

HABARI Oktober 95

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Nuusbrief van die Oos-Afrika Vriendekomitee
Newsletter of the Friends of East Africa

29



JAMBO SANA

Na 25 jaar het die plek waar die OOS-AFRIKABYEENKOMS jaarliks gehou is ook 'n naam aan die byeenkoms gegee: Die Fonteine Byeenkoms. Nou lyk dit asof die klem weer van die Fonteine na Oos-Afrika sal verskuif.

Na heelwat terugvoering, skriftelik sowel as mondeling, na die Oktober 1994 byeenkoms oor verskeie 'shauris' en potensiële shauris by die Fonteine (verkeer, toegangsgelde, buitelandse indringing) het die komitee 'n noodvergadering oor ons vergaderplek gehou, en besluit om vanjaar met die plek-tradisie te breek.

Dit blyk dat daar basies vier vereistes vir ons vergaderplek is :

1. Dit moet redelik sentraal wees.
2. Verkeer op toegangspaaie moet die van ons wat die stadsverkeer nie gewoon is nie, nie afskrik nie.
3. Toegangsgelde moet redelik wees.
4. Toegang moet beperk wees of volgens bespreking gedoen word.

Na volledige bespreking en 'n fisiese inspeksie het die komitee besluit op die NG Kerk se kampterrein langs die Roodeplaatdam. 'n Kaart word by die nuusbrief ingesluit. Die terrein is binne in 'n wildreservaat. Moet dus nie jaghonde, of ander troeteldiere, of jaggewere saambring nie; dit is taboe. Die komitee tref self reëlings vir die betaling van toegangsgelde, en beplan ook om toegang by die hek vinnig en maklik te maak. Vul die strokie onder aan die kaart in en gee dit in by die hek; as ons onderhandelings slaag sal dit die invul van die toegangsregister onnodig maak.

Ons sien mekaar almal by die Roodeplaatdam op Saterdag 7 Oktober 1995. Daar gaan ons piekniek hou en lekker gesels oor die verlede, die hede en ook die toekoms. Dalk het iemand nog 'n plan vir 'n

beter en goedkoper vergaderplek vir die toekoms. Kwaheri.

Hoe kom u daar? Kyk na die kaart agterop die nuusbrief.

Volg die swart paaie wat in die pyltjie by die dam eindig.

ADRESSE EN TELEFOONNOMMERS VAN DIE OOS-AFRIKA VRIENDEKOMITEE
Voorsitter: Alex Boshoff, Posbus 21, DERDEPOORTPARK, 0035 (012.8083664)

Ondervoorsitter: Danie Steyn, - met 'n nuwe adres en telefoonnommer - Posbus 14386, Dersley, SPRINGS, 1569. (011.8122700 (w) en 011.3661747 (h))

Redakteur Habari: Eddie de Waal, Keeromstraat 628, HERCULES, 0082 (012.3792604)

De Plet Grobler, Kalkoenstraat 38, MONUMENTPARK X20181 (012.455457)

Mrs Emma Stow, Belrene Straat 14, RIETONDALE, 00843 (012.329-4177)

GERT BARNARD GOES DOWN MEMORY LANE

Between the settled districts of Kenya and the frontiers of Abyssinia and Italian Somaliland, lies a vast semi-desert known as the Northern Frontier District. Some 60 000 square miles in area and traversed in 1939 by "roads" that were little better than camel-tracks.

Italy's forces in East Africa numbered over 300 000 men, well armed and equipped with armoured cars, tanks, heavy and light artillery, hundreds of aircraft and excellent supply services. On the Kenya side of the Frontier were just a few battalions of the King's African Rifles.

Information was urgently needed about what was happening on the Italian frontier;

to obtain it a Scout Platoon was formed from fourteen Kenya settlers, mostly white hunters and farmers/ They set off in ordinary touring cars under the command of an Officer from the 5th Bn. K.A.R., Lt. D.M. Geddes, MC On September 1st 1939, two days before war was declared between Great Britain and Germany, the Scouts were watching the Italian frontier.

During these early days in September 1939, the Scout Platoon did invaluable work patrolling the frontier, making road reconnaissances and collecting information; they gained contact with Somalis from across the border who were later on used by our Intelligence officers as agents; they sited camps giving cover from air observation and made a careful survey of all sources of water supply.

