

KULTUURAKTIWITEITE VAN DIE PRETORIASE JEUG

VANAF 1883: G.J. Van Eck: 1967

Die eerste Jeugvereniging in die Zuid-Afrikaanse Republiek skyn dié te wees wat te Pretoria deur wyle ds.(later dr.) H.S. Bosman op 20 APRIL 1883 opgerig is met die doel "Het geestelijk en zedelijk welzijn van elkander en ook van anderen te bevorderen" deur middel van "Bijbelbespreking, de behandeling van Kerkgeschiedenis, en het lezen van Godsdienstige werken". Dit het geheet: CHRISTELIJKE JONGELINGS-VERENIGING te PRETORIA.

Na dit voorkom, het die Vereniging, moontlik in ietwat gewysigde vorm, bly voortbestaan, want volgens 'n skriftelike mededeling van wyle dr. (destyds ds.) H.D.A. Broekhuizen het hy in November 1898 voorsitter van die C.J.V. in Pretoria geword en dit tot Julie 1900 gebly toe hy op kommando gegaan en later 'n "paar maande in die Pretoria Tronk gesit het."

Aan hierdie stukkie verenigingslewe en kulturele arbeid in Pretoria het die Tweede Vryheidsoorlog ook 'n einde gemaak. Maar na die Vrede van Vereeniging in 1902 het die Afrikanervolk weer uit die as van sy verlore worstelstryd opgestaan en is daar benewens die politieke stryd, ook 'n "vredesstryd" om die volk se taal- en kultuurbehoud aangeknoop. Ook op die terrein van die kultuurontwaking neem Pretoria weer die voortou.

Op 15 November 1904 ontstaan daar naamlik op inisiatief veral van ds. W.P. Steenkamp van die moedergemeente die PRETORIA CHRISTELIKE JONGELIEDEN VERENIGING wat tot doel gehad het om die jong Afrikaners van die hoofstad op "Christelike-nasionale wijze te brengen, en door de omgang bijmekaar te houden". In die Vereniging is daar oornasionale en ander belange gedagtes gewissel en is die lede geleer om die Afrikaans-Hollandse element te handaaf, en in hierdie en ander verenigings is dit waar die Afrikaners van die toekoms gevorm is.

THE HUNDRED DAYS SIEGE OF PRETORIA

For about a hundred days Loreto Convent, Pretoria frowned on the world - a redoubtable laager, occupied by some six hundred volunteers. Living in cramped quarters brought its quota of inconvenience and suffering, but the sisters accepted their privations gladly for the privilege of being close to the Blessed Sacrament day and night. In this way they were able to preserve the essentials of Convent life. The Cells, the school rooms and Church were all occupied by the military. The loft corridor, its height halved as two sleeping apartments for the volunteers. The trees, shrubs and hedges were cut down and the once flowery expanse was replaced by tents and other grim reminders of war.

....the nuns still had five boarders with them; two little orphans aged four and six, and three others who had been unable to get home. The youngest inhabitant of the Laager was not the little orphan boarder of four, but a new-born baby, who first saw the light of day in what was then the nuns' community room. It was now the residence of Sir Kelsey and Lady Loveday. The event appears in the news of the Camp of 1 February 1881: Birth: "At the Convent Redoubt on January 29 to the wife of Richard Kelsey Loveday - a daughter."

The daughter was named Celine Loveday after M.M. Margaret Mary whose baptismal name was Celine.

LORETO IN SOUTH AFRICA: 1878 - 1978

NOTE: Some years back whilst on the City Council's Street and Place name advisory Committee I recommended the name CELINE be given one of the streets in ELZIMARI, a proposed township adjoining Glen Lauriston which is near ROOIHUISKRAAL where a major battle took place during the Siege of Pretoria. Tom A.

RUSSIAN AMBULANCE SERVICE 1900

For the future historian looking back on Europe at the turn of the twentieth century, one of the most intriguing aspects of public life will be the largely disinterested sympathy expressed in almost all civilized countries for the heroic struggle of the Boers for their national independence.

In Russia, society responded with great warmth to the events in South Africa and is even today demonstrating its sympathy with generous donations. Evidence of these are the details published recently by Pastor Gillot of sums entrusted to him for the relief of the unfortunate Boer families, deprived by the cruel war of their homes and of any means of subsistence. Particular interest was aroused by the formation in the autumn of 1899, through public donation, of an ambulance, which was to prove the best supplied and equipped of any operating in the Transvaal.

