

# VOYAGE JOTTINGS

HECTOR HERON

(Captain S. K. Williams)

As *Hector Heron* headed in July towards Hong Kong from Yokkaichi, Captain Williams reported that his vessel was the first ship to occupy the berth at a new oil jetty which had all the latest fittings, including two Chicksan rigs. He was surprised to find the jetty not fitted with hydraulic fenders; instead, there were short lengths of robust cylindrical rubber fenders suspended by chains. Due to the jetty being designed and intended for super tankers, the dolphins were spaced a good distance apart, necessitating bending two hauling lines together for warping alongside.

Fresh water was delivered by lighter and communication with the shore was prohibited by way of the Installation property, all transportation being done by boats.



King—Allison

Mr. Paul King, Chef, *Reina Del Mar*, was married recently to Miss Maureen Allison, daughter of the manager of the Merchant Navy Hotel, London. The ceremony was performed at Christ Church, Lancaster Gate.

## B.E.M. Award

Congratulations to Miss Monica Greening, Head Stewardess, *Windsor Castle*, who was awarded the British Empire Medal in the New Year Honours List.

A most popular and efficient member of the sea staff, Miss Greening has been a Stewardess since she joined the Union-Castle Line in 1948. She was appointed Head Stewardess, *Edinburgh Castle*, in 1960 and transferred to the *Windsor Castle* on her Maiden Voyage. She also sailed on the Maiden Voyage of *Transvaal Castle*.



*Hector Heron* left the berth with two tugs in attendance. The pilot was using the channel for the first time and was exercising particular care and attention in preparation for his next assignment of bringing in a 60,000 ton tanker—there was very little allowance for such a ship.

A typhoon warning was in operation when Captain Williams arrived at Hong Kong in August; happily it passed well to the north, but sailing time coincided with rain, which reduced visibility to zero, and he had to grope his way out of the port.

Following calls at Mina-al-Ahmadi, Colombo and Calcutta, orders were received in September to load at Bandar Mashur for Kwinana, Western Australia, thereafter returning to the Persian Gulf to load for the Continent.

The usual route was taken down the Gulf in October. "Although ships still manage to get stranded," records Captain Williams, "navigation in the Gulf has been greatly facilitated by erecting lights on three islands since 1950, the oil rigs are also helpful where permanently placed, also the oil flares which can be sighted over great distances in fine clear weather such as we experienced." In view of the excellent weather conditions the crew was kept busily employed in painting

the ship overall and *Hector Heron* is "of smart appearance and will take her place among the *élite*."

## ARGYLLSHIRE

(Captain I. C. Scott)—Voy. 24

The vessel sailed from K.G.V Dock, London, on 19th August, having loaded for all ports from Cape Town/Beira via Las Palmas. She had approximately 4,878 tons d.w., with some 16 Hereford cattle on the after deck. Two days north of Cape Town one of the heifers produced a fine heifer calf and all went well—thanks to a farming passenger from the Midlands.

After some 23½ days on the South African coast, *Argyllshire* proceeded from Beira to Port Pirie in ballast. Some 3,000 tons lead were loaded in less than 36 hours and homeward loading was completed in Melbourne, Brisbane, Sydney, Newcastle and Fremantle. The ship then headed for the Malabar Coast and made a maiden appearance in Alleppey; more cargo was taken on in Calicut and Cochin and then, with thoughts of being home for the Festive Season, *Argyllshire* headed for the U.K. Christmas Day found her "hove to" in the Biscay area!

## STEWARDS GAINS GOLD AWARD

Nineteen-year-old Harry Scragg, a tourist class assistant steward in *Windsor Castle*, has won a gold medal under the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme.

To qualify in the various Sections he worked as an assistant male nurse in a children's hospital (Service); submitted his stamp collection (Pursuits & Interests); spent 5 days on the Derbyshire moors with a group of other young people on an expedition over the Pennines (Expeditions); reached the required standard in water polo, swimming and rugby (Fitness).