

elephants but the day our tenant moved in he came down to Mom's flat where we were staying until Lorna left, with the two elephants. He asked us to keep them as an ebony one with its trunk down, as one was, always brought him bad luck. I think he was a bit of a gambler. We got pamphlets of various schools in England and finally decided on a private one called High Trees between Ryegate and Horley and the Principal was a Mr. Nosworthy. So it was at High Trees that we booked them in and here they were to spend a term and a half. The school was one of those fine old country houses with a cottage or two and outbuildings and lots of ground. It was right out in the country in a fine setting of meadows and woods. The children were here to thoroughly enjoy their schooling in England.

The next thing was to book accommodation for Lorna in London for the few days the children would be with her before going to school. We made a bad choice, 7 Weatherby Gardens which was well advertised for later friends told us that 15 Weatherby Gardens was the one usually patronised by South Africans.

It was at this time that Mom was trying to sell Weavers Hotel and was approached by a little Jew named Moss who wanted to buy privately and not through an Agent. Well eventually the sale went through and he paid a certain amount down. He wanted to take over in December the object being I think to get in the Christmas holiday season to make money. He wanted none of the old staff as he said he was going to employ his own staff.

I was in the kitchen with Mom at about eight after dinner on the night he was to take over and I can still see him and his wife and an old coloured man standing outside the kitchen waiting to move in. Well he eventually moved in and tried to run the hotel on the cheapest lines, the cheapest meats vegetables etc.

I do not think he ever meant to stay there long, all he wanted was the Christmas season when all hotels are booked to capacity at the season rates.

He eventually decided to get out at the end of February and Mom to take over again he having lowered the reputation of the Hotel. This Mom had to set to and build up again, but knowing she was back people began to patronise the hotel once more. Well Moss thought he would reap the full holiday money but he reckoned without Mom for she got her fair share. As Moss had not fulfilled his contract we had thought of taking it to the court in Grahamstown but were advised by when taking legal advice that it would be throwing good money after bad. and so he got away with it, but later was divorced and I think lost everything.

I was to stay at the Ocean View Hotel while Lorna was away until I sailed in the Winehester-Geatle Warwick Castle in May. 1956

Well I heard from Lorna saying they had arrived safely but found 7 Weatherby anything but comfortable and she was glad to get away after seeing the children to school where they were settling down. Lorna wanted to be near her Aunt Edith at Salford Prior where Mary having died, she was living in a small flat next to the church. Lorna got accommodation at a small wayside boarding house at Norton Grange quite near Salford, and although she had no car the bus service between Stratford and Evesham was very good. The children had settled down at their school and seemed to be very happy and Lorna was able to visit them a couple of times during the term.

I got away in the Warwick Castle, a fine old ship which, though smaller than the other mails I preferred to them all. When I went aboard I told the chief Steward that I was not travelling as a V.I.P and would like to sit on my own as there was plenty of room there being only about 100 passengers. Well he came to me later and said 'I am sorry but the Captain, who was my friend Hort, has instructed me to put you at his table.' Anyway I enjoyed the company he had and thoroughly enjoyed the trip. Hort had told me I could have the run of the ship and so whenever...

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run of the ship
and go wherever
I liked and I
was therefore
able to go up on
the bridge
occasionally.
After an
uneventful
voyage we
arrived at
Southampton
where as usual/