Because of the neutrality which his position obliged him to observe, the Dutch ambassador refused to accept the money collected for the Boers, so it was handed to the pastor of the Dutch community in St Petersburg, Mr. Gillot, a man of great experience in the administration of charitable enterprises. On his initiative and under his chairmanship, a Committee for aid to the Boers was organized, consisting mainly of leading members of the Dutch community in St. Petersburg. After consultations with the representative of the South African Republics, Doctor Leyds, it was decided that the funds should be used for the formation of an ambulance.

The ambulance was entirely independent of the Russian Red Cross despatched to South Africa at about the same time and it was agreed that only half of the personnel would be Russians. To facilitate relations with the Government and population of the Transvaal, the rest of the unit

NEWSLETTER

NUUSBRIEF

OLD PRETORIA SOCIETY
GEBOOTSKAP OUD-PRETORIA

P.O. BOX : 4063
POSBUS

PRETORIA
0001

JULY/JULIE 1988

No/Nr: 116

It is pleasing to report that on our Chair-
mans recommendation I was once again selected
to serve on the City Council's Place and Street
Name Advisory Committee after a break of 8
years, as we already have a representative on
the committee, Mr. Willem Punt, Council saw it
fit to include me as an independent, but the
Society is assured that they now have two voice
in the interests of Pretoria.

Tom

We were requested to illustrate the aims of the
OLD PRETORIA SOCIETY at an exhibition in Menlyn
Centre from the 27th July 1988; a sub-committee
was formed and a lot of hard work went into pre-
paring the material - then - the show was cancel-
led..... until the 28th August 1988 -
imagine what the sub-committee said!!!!!!
.... more about this later.

Your Committee was not in favour of the wine-
vintage names to be given to streets in the in-
tended township of Nellmapius, but nothing could
be done about it as the City Council had already
sanctioned the names. The Society will be taking
up the matter with the developers to try and
change their minds and to come forward with
names appropriate to Pretoria's history.

PLEASE KEEP THE 2ND SEPTEMBER EVENING OPEN...
FOR OUR 40th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION - see
CIRCULAR - and advise MERL - 43-6250

was to be recruited in Holland and the head doctor was to be Dutch. It was required of the Russian members of the ambulance that they should know German and some knowledge of Dutch or English was also considered desirable. I had been working as a sister for more than two years in the surgical and other departments of the Hospital of St George. Moreover, I had good knowledge of German and English and was able to pick up Dutch without difficulty, so I was accepted immediately onto the staff of the ambulance. The other Russian members were: Doctor F.K. Weber, surgeon from the St Petersburg Hospital of St Mary Magdalene, the senior Russian doctor and the only one with the degree of Doctor of Medicine; Doctors K.G. van Rennenkampf of the Alexandrovskaya German Hospital: Doctor L.V. Bornhaupt, assistant to Professor Bergman in Eiga; Doctor V.A. Kukharenko of the Moscow Hospital of St Catherine. The sisters, besides myself, were Josephine Exhevskaya of the Community of the Holy Cross, who had served with a medical unit in the Greco-Turkish war and was undoubtedly the most experienced sister on our ambulance, Amelia Jacobsen and Johanna Meyer of the Aleksandrovskaya German Hospital and Hilda Meisner of the Evangelical Hospital, the youngest member of our ambulance.

A FEW MONTHS WITH THE BOERS:
Sophia Izedinova

...vanaf bladsy 6 - M^ôre Letta

by die slim mense gaan leer. Hierdie ouens is nou regtig slim. Maar hoe sê hulle? slim vang sy baas.

M^ôre Tom - M^ôre Letta - M^ôre Hollander -

Don't worry Anton - this is just a skit on the naam. A visit to the Mundt's family cemetery on the river banks will prove that there was not Letta Mundt. Mundt snr's wife was a Miss van Soelen from the Free State; they did not live in the old house, the beautiful residence, named Mundtsoelen was demolished: Tom.

GUILD OF LOYAL WOMEN : Extract from THE ROYAL ENGINEERS JOURNAL: Jan. 1, 1902.

