

wished: as trusted employees, they were not searched when they left the town and could take their belongings with them if they left the company's employ. All four families had radios and cars. Their houses were connected to the company's local telephone system, which enabled wives to phone each other, their husbands at work, and the company store, ordering goods for delivery. The protection officer, being separated from his wife, was content to live in single quarters facing the Atlantic Ocean, have his meals in the mess with the supervisors, and cadge whatever invitations he could to dine with the four families.

The Manager

When Herman Behrmann was appointed manager on July 23, 1928, he looked forward to moving into the new manager's house, after the discomforts of the £100 tin house in which he had been living. It came as a tremendous blow to him when, without warning in February 1930, he was fired to make way for Lute James Parkinson, an Anglo American Corporation mine manager and part of the new order. Parkinson, a young American, had been selected by consulting engineer H. T. Dickinson (also an American) to give class and efficiency to the new mining community, under Dickinson's jurisdiction. The appointment was temporary and Parkinson held office as acting manager. The family arrived in March 1930 and stayed for eleven months, when Parkinson was appointed to a senior position in Angola. Parkinson's salary at Kleinzee was £100 per month, plus a £5 housing allowance for his free house. His successor Frank Humphreys, another Anglo American employee, was appointed manager at a salary of £75. The company paid his fare from Johannesburg to Kleinzee and he was entitled to "such medical attention and hospital treatment as was available" free of charge. The appointment, as was the case with all other salaried employees, was subject to termination, with three months' notice on either side. He was entitled to thirty days leave a year, which could be accumulated to ninety days after three years service, and he agreed not to carry on any private work without written consent of the company.

Humphreys was a demanding manager, but his obligations to the company ceased at 4:30 P.M. when the final hooter sounded. As long as the tally for the day was a thousand loads or better and the running costs were low, he was satisfied. He sent monthly reports and a weekly letter to Dickinson, all of which reflect his dutiful compliance with the orders he received. When problems arose, whether it was a failure in the plant's alarm system, the notorious Bitterfontein robbery,³ work stoppage because of rain, the flooding of the Buffels River, or a rude, complaining letter from his engineer, he simply reported them in a matter of fact way, indicating that all had been taken care of efficiently.