

# Pretoriana

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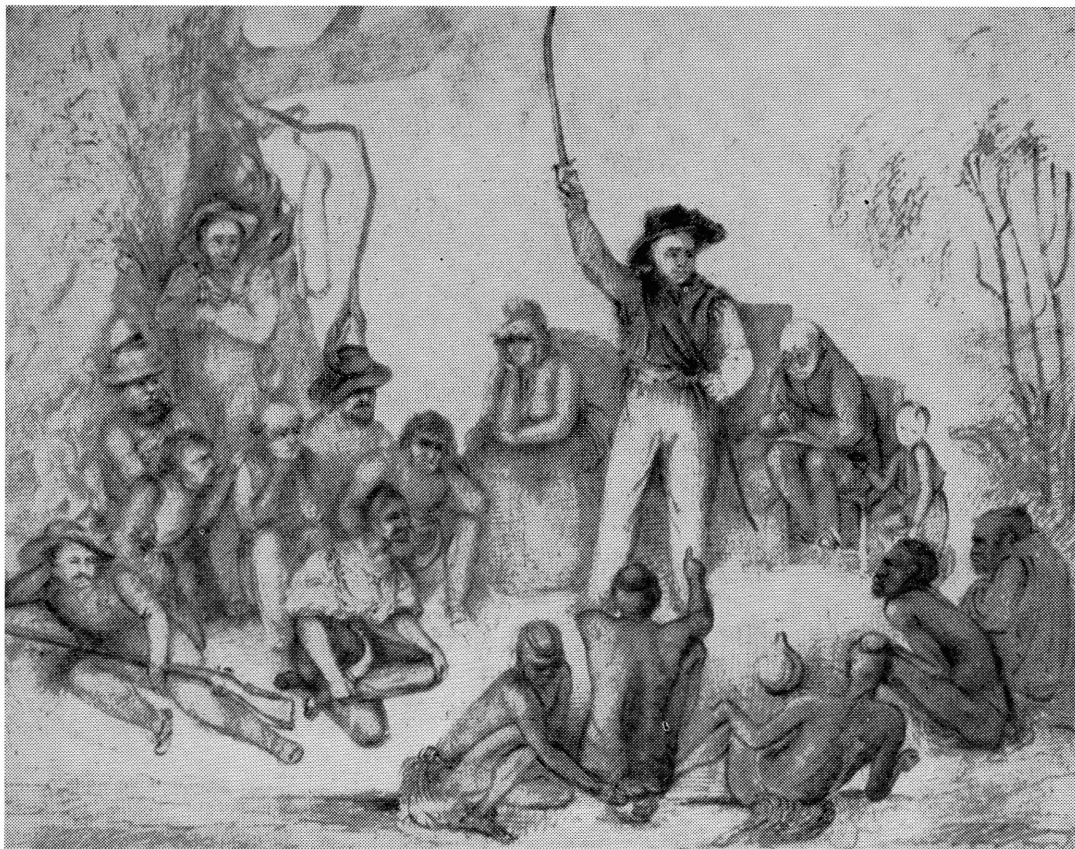


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Die uiters waardevolle tekening deur luit. J. A. Harding van Andries Pretorius en 'n geselskap Voortrekkers tydens 'n onderhoud met afgesante van Dingaan, Maart 1839, is een van die weinige voorstellings van die Voortrekkerleier wat daar bestaan.

(Met erkenning aan: Gordon-Brown, A.: Pictorial Art in South Africa. Chas. J. Sowter, Londen, 1954. pp. 140-142, 156, page No. 79.

# Onthulling van Bronsplaas op Gedenkpoort op Grootplaas, die Sterfplaas van Komdt.-Genl. Andries Pretorius.

**O**P Woensdagmiddag, 12 Desember 1962, het ongeveer vyftig gaste die onthulling van 'n gedenkplaas ter ere van komdt.-genl. Andries Pretorius op die oostelike gedeelte van Grootplaas bygewoon. Onder die gaste was daar 'n hele aantal regstreekse afstammeling van die Trekkers. Ek het bv. vir kol. I. J. Meyer, 'n kleinseun van pres. M. W. Pretorius, van Potchefstroom opgemerk, asook vir die familie Roode en mev. Poppie Bezuidenhout van Pretoria. Afgesien van hulle, was daar nog 'n hele aantal Pretoriusse en Pretorius-afstammeling teenwoordig.

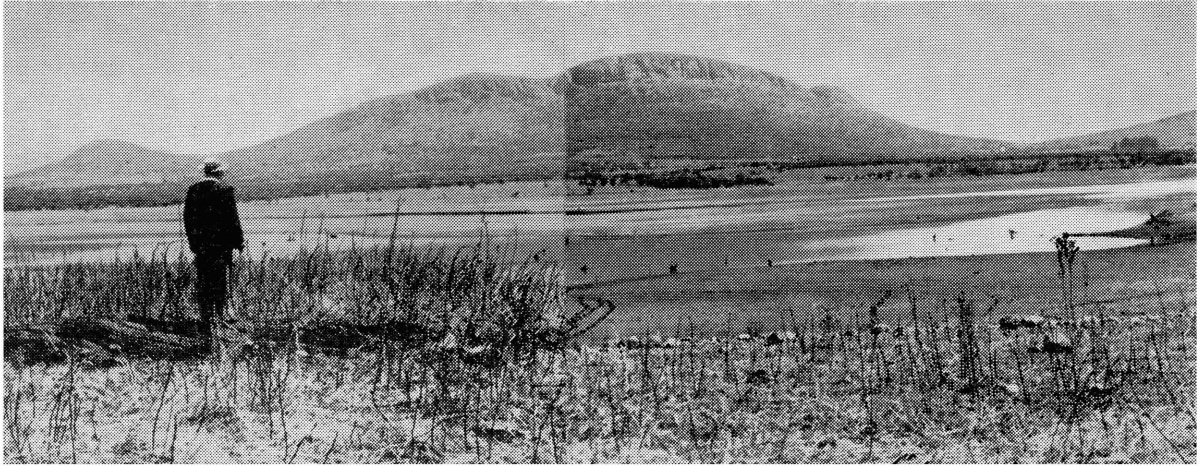
Die funksie het by die ingang van Grootplaas plaasgevind, langs die Skeerpoortpad en ongeveer 25 myl van die Pretoriase Stadsaal.

Die bronsplaas is deur die Historiese Monumentekommissie aangebring op 'n sierlike gedenkpoort wat spesiaal vir dié doel deur mnr. Danie Pretorius op sy gedeelte van die plaas Grootplaas opgerig is. Die gedenkplaas en die gedenkpoort herdenk die feit dat komdt.-genl. Andries Pretorius in Julie 1853 op 'n ander gedeelte van Grootplaas, langs die Magaliesrivier en reg teenoor Kommandonek, oorlede en begrawe is, maar dat sy stoflike oorskot in die negentiger jare weer opgegrawe en in die Ou Kerkhof in Pretoria herbegrawe is.

