

excerpt of the conversation with Della Kooistra-Manopo 25-7-1987
and reminders of Gorontalo.

J.N.Sizoo Ltd. Gorontalo

They called him " the white arab and it was said with respect.

Jacob Nicolaas Sizoo 1887 -1932 , came to Gorontalo in 1923 as the manager for the Moluksche Handels maatschappij (trade ltd.) The company possessed concessions for wood, mainly ebony, among others used for sleepers(under rails). However Gorontalo is famous as a centre of copra (dried kernel of coconut.) Next to these two lines, the company sold small wares to the chinese dealers in Gorontalo and the TOMINI bay

As the business was doing very well, Jacob decided to start on his own and got the approval of the company which even supplied him with part of the small wares.

Jacob started in one of the biggest houses and premises, which belonged to a chinese, mr. Si Boen Tiong. The ground floor and the storage buildings, were added by Jacob. See the pictures. Actually, the house is still there and still one of the biggest.

The business included :

The trade of Copra with Holland and the entire world.

Being the stevedore of all incoming ships, which meant, the loading and unloading of the goods into proas, which were tugged by a motorboat to the quay, as the harbour was not deep enough. The hiring of the coolies, which needed time and patience. If you saw a good coolie, you informed politely whether he had relatives who could help him.

Jacob earned about seventeen thousand guilders per ship, which Della remembers so well, as she was bringing the money to the bank, where they accepted it, stiff with horror; small girl, so much money !

There was at least one ship every month and I still get the creeps of the swinging ship's ladder although I was carried on deck. There was one american captain, who had a small dog.

The small wares, varying from peppermint to beer, electric bulbs (electric light, just coming and bulbs lasting one week) gramophone records selected with great joy by Della, up to cars were sold in Gorontalo and the Tomini bay.

As many houses were build, Jacob started his limekiln, being a big oven with a grate and a burner in the midst of acres and acres of lime rocks. When the lime was ready, it was transported over the river by means of a cable way, being great fun for the children and a nightmare for the mother, dreaming of children falling in the river and eaten by the crocodiles.

As the boat, following the coast, was the only way of transportation, Jacob linked Gorontalo to Kwandang by means of 4 cars and 4 drivers, which you could hire; and we had an other toy.

Our mother, who was very french educated, highly intelligent very cultivated, was definitely our educator. As we were a bunch of normal children, she must have been very disappointed, but if she could see now at her children and grand children, she would smile radiantly, as laughing loud does not suit to her style.

Apart of her fears of the cable way, there were the inclinations in the mountains, where we all, including our father, who by then was really mad, had to go out of the car, into the full sun, walk the inclination and board the car where the driver sat motionously, whereas our faces were very long.

If Jacob was succesful, you have to bear in mind that Henriëtte could manage with the very complicated and entangled way of living in a very smal town at the other end of the world where so many different races lived.

Imagine, electric light was coming- water had to be fïltered by hand - asphalt was new and when the sun was high it sticked to your feet.

Earthquakes every 3 - 4 weeks (look at the map)
Inundations were as a matter of fact great fun for the kids. The big ones were busy to bear everything to the first floor, I now am asking myself what they did to the cars., the storage buildings anyhow, were prepared for inundations and very probably there must have been a solution for the cars.

Oh yes, another fear for our mother, snakes in the water during inundations, wherever I played with snakes and offering them milk, and our father in the house killing snakes with his sable, he was entitled to bring with him, being a reserve e lieutenant in Holland.

It all ended as a lightening in the blue air. Our mother went by boat to Holland to bring Jossy to school and to look how Ted was doing, imagine kids of 12 and 14 year separated from their parents in Holland and at the same time the little ones without a mother and very well looked after by the servants and the father, who from one moment to the next became ill of a serious blood infection, which they could not cure at that time, but is no problem at this moment.

And so started a nightmare for the mother and the children when Jacob had to cable to Henriette, " come home ".

When Jacob died, his last word were " my poor children "

Henriette was informed by the authorities, to leave within 6 weeks., other-wise they had to bring a law in action whereas, they would sell the business and keep the money till the youngest became 18 yaers and the youngest was only 3 years !

I started the information about Jacob and Henriette and all what hapened to us-being in Boston-where, and Antoinette and Herta and Michaël and David asked me-and after all, I am happy, that they are so interested.



It is clear, that Jacob could not do all this work alone, and he hired a chinese, mr. Po Sun Ko, or Ko as we called him. Ko did a good job and sold a lot in the Tomini bay, but being a gambler, played with the money of the clients.

When Jacob found out, he was furious with Chris Manopo, his chief of bookkeeping, that she did not inform him in time. Chris had learned bookkeeping from Henriëtte who was an expert. Chris was insulted and left, so Jacob lost a good help and had to pay for the ground on which the limekiln was builded and stood on the name of Chris who had bought it for nothing, being a native.

The Manopo family was wealthy, as they possessed many plantations. Chris and Della had not to work, but did it for fun and contact with the outside world.

When there was trouble with Ko, they helped Ko, to pay the money back to Jacob and Ko could stay, but Chris did not come back, so Della took over:

Personel :

Chris Manopo	chief bookkeeping
Della Manopo	factotem
P Sun Ko	representative for the bay of Tomini
Sui	account runner
Martin Rantu	quay-clerk
Uncle Leo	store-keeper + an assistant
Philip	chief mechanic and driver of the chrysler (Henriëtte's favourite car)
Turan	mechanic and driver of the oakland
2 other drivers	for 2 chevrolets
the old nenneh	the boss of all the servants in the house
minah	the baboe who specially watched the children
servants and boys	for the laundry, the kitchen, the table, the water

The administration of Gorontalo

assistant resident : mr. Greve, later mr. Grondijs.
assistant collectot: mr. van der Meer Moor, later mr. Frohwein.
inspector of police
commander of the soldiers (about 50 men)
engineer of waterworks : mr. Peterson (danish nationality)

The business

J.N.Sizoo
Fam. Schramm
Fam. Bauermann
Fam. Caffin
Fam. Hartropp

Schools :

European School mr. Kwaaitaal - miss Viegelandzoon
Chinese school
School for natives
about 20 young ladies (teachers) runned these schools.