

3-6-8 Adolf Oftebro once made a living as cowboy on the Argentinian pampas.

In most families, even those most stalwart, you often find a “splash of colour” which stands out from the rest of the family. Adolf was such a “splash of colour”. While his siblings searched for a good living and stabile conditions in the old country, Adolf intended to conquer the world. 21 years old we find him onboard the steamboat “Rowena” from Trondheim. The ship goes in the coal-traffic from Spitsbergen. From Gothenburg harbour he rejects the invitation for his brother Tobias’ wedding with the argument that he does not dare to go back to Norway because he has a military draft coming up! Now he wants to be free, and he does not intend to come back for many years, at least not before he has got money in his pocket.

But the Spitsbergen coal-traffic was not exiting enough for Adolf. Soon he finds his ship harbouring in Argentina. Together with his shipmate he deserts from the ship, climbs the railroad and travels off as far as his money can take him. He is now outside reach of his ship-owners, and has reached the goal of his dreams.



Adolf Oftebro as a young man.



Adolf Oftebro enjoying his siesta in Argentina.

He now starts working as a cowboy and farm hand. From the town Orense he writes in 1929 that he has ridden into town to search for a new job as farm worker. “It had better happen quickly”, he says, “because I can not at all afford to stay on in town”.

By the years Adolf moves from the Orense district at the coast to the Rio Negro district inland Argentina, where his addresses shall be Moinque and General

Roca. It is likely that this change coincide with the fact that he quits his life as a farm hand and establishes “Bar Adolfo”.

In 1929 he has changed his riding horse for a used car. “It is a real wheelbarrow” he says, “but we are not much demanding”. “We” means that he now has got himself a live-in partner. Her name is Else, and she is of German descent.



Adolf Oftebro together with his Argentinian neighbours and friends. Adolf wearing sixpence.

The bar gives a good living. But the political situation in Argentina causes eventually Adolf's funds to crumble over the years. In 1951 he announces that he will dispose off his property and return to Norway. But the economical situation makes even this solution a problem, and he does not bring it to a final decision. Finally nobody hears from Adolf.

His siblings manage to make a renewed contact with him, and in the beginning of the 1960ies he gets the opportunity to return to

his hometown Mandal, Norway. He is slightly disabled from a failed hernia operation. He has been abroad for many years just like he had predicted when he left. But his hope that he would have money in his pocket on his return, remains an unfulfilled hope.

Having been an experienced bar-owner in Rio Negro, with Spanish as his working language, with capacity both in English and in German, and with his great charm, Solborg Turisthotell in Mandal made a good choice when they picked Adolf for a position as night-receptionist. This became his occupation from now on, in addition to occasional work as translator. He found his new home in Mandal Sailors' Home, and cherished the mutual pleasure of renewed and close contact with his elderly siblings in Mandal. Adolf Oftebro died in 1980, 77 years old.



Orense region and General Roca, places where Adolf Oftebro lived during his 40 years stay in Argentina.