Dr. P. J. du Toit, Voorsitter van die H.M.K., het die gaste by die historiese gebeurtenis verwelkom. Hy het bekend gemaak dat een van die afstammeling van Andries Pretorius, mnr. Danie Pretorius, en eienaar van 'n gedeelte van Grootplaas, goedgeestiglik aangebied het om hier op die plaas waar Andries Pretorius gewoon en gewerk het en later begrawe is, 'n bronsplaas op 'n gedenkpoort aan te bring. Van hierdie vrygewige en vriendelike aanbod het die H.M.K. met dankbaarheid gebruik gemaak. Alle reisigers wat in die toekoms hierdie besige grootpad gebruik, sal dadelik hierdie sierlike gedenkpoort met die bronsplaas daarop raaksien, hopelik stilhou en die opskrif op die gedenkplaas lees.

Die H.M.K. het ons land bewus gemaak van die talryke historiese plekke en gedenkwaardighede. Al die plekke sal mettertyd op 'n padkaart van Suid-Afrika aangebring word. Met behulp van so'n toeristegids sal reisigers oral kan stilhou en historiese plekke en gedenkwaardighede kan bekijk.

Vervolgens het dr. Du Toit verwys na die belangrike rol wat dr. Punt, 'n lid van die H.M.K., in die oprigting van die bronsplaas en die gedenkpoort gespeel het. Dit was hy wat die H.M.K. oorreed het om so'n bronsplaas te laat aanbring. Met die waardevolle kontakte wat hy met die Pretorius-



*Die persoon op die foto staan op die terrein waar William Skinner en die twee broers, Louis en Lionel Devereux, in 1852 vir komdt.-genl. Andries Pretorius 'n nuwe woonhuis langs die Magaliesrivier opgerig het. Die huis het noordoos gefront met 'n uitsig op Kommandonek, regs op die foto, waarlangs die grootpad vanaf Pretoria na Rustenburg gegaan het. In hierdie huis is Pretorius in Julie 1853 oorlede en in die nabyheid begrawe.*

familie het, kon hy die totstandkoming van die gedenkpoort en die bronsplaat aan die gang sit en tot 'n suksesvolle einde voer.

Ten slotte het dr. Du Toit 'n hartlike dankwoord aan mnr. en mev. Danie Pretorius en hulle familie uitgespreek vir die skenking van die kosbare wawiele wat deel vorm van die sierlike gedenkpoort, vir die oprigting van die gedenkpoort self en die mildelike geldelike bydrae wat hulle gelewer het om die bronsplaat en die gedenkpoort moontlik te maak.

Vervolgens het die Onderburgemeester van Pretoria, raadslid L. R. Bester, aan die woord gekom. Sy toespraak word elders in die blad volledig weergegee.

Die hoogtepunt van die dag se verrigtinge was die onthulling van die bronsplaat namens die H.M.K. deur dr. Willem Punt. In 'n kort, kragtige geleentheidsrede het hy na komdt.-genl. Andries Pretorius verwys as die leier wat op 'n kritieke tydstip van die Groot Trek gehoor gegee het aan die roepstem van sy volksgenote in Natal; as die oorwinnaar van die Zoeloehordes by die Slag van Bloedrivier; as die voortreflike leier van die Voortrekkers en as een van die vernaamste grondleggers van die Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek.

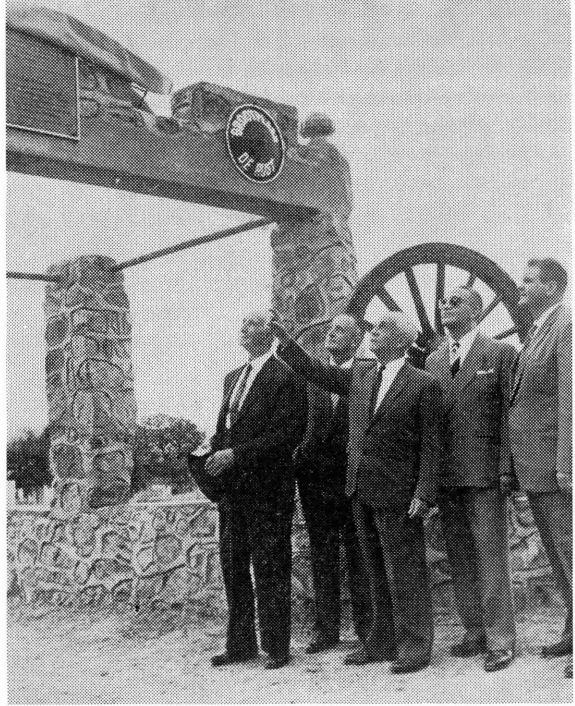
Dit is daarom vir die H.M.K. 'n besondere eer om op hierdie wyse die nagedagtenis van Andries Pretorius te eer.

Vervolgens het dr. Punt oorgegaan tot die onthulling van die bronsplaat, terwyl hy daarna ook die bewoording op die gedenkplaat hardop gelees het: „*A. W. J. Pretorius se Graf: Grootplaas*. Op hierdie plaas is Andries Wilhelmus Jacobus Pretorius, kommandant-generaal van die Suid-Afrikaanse Republiek en held van die Slag by Bloedrivier, op 23 Julie 1853 oorlede en begrawe. Op 13 Mei 1891 het die Regering van die Suid-Afrikaanse Republiek sy stoflike oorskot in die Ou Kerkhof in Pretoria herbegrawe.” Die bewoording verskyn in albei landstale. Dit is net baie jammer dat die opskrif foutiewelik verwys na A. W. J. Pretorius se graf i.p.v. Grootplaas as sy sterfplaas.

Ter afsluiting van die mooi funksie het mnr. Danie Pretorius, eienaar van dié gedeelte van Grootplaas, die H.M.K. bedank vir die wonderlike werk waarmee hulle besig is en ook dat hulle die inisiatief geneem het om die nagedagtenis van die groot Voortrekkerleier op so'n treffende wyse in ere te hou. Ten slotte het hy ook die gaste vir hulle teenwoordigheid bedank en in Engels ook verwys na die Engelssprekende gaste wat teenwoordig was en wie se vaders en grootvaders alreeds in hierdie omgewing woonagtig was, soos die Scrooby's en ander.

Daarna het die gaste deur die gedenkpoort na die ruim woonhuis gegaan waar almal op 'n baie gesellige wyse deur mnr. en mev. Danie Pretorius onthaal is. Vanaf die voorstoep van die huis, met sy sierlike Kaapse gewels, kry die besoeker 'n pragtige gesig op die Hartbeespoortdam met die hoë en trotse Magaliesberg op die agtergrond.

