



Onderstepoort residence – houseparents 1952 to 1975

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The story of the three housefathers before 1976, was put together with the help of alumni, a search on the internet and the existing obituaries. The stories of the later incumbents were published in VetNews in April and July this year: Alischa and Tiaan Henning, the incumbents who took up their posts in 2018; Jan and Susan Myburgh (2004 – 2017), Japie and Estelle Venter (1988-2004), Marius Hornsveld (1985 – 1988) and the late Dr Eddie Genis and his wife, Christa (1976-1985).

Glyn M J Horton – 1973 to 1975

Glyn Horton spent only a short time in South Africa and little is known about him. He was the housefather from 1973 to 1975. What was discovered is that he was born in Brighton England on 30 January 1942. His full name is probably Glyn Michael John Horton. He was an animal scientist, not a veterinarian. It is unknown where he qualified but he must have obtained a doctorate at some point because he was referred to as Dr Glyn M J Horton.

Lesley F Lunn (BVSc 1977) contributed the following anecdote about the Horton family:

Glyn Horton had two children Sharon and Tristram. I used to babysit for him and his wife because the children were already in bed and I could sit and read or study and drink their coffee. One year they gave me a book inscribed by Sharon. I never figured out what the little poem meant and if Sharon wrote it or copied it. Mrs Horton spoke Afrikaans to the children, Mr Horton English.

Horton was employed at the Wye Agricultural College in Kent England before taking up the appointment at the Faculty of Veterinary Science at Onderstepoort in c.1973. Incidentally, Wye College was founded in 1447 and in 1890 became the Wye Agricultural College of the University of London. In 2000, after a merger, it was known as Imperial College Wye and in 2009 the Wye College was closed and converted into residential housing.

Horton did research in livestock nutrition and published almost 20 scientific papers in this field between 1975 and 1995. Five of these publications were published by Onderstepoort. In 1976, Horton moved to the University of Saskatchewan in Canada and stayed there until c.1980, before taking up a post at the Agricultural

Research Centre of the University of Florida in Ona in the USA. The research station at Ona is still in existence and is known as the Range Cattle Research and Education Center of the University of Florida. It is one of 600 such agricultural research stations in the USA.

It is known that he had applied for a Social Security number from the USA in 1979. In 1983, Horton lived in New York and in 1986 he moved to Gladstone in New Jersey. From 1990, Horton's scientific papers are from Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey in the USA. He died on 3 October 1995.

Horton was probably a keen sportsman because he donated the Glyn Horton Trophy for the best all-around sportsman at Onderstepoort (Experto Crede no. 5, 1977). Peter Humphreys (BVSc 1978) won the trophy in 1977 (when Horton had already left Onderstepoort) and by all accounts, the Onderstepoort sporting teams had a great year in 1977 – including the new women's teams.

O.P. SPORT, 1977

In a fairly successful year of sport, O.P. won the squash league convincingly, and for the first time, we fielded a women's team.

O.P. also won the hockey league, with the second team 2nd or 3rd pending the outcome of their final match. Also for the first time, a women's hockey side was fielded.

After a very successful start to the season, O.P. was third on the rugby log at the end of the first semester, and could look forward to a challenging second half of the season, which turned out to be successful. The highpoint was possibly the defeat of the previously unbeaten team of Kollege Huis.

O.P. were narrowly beaten into second place in the soccer league this year, after winning the league last year. With only one point in it, it was an exciting end to the season.

O.P. also has a newly-established baseball team, a tennis team, a water-polo and swimming, and a very social golf team.

The pi-pi-ti (Greek letters for p-p-t or Physiology Pharmacology and Toxicology) Trophy was donated in 1977 by the relevant department for the best individual sportsman, and won for the first time by Johnny van der Merwe, Tukkies cricket club captain and Northern Transvaal player.

The Glyn Horton Trophy for the best all-round sportsman at O.P. was awarded to a deserving Peter Humphreys.

With sport presently on a high note, we look forward to even more successes in 1978.

Richard Kelsey (Dick) Loveday – 1962 to 1972

Dick Loveday was the housefather from 1962 to 1972. Notably, he is the only housefather who appears in one of the graduation photographs, namely that of the Class of 1972. He was born in Durban on 13 May 1919. He matriculated from the Durban Boys High School and qualified as a veterinarian from Onderstepoort in 1941. On qualifying, Loveday joined the South African Veterinary Corps and married Vera Sydney Hoole on 20 October 1943. They had three children.

