

Pretoriana

MERENSKY D. B. J. C.
 UNIVERSITEIT VAN
 18-1962
 Klasnom: ZA 05 (68)
 Registrasie: P. 1960/34



*Mondstuk van die Genootskap Oud-Pretoria
 Verskyn in April, Augustus en Desember.*

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*Organ of the Association Old Pretoria
 Published in April, August and December.*

Prys : 2/- : Price.

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OUR MAGAZINE/ONS BLAD

The Committee regrets that this issue of Pretoriana has had to appear in austere form. Financial stringency has caused a temporary "recession"; the handsome edition produced to mark the events of 1960 and certain salvage work carried out at the old house of Bras Pereira (details of which will be published later) have imposed unavoidable strains on our slender resources. In our next issue we hope to revert to the usual printed and illustrated edition. Will you help us back to normality by ensuring that all arrear and current dues are paid to the Hon. Treasurer, 62 Albert Road, Waterkloof, as soon as possible, please?

Ons doen 'n beroep op alle lede om bykomstige bydraes, al is dit net 'n paar sjielings (of sent) aan die Genootskap te skenk. Mnr. Rex (telefoon 78-3762) beskik oor sekere surplus stalle van Pretoriana wat teen 'n verlaagde prys van £3 per stel aan belangstellendes verkoop word ten bate van ons fondse. Dit is seldsame Africana en u word versoek om hierdie aanbod onder die aandag van u vriende te bring. Die vorige redakteurs van Pretoriana verdien alle lof vir hul onbaatsugtige werk. Met u heelhartige steun sal die voortbestaan van ons blad verseker word.

COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUES

Over and above the valuable work performed by the Historical Monuments Commission, there is an apparent need in South African cities for the clear identification of historic places and buildings or sites that have interesting associations. The Corporation of Pietermaritzburg is to be congratulated on the steps that it took in 1954, on the occasion of its municipal centenary, when it placed a series of tablets on old buildings, e.g. the old town offices. One also thinks of the blue and white plaques erected by the County Council that are a familiar feature of London's streets and the tablets inserted in the walls of buildings in Paris to remind passers-by of the deaths of members of the Resistance Movement.

Your Association's Committee has no doubt that suitable plaques or tablets are embellishments that serve the purpose of stimulating public interest and fostering civic pride. They are also additional avenues of interest for the visitor. With this in mind, your Association has approached the City Council of Pretoria in the hope that our municipality will sponsor a systematic programme for the gradual marking of historic places, of which there are no lack, in this city.

With 105 years and more behind it, Pretoria is already rich in historical associations. Where were the first libraries? Where was the old Government House? Where did Generals Botha, Hertzog, Beyers and Smuts live before Union? A small band of enthusiasts might know the answers to such queries but apt bilingual plaques would remind the citizenry at large of a goodly heritage. "For the stone shall cry out of the wall and the beam out of the timber shall answer it."

Editorial.

HISTORIESE BESIENSWAARDIGHEDE IN EN RONDON PRETORIA.

Die grondplan van Pretoria — die Kerkplein, 'n aantal blokke erwe en sekere strate — is teen die einde van 1853 of aan die begin van 1854 deur die broers Louis en Lionel Devereux in die woonhuis van kommandant-generaal M.W.Pretorius op sy plaas Kalkheuvel, op die wescewer van die Krokodilrivier en enkele myle suid van die historiese plaas Broederstroom, saamgestel. Die ou historiese kommandant-generaalswoning het later in die besit gekom van die Van Wyk-familie maar is mettertyd gesloop en vandag staan die Santa Bardora-Hotel op die terrein waar Pretoria se eerste grondplan saamgestel is. Die Kerkplein — aanvanklik van die Kerkplaas Elandspoort — is vervolgens deur die Devereux-broers, Jan H. Visagie, Sekretaris van kommandant-generaal M.W.Pretorius en William Skinner uitgelê. Ongelukkig het hierdie eerste kaart van Pretoria verlore geraak. Die tweede kaart van Pretoria — met as uiterste grense Boom-, Du Toit-, Scheiding- en Potgieterstraat, het 'n paar jaar later tot stand gekom en, soos algemeen bekend, was dit die werk van Andries Francois du Toit, die eerste Landdros van Pretoria. Die Hervormde Kerkgebou — waarvan die oprigting in 1854 begin is, maar eers in 1856 voltooi en in Februarie 1857 ingewy is, en wat gestaan het op die plek waarheen die Krugerstandbeeld in 1954 verskuive is — en die vier hoekpenne van die Kerkplein wat deur die uitlêers in 1854 ingeslaan is, het vir Du Toit as uitgangspunt vir sy opmeting gedien. Oor die geskiedenis van Kerkplein kan 'n boekdeel gevul word, maar ek sal met hierdie enkele opmerkings oor sy beginjare volstáán.

HISTORIESE GEBOUE RONDON KERKPLEIN.

Die (Tweede) Ou Goewerments- of Staatsgebou.

