



UCKLUN TULL UN DEM TULL

Pitcairn News

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Julie orn Pitcairn tull: We have finally made it back to Pitcairn since we last visited in 1992. Ben has fitted into Pitcairn life really well but he can't remember anything from his last visit at the age of two. Except for the first day when everything was new and different and I saw a slight hesitation when asked if he would leave with me on 8 March or stay longer as planned, he hasn't looked back. In the ten days since we arrived life on Pitcairn has been cruise ship, cruise ship and more cruise ships as you will read in this edition. Timothy Young who writes the historical section of this newsletter has written a tribute to the cruise ship Maxim Gorkiy.

TIMOTHY YOUNG TULL: A SAD FAREWELL TO A LOVELY LADY!

Many ships have graced Pitcairn's shores, some are quickly forgotten, yet others are fondly remembered, such as the *Remuera*, *Willem Ruys*, *Sagafjord* (afterwards named *Saga Rose*). They have all left a considerable mark on Pitcairn through the years. *Maxim Gorkiy* was one such vessel.

S.S. *Maxim Gorkiy* was launched as the *Hamburg* under the Deutsche Atlantik Line on February 21st, 1968. At 638 feet she was one of the largest German-built passenger vessels following the war. Her maiden voyage occurred in March, 1969 and was well known as a comfortable and reliable ship. However, she was renamed *Hanseatic* in late 1973 but the Deutsche Atlantik Line was suffering difficulties and as a result, in December of that same year she was laid up and put up for sale. She was soon bought by the Japanese in January 1974, who promptly sold her to the Black Sea Shipping Company. They renamed her *Maxim Gorkiy* after the famous Russian writer. She was the target of an attempted sinking in 1975, and received damage. However she was soon repaired and continued her cruising. In 1988 she was chartered to Phoenix Reisen, a German company, for twenty years. 1989 was probably the most eventful year of her career. On June 19th, 1989 she hit pack ice in the Arctic and the passengers were evacuated. The ship was saved, however, and towed to Germany for repairs. On August 17th of that same year, an international summit was held aboard the ship between Mikhail Gorbachev and George Bush Sr. at Malta. Continuing her charter for Phoenix Reisen, she has now been found to not fit the requirements of SOLAS (International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea), which comes into effect in 2010. On November 30th, her charter with Phoenix Reisen will end and her future looks uncertain.

I remember the *Gorkiy* when I was only a little boy, staring with wonder at the unique funnel she sported. As my parents traded I would explore the ship, meeting its friendly passengers and crew, and sit for hours staring at the beautiful model of the vessel which sat in the Russia Lounge up forward. I remember in 1992 when the weather was so rough, Steve Christian injured his ribs while in the longboat, and had to be evacuated on board the *Gorkiy*. The longboat was forced to wait offshore for the night, due to the abominable weather down the Landing. For a long time after I remember some people calling particularly bad conditions "Gorkiy Weather." On what is said to be her final trip to Pitcairn, the *Gorkiy* stopped on Pitcairn on February 10th, 2008. Although rainy, the weather soon cleared and a lot of the passengers had the opportunity to come ashore to see Pitcairn. Among them was the Cruise Director, Winfried Prinz, who served on the *Gorkiy* when Steve was evacuated one and a half decades previously. She stayed for the better part of the day, and as the Longboat pulled away and the passengers lined the railings to look down on the departing longboat my heart felt like lead. To me, *Gorkiy* is truly one of the last true passenger ships. There are rumors that the city of Hamburg or a city in Russia will buy it and turn her into a museum/hotel such as the *Queen Mary* in Longbeach, California and the *Rotterdam* in her home city. I truly hope it will be the case. Farewell true lady of the sea! You shall truly be missed!



**Maxim Gorkiy leaves Pitcairn for the last time,
February 10th, 2008.**

OUR JOURNEY TO PITCAIRN – Julie Tull

While it is exciting seeing new places, oh how we wish travelling home was still as simple as spending seven relaxing days on a cargo ship. Lugging excess baggage on and off planes and standing for hours in queues being processed by Customs and Immigration is no picnic. Ten of us arrived on the Cruise Ship 'Saga Rose' on Sunday, 3 February 2008 after flying from New Zealand to Tahiti then to Easter Island and three days cruising to Pitcairn. Much criticism has been written by visitors about Pitcairn's lack of home comforts but while travelling through Tahiti and Easter Island similar criticisms surfaced in my mind until I realized that no matter what island or country we travel to, it is not home. Whether we are going on holiday for 10 days, 10 weeks or even 10 months most of us do not travel with 10 shades of lipsticks or our favourite pillow and feel out of sorts when we reach out for something familiar that is not there and the first thing we are tempted to do is criticize our surroundings and hosts, which is unfair. My home comforts are in New Zealand where I have lived since November 1973 but nevertheless I will be sad to leave on 8 March.