*Kol. I. Meyer, agterkleinseun van Andries Pretorius, dr. W. Punt, dr. P. J. du Toit, Voor- sitter H.M.K., mnr. Danie Pretorius, eienaar van dié gedeelte van Grootplaas waarop die gedenkpoort staan, en die Onderburgemeester van Pretoria, mnr. L. R. Bester, beskou die gedenkplaat na die onthulling.*



Na die onthaal het ek in die geselskap van mnr. John Scrooby en mnr. Nic. van der Westhuizen, hoof van die Skeerpoortskool, 'n besoek gaan bring aan die terrein waar William Skinner, en die twee broers, Louis en Lionel Devereux, in 1852 'n sierlike woonhuis vir komdt.-genl. Andries Pretorius gebou het en waarin hy op 23 Julie 1853 oorlede is. Die sterfhuis van Pretorius is 'n hele afstand verwyder van die gedenkpoort en die woonhuis van mnr. Danie Pretorius. Die huis was op 'n hoogte langs die Magaliesrivier gebou met 'n uitsig op Kommandonek. As die Hartbeespoortdam vol is, is die terrein van die ou opstal normaalweg onder water maar noudat die dam leeg is, kan die fondamente van die Pretoriuswoning nog duidelik gesien word asook die mooi klipwerk wat die Engelse vaklui daar gewroeg het. Daar naby staan nog reuse akkerbome langs die ou watervoor en ou murasies terwyl die terrein van die eertydse plaaskerkhof, wat normaalweg onder water staan, nog sigbaar is.

—H. M. REX.

# Toespraak by die Gedenkpoort op Grootplaas deur die Onderburgemeester van Pretoria, Raadslid L. R. Bester.

**G**ESKIEDENIS, of die studie daarvan, meen ek, het slegs waarde in soverre die lesse wat ons daaruit kan leer, as lesse vir die toekoms kan dien. Toewyding aan die verlede, met al die gepaardgaande heimwee, moet terselfdertyd ook toewyding aan die dae wat voorlê, beteken. Of, in die veelherhaalde woorde van president Paul Kruger: „Neem uit die verlede wat goed is en bou daarop u toekoms.”

Die taak wat die Historiese Monumentekommissie verrig om die geskiedenis van ons volk vir ons te bewaar sodat ons en ons nageslag daarop kan bou vir die toekoms, is 'n groot en belangrike taak. Die onthulling van naamborde op die grafte van ons volkshelde, staatsmanne en voorbeeldige voorgangers, is 'n belangrike stap om hulle vir ons aan die vergetelheid te ontruk. Ek kan slegs die hoop uitspreek dat daar onverpoos met hierdie werk voortgegaan sal word. Dit sal oneindig veel daartoe bydra om ons en komende geslagte gedagtig te hou aan die heldedade van ons voorvaders — die onwrikbare vertroue, durf en daad waarmee hulle die gevare van 'n barbaarse land trotseer het om dit vir ons bewoonbaar te maak.

Dit is vandag vir my as Onder-burgemeester en as verteenwoordiger van die inwoners van Pretoria, 'n besondere genoeë en 'n groot eer om hier te mag optree, want hier word vandag weer hulde gebring aan een van ons groot volkshelde. 'n Man in wie se hart die vryheidsdrang so sterk gebrand het dat hy sy wêreldse besittings, gemak en gerief prysgegee het en die wilde, ongetemde vreemde ingetrek het om vryheid te gaan soek. 'n Man wat onverskrokke met vyande op die slagveld slaags geraak het om daardie vryheid vir homself en sy nageslag te verkry. Maar boweal die man wie se naam vandag voortleef in die naam van ons skone Pretoria.

Ons as Pretorianers voel trots daarop dat die naam van ons stad ontleen is aan 'n man en 'n held soos kommandant-generaal Andries Pretorius. In hom was daar die konsentrasie van al die voortreflike kenmerke en karaktertrekke van 'n leier — karaktertrekke en eienskappe wat hom uit die Kaapkolonie laat wegtrek het; wat hom op 16 Desember 1838 laat seëvier het oor die Zoeloehordes van Natal; wat hom die vernaamste grondlegger van die Republiek in Natal gemaak het; wat hom daarna weer uit Natal na Transvaal laat trek het — steeds soekende na vryheid vir homself en sy nageslag; wat hom geweldige oormagte van vyande op die slagveld laat aandurf het; wat hom as bemiddelaar tussen botsende elemente van sy eie



Mnr. L. R. BESTER,  
Onderburgemeester  
van Pretoria,  
1962/63.

mense hier in Transvaal laat optree het, wat met die Sandrivier-konvensie algehele onafhanklikheid vir die Republiek verkry het — voorwaar 'n man wat hom onderskei het as 'n leier op staatkundige, kerklike en militêre gebied. Sonder hom sou nie net die geskiedenis van ons volk veel armer gewees het nie, maar ook ons volk self.

Waar ons vandag hier weer hulde bring aan een van ons groot volksvaders, wil ek die hoop uitspreek dat ons en die nageslag krag sal put uit die voorbeeld wat hy en andere aan ons gestel het; dat ons hier uit die geskiedenis sal neem wat goed is en daarop sal bou in die toekoms.

Waar die Monumentekommisssie so 'n belangrike taak vervul om die verlede onder ons aandag te hou, wil ek u die grootste mate van sukses met u werk toewens.



# Places of Great Historical Interest Around Pretoria

**T**HE picture recently of a plaque to be unveiled on the farm Grootplaats, formerly Der Ouden Rust, where General — more correctly Hoofd Commandant — A. W. J. Pretorius, of Blood River fame, lived and died in the Transvaal, gives rise to the question of the advisability of erecting similar plaques or signs to indicate the sites of many places of historical interest surrounding Pretoria.

Such road signs or plaques should stimulate interest in the history of Pretoria and environs, please the historically minded motorist and perhaps perpetuate names that are in danger of disappearing

There are a great many such places. To quote but a single route, a circular one from Pretoria via Skeerpoort, Hartbeespoort Dam, Pretoria North and back to the city.

As the motorist leaves Pretoria on the road to Pelindaba the suburb Proclamation Hill lies between the highway and Iscor. Why is it so called has become a mystery. To the right lies what is left of Skinner's Court. The name Skinner was attached to the first church building on Church Square while Skinner's Court, if memory serves correctly, was the first pleasure resort to serve strawberries and cream.

## **WEST FORT**

Some distance past Danville a road branches off to the Asylum and West Fort. West Fort has some historical significance for it was in that vicinity that the most serious skirmish took place during the siege of Pretoria (1880-1881).

The main road leads to the top of a plateau from where the traveller in the opposite direction gets his first view of Pretoria. The turrets of the Union Buildings seem from there to be on eye level. That small plateau was always known as Hoëveld (Highveld), a name few remember nowadays.

Nothing more of historical interest is found until Pelindaba. On the low line of hills to the south just before the slope to plain level, there is the tombstone of Great Trek leader Pieter Retief's daughter, Debora Retief. At the suggestion of the Afrikaans historian, Gustav Preller, who lies buried a yard or two from her grave, her remains were re-interred before the water of Hartbeespoort Dam inundated the cemetery in which she lay buried. It was Preller, too, who designed the simple but impressive monument — three pear-shaped blocks of unhewn granite piled in the form of a pyramid.

## **BART PRETORIUS**

It was Preller, too, who selected the name Pelindaba after running a

competition in his paper *Die Volkstem*. Pelindaba is a contraction of the Sotho *poitela* (the end) and the Zulu *ndaba* (discussion). The inference was that when the dam's water reached high level at Pelindaba that was the end of the work. The dam was complete.