Die Ou Goewermentsgebou staan op Erf Nr. 412 (vroeeër Nr. 383) en 'n gedeelte van Erf Nr. 411 (vroeeër Nr. 382). Die Eerste Ou Goewermentsgebou is in die jare 1866 tot 1870 op die hoekerf Nr. 412 (383), die sg. „Gouvernementserf" gebou, d.w.s. op die hoek van Marktstraat (tans Paul Krugerstraat) en die Kerkplein. Pretoria se eerste tronkgebou is ook in die sestiger jare op dieselfde erf maar op die hoek van Markt- en Pretoriusstraat opgerig.

In later jare het die eerste tronkgebou as bakkerij diens gedoen. Aan die westekant van die Eerste Ou Goewermentsgebou — op 'n gedeelte van Erf Nr. 411 (382) het vir baie jare die baie bekende „European Hotel" gestaan. Nog 'n bietjie meer na wes het die onooglike, swartgeverfde sg. „Doodskisgebou" gestaan. Vandag word daardie terrein beslaan deur „Parliament"-straat.

Die Eerste Ou Goewermentsgebou, die Tronk en die „European Hotel" is in November 1888 gesloop ten einde plek te maak vir die oprigting van die „Staatsgebouw" — soos die Tweede Ou Goewermentsgebou aanvanklik by voorkeur genoem is.

Sytze Wierda wat vir 'n hele aantal jare as Opsigter aan die Nederlandse Staatsspoorwegin verbode was, het op 1 November 1887 in Pretoria diens aanvaar as Gouvernements Ingenieur & Architekt van die Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek, en die Tweede Ou Goewermentsgebou was een van die openbare werke waaraan hy onmiddellik sy aandag geskenk het. Vermoedelik in samewerking met Klaas van Rysse, wat voor Wierda se aankoms as Gouvernements Ingenieur en Architekt waargeneem en mettertyd ook die regterhand van Wierda geword het, is die ontwerp van die Tweede Ou Goewermentsgebou vroeg in 1888 deur Wierda voltooi.

Die oprigting van die Tweede Ou Goewermentsgebou het in Februarie 1889 'n aanvang geneem en die hoeksteen is op 6 Mei 1889 deur president Kruger gelê. Die gebou is in Januarie 1892 in sy geheel voltooi teen 'n koste van ongeveer £135,000. Die bou-aannemer was J.J.Kirkness. Die gebou was ontwerp in die Italiaans-Renaissance boustyl. Die wapen van die Z.A.R. is oorspronklik deur Anton van Wouw geboetseer en op die voorgewel van die gebou aangebring. Die wapen wat tans daar pryk is enkele jare gelede opnuut geboetseer en is 'n getroue weergawe van die wapen wat in die negentiger jare deur Van Wouw geskep en deur die Engelse owerheid verwyder is. (Word vervolg).

HERINNERINGE VAN WYLE OUD-LYFWAG F.J. (OUBAAS) WULFSE.

Dit was in 1939 dat die opsteller die voorreg geniet het om op Rustenburg kennis te maak met die heer F.J. Wulfse, toentertyd uitgewer-drukker van die plaaslike „Rustenburg Herout“, 'n bekende nuus-en advertensieblad.

Op die ou Voortrekkerdorp het mnr. Wulfse groot bekendheid geniet. Hy was o.m. 'n aangename, onderhoudende verteller en in 1943 het ons hom (uit Pretoria) skriftelik versoek om 'n deeltjie van sy herinneringe, uit die dae toe hy een van die lede van die lyfwag van staatspresident S.J.P. Kruger was, op skrif te stel.

Hulpvaardig en steeds tot diens bereid, 'n kenmerk van mnr. Wulfse, het hy op 10 September 1943 aan die versoek voldoen.

Hy het o.m. die volgende besonderhede verstrek.

„Ek dink die Lyfwag is in die lewe geroep tydens die Malabogoorlog, toe die verdedigingsmag en meeste van die polisie na Soutpansberg gestuur was. Ek was toe alreeds lid van die Pretoria Vrywilliger Korps. Sommige van die offisiere wie se name ek my nog herinner is Ou mnr. Soesan 1), destyds by die Staatsdrukkery, mnr. Lub 2), later Inspekteur van Skole, mnr. van Rossum, goewermentsamptenaar.

Die meeste van die lede van die Vrywilligerkorps was Goewermentsamptenare; ek was destyds aan die Staatsdrukkery werksaam. Ons het 5/- per dag vergoeding gekry om in die aand van 6 uur tot 6 uur in die môre wag te staan by die woning van die President. Ons het elk twee uur lank op wag gestaan, d.w.s. van 6 tot 8, van 8 tot 10, ens., tot 6 uur in die môre, waarna die bereide polisie die President na die goewermentsgebou geneem het. Dit het ongeveer om 9 uur plaasgevind.

Die President het soos klokslag om 6 vm. die voordeur oopgemaak en sy koffie op die stoep genuttig. Die wag is teruggetrek tot 6 nm., as ek my nie vergis nie.

Ek was lid van die Vrywilligerkorps vanaf sy stigting, totdat dit na die Jameson Inval ontbind is. ^{F1-} het ook wag bestaan toe Jameson met sy offisiere na

Pretoria gebring is".