After the war, Loveday was in private practice in Pinetown for a short spell before joining the Municipal Services of the City of Johannesburg in 1948. He was responsible for milk and meat hygiene. However, in 1952, Loveday returned to private practice, this time in Cape Town.

Another career change occurred in 1956 when Loveday joined the Division of Veterinary Field Services of the Department of Agriculture as a state veterinarian. He worked at the pig abattoir in Estcourt and also in Ladysmith before he was transferred to the Onderstepoort Veterinary Research Institute in 1958. He held the post of Pig Research Officer and was sent to the University of Cambridge in England in 1960 where he studied swine diseases.

In 1962, he was appointed as a lecturer in Pig Diseases in the Department of Medicine of the Onderstepoort Faculty and stayed at the Faculty until 1989, except for a time as manager of the Kanhym Piggery near Witbank from 1982 to 1985. At this point, 1,500 students had learnt about pig health and production from Professor Loveday. He was considered *a master of his art who played an indelible role in pig herd health in South Africa*. He died on 29 November 1995 and in his obituary, he is described as *a true gentleman, with the gentlest of natures, who sought to offend no one*.

In a letter dated 14 October 1969 and addressed to the then Dean, Prof **CFB Hofmeyr**, the Staff Sports Liaison Officer, **Rhoderick I Coubrough** (BVSc 1961), deals with the maintenance of the sports and recreation facilities at Onderstepoort. He states that *the diversity of sports maintains a very necessary balance between the academic and recreational programs of the student body*.

Coubrough proposes that an Onderstepoort Hostel Sports Foundation is formed with himself as Staff Sports Liaison Officer, Dick Loveday as Hostel Warden, the House Chairman (**Ian A Herbst**, at the time BVSc 1970) and the Dean acting as administrators.

Loveday was thus referred to as House Warden (by some at least) and he also, must have encouraged sport. He sits proudly in the centre of the photograph of the First Rugby Team of 1972.

Thomas Frederik (Tom) Adelaar – c.1950 to 1961

Tom Adelaar preceded Dick Loveday as housefather (or house warden), but it is not known when he took up the post. Adelaar was born in Pretoria on 26 March 1909. He matriculated in Pretoria at the Oost Eind Hoërskool in 1926. Adelaar married Cornelia Groeneveld on 17 November 1934 when he was a state veterinarian in Potgieterust, where he worked from 1932 to 1938.

He was then stationed at Armoedsvlakte near Vryburg until 1942 before he was transferred to the Virology Section of the Onderstepoort Veterinary Research Institute. Adelaar became the Head of Toxicology at the Institute and a Senior Lecturer in Toxicology at the Onderstepoort Faculty in 1947 when Prof DG Steyn retired. He stayed in both these posts until 1973 when the Institute and the Faculty became two separate institutions. Adelaar opted to stay in his research post and to relinquish his teaching responsibilities. He retired a year later in 1974. He died on 4 December 1980. Of Tom Adelaar it was said that *he was an impressive, tall man with an outgoing personality and was a popular teacher with a wealth of practical experience. He was probably the best diagnostician the institute had in those early days, and anecdotes of his many correct field diagnoses, when everyone else was stumped, are legion* (Bigalke, 2007).

Tom Adelaar's wife, Cornelia, was the matron during his tenure as house warden. This has been confirmed by Prof Neels Roos (BVSc 1958) and Dr Ingrid Wolleschak (BVSc 1958) who stated in Old Res from 1955 to 1958. See VetNews of August 2024 for their story. Mrs Adelaar probably worked much harder to organise three meals a day for the 40 inhabitants of Old Res and all the other responsibilities of a matron.

A rare picture of the student life at Onderstepoort during Adelaar's time, is provided by the Chairman of the House Committee in the *Journal of the South African Veterinary (Medical) Association* of 1960. In his Chairman's Report, the achievements on the sports fields are mentioned (as ever). Onderstepoort also received the prize for the most humorous float during Rag and is *officially affiliated with the Occupational Therapy Faculty*. Onderstepoort also took part in a "Studentevaria". Interestingly, the Chairman mentions the spirit at Onderstepoort, where Afrikaans and English-speaking students study together, *unique among faculties of South African Universities*.

