

## 'Meet you at the Meikles'

Having acquired this rather nice 1962 cover from the Meikles Hotel, Salisbury, I feel it would be nice to ask RSC members to share their own fond memories of the grand old place where courteous service, value-for-money menus and comfortable accommodation have been provided since 1915. I look forward to your feedback thereby 'Meeting at the virtual Meikles 2021.'



My earliest Meikles memory dates back to about 1957 (we stayed overnight, when I was about 6.) One of my milk teeth was rotten and I cried all night with toothache. At last, the next morning I was taken to a dentist who pulled out the tooth - or what was left of it!



Meikles in the 1960s



Meikle Inn, Charter Estate c. 1980

Three brothers, Thomas, Stewart and Jack were originally from Strathaven in Scotland and began trading in Mashonaland in 1891. Salisbury 'store-keepers very much resented our advent: they had been making huge profits, selling the BSAC's old stocks...when we arrived there was nothing for it but to open a store and retail the goods we had brought with us. Consequently a very rough shelter was run up, using the whiskey cases for a wall and bucksail for a roof.' From 1892, an earlier Charter Meikle Inn (also known as Strickland's Store) was run by Arthur Strickland who married a sister, Jeannie Meikle.

Two lions adorn the entrance of the modern Meikles hotel. These were sculpted by Joe Wilson who was a plasterer, and with no known sculpting history. Previously, he had served as an army officer in the Boer War. The Meikles Hotel achieved the honour of being the first Zimbabwean hotel to attain the coveted 5-star rating, a feat it achieved in August 1983.