

Jenny Long: Around the Bays

Jenny collects early New Zealand postcards from about 1898 to 1920. The technology to reproduce pictures in print started in 1895 when The Press had its first one published. In 1898 the first postcard was printed and many families started collections. There is good social history to be found on the cards and from their messages. The protection date on the cards tells the date the picture was taken. Many of her cards showed the progression of transport to Sumner. 1883 there was a pier just before Cave Rock, where coastal vessels unloaded cargo. Later the lifeboat was stationed at its end. 1888 there was Clifton Bridge across the water and in 1898 the hut on top of Cave Rock was built. She showed a photo of a church outing in 1897 where there were 4 engines and 19 trailers taking people to Sumner. Many were travelling on the roofs of the carriages. The trams did 10 trips a day at 6^d each. It was electrified in 1907. In 1906 the Café Continental Hotel opposite the pier had 49 rooms and an observatory on the top. It burnt down in June 1909. In 1912 slips shut the existing road and a causeway was built for the trams from Shag Rock.

Sumner Beach was very popular, with galas held there from 1906.



There was a band rotunda near the pier for concerts on Sundays, a carousel on the beach, tea rooms, hot seawater pools with bathing sheds for the modest, and donkey rides. One card showed a mass of people “promenading” along the beach. The first lamp monument was erected commemorating the coronation of Edward VII.

In 1913 the Esplanade was built, Norfolk pines planted and in 1927 11 more memorial lamps were erected. The clocktower was built in 1924, donated by R F Green, an early settler. By 1928 the box brownie camera was invented and people could take their own pictures and have them printed on postcards. In 1931 the dunes were levelled and the sea wall built. By then the sand had

receded a lot and the pier was no use. Her final cards showed Taylors Mistake with families relaxing by the cave baches. The Archbold one was built in 1897, one of about 30.



Jorgen Schousboe: His Medical Career

Jorgen trained as a medical doctor in Denmark and came to New Zealand in 1973 with his wife Mona, who is a pathologist. They had no visas or registration papers, but these problems were in those days quickly solved over the phone by a hospital manager who knew his way around bureaucracy. He worked in the hospital but was baffled by the chauvinism there. Women were almost non-existent, and he faced problems due to his accent, and his lack of direct connections to the old-boys network in Christchurch. The couple were seconded to Greymouth a place they thoroughly enjoyed. Firewood was free (if you collected it from the beach!) Coming back to Christchurch he established the Wainoni Medical Centre and he became one of the founding directors of both the 24-hour Surgery and Pegasus Health. In 1988 he was appointed Honorary Consul General for Denmark, a post he held till 2012, meeting dignitaries, organising passports and dealing with Danish issues. In 2006 he was created a Knight of the Order of Dannebrog by Her Majesty Queen Margarethe.

Both he and Mona had studied tropical medicine and they spent some time working in a village two hour's journey from Rayagada, a district in Southern Odisha, India. The village had no running water, sewage or electricity. They were met by 5 lads who had come from troubled backgrounds. One even arrived in a basket carried by a German nun, who had extracted him from a village and from almost certain death. The children came from environments offering no hope for the future and some had been rescued from hunger, physical and mental abuse. Since then, one has been adopted by a Danish couple and all four others have done well in good careers, initially supported financially by Danish

sponsors. When Jorgen and Mona left the place, it was being closed down, but luckily a young couple who were expecting their first child, had the stamina and skill to step into the role as “parents” for the younger boys.

The Medical work took Jorgen and Mona to remote villages, where negotiations with village leaders had to take place before they would accept medical services. The usual currency was an offer of free scabies treatment to all the youngsters.

Jorgen told us about one of his patients. A young boy had fallen into a fireplace, probably due to epileptic seizures. The child’s terrible burns had been treated with cow dung leaving him extremely ill from tetanus. As no modern equipment was available, 600 tiny pieces of skin were grafted onto his back, and it was a proud day when he could be discharged. The hills behind the village have an abundance of bauxite needed for aluminium smelting, and mining this is now threatening to displace the remote hill tribes known as Dongrea-Khonds. He showed us several pictures of the local men, who wear white capes, carry an axe over their shoulder and a red embroidered piece of cloth to show they are married. In 2018 Jorgen had the opportunity to visit the village with his son, meeting all his friends from so many years ago. Since then, he has written a book about his time there called “Doctor on a Mission”, under the pen name Raymond LeCren. It is available on Amazon.

