

a few minutes walk away. She used to bring home holy water which she kept in her cupboard and the children with great glee showed us the bottles. She was however very good with the children and they had lots of fun with her. She used to take them about a lot and if going to the beach she thought nothing of stopping a car, if the bus was late in arriving, and sayin "Going to the beach?" and it is surprising how often she managed to get lifts. She remained with us for quite a long time.

As Assistant Manager of the Union Castle Company I had many duties to perform apart from office management and visiting Inland Agents, There was the meeting of ships and seeing them off and here I got to know all the Captains and officers and many interesting passengers. There was also a lot of entertaining to do but this was not difficult as when arranging to entertain shippers etc to lunch I advised the ship and all arrangements would be made. These parties were most popular and very often included the wives, but at times Lorna and I would decide to just have a little private luncheon party. They cost us nothing as the ship supplied the food, drinks etc and occasionally a small gift of cigarettes and tobacco, English, which were very popular.

The trouble with some, was wool shippers for instance, was that they arrived on board shortly after twelve and had snacks and drinks and then after a good lunch they sat in the smoke room enjoying their cigars and liquors until after three. Some of our guests were not slow backward in asking for cigarettes or tobacco. One chap, I remember, whenever he attended a luncheon party, would as soon as he got aboard ask for two tins of Three Kings Tobacco. On another occasion there were some very fine avocado pears on the table and he came out of the saloon with a pocket full. What nerve some people have, and most of these were big business men.

Occasionally I would ask a Captain and another officer to lunch at home and would phone Lorna. I remember once she said 'But we only have a couple of chops but would do her best. It was then that our Bertie Botha would say 'Madam do'nt worry we will have a good lunch' and by jove she used to manage all sorts of dishes. Lorna was kept busy helping Mom at the hotel and I carried on with my normal duties.

The children were both attending school and doing very well. However I will not weary you with our daily details of our daily activities.

I was entitled to an overseas trip every four years and Mr Gibb, the manager every three years, whenever he returned from an overseas trip, during which I had been acting manager, the Company very generously gave a bonus cheque for £100 and on the last occasion it was £150.

The year 1953 came and passed and then came 1954 which for me was to be an unfortunate year. I had been feeling off colour for some time with tummy pains and it was in March of that year, just before Mr Gibb returned from overseas leave, that I woke in the early hours of the morning with a terrible feeling of nausea. I jumped out of bed grabbed the potty and started bringing up what seemed like gallons of blood and called out to Lorna saying, I remember, 'Lorn I have had it'. She phoned our doctor Butt and I must say he was there in no time and gave me an injection to stop the internal bleeding. But as the bleeding started again two days later I was taken to the hospital at about five in the morning and later Drs Butt and Watt spoke to me and said they had decided to operate an hour later. After three weeks I was up and about again but told to take things quietly. As Mr Gibb had returned it was decided that I go to Cape Town for a short break. As Gibb was away, on overseas leave, my condition had to be reported daily to Cape Town and during the time the three heads

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of departments
were appointed by
Cape Town to act
as a guiding party
until his return.
As Mrs Pailotte/