In the short time I have been here I have realized that my nine to five life in New Zealand is physically easier but there are a lot going for life on Pitcairn. We are not afraid of hard work. Not many would be content to sit back and collect social welfare benefits. I marvel at the 70 – 85 year olds who spend hours making souvineers and who are determined to visit the cruise ships to trade. \$220 per month aged pensions benefits are barely enough to pay their power bills at rates of \$0.60c per unit so they need to supplement their income by other means. I last visited Pitcairn in 1992 and at my age, size and fitness level and not used to jumping around in rocking and rolling boats and climbing Jacobs ladders on ships I am very content in staying ashore.

Ben is loving it. I am surprised at how easy he has fitted into Pitcairn life. He was always determined to stay behind and give it a go (although initially a little hesitantly) but after only a couple of days he was suggesting leaving in May/June. Yesterday he said that's too soon, how about September? Time will tell as life has been so busy in the short time since we arrived he hasn't had time to get bored. Even being assigned the daily 'burning the copper for hot water' duty hasn't put him off.

CRUISE SHIPS SINCE WE ARRIVED ON 3 FEBRUARY 2008

SAGA ROSE – Sunday, 3 February 2008



Saga Rose in Easter Island



Group photo at hotel Easter Is



Boxes & Baskets with souvineers for trading on Saga Rose

Arrived from Easter Island with passengers (center photo) from left, New School Teacher Jeannie, Julie, Ben, Mum, Lesley Jacques (Commissioner returning for a year), Pastor Ray and Anne returning from medical treatment. In the front was our tour guide on Easter Island. Also arriving were Tom Christian, Sherilene Christian and friend Andrew. Passengers who left Pitcairn were Pearl Christian and granddaughter Melissa, Brenda and Mike Lupton-Christian, Dobrey Christian, Malcolm and Gwen Gilbert (British police), a corrections officer, Charles and Barbara and Kari Young for medical treatment. The Saga Rose is another long time visitor to Pitcairn and sadly is another friend coming to the end of her life. The Captain has sailed her to Pitcairn approximately 10 times and there were a number of passengers who have sailed her many times before as well. She is scheduled to visit Pitcairn again in early February 2009.

BLACKWATCH – Wednesday, 6 February 2008

Mainly British passengers stayed from 8.00 am to 5 pm.

MAXIM GORKIY – Sunday, 10 February 2008 – see

front page. Quite a few of the passengers made it ashore even though it rained in the morning and our roads were muddy.

ALBATROSS – Monday, 11 February 2008

Mainly German passengers who had intended coming ashore but the sea was too choppy. Trading was done on board instead and the ship left early.

QUEEN ELIZABETH 2 – Tuesday, 12 February 2008

See article next page

QUEEN ELIZABETH 2

This was not a scheduled visit. We learnt of her intention to stop less than a week beforehand. The news caused much excitement and oohs and aahs as she carried approximately 1500 passengers and 900 crew. This was also her last world cruise and also the last of the cruise ships to call this season. Our souvineer supplies were getting low. Private generators were heard everywhere when the main generator was switched off at the usual times while we all worked overtime to build up our supplies of carvings. I haven't sanded wood carvings as much as I did in the last few days in anticipation of the frenzied trading which turned into reality. Initially she was only going to stop for two hours and limited the number of locals to 25 but this was extended to three hours and 32 visitors. The ship was large and the captain was unable to stop the engines so it cruised slowly at a couple of knots while we boarded using the short Jacobs ladder. Sadly I didn't go aboard as I would have exceeded the 32 maximum number but I went out in the longboat and a few of us went fishing instead. It was still exciting to be close to such a large and well known ship. They sent ashore boxes of groceries to be shared amongst the community. In return the Pitcairners donated souvineers which we understand will be auctioned on board and the proceeds donated to charity.



The Queen Elizabeth 2 in the photo showing almost as long as Pitcairn in the background



Share out of groceries at the Square

BITS AND PIECES:

Justice – The application for Parole which was rejected in December was appealed and heard on 8 February 2008. Parole was granted on Monday, 11 February 2008 much to the surprise of the parolee who learnt the unexpected good news only the day before from sources who should be the last to know. The Pitcairn grapevine at work again or Pitcairn Justice working in mysterious ways again.