Mnr. Wulfse vervolg:

"Ek was ook een van die lyfwag wat die President vergesél het na Lourenco Marques met geleentheid van die opening van die spoorlyn. Die President het destyds in Lourenco Marques tuisgegaan by mnr. Pot. 3) Ek dink hy was konsul aldaar.

Wat ek nooit sal vergeet nie is dat die President se vrou my persoonlik een aand 'n koppie koffie gegee het. Op hierdie aand het daar 'n verskriklike donderbui losgebars oor Pretoria. Mev. Kruger het my in die gang ingeroep en aan my 'n stoel aangebied om daar te vertoef tydens die donderbui. Ek het natuurlik geweier, en gesê dat ek nie my pos kan verlaat nie sonder toestemming van 'n offisier van die wag nie. Sy het toe 'n boodskap gestuur na die Wagtent wat langs die Gereformeerde Kerk 4) gestaan het. Ek het toe toestemming gekry om in die gang te vertoef tydens die storm.

Die besoekers van die President het reeds vanaf 6.30 in die môre gekom om 'n koppie koffie op die stoep te nuttig. Ek het baie keer persone soos mnr. Gilligan, wat 'n bakkerij op Pretoria gehad het, daar gesien. Ook Leo Weinthal wat die koerant "De Pers" destyds uitgegee het, het besoek afgelê. Ek was ook aan hierdie koerant werk-saam 53 jaar gelede".

"Die Vrywilligerkorps het eendag in Marktstraat opgemarsjeer, met die tamboer voor. Laasgenoemde was 'n besonder klein kêreltjie. Toe ons by Pretoriusstraat kom, was die bevel: "Links!" Die tamboer het dit skynbaar nie gehoor nie, en het vir twee strate verder alleen geloop en trommel tot groot vermaak van alle toeskouers".

Aan die slot van my brief het mnr. Wulfse verklaar: "My eerste stamboek in Suid-Afrika kon uitbring was vir president Kruger, toe generaal Joubert teen hom gestaan het.

"President Kruger was 'n voorbeeld vir sy volk en was 'n baie godsdienstige man, met buitengewone gesonde verstand. As hy meer geleentheid in die lewe gehad het, sou hy 'n portlewe, as Digitized by the University of Pretoria Library Services

as die bekwaamste staatsman van die wêreld. Mag president Kruger voortlewe in die harte van elke persoon wat homself Afrikaner noem".

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Aantekeninge:

1. Eerste Luitenant J.C.Susan. Die korps is in terme van Wet Nr. 17 van 1894 opgerig. Wulfse was in 1897 lettersetter in die plaaslike Staatsdrukkery.
2. J.Lub, 'n bekende onderwyser-skrywer.
3. G.Pott, amptelike verteenwoordiger van die Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek in L.M.
4. W. bedoel die kerkgebou wat byna op dieselfde terrein as die huidige kerkgebou van die Gereformeerde gemeente, teenoor die voormalige Presidentswoning, gestaan het.

J.Ploeger.

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THE FLORA OF PRETORIA.

Nature conservation is particularly important in South Africa because it is tied up with soil conservation, water conservation and the correct use of agricultural land, all subjects vital to our welfare. It is evident that there is often some conflict between conservation and the advance of civilisation and this is particularly noticeable in countries with an arid or semi-arid climate where the balance between vegetation and desert is most sensitive. One has only to look at the devastation produced by the old civilisations of Egypt and Mesopotamia to see the effects produced by chopping out the trees for fuel and by ruining the vegetation cover through overgrazing. An eminent Greek visitor told me some years ago: "In Greece we have no soil erosion problems - all the erodable soil was washed away long ago!" I have no doubt he was exaggerating, but the situation he described is not one that we would wish for South Africa. In older-settled countries with milder climates and more regular rainfall, however, such as, for instance England, Holland, France etc., the position of the natural vegetation is just as precarious due to the fact that practically every bit of arable ground is devoted to the cultivation of crops and even mountain land is converted with the assistance of fertilizers to improved pastures. The result is that only in the very mountainous parts, or in places unsuited to agriculture, does the natural vegetation survive on any scale. Much the same thing is happening in the United States, New Zealand and the moister parts of Australia. Especially in the last named two countries the indigenous woods and grasslands are relatively unproductive, so they are being cleared, fertilized and ploughed and then seeded mainly to improved grazing grasses in the interests of higher production.

The impact of civilisation on the natural vegetation is, of course, particularly marked where human beings come together in towns and cities. Here the land is subdivided into small plots, the veld is usually completely eradicated, lawns are planted and gardens laid out with a generous addition of imported trees, shrubs and flowers.

And I will be the first to admit that the result can be very pleasing. A well-tended garden can be a thing of joy. But I do maintain that a balance must be maintained; our natural plants must have their place and reserves should be set aside where possible for their protection. But more about this later.

When the early pioneers arrived at the site which was to be Pretoria they found a beautifully wooded fountain from which a clear stream meandered through a series of valleys. The stream-bank was no doubt lined with reeds and with trees of such species as Combretum erythrophyllum (Vaderlandswilg or Bush-willow), Celtis africana (White Stinkwood) and Rhus pyroides (Taaibos). The hills were much as they are now, covered with a great variety of shrubs and trees, such as Combretum gueinzii (Baster-rooibos), Rhus amerina (Mountaikaree), Peuteria magalison-tana (Stamvrug), Acacia caffra (Kaffer-wag-'n-bietjie), Protea caffra, Vangueria infausta (Wilde mispel), Ficus spp. (Wild Figs) and many more. The lower slopes and flat areas were densely clothed in tall grass with scattered thorn trees and bush groups.