As a result of their work, it was decided to form a unit better equipped for reconnaissance duties. The fourteen original Scouts formed the nucleus of the East African reconnaissance Squadron, known from its birth as the "Recces".

Just at this time I was a comparative newcomer to Kenya and trying to join the RAF to be a pilot. The DC at Eldoret having received instructions to look out for volunteers as suitable Recces convinced me that this outfit would offer just as much excitement, one way or the other, as the RAF.

To my utter disappointment, I failed. They were looking for experienced farmers of white hunters/ I was too much of a greenhorn. But as I was a believer in myself, I asked for a further interview during the course of which I must have convinced the officers that, as a keen rugby forward, I would be equal to all that the Recces could throw at me. I was accepted - marvellous!

Among other members of our community who joined the original unit, completed the training and stayed in, were Faan Boshoff,

Flipple van der Westhuizen and Lucas Olivier. They were all highly thought of soldiers.

We did our extremely intensive training at the old Nairobi show ground at Kabete. The Squadron ultimately consisted of three troops, each with nine fighting vehicles. The Recces-cars were half-ton International trucks each fitted with a Bren-gun mounted on the roof of the cab with a specially constructed body carrying extra water and petrol tanks. They had a range of over 400 miles and were capable of a fair cross-country performance in the sandy wastes of the NFD, but were entirely unarmored.

The crew of each car, a car commander, driver and gunmen, were all highly trained in reconnaissance duties and were largely drawn from the same sources as the original Scout Platoon - white hunters, farmers and a good sprinkling of veterans of the last war, many of them ex-officers.

By the end of May 1940 three troops had completed their training and were patrolling in the NFD with bases at Moyale, Wajir and Garissa. On the 10th of June one section of three cars was at Liboi on the Kenya-Italian Somaliland frontier. An RAF fighter arrived, circled and dropped a message: "Italy has declared war."

The small force of nine men was out in the blue with the nearest supporting troops 128 miles in the rear at Garissa. Such situations were not uncommon during the first months of hostilities; frequently a section of three cars made a reconnaissance patrol a hundred miles or more in front of our defence lines.

For the next three months, the Recces had little rest. Day after day we were sent on patrol, leaving camp at 4:00am and mostly returning after dark, and more often than not a brisk skirmish ensued when the frontier was reached. Irregular troops, led

by Italian officers into the NFD, and our patrols, were ambushed frequently, often at very close range.

Apart from normal patrol work, the Recces performed numerous other missions, i.e. laying mine fields, destroying enemy wells with gelignite, and throwing hand grenades into buildings. Once one of our bombers was shot down over enemy territory and the crew had to be found. On foot after days in the bush our Recces found them at the point of death and brought them out. What also springs to mind is that terrific shootout at Moyale when a Gold Coast Platoon got ambushed. It is believed that it was the Recces who foiled the enemy's cleverly orchestrated attempt to wipe out our whole force during one brisk showdown at El Wak. When our patrols sometimes had infantry support we acted as mechanized cavalry, advancing ahead of the ambushed infantry. We were always first to draw enemy fire, often at very close range.

Dodging Camproni bombers escorted by Fiat fighters was part of our day's work, but most terrifying of all were the land mines, when it was your turn to be the leading car. In our unarmored vehicles we had more "parties" than any other unit and it was not with great regret that we learned, at the end of September 1940 that we were to be converted into an Armoured Car Regiment.

Initial apprehension over inexperience proved unfounded. As our performance in the field became widely acclaimed, expansion was inevitable and our numbers were soon swelled by even younger men who came and did their stuff. The only one of those I am still in contact with is Willem von Moltitz. He was as valuable in the Recces as he was in the Kenya Rugby scrum.

If any old Recce should read is, do contact me please! Tel 024-513087.

Finally, let us all think of those brave lads who lost their lives in the war, and say, "We shall remember."

Uit die eerste jaarboek van die Van Riebeeckskool - 'n huldeblyk aan

PIETER FREDERICK VON LANDSBERG
5-3-1873 tot 26-10-1955

Op Woensdag 26 Oktober 1955, vroeg in die môre, is oom Pieter (by baie bekend as Oom Pietie) von Landsberg in die ouderdom van 82 jaar 7 maande 21 dae oorlede...

