



## “Ocean Joss”

### Spotlight on Dorset

By Geoff Walker



**Peter Ferrer** is an ex-Bank Line officer who is a follower of “**Ocean Joss**” since 2022. Whilst his career with Bank Line Ltd., was relatively brief, it was nevertheless memorable in so many ways and one he will never forget.

Peter reflects standing nervously on the platform at Bournemouth railway station, as a 17 year old, in his apprentice uniform, wondering where Liverpool was. He could not believe that another person in the same uniform, Phil Nance, stood on the same platform near to him, destined to join the same ship, as it turned out as senior of 3 apprentices; so his apprehension disappeared in an instant.

The ship was the **Fleetbank**, berthed in Bromborough, discharging copra, having completed the “Cobra Run” to the Pacific Islands, for which Bank Line was renowned. Peter completed two round trips to the Pacific Islands on the **Fleetbank** and one on the **Laganbank**, before signing off and flying to Dakar to join the **Hazelbank**, in May 66, as senior apprentice for a 10-month trip, before finally paying off in Immingham, near Hull.

After a short leave Peter joined the **Tweedbank** in London for what in Bank Line was a short trip of 6 months, to South and East Africa before paying off in Rotterdam. He then proceeded to college in Plymouth to study for his 2<sup>nd</sup> Mates certificate, surrounded by 500 other apprentices, nearly all from Shell, before sitting exams at London.

Peter joined the **Testbank**, as a very newly qualified Third Officer in Hamburg in Oct 68 for what turned out to be a 15-month trip to South America, North America, Australia, Japan, Philippines and home to Rotterdam, a very memorial trip he comments. After 6 months, whilst in New York, transfers took place, our Chief Officer was transferred to another ship to become Captain, at which time he was also promoted to Second Officer, with one of the other deck apprentices being elevated to uncertified Third Officer. He remained in that position until signing off in Feb 1970.

Peter comments, with “tongue in cheek”, how he managed he will never know since he claims having very limited knowledge of navigation, cargo plans, etc., at that stage of his career. The newly promoted Third Mate was also very inexperienced, so the remainder of the voyage became one of a “learning curve” for both.

On leaving active seagoing, Peter engaged successfully in a variety of managerial positions within construction industry. He is now retired and lives in Broadstone, near Poole in Dorset, where, amongst other things, he enjoys golfing on a regular basis.

Thank you for supporting “**Ocean Joss**” Peter.