There was obviously a need for shade trees and the pioneers planted what was most easily available and quick growing, namely, Gum Trees (Eucalyptus spp.). It is, for instance, known that seeds of various trees were supplied to the Voortrekkers by Baron van Ludwig, who had a famous garden in Cape Town. I have asked old residents of Pretoria to give me their impressions of what the early tree plantings in Pretoria consisted of, and the recollections are always of huge Eucalyptus Trees, Pepper Trees, Oleanders and Willows. The Eucalyptus and the Willows are still with us, but what has happened to the Oleanders and Pepper Trees? The disappearance of Oleanders can be understood because the sap is poisonous but, if I were asked, I could not point to a single Pepper Tree in Pretoria at present. In my young days in northern Natal, my father also planted a Pepper Tree and it grew very well; but eventually it became infested with a large black and white, hairy caterpillar which was the delight of the natives of the neighbourhood who made a delectable stew of it. As a garden

tree, it was obviously no longer of any value and it was removed, and I wonder if the same fate overtook the Pretoria specimens. We have a government publication on diseases of the Pepper Tree, so perhaps it is particularly subject to various ailments in this part of the country, though it still seems to thrive in the Karoo.

In the early days, Pretoria was also known for its fruit trees and roses. Those were the days of abundant water, delivered in furrows. Recollections of elderly people are of huge fig trees, peaches and pomegranates, and roses everywhere. Pretoria was in those days, known as the "Rose City" and it could justifiably still hold this title, if it were not for the Jacarandas getting the upper hand. I hope somebody is making a collection of descriptions of Pretoria which have appeared from time to time. I am indebted to Miss M.D.Gunn, Librarian at the Division of Bothany and authority on the botanical history of South Africa, for much of the material in this article and especially for bringing to my notice a rare and little-known description of a visit to the Transvaal by William Nelson about 1878. Nelson, who was then about 22 years old, was the son of a nurseryman in Sheffield and his account is in the form of a letter to his parents, who published it in a local newspaper. The part dealing with Pretoria is worth quoting in full:

"Pretoria is not very considerable in extent, yet it is the largest town in the Republic; but it is rapidly developing, and building seems to be the order of the day, and everything appears to be in a very flourishing condition; the town already boasts a number of stores, a fine market square, and a daily market. Produce of all kinds is sold, as in all other South African markets, by public auction. The farmers come with their waggons and long trains of oxen considerable distances with their produce, frequently occupying several weeks in making the journey; if you could be suddenly conveyed to this town, and set down in the large open market place bestrewn with huge waggons and numerous spans of oxen, each consisting of from ten to twenty animals, your curiosity would be excited to the highest pitch by the motley scene presented to your

view. The town streets or roads are like most other places which I have visited in this country, well supplied with water, conveyed in courses which run at angles in every direction, and are as refreshing to the traveller as they are beneficial to the inhabitants, and indispensable to the luxuriance and beauty of the local vegetation. The vegetable productions of this town are far less abundant than those of Potchefstroom; which, however, if less numerous, are not less beautiful and interesting. On no previous occasion have I seen the noble agave ("garing-boom") Agave americana, grow as it does here; it sends its flower stems up to the height of twenty-five to thirty feet, which are crowned with splendid heads of bloom of imposing grandeur, and in the perfection of magnificence. I at first sight mistook them for some member of the fir tribe, covered with golden foliage. While in the market of Pretoria I saw a flowerstem of this plant sold for a flag-pole; and I will therefore leave you to conjecture the magnificence to which they attain. There are also fine examples of several species of Eucalypti (Australian blue-gums) likewise Oleanders suffused with the richest blooms. The fences around the different properties are either of roses, figs or Opuntias (Prickly pear); but roses are employed in the majority of cases, and very deservedly so, for they seem so thoroughly at home in this fine climate. It is no unusual thing to see rose trees - for they cannot be properly described as rose-bushes - and rose-fences, which have attained the height of 10 to 25 feet and I have even seen more than one specimen exceeding this growth. The gorgeous scent produced by the queen of flowers - when in full bloom - transcends the power of description, and one can with difficulty refrain from singing 'Love among the roses' when viewing such fascinating scenes. Then there are the groves of oranges and lemons, and the plantations of peaches, nectarines, naartjies, apricots, figs, and a host of other delicious fruits which space forbids me to mention. But I must tell you that one day I enjoyed a botanical ramble up the mountain stream from which the water supplies of the town are drawn, and collected a number of interesting, because rare, specimens, which included

several species of ferns; among the rest Adiantum, which grows on each side of the stream in a perfect and continuous mass, and gives to it a pleasing and carpet-like appearance. While on this brief excursion I came in contact with a gang of native convicts, who were engaged in clearing away the obstructions which had accumulated in the stream, and who were tearing away those delightful natural productions with just as little concern as might be expected from a body of English navvies digging through a grass field for a new railway, and with no more regret than if those productions were buttercups and daisies."

