

fellow's mother and eventually married her although she must have been at least twice his age. She had money and, knowing Charlie, that is what he fell for as he was always hard up and a great gambler.

Mind you he was a very likeable chap, good looking. He looked the real gentleman - a very good mixer and first class golfer. I had many a game with him on the Beira Course which was a first class one. The only trouble was that one had to have two caddies - one for your clubs and a fore caddy as in the fairways and the rough too there were many crab holes and the fore caddy's job was to spot your ball should it go into one of these holes. Then again there were the crows who liked to pick up a golf ball and fly off, why I don't know. Probably thought it was something to eat. Sometimes the old crab got annoyed and pushed the ball out otherwise your caddy retrieved it.

I soon settled down to the new life of going to the office at seven in the morning and back home at eleven and then after the midday meal back at three 'til five. To get backwards and forward we had trolleys which were pushed by your own personal boys along a narrow gauge line.

Our single men quarters were in a large wood and iron building having eight bedrooms and a lounge. There was not a single window in the building which stood on pillars about six feet off the ground. From each room there was a double glass paneled door leading onto an all round verandah enclosed with mosquito gauze. From each room there was also a door into the central passage. There was a kitchen and store room and in the yard a large underground tank from which we drew our rain water on which we depended.

The married men each had a flat in a block of four flats. The office was part of the Standard Bank building. We single men ran our own mess with a cook, his assistant, two waiters, bedroom boys, garden boy and three wash boys. In addition there were the trolley boys which meant at least another ten boys. With this big staff our messing cost us on an average £10 per month each. Mind there was no rent.

It is strange how the rise of tide varies in different parts of the world. Here the tide rises as much as eighteen feet and as the town of Beira is partly below sea level there is a wall on the sea side to keep the water back. At low tide our building was at least two hundred yards from the water but at high tide the sea came right up to our back fence. The Cheveve Vreek runs through part of the town and the golf course and as the grass on the course is sea grass the sluice gates are opened occasionally to water the fairways and greens, which are just a lush green.

Apart from golf for sport: there was tennis; there were two British cricket clubs, the Railway and Beira Sports Club; and two soccer teams in addition to the Portuguese teams. The Portuguese did not play cricket. The Portuguese teams were the Royalists and the Republicans and they were terribly temperamental. On one occasion there was a dispute about a line ball and the opposition team just sat down. There were several other happenings until the Governor threatened to stop their sport if they could not act like a lot of children.

We used to look forward to our weekend sport for we played Saturday and Sunday afternoons.

The town has grown and the port has been brought up to date with quays etc. The wils bush and sand we used to walk through on an afternoon out to the Makusi Light House has today all been built up.

The Company had a fine launch which was under the supervision of Charles Saunders and this we were able to use to do some fishing in the bay or go for a picnic up the Busy River along the banks of which there were any number of sugar plantations. Apart from sugar and copper from Rhodesia and their tobacco there were other commodities collected by coasters from the smaller ports in the territory. The Company had two: the Ipu and the Incomati. These two would travel to ports and collect merchandise which was transferred to the larger steamers in the bay. Today, of course, there should be no Rhodesian tobacco on account of the