Immediately after crossing the Crocodile River, Broederstroom is reached. In a simple country cemetery near the road lie buried the remains of Bart Pretorius, brother of General A. W. J. Pretorius. On Broederstroom stands the home of Bart Pretorius.

This typical, thatch-roofed Boer farmhouse was, so it is said, the first school building in the Pretoria district. Bart Pretorius offered his loft to be used as a schoolroom. It was partly burnt down many years ago but Preller had it restored.

Moving further west, one traverses the farm Leeukloof where a signpost could well be erected showing the way to what was known as Marshall's silver mine.

Just before the junction to the Krugersdorp-Hartbeespoort Dam road, the Skeerpoort River is crossed. Directly north of the pass itself is De Wetskloof in the Magaliesberg. It is a purely local name. It was at De Wetskloof that the Boer guerilla fighter, General C. R. de Wet, escorted President Steyn down perilous heights at night. It was after the President had been to Waterval Onder to bid farewell to the abdicating President Kruger.

## **CASHAN**

Swinging eastwards, one crosses the Magaliesberg at Commandonek, a road invariably used by President Kruger on his frequent visits to his farms Boekenhoutfontein and Waterkloof, near Rustenburg.

Then, skirting the wall of Hartbeespoort Dam, the road leads over Skietfontein near what is now known as Silkaatsnek, a reminder of the days when the Matabele king Mazilikazi ravaged and plundered the Transvaal.

Skietfontein was the arena in which the silly little civil war of 1862 --- it was nothing more than a protracted skirmish --- was fought.

There are other historical spots upon this comparatively short tour. It may be that in time more plaques will draw attention to the names of pioneers who rendered yeoman service to Pretoria and the Transvaal.

Finally, what a pity it is that Magaliesberg's name, the Cashan Mountains, a name that falls easily from the lips and pleasantly upon by the ear, cannot be commemorated in some pass in that range.

---J. C. VLOK.

*The Pretoria News*, 11/12/62.

(When a Rustenburg suburb was laid out on the slopes of the Magaliesberg a few years ago, your Editor suggested the name "Cashan" for the new suburb. The suggestion was adopted.—Editor.)

# PROKLAMASIEHEUWEL

**G**EDURENDE die eerste paar maande van die Anglo-Boere-oorlog het die Britse magte hulleself misreken met die weerstand wat die burgerkommando's van Transvaal en die Oranje-Vrystaat sou bied. Hulle kon derhalwe nie daarin slaag om — soos hulle beplan het — die Republikeinse magte in 'n paar vernietigende veldslae uit te wis nie; intendeel, hulle het in die meeste gevalle groot verliese gely.

Vroeg in 1900, het die bekende lord Roberts die opperbevel van genl. Buller oorgeneem en sy strategiese plan was om die Republikeinse hoofstede, Bloemfontein en Pretoria, in te neem omdat hy geglo het dat as die hoofstede ingeneem is, die Boerekommando's sou oorgee. Hy het dan ook daarin geslaag om Bloemfontein op 13 Maart 1900 met sy 200,000 soldate in besit te neem. Daarvandaan is hy verder noordwaarts om sy opgelegde taak te volbring.

Eers is Kimberley ontset en daarna is Johannesburg op 31 Mei 1900 ingeneem. Op 4 Junie is Pretoria deur Kwaggapoort — die westelike uitgang van Pretoria in die rigting na Krugersdorp — genader. Die prominente heuwel, drie myl ten weste van Kerkplein, het baie gou in 'n tentdorp van Britse troepe verander. Op 5 Junie 1900 het lord Roberts vanaf hierdie heuwel sy proklamasie uitgevaardig kragtens waarvan Pretoria in besit geneem en Transvaal as Britse gebied geproklameer is. Die naam Proklamasieheuwel herinner dus aan hierdie gebeurtenis in die geskiedenis van Pretoria. Die woonbuurt met die naam „Proclamation Hill” het egter eers in 1936 tot stand gekom.

—J. C. CRONJE, Pretoria-Wes Hoërskool.

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## *BOYS' HIGH SCHOOL, PRETORIA*

*1910 — 1960*

### **A WORD FROM THE HEADMASTER, MR. D. F. ABERNETHY.**

**M**ANY who know something about the history of this school may wonder why 1960 was chosen as the year in which to celebrate our fiftieth birthday. Did not the school have its origin in 1902 in the old Staats-Model school at the corner of van der Walt and Skinner Streets? Was not Mr. Atkinson appointed as the first Headmaster of Pretoria Boys' High School in that year? Are we trying to conceal our real age?

A good year for our celebrations would have been 1952 and much

could have been said for 1959 as a "birthday" year, fifty years after the school had moved into its present building.

In 1910 the Boys' High School, an English medium school, and the Eendracht school, Afrikaans medium, were amalgamated and Boys' High became a dual medium school. It remained so until 1924 when an Afrikaans medium High School was built, and then it reverted to English only, as the medium of instruction. In 1910, Mr. W. H. Hofmeyr became the first permanent Headmaster in the present building; he was a man ideally suited to the dual medium school, educated in South Africa and in England, spoke English and Afrikaans equally well, described himself as neither Afrikaner nor Englishman but as a South African. From 1910 to 1924 Afrikaans and English speaking boys worked together, played together and lived together here, and the school assumed its present character. There are many boys here who come from homes where English and Afrikaans are spoken with equal fluency; one sometimes hears Afrikaans spoken in the playgrounds; it is at times spoken in the staff common room and no one turns around in surprise; here in this school are also Jewish boys and German speaking boys who are just as much "at home" as are the others. They all make up "Boys' High."

This precious quality of tolerance which grows steadily through the years is something which we want to preserve; it is needed in all South African schools; it is needed so much in the character of the nation. In this school it was born in 1910 and that is why we celebrated Jubilee year in 1960.

## **A SHORT HISTORY OF BOYS' HIGH SCHOOL.**

### *THE NEW SCHOOL*

At Easter time in the year 1910, shortly before the birth of the Union of South Africa, the editor of the "Pretoria", the magazine of the Pretoria College, heralded the arrival of yet another new creation — humbler perhaps, but nevertheless of great importance. He wrote as follows:—

"Amalgamation, Unification, Coalition, Union, Eendracht — such are the words that have of late, with all their intricate minutiae of dialectically differentiated signification, been buzzing around like bees, forsooth, fraught with the fragrant veld-honey of peace and contentment. As with the sub-continent so with Pretoria's High Schools, we are to have our Union. Most decidedly we want the "best man" regime. We wish the "best men" to raise us together to heights hitherto undreamt of in the realm of "rugger"; to regain for us the Cup, that silver emblem of athletic supremacy; to nurture one to head the Martication list, rising among the stars, like the tinkinkje, borne aloft by the example which soared last term, as an eagle, from a rival school.

"By the time that this appears in print we shall have had the pleasure of welcoming our new Head Master, Mr. W. H. Hofmeyr. Whilst con-

gratulating very heartily both him and ourselves on the prospect, we have penned the above to convince him that we are not behind him in foreseeing good things to come for this school."

Half a century ago editors of School Magazines really did write like that! A less flowering notice of the same approaching happy event is to be found in the Transvaal Education Department's Circular Minute No. 37 of 1909.

