

1974/24

We had a very nice back garden with lawn and two fine big shady Kaffir Boom Trees and here Mark would be put in his pram at first and later we had a play pen for him. Before he could walk he used to stand in this holding the sides and walking round and later he used to push the play pen round.

Mother, after a while returned to Serowe to stay with Madge and Gerald. She liked to go from one child to another and as I have mentioned she now had a bit of money from Uncle Fred and felt she was independent.

Madge had a hut built just off their front verandah and here Mother was very comfortable indeed.

We had a very good coloured girl, Caroline, for Mark and we used often to go out into the veld for tea or down to the beach where later he and I used to potter about in the little pools fishing for tiny fish with a pin hook. He loved this and really thought he was a good fisherman.

Once a year I had to motor round visiting some of our Inland Agents. The first time I took Lorna, Mark and Caroline to Kelskama Hoek where I left them for the ten days I would be away. I had to travel to Molteno Eurghersdorp, Allwal North, Queenstown, Dordrecht and Indwe and back to the Hoek. On my return there we spent a few more days driving about to various spots for morning and afternoon tea.

It was in 1948 that there was a Medical Congress in East London and among the doctors was Dr. Pratt Johnson whose wife was a great worker for the Elizabeth Home in Johannesburg. She came to the house and there saw Mark running around, happy as a school boy. Lorna took the opportunity of asking Mrs Pratt Johnson, who took a great deal of interest in the Home in Johannesburg, what the chances were of another child. But Mrs Pratt Johnson said "We have noted your request but I am afraid you will have a long wait". She spent quite a long time with Lorna and was shown round the house and grounds.

However, the lady must have been quite impressed with Mark and his home for the following week we had a phone call from Mrs Pratt Johnson to say that there was a lovely little girl and were we interested. Without hesitation Lorna told her she would be arriving by air the next day.

We were able to get an air booking for the next day and Lorna was met in Johannesburg by Fred Bleazby who took her to their boarding house. Within three days she was back and I met her at the East London drome. In a basket she had a beautiful baby girl with long eye-lashes. She just gave me one look and gave a yelp wondering who this person was. We were however, to become great friends. Yes now we had two adorable children who have always been a real joy to us and both have turned out, as I have already mentioned, very fine children and now they are adults and parents.

As we now had the two children we decided to do some building operations. First we had a servant's room built with toilet attached and then took in part of the back verandah to extend from the bathroom a short passage at the end of which was a small bedroom which opened into our large bedroom and off the passage an ironing room and toilet. This did away with the outside toilet. Now we had a nice compact house. Lorna and I had our room off which there was the small room mentioned for Annaliese and Mark the other bedroom and the front room for Mother.

Lorna decided to combine two names, those of her Gran and Aunt and hence the name Annaliese with which she was christened. Talking of christening, when she had to be christened it was raining heavily and so the padre very kindly offered to come to the house and do the christening there. The Revd Copland, a very fine man who later, after trial, returned to England.

Well we now settled down to family life enjoying every minute.

Mark and Annaliese have always got on very well together and she has always looked to him for help when in trouble.