mafeking is very open and nearly treeless so that wood had to be obtained from some distance.

My brother threw a cocktail party for us to meet some of my old Mafeking friends and quite a crowd turned up as they knew that whisky would be in good supply. The reason being, as Gerald told me, that the Resident Commissioner of the Protectorate was allowed quite a good quota of whisky free of excise duty which meant that it cost him about 5/- a bottle. Gerald was allowed from this a few cases and so always had whisky for his parties. When we left he gave me two bottles which I was pleased to get.

We eventually arrived back in East London and were able to return to our house which the Stidolfs had vacated. Being an ex service person I had no difficulty in getting a telephone which at that time were rather scarce.

And so back to work as Chief Accountant but shortly afterwards was promoted Chief Clerk, later altered to Assistant Agent and then Assistant Manager. The Company thinking that the term Manager sounded better than Agent.

This I find rather interesting being a Union Castle Official, in mentioning the officers of the Buffalo Rifles, the parent corps of The Kaffrarian Rifles, the Officer of A Company was Captain Tom Nettelton - local Agent for the Curry Company. That was the Donald Curry of the Union Line which became the Union-Castle Company.

Not having children we decided to adopt a boy and girl and made the necessary applications and enquiries but were told we should have to wait some time which we were prepared to do.

What made Lorna more keen was that later in the year she went to Krugersdorp to be with her sister Edy Kirschmann who was expecting a child.

While there she attended a sale of Teak furniture and got rather carried away, for she bought rather more than the £100 she had taken with her. She therefor contacted the Union-Castle Company in Johannesburg to advance her £200 which they did after contacting me. Well, she eventually returned and so the furniture arrived a few days later, which has been a great joy to her and myself. I must say this teak furniture looked very nice and looked good in the house. Lorna admitted that she was a bit worried at first at the amount she had spent and in the train on the way back tried to work out how she could sell one or two pieces. However, everything turned out for the best. Our house at 27 St. Andrews was well-planned. There was a small verandah from which a door led into a porch or entrance hall and then a long passage off which on the one side were a large bedroom, a smaller bedroom and a dining room. On the other side were the front lounge which had a door onto the verandah - next another large bedroom and at the end of the passage a large kitchen, pantry and scullery and off the back verandah the toilet which was unfortunately outside. In the large yard were two servants rooms and garage of wood and iron. The house itself was brick under an asbestos roof. Later Lorna's mother very kindly gave both Edy and her a nice sum of money and so in view of having the two children we decided to do some additions to the house. This was a few years later probably about 1948. These additions I will mention later as I think it was when Mark was able to get about and pretend he was helping the boys.

It was early in 1946 that my Mother came to stay with us for some little while until she went to stay with Gerald in Serowe. However, by this time she had received her portion of the money left by Uncle Frank Enraght Mooney to be divided among his five brothers and sisters.