The subject of Pretoria's Parks has been dealt with by Mr. Bruins-Lich in an article in the magazine "Parks Administration" for July 1955, and I do not propose to repeat the information that he has given. It is, however, worth while recording again that the first of Pretoria's many parks was an area of 12 acres set aside by President Burgers, and now named after him, while the first curator was a Scotsman, a Mr. McLea, who had come out to South Africa and settled in Graaff-Reinet. An active nursery was maintained, mainly for the propagation of Gum Trees, though these were later removed to the Mental Asylum in Pretoria West and Burgers Park was devoted for a time mainly to playing fields. Just before the turn of the century it reverted to a park and several historic trees have been planted in it. In 1899 the Zoological Gardens came into being and under the first Director, Mr. J.W.B. Gunning, many unusual and interesting trees were planted. Another historical tree was that planted by Princess Christian of Schleswig-Holstein when she visited the grave of her son Prince Christian Victor shortly after the turn of the century. The land opposite the cemetery was then bare veld and the tree-planting ceremony was the initiation of what is now Prince's Park. It is said that she also planted a historical small tree on her son's grave. This was a myrtle taken from the garden of her mother, Queen Victoria, who, in turn established her plant from a cutting taken from a bush planted on Napoleon's grave in St. Helena. There must be many more trees in Pretoria with an interesting history and I appeal to you to record any such information before it is lost. Who, for instance, planted the large oak which stands near the entrance to Hillview High

school, on the road to the hospital?

The planting of street trees falls beyond the scope of my present article but it is unavoidable that I should make some mention of the Jacaranda, Pretoria's pride, but recently the subjects of some controversy, what with attacks on it not only by scale insects but also by some of Pretoria's citizens. The Jacaranda is a native of South America and was introduced into South Africa by Baron von Ludwig, of Cape Town, at least 50 years before it was brought to Pretoria. It is recorded that Mr. D.J. Cilliers bought two plants in Durban for the princely sum of £10 and planted them in 1888 at his residence, Myrtle Lodge, in Sunnyside. These trees are now marked by a bronze plaque. In 1903 a Pretoria nurseryman, Mr. James Clarke, imported seed from Australia and, in 1906, presented 100 trees to the City Council of Pretoria. These were planted in Bosman Street and Arcadia Park. Later, in 1909, the City Engineer, Mr. Walton Jameson, a great tree lover, carried on with the good work. He collected seed from the original Cilliers' trees and raised seedlings by the thousand. It is largely due to him that the Jacaranda came to be so extensively planted along the main streets of Pretoria. He acquired the title of "Jacaranda Jim", though it may be argued that Mr. James Clarke is a good rival for the title.

It is time to consider the indigenous trees and one's thoughts immediately turn to the fantastic Wonderboom. Although it was known even before the arrival of the Voortrekkers, the first known botanical specimen of this wild fig was made during a visit to the Transvaal in 1873 by Dr. W.G. Atherstone. (He arrived in South Africa with his parents in 1820 and settled in Grahamstown. In addition to qualifying in medicine he took an active interest in other scientific matters, especially geology and botany. It was in 1867 that a pebble was posted to Atherstone from Hopetown for identification and which he identified as a diamond - the first record of a diamond in South Africa). It was not until 1911 that the botanical name Ficus pretoriae was given to the Wonderboom by the first botanist to be appointed to the Transvaal, Dr. Joseph Burt Davv. Actually, it is quite a common s

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occurring from Natal to tropical Africa, but nowhere else is there a specimen which approaches the size of Wonderboom. Atherstone records in 1873 that the central trunk was 24 ft. in diameter, but was hollowed out by fire. The Wonderboom has always been a favourite picnic place and unfortunately suffered at the hands of vandals. It was, therefore, a very wise move on the part of the City Council in 1936 to purchase, after years of negotiation, about 100 morgen of ground surrounding the Wonderboom and to proclaim it in 1937 as the Wonderboom Nature Reserve. The Reserve was placed under the jurisdiction of a Wonderboom Reserve Advisory Committee, which was altered in 1940 to the Pretoria Reserves Advisory Committee. The City Council has done a great deal to develop the Reserve by laying down footpaths and labelling trees. In 1936 a brochure was published covering various aspects of the reserve, such as its history, geology, botany, birds, mammals, reptiles etc. It thus becomes the first nature reserve in South Africa to be provided with such a comprehensive descriptive bulletin.