"At the beginning of the second term of 1910 the Pretoria High School for Boys and the Eendracht High School will be amalgamated. The united school will be under the headmastership of Mr. W. H. Hofmeyr, M.A., of the universities of Cambridge and the Cape of Good Hope, at present headmaster of the Stellenbosch High School for Boys. The staff of assistants will consist of the combined staffs of the two schools.

"The amalgamation marks the end of the dual system of schools which came into existence soon after the war, and it cannot fail to mark the beginning of a period of progress and prosperity, for the united school cannot fail to prosper."

And so with these blessings — domestic and official — upon it, the new Amalgamated School was opened on April 6th, 1910, by the Director of Education, Mr. J. E. Adamson. The religious ceremony consisted of the singing of "Old Hundredth", the reading of a portion of Scripture by the Rev. G. W. Cross and a prayer by Ds. H. S. Bosman. The Director of Education delivered an address. So too did Ds. Bosman, Mr. Jas. Macintosh and the new Headmaster. And thus the New School began.

### *THE AMALGAMATION*

The two component partners of the amalgamation were the Eendracht High School and the Pretoria Boys' High School.

The former was a C.N.O. school after the Anglo-Boer war, but was taken over by the Government in 1904. It was housed in a building in Koch Street (now known as Bosman Street). Ds. Bosman was on its Governing Body. There was a boarding establishment attached to this school, which functioned up to 1915, when its boarders were transferred to the recently built School House up on the hill.

The other partner of the amalgamation had the same name as the present school, Boys' High School, Pretoria. After the Anglo-Boer war an English school was started in the building at the corner of Skinner and van der Walt Streets — the building famous for having held — and subsequently failed to hold — Winston Churchill as its prisoner. Its name was "The Pretoria High School". It catered for all standards and both sexes. In 1902 it split into the Girls' High School, the Boys' High School and the Preparatory School. The Girls' High School went to Visagie Street, while the Boys' High School and the Preparatory School shared the Skinner Street building, the former under Mr. Harold W. Atkinson and

the latter under Miss A. E. Deane. After 1905 the Boys' High School had the building to itself.

Mr. J. F. Acheson was headmaster from 1906 till Easter 1909, when he retired. It was Mr. Acheson who first called the school "The Pretoria College" and this name was used by the staff in all school documents, etc., until the Amalgamation in 1910; it was not, however, the official title given by the Transvaal Education Department. In the Easter holidays of 1909 the school moved up to the new buildings on the hill and there it continued for a year under the Acting Headmaster, Mr. G. L. Thomas.

### *THE NEW BUILDINGS*

The site of the new building seemed, in those early days, to be a very long way out of town. At the foot of Skinner Street one could climb onto a horsetramcar and go in slow solemnity over the wooden "Tram Bridge", past the Trevenna brewery which was then the tallest landmark in Sunnyside and the source of drowsy odours, past the tram sheds and stables at the end of Esselen Street, and then along de Kock Street as far as Johnson Street. Beyond that point there were no houses — only a golf course which extended to the railway-line. Beyond that, bare veld and a bare stony koppie where the school and boarding-houses were to be built.

On that koppie on the afternoon of the 11th July, 1908 the foundation stone of the new school was laid by Lord Selborne, Governor of the Transvaal. On the top of the rise, behind the builders' tackle and sheds, could be seen a blockhouse, the relic of the war. To the north, immediately below, on the ground which was later to become the playing-fields of the school and the campus of the Pretoria University, one could see the markings on the ground — rings and oblongs — of the tents of the military camp which had been there until a few years before. Muckleneuk, to the left, and Brooklyn and Hatfield, on the right, were as yet unbuilt. The lower part of Sunnyside stretched greenly along the Walker Spruit. The younger Arcadia could be seen on the other side of the valley, its houses scattered widely and somewhat self-consciously over the slope of what was still called by some "Beckett's Hill". On the ridge beyond stood the newly built Government House, florid and orange-roofed, and to the left of it the few houses of Bryntirion. To the left of that again, the line of koppies was splashed from bottom almost to top by the trees of the properties belonging to Mr. Andrew Johnston, Mr. T. W. Beckett, and the Hon. Hugh Crawford. Then came Meintjes Kop, empty, waiting for its Union Buildings; where the Amphitheatre now stands, there was a quarry filled with water, and the long arm of a crane stood up from it, pointing to the sky.

Below it, in the hollow, was the small town of Pretoria, with its horse-cabs and wide dusty streets. There were motor cars, but so few that we schoolboys stood and gaped when one passed. There was no tarmac, and

when the wind blew strongly from the west before a thunderstorm, the rampart of dust mounting high came eastward up the valley. Such was Pretoria on that afternoon when Lord Selborne laid the foundation stone. Beyond it lay the range of the Magaliesberg, so calm, modest and beautiful — bare and arid on approach perhaps, but with here and there unexpected springs of cool water and kloofs of subtle charm: the hills stretched in long and slightly curving line towards the sunset.

On the 15th April, 1909, the doors of the new school were formally unlocked by the Colonial Secretary, General J. C. Smuts. A year later the new buildings housed the new Amalgamated School.

### *GROWTH*

The strength of the new school at its inception was 280, one hundred and eighty from the Pretoria College and one hundred coming from the Eendracht High School. In 1935 the enrolment was 450. In the following ten years it had jumped to close on 700, and in the next ten to 850. It is now close on a thousand.

In 1925 an English High School, called the White House High School from the dwelling-house in which it had been accommodated, amalgamated with the Boys' High School, which from that time onward became a purely English-medium school. Mr. Pyne Mercier, the headmaster, and most of his staff joined the staff of the Boys' High School, and served under Mr. Hofmeyr. The White House school had been started in 1922 and had only three years of separate existence. Another amalgamation took place in 1927, when the pupils of the Commercial High School and two of its teachers, Mr. Radloff and Mr. Wolff, joined the Boys' High School. The pupils of both these schools became quickly absorbed, and the members of staff subsequently gave loyal service to the "school on the hill".

—*The Pretorian, Jubilee Edition, 1910-1960.*

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## **The Matheson Fountain at Boys' High School**

**T**HE suggestion that the School have a living memorial of some kind to the late Mr. D. D. Matheson came from the 1960 leaving group and the suggestion that it be a drinking fountain was conveyed to the Headmaster by the Head Prefect, C. H. Derksen.

From this point things moved swiftly: the Art Department was consulted and at the suggestion of Mr. Scully, Mr. Norman Eaton, the distinguished architect was approached. Mr. Eaton was greatly interested and that very afternoon came to the School where he discussed siting and other details.

The fountain is a natural extension of the pavilion and was conceived with a simple and striking motif — that of radiating movement from a centre as when a pebble is thrown into a pool. Hence everything is circular: the shape of the bowl itself, the mosaics below the water, the marble base and the radiating circles of brickwork. The bowl itself, in copper, suggests a penny with the centre cut out and the inscription is done in simple Roman lettering. The circular marble base is travertine and similar to that used to face the Colosseum in Rome (1st century, A.D.).

