

betref, teengekom het, is hy ook op ander meer persoonlike wyse beproef. Soos dit 'n opregte gelowige betaam, het hy daarin geslaag om selfs die diepste smart te bowe te kom.

Hieronder volg daar uittreksels uit 'n brief wat hy op 11 Maart 1875 aan sy broer Rudolf, geskryf het:

„ . . . Ag, hoe vlieg die weke en maande tog nie verby nie. Eintlik kom ek nooit tot rus nie aangesien ek immer meer wil doen as wat ek in werklikheid kan. Tog lyk dit of ek nooit my werk tot 'n einde kan bring nie. Om ledig te wees is ook nie goed vir my nie. . . .

„Ons almal voel daaglik die verlies van ons dierbare Truidatjie; ons verlang gedurig na haar en kan haar eenvoudig nie uit ons gedagtes kry nie. Nou net is my vrou na die slaapkamer geroep: „Magdale-natjie huil”, — Ons dogtertjie het aan haar sustertjie gedink en toe begin ween. Ons weet egter dat sy by haar Saligmaker en Heiland rus en dat sy daar baie beter daaraan toe is as wat sy dit ooit hier by ons kon hê. Ons berus in God se genade en ontferming — alleen die verlange na die liewe klein wese gryp ons immer weer aan. My liewe vrou stort nog baie trane op haar graf wat naby ons huis agter die kerk en net onderkant die venster voor die altaar is . . . ”

(Slot volg).

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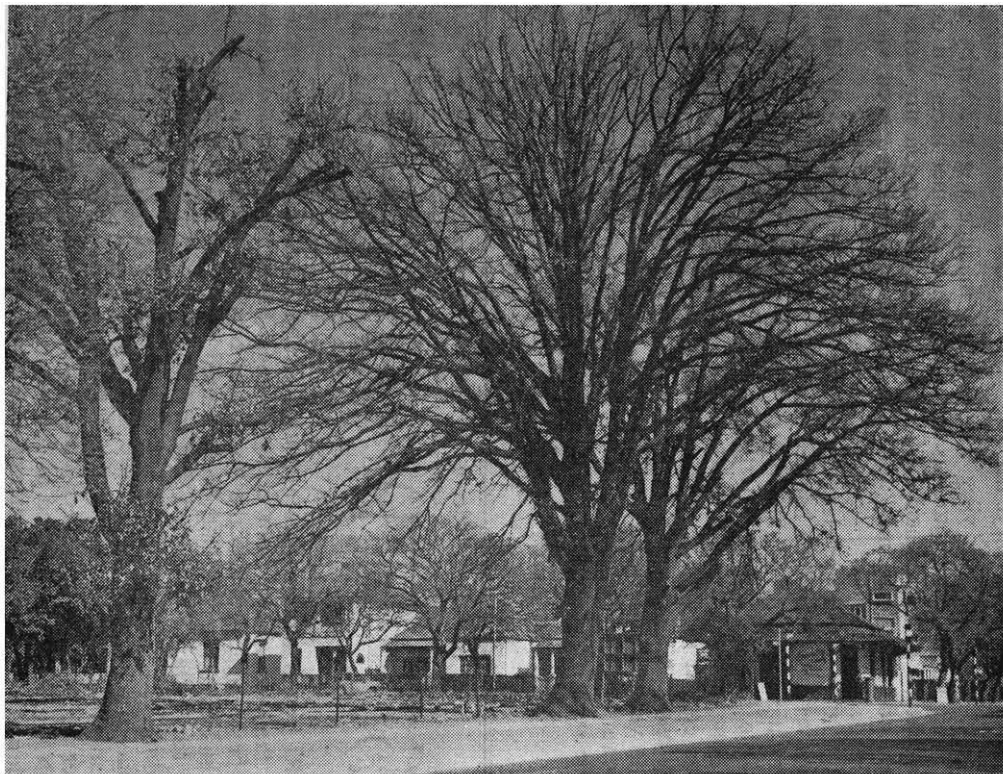
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# THE OLD OAK TREES

**E**ARLY this month there appeared in the “Pretoria News” a photo of the old oaks in front of 303 Visagie Street, and the accompanying letter-press suggested that the house had been occupied by Gen. Nicolaas Smit and that the oaks had been planted by President Burgers.

I had always understood that these oaks, which formed part of a row extending the whole length of the block, had been planted by Jacobus Nicolaas Boshoff, my grand-uncle. He certainly occupied the house until his death in 1910. In view of the statement in the “News”, I wrote to my brother E. Noel Roberts of Bloemfontein, who is married to a daughter of J. N. Boshoff. He replied as follows:

“Many thanks for your letter of 4.6.54 and the cutting from the “Pretoria News” of the 2nd. In 1882 Oupa J. N. Boshoff resigned his position as Landdrost at Boshof, and trekked in a *verewa* to Pretoria, on the invitation of President Kruger, to become Treasurer General of the S.A. Republic.



THE CONTROVERSIAL OAK TREES

Photo: P. J. ENGELBRECHT

Very shortly after arrival there he bought a large block of ground, out of town, on which stood a small house, which he occupied. The property was on the level ground, on the west bank of the Apiesrivier in the area expected to become *watererwe*. The house stood on the N.W. corner of the plot, nearest town, and had been enlarged a number of times before it became number 303 and faced on to Visagie Street. The plot included the whole of the block which is today bounded by van der Walt, Visagie, Prinsloo and Jacob Mare Streets.

Later Oupa Boshoff built 5 or 6 houses fronting on Visagie Street, and let them. The rest of the block was sold in portions. The smaller houses were sold after his death in 1910, and the old home in the late 1920's. So that, excluding the time the Boshoffs were at Paarl after the Boer War, they occupied 303 from late 1882 to about 1924.

Regarding the oaks, Oupa Boshoff himself planted them all along the North side of his property, presumably in the winter of 1882, and took a special pride in the fact. How he came to plant them a few feet beyond his ground, I never found out. Probably the street and beacons had not yet been accurately surveyed or marked.

It was not President Burgers who planted the oaks. Nor did Gen. Smit occupy 303 Visagie St. His home was almost certainly the big house on the corresponding N.W. corner of the adjoining block nearer the station, to the W. along Visagie St., and the same house in which his son Koos Smit afterwards lived.

For years after moving into 303 Oupa Boshoff used a footpath running fairly straight from his home to near to Church Street. I'll hunt up details as I find time."

A. A. ROBERTS.

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## KORRESPONDENSIE/CORRESPONDENCE

### Die „Koninklijk Instituut van Ingenieurs” en S. Wierda

Na aanleiding van mnr. H. M. Rex se belangrike bydrae oor mnr. Sytze Wierda, soos verskyn in „Pretoriana,” deel 3, no. 3, graag 'n paar besonderhede oor bogenoemde „Instituut” waarvan Wierda die eer gehad het om in die verenigingsjaar 1887-1888 een van die lede te wees.

In ons besit is 'n eksemplaar van die „Gedenkboek uitgegeven ter gelegenheid van het vijftigjarig bestaan van het Koninklijk Instituut van Ingenieurs 1847-1897,” 'n lywige boekwerk verlug met 'n groot aantal voortrefflike illustrasies van die hand van die Nederlandse kunstenaar E. van