Report by House Chairman, Onderstepoort, 1960

It is a spirit, created among men of many creeds, a spirit of co-operation, and above all understanding. For every problem, for every point of view, for every action, there are, and must always be two sides; it is in creating an atmosphere for a better and deeper understanding of these sides, that we will be able to progress. By this means I am sure we will be able to alleviate the antagonistic feelings which appear to exist sometimes at galas and sing-songs. I only wish to point out, that too often a place and an institution are judged by the conduct of only a very small percentage of its members. But on the other hand, let us be constructive in our criticism, and let us not be buried by our so often single-minded thoughts. Above all, let us not envy, or deny; the accomplishments of others. In an unselfish spirit, competition has never harmed anyone. In fact, it has made good many an error in the co-existence of a community.

The Chairman ends his report with *special thanks to Dr. Adelaar, our Warden, for his guidance and help in all matters during the past year, as well as to Prof. de Boom*.

Does any of the readers of VetNews know who this erudite Chairman of 1960 was?

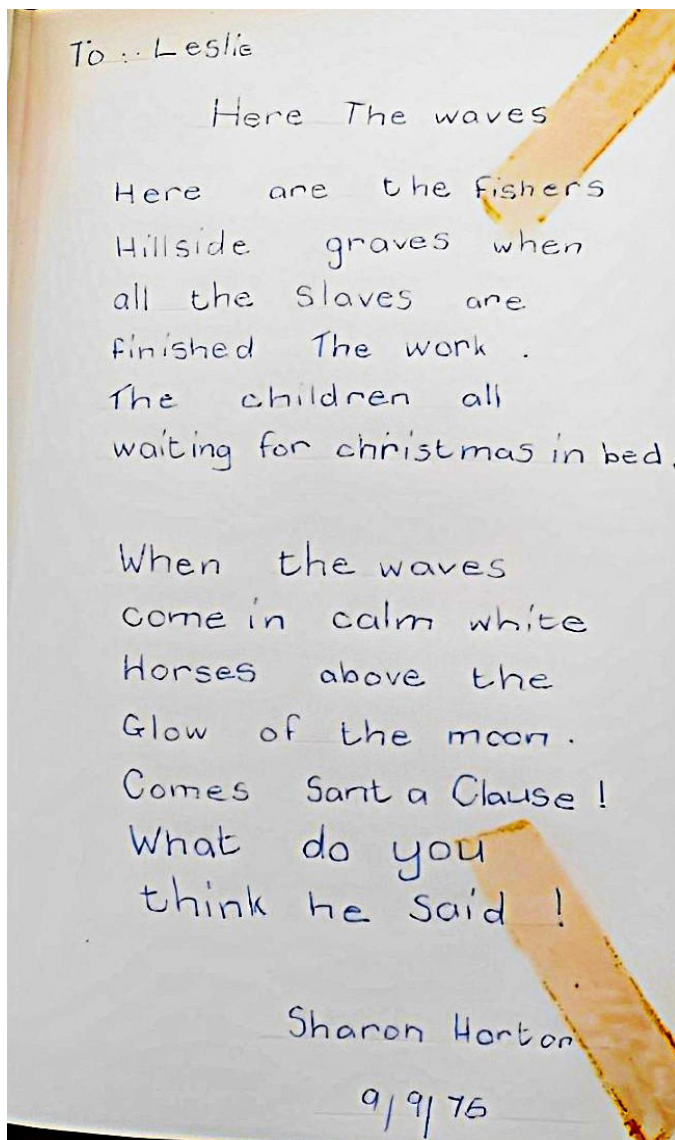
Source: Journal of the South African Veterinary Association (1960), Vol. 31(4), p.501-503.