Mr. Eaton engaged the mosaicist, the coppersmith, the brick-layer, the burnisher and the engraver, all of whom are true craftsmen. Within five weeks the idea was translated into reality.

To the leaving group, to these craftsmen, and to Mr. Eaton in particular, who gave his skill and time to the School so generously, we express warm thanks for the wonderfully simple and inspiring result, an outstanding tribute to a fine headmaster.

—*The Pretorian, Jubilee Edition, 1910-1960*

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## *Prof. J. J. Mulder*

*Adjunk-Direkteur van Onderwys.*

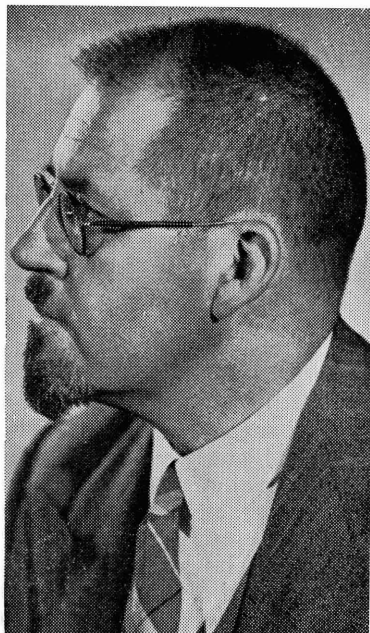
Die Genootskap Oud-Pretoria wil prof. Mulder hartlik geluk wens met sy aanstelling as Adjunk-Direkteur van Onderwys.

As lid stel prof. Mulder alreeds vir baie jare lank belang in die werksaamhede van ons Genootskap.

Terwyl hy vanaf 1960 Rektor van die Potchefstroomse Onderwyskollege geword het, het hy nog steeds lid gebly en meer as een keer navraag na ons aktiwiteite gedoen.

Die Genootskap Oud-Pretoria hoop dat prof. Mulder in die jare wat kom die tyd en geleentheid sal vind om weer die Genootskap se vergaderings by te woon en sy werksaamhede te steun.

(Red.)





# ONTSTAAN VAN DIE KLEINTEATER

**G**EDURENDE Maart 1940, het mej. Norah McCullough wat in Suid-Afrika was om Kinderkunsentra in die hoofstede te bevorder, my genader as ere-argitek vir die voorgestelde Pretoriase „Sentrum”. Die eerste gedeelte van die sentrum in Skinnerstraat is volgens my planne in Mei 1941 voltooi. Op hierdie stadium verlaat mej. McCullough Pretoria.

In Februarie 1943 word mnr. Le Roux Smith Le Roux — die bekende Suid-Afrikaanse kunstenaar — die direkteur van die Kunssentrum. Hy het ’n groot uitbreidingsplan genoem wat die destydse Administrateur, Generaal Pienaar, beoog het. In September 1945 ontmoet die Beheerraad van die Sentrum die Administrateur in die Raadsaal en die uitbreidingsplan kom onder bespreking.

Gedurende 1943 en 1944 is samesprekings gehou met mnr. Le Roux Smith Le Roux insake die voorgestelde uitbreidingsplan en die insluiting van ’n baie eenvoudige lesingteatertjie met ’n aansluitende Balletateljee met skuifbare deure tussenin wat dan later omskep kon word in ’n Kinderteaeter.

My planne vir hierdie aanbouing is opgetrek en deur hom goedgekeur in April 1944.

Na lang en amper vrugtelose samesprekings met verskeie instansies— wat die saak vertraag het — is daar eers in Maart 1946 begin met die aanbou van die byvoegings tot die Kunssentrum. Tewyte aan verskeie verdragings, onder andere ’n tekort aan boumateriaal, het die werk baie stadig gevorder.

In Maart 1948 is ek in kennis gestel dat die ateljees en die hoof se woonstel voltooi moes word, maar dat werk aan die teater gestaak moes word.

Gedurende Mei 1948 het mnr. Le Roux Smith Le Roux weer die Groot Nasionale Kunssentrumskema met my bespreek en ek is gevra om voorlopige planne op te stel. Besonderhede vir die opstelling van die planne was op hierdie tydstep nie tot my beskikking nie.

Gedurende 1948 het die Administrateur, genl. Pienaar, in ’n toespraak sy voorstel omskryf vir die uitbreiding van die „Sentrum”. Die „Sentrum” moes insluit ’n Kollege vir Visuelekuns, Kunsgallery, Kollege vir Musiek en Drama, ’n Operahuis en Konsertsaal, in byvoeging tot die alreeds halfvoltooide Kinderteaeter. Die Administrasie het alle beskikbare eiendom rondom die Kunssentrum vir hierdie doel aangekoop.

In September 1949 is ’n komitee onder die voorsitterskap van dr. F. C. L. Bosman aangestel om te begin met kindertoneel.

Intussen het mnr. Le Roux bedank as direkteur van die Kunssentrum. Mnr. Mckillop wat toe as prinsipaal aangestel is, het vroeg in 1950 gesê dat verskillende sake die vertraging van die teater se voltooiing in die hand gewerk het, maar hy het gehoop dat belangstelling weer sou opflikker.

Ek het onderhandel met die Provinsiale argitek in verband met die voltooiing van die teater maar daar het nie veel van gekom nie.

In Oktober 1954 het die destydse sekretaris van die Transvaalse Onderwysdepartement, dr. Meyer, my opdrag gegee om die teater finaal te voltooi vir die Provinsiale Administrasie en dat dit toegerus moes word as 'n smaakvolle, moderne kleinteater vir 'n volwasse gehoor. Sy tragiese dood in April 1959 was vir my persoonlik 'n groot verlies maar ek het getrag om sy wense uit te voer in die gees waarin hy dit bedoel het. Kort hierna het ek 'n reeks samesprekings met mnr. Michael Grobbelaar aangeknop. Van mnr. Grobbelaar het ek ten alle tye onbaatsugtige en waardevolle raad en bystand ontvang.

Gedurende Maart 1955 moes die Provinsiale Administrasie weereens halt roep omdat die destydse prinsipaal van die Kunssentrum nie sy weg opgesien het om die ateljees in die sentrum af te staan vir kleedkamers in die nuwe teater nie.

In November 1957 het die Kunssentrum onder die jurisdiksie van die Pretoriase Onderwyskollege gekom.

In Oktober 1961 is die teater uiteindelik voltooi en is dit oorhandig aan dr. Jordaan, Rektor van die Pretoriase Onderwyskollege.

NORMAN EATON, Argitek.

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## HISTORIESE BESIENSWAARDIGHEDE IN EN RONDON PRETORIA, III.

