

*Into the Valley of Fortitude*

Those who were travelling to later ports were taken out on sightseeing tours and entertained in Rotarian's homes.

This hospitality had to be highly organised because "Orsova" had but a few hours in each coastal port.

Rotarians assembled fleets of up to 50 cars at Fremantle, Adelaide, Melbourne and Sydney to take the migrants out.

As "Orsova" made first landfall at Fremantle, the migrants saw a huge 40 ft. by 6 ft banner on the wharf.

Bearing a Rotary badge at one end, the banner proclaimed "Rotary welcomes you to Australia".

The 40' x 6' banner was air-transported ahead of the ship and was there to welcome the migrants at Melbourne and also at Sydney.

President Russell Manning of the Fremantle Club, Chairman of the Rotary Ship welcome in Fremantle said:

"I hope nobody thought we were welcoming only those migrants sponsored by Rotary Clubs".

After "Orsova" tied up, the Rotary-sponsored families were greeted by music from the military band of Western Command, Australian Regular Army.

Drawn up on the Wharf, the band delighted the new settlers by playing Australia's very own "Waltzing Matilda".

Then the Governor of Western Australia, Sir Charles Gardnair, arrived and boarded the ship to give an address of welcome. (Afterwards Tom Bryce was given the honour of welcoming the migrants on behalf of Rotary in Australia.)

Returning to the Ship in the afternoon, the migrants were overwhelmed by their welcome and the generosity of their host Rotarians.

"We didn't expect anything like it," they said.

At Adelaide the people were again taken out and entertained. They were all disappointed that the stay was not longer than four hours.

The highlight of the welcome came when "Orsova" sailed into Port Phillip Bay, approaching Melbourne.

As the big liner slackened speed, a launch came alongside.

From it came the Australian Minister for Immigration (Mr A.R. Downer), the Victorian State Minister for Immigration (Mr Petty) and Les Taylor, Governor of Rotary District 280.

With the Rotary-sponsored party again assembled, these men gave short addresses of welcome.

Governor Les handed each migrant family a souvenir envelope containing postcard views of Melbourne and Australian birds, animals and wildflowers, to send back home.

After that it was the turn of the Press reporters, photographers and T.V. cameramen, who gave the migrants something akin to V.I.P. treatment.

Mr Downer told the new settlers:

"I am absolutely delighted to see you".