Oom Pieter het in 1904 uit Middelburg, Transvaal, vertrek as leier van die eerste Afrikanertrek na die destyds Duits-Oos-Afrika (Tanganyika). Op daardie trek moes hy as leier ook maar dieselfde ondervindings opdoen as sy voorvaders gedurende die vroeë 19de eeu.

Gedurende 1914, die jaar van die Eerste Wêreldoorlog, het hy verhuis na Portugees-Oos-Afrika en in 1918 besluit hy om hom op die hooglande van Kenia te vestig. Hier het hy dan ook met vrug gearbei en kon hy die laaste dae daarvan geneit aan huis van sy seun, Oom Neel von Landsberg.

Behalwe vir die feit dat Oom Pieter 'n Voortrekkerleier en held was, sien die Afrikaner en alle ander rasse in Kenia hom ook as onwrikbare Godsmen. Hy was een van die eerste diakens van die eerste Afrikaanse gemeente in Oos-Afrika, Meru. Sy plek in die Kerk was nooit leeg nie. Vanaf 1904 het hy 'n dagboek gehou waarin al sy wedervaringe opgeteken is. Sy kosbaarste ervaring was seker dié met sy Heiland elke dag. Dwarsdeur die dagboek besing hy die goedheid van sy God en loof en jubel dit uit van dankbaarheid. Sy grootste begeerte op sy oudag was om die vyftigjarige herdenking van die stigting van die gemeente Meru self by te woon. Dit is vir hom 'n paar dae voor sy dood vergun.

Die waardige ou vader was ... oud én hy was jonk. Kort voor sy dood het hy al skertsende alle jongmense en kinders in 'n werppyl-kompetisie uitgestof met 'n gooi van

169. Waarlik, sy gees was jonger as dié van baie kinders van vandag.

Oom Pieter rus langs die geliefde Kerk van sy Geliefde Volk. Dit is goed so. Sy taak is goed verrig. Van hierdie Lincoln van die Afrikaner in Kenia, kan ons ook sê: "Now he rests with the Ages". "Loof die Here, o my siel!"

EXTRACTS FROM THE ABERDARE COUNTY HERALD (incorporating the Laikipia Advertiser) Extracts from the Aberdare County Herald incorporating the Laikipia Advertiser.

...With the passing of old Oom Pieter von Landsberg our community has lost one of its most colourful characters and also an important link with the history of the earliest Afrikaner settlement in East Africa.

He was a man of small stature but strong in physique and apart from a leg complaint, he enjoyed excellent health until shortly before his death. Having been a keen sportsman himself, his interests especially in rugby and athletics never waned.

On reading through his dairy after his death, it was surprising to notice how the scores of the various matches which the Lions touring team recently played in South Africa were regularly jotted down together with his report of daily events and his religious thoughts.

He was a staunch supporter of the 'Falls Rugby team and watched every match if at all possible. He was overjoyed when they won and felt miserable when they lost. No wonder that he was so well loved by so many young people and children.

Even at the age of eighty-two his sense of humour was as alive as ever. In April this year our local Dutch Reformed parish celebrated its tenth anniversary. As the oldest member present, he was asked to assist the eldest lady at the gathering with the lighting of candles and the cutting of the cake. To her dismay he blew out the candles as fast as she lit them.

Only recently he said that it was just that the Good Lord had given him cramp in his leg, for else he would still have been up to too much mischief.

No picture of Oom Pieter would be complete however, without recalling his deep piety. He firmly believed that he came to German East Africa under divine guidance.

This conviction is plainly stated on the first pages of his dairy which starts with the events leading up to his decision to leave the Transvaal in 1904. And after more than fifty years, he wrote in his dairy three days before his death: "I have never doubted that it was the Higher Hand of our dear Father, which has used me as leader of the trek. Yes, the Lord our God is love. As I look back over all that has happened, word fail me with which to thank the Lord."

He was a great reader, especially of religious books, and also a great letter writer, for he was a great lover of people and of lively conversation, and when he was alone, he either read or wrote.

Always cheerful, he was a shining example of a Christian who delighted in his Lord, and found in Christ life "more abundantly". On a wreath which came from two grateful grand-children were these words: "Your example is worth more to us than any other legacy."