### DIE PALEIS VAN JUSTISIE.

**D**IE Paleis van Justisie of Hooggeregshofgebou staan op die eertydse „pastorie-erf”, die hoekerf nr. 276 (vroëer nr. 289), en op 'n gedeelte van die „school-erf”, nr. 275 (vroëer nr. 288), wat ook 'n hoekerf, in die noordwestelike hoek van Kerkplein, was. Die imposante Paleis van Justisie is in die loop van die jare 1896 tot 1900 deur die bou-aannemer, John Munro, opgerig. Die gebou is in die Italiaanse Renaissance-boustyl ontwerp, die destydse sg. „moderne monumentaalbou”. Die onderverdieping van die



*Die gebou links op die tekening (deur Marian Churchill in 1857) was een van die heel eerste woonhuise wat rondom Kerkplein opgerig is; in 1854/55 opgerig as woonhuis vir J. F. Schutte; vanaf 1856/57 gebruik as winkel van die firma Evans & Churchill; toe as winkel van Austin; vanaf 1874 as landdrosgebou; vanaf die tagtiger jare as terrein vir die poskantoor op die hoek van Kerkstraat-Wes en Kerkplein. Regs die woonhuis van kapt. J. H. M. Struben.*

gebou, uitgevoer in binnelandse klipwerk, word algemeen beskou as 'n meesterstuk, veral dié gedeelte in Paul Krugerstraat en teenoor die Kerkplein. Die hoeksteen van die gebou is op 8 Junie 1897 deur pres. Kruger gelê. Sytze Wierda, wat vanaf 1887 tot 1900, eers die „Gouvernements Ingenieur en Architekt” en daarna die „Hoofd van Publieke Werken” van die Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek was, het die gebou in samewerking met ander argitekte van sy departement ontwerp. Dit was een van sy skeppinge waarop hy — volgens 'n vertelling van een van sy dogters aan my in 1951— baie trots was. Die gebou was nog nie heeltemal voltooi nie toe die Tweede Vryheidsoorlog uitbreek het en aan die gang was en is gevolglik nooit deur die Republikeinse Owerheid in gebruik geneem nie. Gedurende die oorlog het dit as 'n Britse hospitaal diens gedoen.

Die Paleis van Justisie het, onder andere, die sg. „Oude Pastorie” vervang. Vanaf 1862 was dit die predikantswoning van ds. A. J. Begemann,

die eerste vaste predikant van die Ned. Herv. Gemeente van Pretoria, en vanaf 1876 van ds. H. S. Bosman. Teen die einde van die tagtiger jare het Marinus Franken, 'n bekende Nederlandse boukontrakteur in Pretoria, die „Oude Pastorie” gekoop wat dit weer op sy beurt aan die Republikeinse Regering verkoop het. Vir 'n tydlang was die kantore van die Departement van Mynwese en die Auditeur-Generaal in die gebou gevestig, terwyl die Staatsgimnasium ook vir 'n kort tydjie sy werksaamhede in hierdie historiese predikantswoning voortgesit het.

Die „Oude Pastorie” het egter 'n lang en interessante voorgeskiedenis agter die rug gehad wat uit die vroegste ontstaansjare van Pretoria gedateer het. Die gebou is oorspronklik in 1856 as 'n ampswoning vir komdt.-genl. M. W. Pretorius gebou. Nadat hy teen die einde van 1856 as die eerste president van die Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek aangewys is en vanaf 1857 op Potchefstroom moes gaan woon het, het hy en sy gesin nooit sy nuwe woonhuis op Pretoria betrek nie. Aanvanklik is dit tydelik bewoon deur die winkelier, Henry Austin en sy gesin, die skoonseun en dogter van kant. J. H. M. Struben. Teen die einde van 1856 en vroeg in 1857 is een van die kamers deur kapt. Struben vir 'n skool gebruik, nadat hy en sy skool 'n gedeelte van „Prinshof”, die woonhuis van Joggem „Tweeduim” Prinsloo moes ontruim. Vanaf Mei 1857 tot Mei 1862 was die gebou as 'n Landdroesgebou en Goewermentsgebou, sowel as 'n Volksraadsaal, gebruik totdat ds. Begemann sy intrek in 1862 in die gebou geneem het.

In Mei 1862 is die Landdroeskantoor sowel as die Goewermentskantoor oorgeplaas na die langsaangeleë Goewermentskoolgebou, wat in 1859 gebou is vir meester H. Stiemens, Pretoria se eerste Goewermentsonderwyser. Tot in 1865 het die Goewermentskoolgebou die hele regeringsadministrasie gehuisves, toe dit in daardie jaar weer opnuut in gebruik geneem is vir Stiemens se Goewermentskool. Vanaf 1867 is die Landdroeskantoor weer na die een helfte van die Goewermentskool terugverplaas, nadat dit vir 'n tydlang in Albert Brodrick se vroeëre woonhuis aan die noordoostelike kant van Kerkplein gehuisves was. Die Landdroeskantoor het tot in 1874 in 'n gedeelte van die Goewermentskool gebly, toe dit oorgeplaas is na die nuwe landdroesgebou in die vroeëre winkelgebou van Austin, op die noord-westelike hoek van Kerkstraat en Kerkplein. Dit was dieselfde gebou wat oorspronklik in 1854 deur ouderling J. F. Schutte vir homself en sy gesin gebou is.

Uit bogenoemde mededelings blyk dit dat die Paleis van Justisie op 'n baie historiese terrein opererig is. „Palace”-straat, oorspronklik „Court Lane”, het in 1885 op die westelike gedeelte van die terrein van die Goewermentskool tot stand gekom en toe moes ook 'n gedeelte van die skoolgebou afgebreek word om 'n voldoende straatwydte te verkry.

— H. M. REX.

# JACOBUS J. MEINTJES

## FIRST REGISTRAR OF DEEDS OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN REPUBLIC

ON reading the article "The Union Buildings on Meintjeskop" in the latest issue of "Pretoriana" (Nos. 39 & 40, Aug.-Dec. 1962) I notice that Mr. T. E. Andrews refers to Stephanus Meintjes of Arcadia Farm as "the first Registrar of Deeds".

I am taking the liberty of correcting him. The fact is that my father, J. J. Meintjes (Jacobus Johannes), founded the Deeds Office in 1865. He was a relative of S. J. Meintjes — a cousin probably — as my father was an only son. As a young man he hurt his knee in an accident, and owing to lack of medical aid in those days, he became a cripple and was therefore known as "Kreupel Koos". He always walked with the aid of a stick.

When President Pretorius asked him to start the Deeds Office, he wrote to a firm in Pietermaritzburg, probably Davis & Sons, and ordered a set of books in the name of the South African Republic. He received a reply that the firm regretted being unable to send books on account and in the name of the South African Republic, which was thought to be bankrupt, but if he would guarantee *personal payment*, they would send the books. This must have happened for my father went ahead and achieved his object. Unfortunately some of these documents, which were in our possession, got lost in the course of years.

My father died in 1888 at the age of 58 years.

Trusting you will accept my corrective criticism in the spirit in which it is written. Following is an excerpt from Sir John Kotze's "Biographical Memoirs and Reminiscences" published some years ago by Maskew Miller, Ltd., Cape Town, pp.409, 410 & 454, in which he refers to my father as the first Registrar of Deeds of the South African Republic and also to his standing and influence in our old Republic: —

"After the annexation of the Transvaal in April 1877, the great majority of Officials under the Republic, continued the Public Service in terms of the Annexation Proclamation.

"There were capable men among them, several deserving of mention.