Available at: https://journals.co.za/doi/abs/10.10520/AJA00382809_850

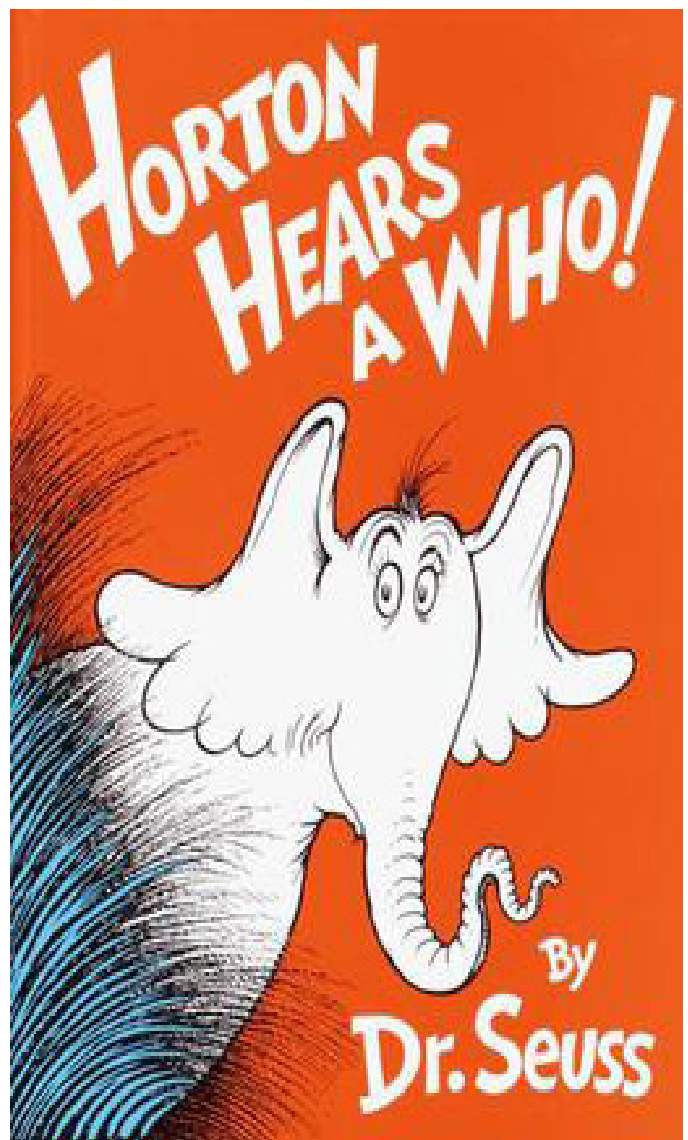
Other sources:

- On Tom Adelaar: Bigalke, R. D. (2007). Veterinary education in South Africa: the Classes of 1932 and 1933. Journal of the South African Veterinary Association, 78(4), 185–187. Available at: <https://journals.co.za/doi/abs/10.10520/EJC99746>
- On Dick Loveday: In Memoriam: Professor RK Loveday (1919-1994), in the VetNews of January 1995, p.16.
- Experto Crede no. 5 of 1977. Available at: <https://repository.up.ac.za/handle/2263/70952>

If any of the readers of VetNews has information on the residences of Onderstepoort that they would like to share, please send an email to oldres100years@gmail.com



Poem by Sharon (Glyn Horton's daughter) inscribed in a book presented to 'babysitter' Lesley Lunn



Finding Horton was a Dr. Seuss undertaking!



Wye Agricultural College (University of London), c. 1930s
where Glen Horton started his career



One of the historic buildings at Wye Agricultural College
(University of London), founded in 1894

J S Afr Vet Assoc.

1977 Jun;48(2):99-103.

Haematological changes caused by *Trichostrongylus colubriformis* in lambs fed a dystrophogenic diet

G M HORTON, N C Owen, I G Horak, J Schröder

PMID: 915893

Article by Glyn Horton et al, published in the Journal of the SA Veterinary Journal



Inscription on the Trophy for the Best
All-round Sportsman at Onderstepoort
presented by Glyn Horton



1941 BVSc Graduali, Dick Lovedale – back row centre. The house father was DA Haig (front row, 2nd from left)



1972 BVSc Graduali when Lovedale was house father (front row, 6th from left)



Dick Lovedale with the 1972 First rugby team, winners of the Intermedies Driehoek

Genesiology. 14.10.69.

Prof. C.F.B. Hofmeyr,
Dean,
Faculty of Veterinary Science,
ONDERSTEEPOORT.

Dear Prof. Hofmeyr,

The Onderstepoort Student's Hostel is somewhat unique in being situated a great distance from the body of the University campus. This means that sports and recreation facilities must essentially be provided closer at hand. For obvious reasons, both geographic and time-wise, it is difficult for the general mass of Onderstepoort students to make use of the excellent facilities provided by the University, at the L.C. de Villiers sports grounds. The wide diversity of sports catered for at Onderstepoort, helps in no uncertain manner to maintain a very necessary balance between the academic and recreational program of the student body.

Letter by R Coubrough to Prof Hofmeyr, 1969 requesting sport facilities for OP Hostel



Tom Adelaar with Drs G de Kock & PJ du Toit and his fellow students, 1932



Tom Adelaar, c. 1970s a popular lecturer with a wealth of practical experience



Oost-Eind School, c. 1897 where Tom Adelaar matriculated. Today it is a primary school