The lawnmower has a vicious blade as **Kari Young found to her cost**. When finishing mowing lawns, which is a rare sight for Kari, she wasn't sure why the lawnmowers engine wouldn't shut down so she lifted the machine over some concrete and one of her big toe. Her big toe suffered more than the concrete and she was taken out to the Saga Rose by stretcher and onto hospital in Papeete, Tahiti. The bones in her toe was a little mangled and infection became a problem. She has lost a small piece of her toe but is now on the mend and will hopefully return on the Braveheart on 6 March 2008.

Photo: Kari on the deck of the Saga Rose at anchor in Papeete.



A public meeting was held on Friday, 8 February 2008 to further discuss a policy for cruise ships visits. Since 9/11 security on board ships have become more stringent and in recent times some ships have limited the numbers allowed on board and in some cases only visit for 3 to 4 hours. The meeting voted as follows:

Where numbers were limited – To ensure someone from each family was represented on board ship for trading and what defined the make up of a family was discussed and voted upon. This included families absent from the island for medical reasons. Where time was limited e.g. maximum of three hours – it was agreed that a maximum of three bags, baskets or boxes (luggage) would be limited to each family. For example the QE2 stopped for only three hours, including boarding and disembarking times. Once each Pitcairner was processed through security and each luggage item scanned there was only slightly more than an hour left for trading.

A second public meeting was held impromptu on the jetty at the landing on Tuesday, 12 February 2008 while awaiting the arrival of the QE2, when the agreement reached in the first public meeting four days earlier wasn't adhered to by one family.

Pacific Princess cruise ship called for the second time this season on 29 January 2008 where the locals boarded and traded while she did a cruise by of the island to Timothy Youngs much enjoyed lecture.

Bits and Pieces, continued:

Braveheart called into Pitcairn at 1.00 am on Thursday 7 February to drop off medical supplies and pickup bamboo poles to be used by a group of ham radio friends on their way to Ducie Island for a spell of DXing. I was surprised at how many locals went out at that time of the morning. Ben went and loved it. Quite a bit of fruit was donated to them as well.

Copper fires are back in the news. We were awoken at approximately 4.15 am on our first Tuesday morning to a hurried message on the VHF radio about a fire at the Doctors house. Again everyone turned out in force to help and she was very lucky the fire was able to be extinguished before too much damage was done.

The vessel Bounty Bay left Pitcairn for the second time in a month on Friday 8 February 2008. He brings tourists for visits to Pitcairn, Oeno and Henderson.

The children are back at school with their new teacher and I am told loving it. I also hear that might be short lived (for the children that is) as she appears to be a hard taskmaster which pleases mums and dads. Academic studies are tops on the agenda. I would also like to congratulate Jeannie on getting out the February Miscellany ahead of mine (which is over a month overdue now). She wrote a very nice article on her first impressions of Pitcairn which was refreshing after previous comments in the press by past officials. Hopefully this will be the way forward for the future. She also posted a notice on the Public Notice Board asking for stories from the community for future editions which I hope more locals will contribute to.

Swimming on Pitcairn is a daily pastime in Summer for both children and adults. It is hot and humid and swimming in the sea is cooling and refreshing. The photo of siblings Jayden, Torika, Ralph and Kimi was taken while swimming in the harbor at Bounty Bay while most of the adults were visiting a cruise ship.



The third History article by Timothy Young tull:

MAREVA - Mareva was a woman whose name meant either "Fleet of canoes delivering gifts from one island to the next," or "One who passes quickly before another." Nothing much is known of her, but she was notable for being one of the followers of the Tahitian woman "Jenny!" She came to Pitcairn as the "companion" of Manari'i and Temoa, and from quite early on, she tended to live by herself in the hills, some distance from the rest. She was sympathetic to the plight of the Polynesian men, and aided them as much as she could. Following the massacre of the greater part of the male population, Mareva went to live with John Adams and his three "companions." Dissatisfied, Mareva and "Jenny" plotted often against the four remaining men, and brought other women to their cause. After several violent episodes, things calmed down, and Mareva and "Jenny" lived together, apart from the rest. "Jenny" left Pitcairn in 1817 aboard the *Sultan*, but Mareva for some unknown reason remained on Pitcairn. She died in 1822, and was buried in the town square, a formidable woman to the last. *Note: Thanks to Pauline Reynolds for the definitions of Mareva's name.*
PHOTO: Western Harbor, where Mareva often lived alone.



BOUNTY DAY CELEBRATIONS ON PITCAIRN: 23 January 2008 and also Dobreys birthday.

As usual we celebrated the Burning of the Bounty down at the landing on Bounty Day with the usual community gathering of a fish fry and swimming. This year the Bounty was burnt on the rocks instead of in the Bay or out near the wreck of the Bounty.



