

When they were at the Little Folks School on our first trip with them to England she was only just over two, Mark was her Guardian. There is nothing of interest to write about during the next few years but as I was now due for a trip overseas I applied to go in 1950, as late as possible in the off season, as that is the time we were allowed to travel and not during the busy season. This would be late February or early March.

My application for a free return passage for myself, my wife Lorna, the two children, a white nurse and a motor car was duly granted. We were thrilled to be having the children with us. Most people are inclined to leave the children at home with some relative. Now we had to look around for a suitable young lady to travel with us and look after the children at times. The first one was keen for about a week but then became engaged and cried off. Lorna's sister Edy suggested we get a young lady of whom she had heard in Johannesburg. Her name was Mien de Wet, a Hollander dressmaker who was keen to go over and see her parents in Holland and this would be a good opportunity. We offered her the opportunity and she was thrilled as she said she would never save enough passage money to go over to see her parents. She would travel with us as a first class passenger but on arrival in England she could immediately go to Holland and join us again for the return trip some eleven weeks later. Min duly arrived and as Lorna was busy altering dresses etc. she said that was her job and did all that was necessary being a dress maker but would accept no payment. "You have given me enough already", she said "A first class passage to England and back-fer-what more could I wish".for?"

We wrote to a friend in England regarding a childrens school to which we could send the children while we toured about. The Little Folks School near Aldershot was recommended and so we duly made the necessary arrangements.

Having got all our passports and tickets etc. we duly embarked for England and a most enjoyable holiday. I had to get an insurance cover that I would bring the big deSoto car back and not sell it overseas as there was an embargo on these big cars in England. Our ship was the Capetown Castle in which Lorna and I had a two berth porthole cabin with bath and toilet and Min and the children had an adjacent three berth porthole cabin so we were very comfortable. Min took her breakfast and lunch with the children and in the evening she saw them fed and bathed and off to bed. She then joined us in the lounge and then dinner. She was thus very comfortable and did, I think, appreciate having dinner with us and being thus able to dress for the meal like every other first class passenger.

We had a most delightful ~~trip~~ trip over and all, including the children thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. They often went to the fine childrens play room where there was a sister in charge and they took part in the sports each winning a prize. They grew very fond of Min and she of them, too.

We eventually arrived in England after a most delightful voyage. The children had a wonderful time and had quite a number of other children to play with. Sailors always, that is the older ones, and not the present long haired ones, take a great deal of interest in children aboard probably reminding them of their own at home. The children both looked very well and were indeed putting on weight. There is certainly nothing like a sea voyage for real relaxation and rest. A real holiday and it will be a sad day when the sea passenger service is curtailed due to the great demand for air travel. By flying one misses all this and the wonderful food and service that is provided. Air for speed but give me sea for real rest comfort and relaxation. No I am not a Travel Agent.

We eventually arrived at Southampton in the early morning of the 12th March and to quote Lorna's diary "Here we are in England, no longer