He attended a film show on the Friday night, saw pictures of the Rugby tests against South Africa, and joked with his many friends who were there. He got up at half past five next morning to leave for Arusha where he made a speech the same night at the fiftieth anniversary of the parish of the Dutch Reformed church in Tanganyika.

The next morning he attended communion service and stayed for the afternoon service. Having renewed many old friendships during this memorable week-end, he returned home on Monday, spent Tuesday in bed and passed away peacefully early on Wednesday.

The last words written in his dairy were simply these: "Yes, I am very tired." -And now he has gone to a well-earned rest.

He will be remembered with gratitude and faces will brighten wherever the name of this happy Christian is mentioned. "Glad did I live and gladly die, And I laid me down with a will. Home is... the hunter home from the hill."

VAN RIEBEECK-FEES VIR OOS-AFRIKA 4 TOT 7 APRIL 1952

MESSAGE

From R Campbell Ross, Commissioner for the Union of South Africa in British East Africa.

The celebration of the 300th Anniversary of the landing of Jan Van Riebeeck at the Cape of Good Hope and the original foundation of European settlement in Southern Africa is a memorable occasion for rejoicing in the achievement of three centuries of the great and arduous task of building a nation.

In these days emergent African nationalism, allied to a certain popular pettiness of decrying the European in Africa as a visiting exploiter and filibuster, an occasion such as this serves to remind us that the European is no more an immigrant to great parts of Africa than is the Bantu, and, if it is only by virtue of occupation, the European has a prior claim to many parts.

But more than the rejoicing in our achievement, more than counting the blessings and benefits which our civilisation has bestowed on Africa and the non-Europeans of Africa, and occasion such as this is also a

commemoration of the mission of our Christian civilisation in a dark Continent - commemoration - and, I hope, also a rededication of ourselves to that grand mission.

In die vroeë vyftigs is daar besluit om 'n Kerkskool op Thomsonsvale te bou. Die Kenia se regering het grond geskenk vir die bou en die res moes die gemeenskap self bymekaar maak. Daar is toe besluit op 'n toer deur die Unie van Suid Afrika om fondse in te samel. Die mikpunt was om £30 000 in te samel. Die volgende is 'n uittreksel uit 'n pamflet met die naam...

KERKLIKE SKOOL IN OOS-AFRIKA

Agtergrond van die probleem in Kenia.

Die Afrikaans Nedersettings:

Tussen 1904 en 1908 het die eerste trek van Afrikaners na Oos-Afrika plaasgevind. Hulle het hulle in Tanganyika hoofsaaklik om berg Meru, en in Kenia in die omgewing van Eldoret gevestig. Thomson's Fall is 'n betreklik jong nedersetting naby Kenia-berg.

Ekonomiese Toestande:

Die Afrikaanse gemeenskap het gegroei en floreer totdat daar vandag ongeveer 3 000 Afrikaners, met meer as 500 leerlinge van skoolgaande ouderdom in Oos-Afrika is. Die boerdery is gemeganiseerd en goed ontwikkel en die Afrikaners se ekonomiese posisie is gesond. Hulle is vandag finansiële sterk en maak 'n invloedryke deel van die blanke bevolking uit. Die plase van die pragtige en vrugbare hooglande is uitsluitlik vir blanke nedersetting

afgesonder en die blankes is ook die toonaangewende groep in die Regering. Daar is dus geen sprake van agteruitgang of repatriasie nie; intendeel, so 'n voorstel word in Kenia as net so vergesog beskou as 'n voorstel dat die Suid-Afrikaners in die Unie na Europa gerepatriceer moet word. Die Afrikaners in Oos-Afrika is dus 'n blywende volksgroep wat voortdurend ook nog uit die Unie versterk word. Dit moet uit die staanspoor beseef word.

Kultuur en Godsdiens:

Na byna vyftig jaar is hierdie mense nog Afrikaners. Hoewel hulle goed tweetalig is en Engels vlot praat, is Afrikaans hulle huistaal en is die taal wat hulle besig besonder suiwer. Deur baie word daar op Afrikaanse tydskrifte ingeteken en daar is 'n groeiende belangstelling in die Afrikaanse letterkunde. Volksfeeste en kulturele samekomste word met geesdrif gereël en ondersteun.