ROYAL ENGINEER GRAVES IN SOUTH AFRICA. The work of identifying and caring for the graves of those who have fallen in the war in South Africa is being undertaken by the VICTORIA LEAGUE, acting in conjunction with the GUILD OF LOYAL WOMEN of South Africa.

The League have invited regiments generally to subscribe and the Treasurer has asked if the Royal Engineers will help.

The returns up to the 1st October, 1901, show that 13 officers and 348 N.C.O.'s and men of the Corps had either been killed or had died in South Africa during the war.

ROYAL ENGINEERS JOURNAL: 1903: R.E. GRAVES

The subscription list for this fund is closed, and a statement of accounts is given below. From this it will be seen that although the original amount suggested as suitable has not been subscribed, yet a very substantial sum has been forwarded to the VICTORIA LEAGUE SOUTH AFRICAN GRAVES FUND who, working in conjunction with the GUILD OF LOYAL WOMEN, for three years have been carrying out the noble and patriotic work of the care of the graves in South Africa. The Committee have expressed their thanks for all the work that has been done by the Committee of the above fund in the application of the money, and have received a letter from the Treasurer of thanks for the generous subscriptions of the Corps.

POSTSCRIPT : I am sure that there are members of the OLD PRETORIA SOCIETY who were at one time members of THE GUILD OF LOYAL WOMEN which was disbanded not so very long ago. Many will remember their hall in Voor Street, Sunnyside the walls decorated with pictures of Queen Victoria and members of their Committees over

the years, many people, like me had their wedding receptions in that hall.

CAN ANY OF OUR MEMBERS PERHAPS PUT US IN TOUCH WITH ANY MEMBER/S OF THE ONCE GUILD OF LOYAL WOMEN?

WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO THEIR RECORDS - TO WHAT SOCIETY DID THE MONEY GO TO ON THE SALE OF THE HALL?

Any information, no matter how slight, will be welcome.

Tom
43-6250

A Letter from Anton Jansen who is restoring Erasmus Castle asks:-

OOR SINKPLATE, PLAFONNE EN ANDER DINGE

Gedurende die laat sestiger jare is meester van die hout plafonne in die kasteel vervang met moderne S.A. Den plafonne(Knotty Pine). Nou wil ons weer die outydse hout plafonne aanbring. Weet iemand dalk van 'n huis wat gesloop word en waar ek die plafonne kan gaan uithaal? Die plafon plankies was ongeveer 15 cm. breed en 1 cm. dik, en het 'n ronde groefie in die middel gehad. Dit maak nie saak of die plankies geverf of vernis is nie.

Skakel my gerus by die volgende nommers as u inligting het:

Op terrein 012 - 451395 :Huis 012-475838
Kantoor 012- 706456.

Groete en dankie
ANTON.

WAR GRAVES: 1899-1902: G.A. CHADWICK:
MILITARIA 11/1 -1981;

REGISTERS: Commencing immediately after the peace settlement, the Dutch Reformed Church played a major part in recording particulars of all Boers who died in the War. This included soldiers as well as men, women and children who died in concentration camps or elsewhere. No monuments or headstones were erected on battlefields, but in many cases, monuments bearing the names of the fallen from a particular district, were erected in church yards

During the 1920's an organisation known as the SOLDIERS' GRAVES ASSOCIATION was established to care for the graves of British soldiers. It concentrated mainly on the period 1899-1902 and did sterling work. It is still in existence. A similar organisation, known as the Burgergraftekomitee, cared for the Boer graves, but ceased to exist when its functions and most of its members were absorbed into the SOUTH AFRICAN WAR GRAVES BOARD.

G.A. CHADWICK: MILITARIA 11/1: 1981.

Môre Letta - From Be My Guest - June 1988.

It has been suggested that the origin of the name Moreleta dates back to the Mundt family, who lived in the old house which now forms part of the Pioneer Open Air Museum in Silverton. Letta Mundt enjoyed sitting outside the house and being greeted 'Môre Letta' by passers-by on the road between Pretoria and Bronkhorstspuit.

A note from ANTON JANSEN reads:- " Kyk hier Engelsman, as jy nie weet waar die name vandaan kom nie dan moet jy

terug na bladsy 3.....