"Mr. Jacobus J. Meintjes, an outstanding figure — was familiarly known as "Oom Koos". A shrewd well informed man of administrative

## J. J. MEINTJES



ability — and possessed of a keen sense of humour — who came from Beaufort West in the early sixties.

“When in 1866 a Registry of Deeds and Titles to land was established under a law passed by the Volksraad, he became the first Registrar. He had a very difficult task to perform and he carried it out with signal success. This was indeed a remarkable achievement, for Mr. Meintjes had not had any training or experience in the duties he was called upon to undertake. He set to work in right good earnest, communicated with the Landdrosts of the various districts with whom — up till then — title deeds had been registered and took over from them their lists and books — but these were often unsatisfactory and incomplete

“This led Mr. Meintjes to correspond with each individual owner, and having thus obtained all the necessary documents he was eventually able to frame full and accurate lists of all original titles and subsequent transfer of land and of existing servitudes and other encumbrances thereon. He opened proper registers in book form and within a few years he had established the simplest and safest method of registration of rights and titles to, and of encumbrances on immovable property in any civilized Country.

“South Africa can justly claim to have given other and older Countries a lead in this respect. The annexation of the Transvaal had converted it into British Territory, and hence — from the British standpoint — the Republic, and with it, the Republican Executive and Volksraad were no longer “in esse”.

**MRS. HILMA DE ZWAAN**



“The Volksraad therefore could no longer function as such. Even if it could it would have no authority to will away the independence of the country without the consent of the Burghers. Under the Grondwet the Volksraad possessed no such power. To call the body together for the purpose stated, would be in conflict with the position created by the Annexation Proclamation.

“Sir Theophilus agreed that there seemed to be difficulties in the way and that it was best to “rest on one’s oars” — The subject then dropped.

“I have always thought the idea of calling the Volksraad together with the above idea, was originally suggested to the Administrator by Mr. Meintjes, the shrewd Registrar of Deeds.

“He was certainly the best informed man in Pretoria in regard to Boer character and opinion. He knew the members of the Boer Volksraad well, and was “persona grata” with them.

“Sir Theophilus Shepstone valued his advice, as Meintjes was a man of sense and discretion.

“Now it happened that a few days prior to my meeting with the Administrator I was on a visit to Mr. Meintjes’ house — for we had become friendly with each other — and in the course of conversation he introduced the question of calling the Volksraad together as he was convinced that a majority of that body would approve of the annexation, especially as Mr. Kruger was absent in England and such approval would be the best answer to the Protest. We had a long talk about it, during which I pointed out the difficulties referred to above. The suggestion of Mr. Meintjes about summoning the Volksraad, set me thinking and induced me once more to read “The Grondwet” or Constitution of the Republic as well as the Royal Commission to Shepstone and the Annexation Proclamation. When, therefore, the Administrator shortly after interrogated me, as to calling the Volksraad together, I was not much surprised but prepared to give a legal and Constitutional aspect of the question.”

MRS. HILMA DE ZWAAN.

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## PRETORIA IN DIE TAGTIGER JARE

### HERINNERINGE VAN DS. A. J. BEGEMANN.

**T**YDENS navorsingswerk het ondergetekende in „De Volkstem” van 20-2-1917 op ’n aantal herinneringe van ds. Begemann afgekom. Die oud-leraar en eerste vaste predikant van die Ned. Herv. Gemeente van Pretoria is omstreeks Februarie 1917 deur ’n verslaggewer van genoemde koerant besoek en hy het o.m. oor Pretoria in die sestiger jare en daarna en ook oor die eerste Staatsbiblioteek allerlei wetenswaardighede meegedeel. Die eerste Staatsbiblioteek het begin in een van die kamers van die ou goewermentskoolgebou wat vir baie jare gestaan het op die terrein van die teenswoordige Paleis van Justisie.

Bibliotekaris Begemann — as sodanig aangestel nadat hy as predikant bedank het — was van oordeel dat een kamer onvoldoende was vir die huisvesting van die boekery en het spoedig planne beraam om sy biblioteek uit te brei. Wat daarna gebeur het, ontleen ons letterlik aan genoemde artikel.

„Op ’n zekere dag sprak ik President Kruger daarover, en weet u wat



hij antwoordde? Hij zeide: „Ik behelp mij met mij kamer en jij kan jou ook behelp met jou kamer!” ”

## **DIE TYDELIKE GOWERMENTSgebou IN PRETORIUSSTRAAT.**

Die genoemde kamer van die Staatspresident was destyds, in die vroeë tagtiger jare, in die tydelike Goewermentsgebou in Pretoriusstraat, nadat dit vanaf 1881 tot 1884 eers in die Jellalabad Villa in Visagiestraat gevestig was. Die grasdakgebou in Pretoriusstraat, waarheen sommige van die regeringsdepartemente in 1884 oorgeplaas is, was oorspronklik die woonhuis van komdt.-genl. Piet Joubert, maar vanaf 1884 tot met die voltooiing van die nuwe Staatsgebou op Kerkplein, is dit aan die regering vir staatskantore verhuur. Later is Van Erkom se gebou, wat vandag nog daar staan, op dieselfde perseel opgerig.

## **„DE VOLKSTEM" AS WAARDEVOLLE BRON OOR GESKIEDENIS VAN PRETORIA.**

In „De Volkstem” van om en by dieselfde datum, kom ’n reeks bydraes oor bg. en ander aspekte van ons stad se geskiedenis voor wat besonder belangrik is as ’n bron van ons kennis van die ver vervloë dae en is vermoedelik aan slegs weinig lesers van „Pretoriana” bekend.

## **DIE NEDERLANDSCHE BANK EN CREDIETVEREENIGING (1888).**

Aan ons stad in wording in die tagtiger jare herinner ook ’n deel van die inhoud van die Jaarverslag, 1961-1962, van die „Nederlandse Bank van Suid-Afrika, Beperk”. Die bank, toentertyd bekend as die „Nederlandsche Bank en Credietvereniging” is op Van Riebeeckdag 1888 in Amsterdam opgerig. Die eerste kantoor in ons land, te wete dié een in Pretoria, is in Augustus van dieselfde jaar geopen. Dr. F. J. C. Cronje gee in bg. jaarverslag ’n kort skets van die bank se geskiedenis.

Die skrywer van hierdie mededelings spreek die hoop uit dat die huidige bank nog eendag ’n lywige geskiedkundige oorsig van sy werksaamhede in ons land sal uitgee.

—DR. JAN PLOEGER.

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## Genootskap Oud-Pretoria

(Gestig: 22 Maart 1948)

## Association Old Pretoria

(Founded: 22 March, 1948)

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

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

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*Verteenwoordiger van die Stadsraad* / *Representative of the City Council:*

Prof. DR. P. J. VAN DER WALT.

*Burgemeester* / *Mayor*.

*Bydraes moet asb. gestuur word aan:* Die Redakteur „Pretoriana”, Frans Oerder-  
straat 107, Groenkloof, Pretoria.

*Contributions to be sent to:* The Editor “Pretoriana”, 107 Frans Oerder Street,  
Groenkloof, Pretoria.