Pretoria's main natural recreation place is the beautiful Fountains Valley which is notable for its large White Stinkwood trees mixed with others, such as the Wild Peach (Kiggelaria africana) and the Vaderlandswilg. Many species of imported trees have been added but Pretoria is proud of the White Stinkwood and it is being planted on an increasing scale both as a street tree and in gardens. One or two Vaderlandswilg trees still survive in the heart of the city, for example in the parking lot opposite the new municipal terrain in Vermeulen Street. This is a tree well worth planting more extensively. The Kaffirboom (Erythrina lysistemon) is also an attractive tree indigenous to Pretoria but is rather too sensitive to cold for general use. A most pleasing feature to be seen in some of the newer suburbs, such as Brooklyn, Waterkloof, Groenkloof and Lynnwood is the use which is made of natural patches of bush. The informal effect produced by trees such as the Kaffirthorn (Acacia caffra) and the Mountain Karee (Rhus amerina) is most attractive, and is also an effect most difficult to copy by means of artificial plantings. Nature has a way of planting her trees which

produces an endless variety of effects. An interesting small tree that is found in these natural bush groups is the Red Ivory (Phyllogeiton zeyheri), while common components are species such as the Blinkblaar-wag-'n-bietjie (Ziziphus mucronata), the Blinkblaar (Rhamnus prinoides) and the Deurmekaarbos (Ehretia rigida).

In addition to the Wonderboom Reserve, the Pretoria Reserves Advisory Committee has jurisdiction over two other Reserves, namely, the Rietvlei and the Austin Roberts Bird Sanctuary. The Committee acts only in an advisory capacity but it ensures that the reserves are maintained on scientific lines and with a degree of permanence which might not be the case if they came directly under the City Council. However, the Committee has no funds and so is largely dependant on the Pretoria Parks Department for the development of the Reserves. This Department has so many commitments that progress of the Reserves is naturally somewhat slow.

Although I have been dealing mainly with trees, these are but a small proportion of our flora and attention should also be given to preserving our less conspicuous plants, such as the veld flowers and succulent plants. All too often one begins to think of them when it is too late. Older residents of Pretoria have told me how it was possible in their young days to pick bunches of fire-lilies, the red-flowered Cyrtanthus, in the spring, while arum lilies were to be found in quantity along the streams and kloofs. Today they are scarcely to be found. For some years I have watched the dwindling of a patch of white-flowered Kniphofia in the vlei below Boys High School, above Mr. Bruins-Lich's Magnolia Dell. A couple of years ago the last plant disappeared. There is a sequel to this because recently I visited a garden-lover in this area and noticed the same white-flowered Kniphofia in her garden. On asking her about it she told me she had taken it from the vlei near Boys' High because it was in danger of disappearing and so she saved it by planting it in her garden. This sort of logic is hard to refute. An aloe that is fast disappearing from the Magaliesberg is Aloe peglerae, an attractive rosette-forming species which

was once common along the top of the Magaliesberg range. In spite of its not easily accessible habitat it has practically disappeared. This is all the more unfortunate because it is a species which does not sucker and make small plants, so that removing a plant to a garden means the end of the plant. When I came to Pretoria 23 years ago it was still possible to find the miniature succulent plant Lithops lesliei, one of the fascinating stone plants, on the area where Colbyn now stands. Even before Colbyn township was opened up the last Lithops had disappeared.

This brings me to a project in which I am particularly interested namely the new National Botanical Garden which is being developed by the Division of Botany. This is situated to the east of Pretoria adjoining the road to Brummeria, on portion of the University Farm. It is our object not only to have an area where the natural veld is protected, but also to plant the more attractive indigenous plants in a garden which will be available to the public. The object is primarily scientific, to supply information to our professional staff who are working on the classification and identification of indigenous plants. By means of labels on the plants we hope the garden will also be of educational value while, by planning it in an attractive manner, we intend that it should be an additional amenity to the citizens of Pretoria.

L.E. Codd.

(This address was delivered by Dr. Codd at the Annual General Meeting in November, 1960).

Die Skooltuinekpetisie kon nie vanjaar gehou word nie en daarom sal Rachel de Beerskool die Wisselskild vir twee jaar in hulle besit hou. Hierdie verloop van sake herinner ons weer aan verlede jaar se oorhandigings-funksie toe inspektrise H. van Rooyen en dr. J.C.Strydom voor die gehoor opgetree het.

TOESPRAAK BY GELEENTHEID VAN DIE OORHANDIGING VAN DIE GENOOTSKAP OUD-PRETORIA SE WISSELSKILD AAN RACHEL DE BEERSKOOLOOL, WOLMER, WENNERS VAN 1959 SE SKOOLTUINEKOMPETISIE.

Mnr. die Seremoniemeester, gaste, ouers en kinders.

Dit doen my genoeë om die volgende paar woorde tot u te rig.

U skool het presteer deur die Genootskap Oud-Pretoria se Wisselskild in die Skooltuinekpetisie te verower.

'n Goed versorgde tuin is vir die eienaar 'n bron van trots en verhoogde selfrespek. So 'n tuin is 'n teken van goeie burgerskap. Dis maar een deel waarin ons ons kinders onderrig om goeie burgers van ons land te word.

Wonderwerke gebeur in 'n tuin as ons net oë het om dit raak te sien. Die saadjie wat ontkiem onder die vriendelike strale van die son, die reën, lug en vrugbare aarde en ontwikkel in 'n volgroeiende plant wat sy gawes van skoonheid en nuttigheid ons aanbied, is 'n wonder.

Die plesier wat u van u tuin pluk is nie die groent vrugte of blomme wat u oes nie, maar die bevrediging wat u daaruit kry om dinge te sien groei. U geniet die kameraadskap van dinge wat werklik en skoon is, u sal die gewone klein dingetjies leer ken. Net om die saadjies, die nuut bewerkte grond, te hanteer, is al die moeite werd. U leer om nader aan die grond en die natuur te lewe.