Mock Bounty model



Going



Almost gone

Our official language is called PITKERN (not Pitcairn). I am unaware of any **official** dictionary of meanings or spellings for Pitkern and as far as I am aware we have always spelt our words phonetically. Our language came together by mixing the two languages of English and Tahitian going back to Bounty Days. "Wusing you tull" means "What did you say" 'tull' derives from 'tell' also similar meaning to 'say'. I felt the Vanity Fair article was unkind when commenting on a letter written by an Islander especially when they wrote (sic) after the English word perjury which was spelt purgery in the letter, especially when the letter consisted of both Pitkern spelling and grammar. Wal (sic) dars (sic) da (sic) way we spal (sic) purgery (sic) in Pitkern (sic). Translated *Well, that is how we spell perjury in the Pitcairn language.* In the absence of an official dictionary, there really is no right or wrong way to spell words in Pitkern.

The Vanity Fair article wrote, in the context of the letter referring to perjury "*The island police officer, xxxxx xxxx, had never made an arrest. The island magistrate – her brother, xxx – had never held court. "They hadn't a clue," George said"*"*I suppose I'm trying to find some good in this community which just isn't there, " Cox wrote."*

George is Peter George, Detective Inspector from Kent police and Cox is Gail Cox, Constable, Kent Police. George said, "they hadn't a clue". He is so right. Yet they were forced by authorities to hold a court case when "they hadn't a clue" on what to do. Both of them were educated on Pitcairn and neither of them had trained as a lawyer or practiced as a lawyer to get the experience to become a judge yet they were forced to take part in an arrest and preside over a secret trial where a non Pitcairn Islander was charged with sexual offences against minors. He was tried without a defence lawyer and without the knowledge of the rest of the community, convicted and deported from Pitcairn. To me what they were forced to do was a crime in itself and certainly breached any Human Rights Act – which Pitcairn didn't have of course. But years later during the Pitcairn trials, appeals were lodged and according to New Zealand newspapers the accused was pardoned and substantial monetary compensation paid.

Are we moving forward?

That was one of the things I have looked for in the short time I have been here. The last 10 days have been very busy with five cruise ships so I haven't been out an about as much as I would normally. My judgment so far is that I haven't seen much difference in attitudes towards me since I was here last in 1992. Pitcairn has always had different personalities just like everywhere in the world. We have leaders, followers, outspoken people and people who wouldn't say boo to a cat. There are folks who call or we sit with and chat as old friends and mates and there are those who pass by and nod or say hello but you don't sit down with and converse with each other. To me that is normal.

When we visited the Remand center some people were missing but thats normal? When we sit in groups, of course we gossip and we do gossip about the trials because it was/is a major event on Pitcairn. I believe we are coping well as a community but I also believe that while there are men in prison, on home detention and parole and while there are court hearings pending there will always be those families who are going through these systems who would prefer to stay close to their families and forgo community celebrations. To me that is normal and understandable. I would prefer not to keep on rehashing the investigation and trials but most are still angry at the way the investigation and trials were conducted. I am not talking about whether or not the men are guilty. I am talking about the process and the abuse of our human rights. That is the sticking point and a major topic of discussion in most conversations I have had. One of the men told me, all he wants is another trial, another go in court with the same rights afforded the British citizens whose laws we were tried under.

I have only witnessed one public spat where accusations of "our attitudes will deter others from coming here to settle" was made by the person who was the subject of the impromptu public meeting at the Landing when they turned up with eight bags instead of the six bags the majority of the community believed they should be limited to. I believe the comment was uttered as an excuse or a defence mechanism when confronted by the majority of the community.

I do believe, though, the fallout from the Pitcairn trials will be with us for a long time just as The Mutiny on the Bounty has never been forgotten. Day to day we are reminded of what happened even by people we thought were friends. "Do the Crime, Do the Time" was a quote directed to the wife of one of the men on Home Detention by recently returned 'friends'. When someone makes a comment like that and the recipient responds angrily is that hindering the moving forward process or is it human nature to react to negative comments? Shouldn't we be allowed to respond negatively to negative articles written about us and there have been a few in recent weeks including one by the British police officer who left on the Saga Rose after spending a year here. Of course we can, it is only those who make the negative comments about us who claim we are not moving forward when we react negatively to their comments. Perhaps they are the ones who hope we will self destruct as he predicts when he is quoted as saying 'prove me wrong'. We have nothing to prove to him or anyone.

Thanks to all yorley who tull. Ef anybody wunt a tull, tulla me orn julie@customcredit.co.nz

Hooray

