

### *Into the Valley of Fortitude*

June 4th Mass naturalisation ceremony of 600 people at Brisbane City Hall.

June 5th Festival of Nations Ball.

June 6th Migrant reunion picnic in the Botanic Gardens.

In addition, John Morgan was Chairman of a committee whereby a migrant ship known as the Queensland Centenary Ship would be brought to Queensland. It was...hoped...a full complement of British migrants to Queensland might be possible but...the committee were limited to...500 souls. These migrants would not have been able to come to this country had it not been for the sponsorship of Rotary and many kindred organisations.

The Orient Line agreed...the S.S. "Orion" dock in Brisbane...permitted us to designate this vessel for the voyage the "Queensland Centenary Vessel".

The Centenary Vessel "Orion" arrives in Brisbane on 27th August. Families will be welcomed by His Excellency the Governor of Queensland in the presence of the Premier, Mr Nicklin, the Federal Minister for Immigration, Mr Heading, the Lord Mayor of Brisbane and dignitaries.

In all these activities...our Club is taking an active part.

### **The rotary ship sails to Australia**

In Australia, a nation of nearly 10,000,000 people, the national programme to build up the population by large-scale immigration is everybody's business. Rotarians, in supporting the Government's "Bring Out a Briton" campaign, have just made an historic contribution to the immigration drive.

Their imagination and energy in carrying through their "Rotary Ship" Project has paid Australia a handsome dividend - 56 families already settled and another 40 ready to sail from the British Isles.

The 56 families and six single persons totalled 215 people.

They sailed for Australia in the Orient liner "Orsova" on March 26, arriving in her first Australian port, Fremantle, on April 18th.

"Orsova" was known as "The Rotary Ship" for the voyage.

The Rotary-sponsored party made up one third of the ship's 627 assisted British migrants.

Adult assisted migrants pay only A12 - 10 pounds for their passages. The British Government pays about A7 - 10 pounds, and the Australian Government pays the balance - about 140 pounds.

The Rotary Ship project originated in the Fortitude Valley Club of Brisbane, Queensland.

As the result of a suggestion by Secretary John Morgan to International Service Committee, Chairman Tom Bryce, the Club sponsored a British migrant carpenter, Richard Coker and his family.

The Club found the Cokers a house and a job for Mr Coker.

They stocked the house with groceries for a week, introduced Mr Coker to new friends.

That was at the beginning of 1957.

When John Morgan and Tom Bryce saw how successfully their club had "launched" the Cokers on their new life in Australia, they began planning a migrant sponsoring project aimed at having Australian Rotary Clubs bring out 100 British families.

First move was to form a "Rotary Ship" committee, with Tom Bryce as Chairman and John Morgan as Secretary.

The committee tackled the job with enthusiasm and soon the project was under way.