Blomme wek herinneringe van al die mooiste dinge in die lewe.

Dis nie waar dat die mooiste dinge in die lewe onmerk verby gaan nie. Met die geur van rose om ons, weet ons dat ons iets moois wat ons ervaar het, altyd behou. Die

behoefte aan iets moois, glo ek, lê diep in elke mens se lewe verborge. Daarom soek elkeen maar op sy eie manier na 'n brakkie skoonheid wat lig en warmte oor die vaal kolle in sy lewe sal versprei. Daarom is 'n aantreklike skooltuin so 'n integrale deel van die skoollewe en die ontwikkeling van die kind.

Atoombomme word afgeskiet maar blomme bly en elke keer as 'n mens mooi blomme sien, moet jy glo dat die lewe mooi en kosbaar kan wees. Blomme verdwyn maar kom altyd weer en daarom is dit 'n simbool van onblusbare geloof. Seker is dit makliker om aan die uiteindelijke oorwinning van die goeie oor die kwade te glo solank daar nog êrens op 'n lente-oggend 'n blom tussen groen blare oopgaan.

Ons kyk na die mooi blomme en dink aan Dostojewski se woorde: „Sonder wetenskap, sonder brood is die lewe nog moontlik - maar net sonder skoonheid is die lewe nie moontlik nie want dan is daar niks meer oor in die wêreld nie“. Die dromer - idealis val op sy knieë en sê: „Ek kniel voor alles wat mooi was in my lewe. Ek kniel uit dankbaarheid vir alles wat mooi was in my lewe“.

Keats het beweer dat 'n mens deur die skone nader aan die goeie en deur die goeie nader aan geluk kom.

„A pious man was one day pacing sorrowfully up and down his garden, and doubting the care of Providence. At length he stood transfixed before a rose-bush, and the „Spirit of the Rose“ spoke to him thus: Do I not animate a beautiful plant; a cup of thanksgiving full of fragrance to the Lord, in the name of all flowers and of sweet incense to Him? Among thorns, but they do not sting me; they protect and give me sap. This thine enemies do for thee; and should not thy spirit be firmer than that of a frail flower? Strengthened the man went thence. His soul became a cup of thanksgiving for his enemies“.

Ten spyte van verdriet en haat en geweld, ten spyte van verydeling, ten spyte van alles wat skeef en vermink en lelik is - die blomme bly.

Dit is die boodskap wat die mooi en goedversorgde skooltuin aan u bring. Dit is wat die Hoof en personeel van hierdie skool aan u kind probeer gee.

Al wat hulle van u vra is u samewerking: dat u u kind by die huis moet help. Gee hom daar ook wat mooi is sodat hy 'n mooi siel kan ontwikkel. Help hom met sy werk tuis sodat hy nie in sy klas agter raak en so in die lewe agterbly nie. Laat ons almal saamwerk om ons kinders die lewe goed voorbereid te laat ingaan.

H. van Rooyen.
Inspektrise van Skole, T.O.D.

PRETORIA THROUGH OTHER EYES

"It was not very pleasant, for the little I had seen of Pretoria that night had made me acquainted with the fact, which farther acquaintance only confirmed, that it is a very rowdy little village, and that a woman might better walk about late in London or Paris than in that place." (Mrs. Heckford, A Lady Trader in the Transvaal, 1882).

"There were no lights at night in the streets of Pretoria, and as the town was intersected by water furrows, branching off from the main furrow, going about after dark was a risky experiment for a pedestrian" (Sir John Kotze, Memoirs and Reminiscences).

"Modest and unpretentious as was the setting, so were the people who lived in it. There were no racial acerbities, no cliques, no struggle for wealth or social distinction in those halcyon days. Aptly might all Pretorians be described as one large family". (Carl Jeppe, The Kaleidoscopic Transvaal).

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Wat een 'rauwe' Hollander wel het eerste treft (in 1888), zijn de luid ruischende beken van kristalhelder water, die in open goten (voren) stroomen ter weerzijden der breede, ongeplaveide boomlooze en haaks op elkaar staande kaarsrechte straten". (Jonkheer C.G.S.Sandberg, Twintig Jaren onder Krugers Boeren in Voor- en Tegenspoed).

"It bears all the appearance of a town in its infancy, low straggling cottages and shanty residences adjoining stone and brick buildings of imposing size. The Government buildings, which are approaching completion, erected in a French style of architecture, are distinctly fine and good". (1891). (Lord Randolph Churchill, Men, Mines and Animals in South Africa).

"We passed through a narrow cleft in the southern wall of mountains, and Pretoria lay before us - a picturesque little town with red or blue roofs peeping out among masses of trees, and here and there an occasional spire or factory chimney". (1900) (Winston Churchill, Ian Hamilton's March).

"..... Pretoria is a lovely little spot - of water, trees and gardens, ruined by the most horrible vulgarities of the 10th rate continental villadom - German architecture of the Bismarkian era at its worst..." (Milner writing to Lady Cecil, 16th October, 1900; Milner Papers - (1899-1905)).

"But we have now had ten months experience of Pretoria; in winter the climate is beyond reproach, in summer, though there are trying days here as elsewhere, we have not, as yet, had any reason to apprehend that our powers of work here have been seriously impaired. Two of us are in a position to say that on the whole we prefer the climate of Pretoria to that of Cape Town and the third much prefers this climate to that of London".

(Sir Alfred Milner stated that Pretoria "is to my mind, the most enervating place I know"; the above extract is taken from the rejoinder signed by George Fiddes, Richard Solomon and Patrick Duncan, 15th January, 1902 (File C.S. 013/1902).

A.M.D.

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UITTREKSELS UIT DIE JAARVERSLAG, 1960.

"Die ledetal het die afgelope jaar die 200-tal verder oorskry nadat 'n aantal entoesiastiese ondersteuners, en ook skole, aangesluit het."

"Die pogings om 'n Opelugmuseum vir Pretoria te verkry het vanjaar weer 'n stap gevorder. Die aangeleentheid geniet tans die aandag van die Departement Onderwys, Kuns en Wetenskap, en daar bestaan hoopvolle verwagting dat dié museum aan die kom is..

Die Bestuur het daarin geslaag om die Afdeling Filmdiens te oorreed om waardevolle foto's van genl. J.C. Smuts se huis op Doornkloof te laat neem. Die fotos berus by die Staatsargief.

Die Genootskap het ook sy deel bygedra tot die Uniefeesviering. Tydens ons Algemene Vergadering is die aanwesiges teruggevoer na die jare rondom 1910, deur onderhoudende vertellings van mnr. C.A. Cilliers, mnr. J. Kleynhans en adv. A.A. Roberts. Daarbenewens is 'n besonder omvangryke en hoogstaande Uniefeesnommer van Pretoriana uitgee."

" 'n Saak wat die Genootskap die afgelope jaar baie besig gehou het, en trouens nog besig hou, is die Stadsraad se grootskaalse Stadsbeplanning en Verkeerskema. Die Genootskap wil graag saamwerk met die Stadsraad ten einde die versekering te verkry dat hierdie ambisieuse skema uitgevoer word sonder dat Pretoria sy geskiedkundige karakter en inheemse plantegroei sal moet inboet. In hierdie verband gaan ons opregte erkentlikheid aan dr. J.J.N. Cloete vir die uitvoerige memorandum wat hy opgestel het namens die Genootskap Oud-Pretoria ter voorlegging aan die Stadsraad.

In die afgelope jaar is ons Vereniging weer genader insake naamgewing aan 'n laerskool en aan strate. Daar is na deeglike besprekinge voorstelle aan die hand gedoen, met goeie gevolg.

Omstandighede het verhinder dat daar vanjaar 'n skooltuinekompetisie gehou kon word. Ons vertrou dat dit weer volgende jaar vroeg in Oktobermaand sal kan plaasvind.

Die Stadsraad van Pretoria word hartlik bedank vir finansiële steun en vriendelike medewerking, soos in die verlede.

Ten besluite spreek ek my besondere dank uit teenoor al die lede van die Bestuur wat elkeen 'n bydrae gelewer het in die geslaagde verrigtinge van die afgelope doenige jaar."

G.W. EYBERS.
VOORSITTER.

November 1960.

The Association congratulates / Die Genootskap felisiteer

Mr. H. Bruins-Lich and his staff for their magnificent achievement in transforming Magnolia Dell into one of Pretoria's beauty spots. This fine piece of work has been acclaimed in the Pretoria News, Star and elsewhere.

Mr. Norman Eaton on the distinction (ere-penning) awarded him by the Suid-Afrikaanse Akademie vir Kuns en Wetenskap.

Dr. W. Punt en mnr. J.D. Bodel met hul terugkeer na uitgebreide reise in die buiteland. Dr. Punt het Europa en Amerika namens die Stigting Simon Van der Stel besook.

Mnr. H.M. Rex, met die publikasie van sy boek Pretoria - Van Kerkplaas tot Regeringsetel 1838-1860 (H.A.U.M.). Mnr. Rex het 'n pragtige bydrae tot die Africana en veral tot die literatuur oor Pretoria, gelewer.

Mnr. G. Rissik aan wie 'n silwermedalje toegeken is op grond van die konstruktiewe leiding geneem in 'n finansiële afvaardiging na Australië.

Dr. T.S. van Rooyen met sy aanstelling as Senior Lektor in die Departement van Geskiedenis, Universiteit van Pretoria.

The enthusiasts of Simonstown who have formed an historical society to foster interest and research into the rich past of that old seaport town.

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Genootskap Oud-Pretoria

(Gestig: 22 Maart 1948)

Ons doel: Om te waak oor die geskiedenis van ons stad en distrik.

Association Old Pretoria

(Founded: 22 March, 1948)

Our aim: To preserve the past for the future of our city and district.

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Burgemeester/Mayor.

Bydraes moet asb. gestuur word aan: Die Redakteur, „Pretoriana,” Bereastraat 601, Pretoria of Die Assistent-redakteur, „Pretoriana,” Frans Oerderstraat 109, Groenkloof, Pretoria.

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