In hulle geloof en gewoontes het hulle aan hulle kerk en tradisies getrou gebly. Eredienste en veral besondere kerkgeleenthede neem 'n belangrike plek in die Volkslewe in.

Maar daar is reeds wankelklanke. In sekere distrikte word vreemdgeoriënteerde klubs al meer die spil waarom die sosiale aktiwiteite van die omgewing draai en dinge soos drank neem dikwels 'n ongewenste plek in. Vir sommige van die jong geslag, wat hulle onderrig uitsluitlik aan Engelse skole ontvang het, het hulle Afrikaanse herkoms ook al tot 'n groot mate sy betekenis verloor.

Vir die ouer geslag is dit onrusbarende tekens. Verskeie kere is op

Broederstroom, naby Eldoret, en ook in ander omgewings Afrikaans skooltjies, wat nie alleen bedoel was om Afrikaans as vak te doseer nie, maar om die hele onderrig op Afrikaanse kulturele en godsdienstige lees te skoei, opgerig. Ongelukkig is daar hoofsaaklik weens gebrek aan fondse nie altyd daarin geslaag om geskikte onderwysers uit die Unie te kry of te behou nie en sommige skooltjies is gesluit en ander het in Regeringsskole opgegaan.

Die skool op Thomson's Falls:

In 1947 egter, het 'n groepie ouers 'n plaaskool op Ol Joro Orok, 16 myl uit Thomson's Falls, vir hulle eie kinders gestig. Onder moeilike omstandighede en sonder enige ondersteuning van elders het hierdie groepie 'n skool met twee klaskamers opgerig en ook 'n plaaswoning met buitegeboue as koshuis ingerig. Met groot geesdrif het hulle die saak aangepak, maar vandag, na drie jaar, is daar nog net veertig leerlinge, omdat slegs 32 kinders in die koshuis gehuisves kan word - en dit met moeite. Intussen is daar 'n groot aantal name op die waglys omdat baie ouers verkies om hulle kinders na hierdie eenvoudige skooltjie liewer as na die deftige Regeringsskole, met hulle volksvreemde atmosfeer, te stuur.

OPROEP VAN 'N 90-JARIGE

Corinne Stephenson, Edward se vrou, het geskakel om te sê dat haar skoonma, Tant Lina Stephenson [neé Malan], wat haar negentigste verjaarsdag so amper saam met die saamtrek vier, graag al haar familie en die

ou bekendes daar wil sien. Dit sal moeilik wees om al die mense in Natal bymekaar te kry. Kom ons maak ons saamtrek sommer Tant Lina se verjaarsdag ook!

Prestasies van ons mense.

Ben en Alida Steenkamp skryf...
Ek stuur vir jou ietsie vir die volgende Habari, ek dink dit is 'n groot prestasie vir 'n Kenianiet. Dit is my Suster Edie Geyser en Eddie Steynberg se derde seun. Hulle is agt kinders. Hy het sestien jaar gewerk aan sy doktorsgraad en was vasbeslote hy gaan deurdruk, hy het in 1992 klaar gemaak. Boonop het hy buitenuurs gestudeer. Ek dink dit was wonderlik, dis jammer sy pa - wie se naamgenoot hy is - het in 1988 weg geval en nie die groot gebeurtenis beleef nie. Hy is ook sy pa se naamgenoot.

ROBERT EDMID STEYNBERG DSc (Agric)

Robert Edmid Steynberg is op 21 September 1955 te Eldoret, Kenia gebore en matrikuleer in 1973 aan die Hoërskool Ben Vorster, Tzaneen. Hy behaal die BSc(Agric)-graad in 1978 aan die Universiteit van Pretoria en word vereer met die medalje van die Suid-Afrikaanse Vereniging vir Gewasproduksie, toegeken aan die beste finalejaarstudent in Plantproduksie en Tuinboukunde. In 1982 behaal hy die BSc(Agric)(Hons)-graad (met lof) en in 1986 die MSc(Agric)-graad (met lof) in Agronomie, beide aan die Universiteit van Pretoria. Hy word in 1983 as lektor by die Universiteit van Pretoria aangestel en in 1986 bevorder tot senior lektor. Die magistergraad is behaal vir navorsing oor grond en

plantwaterverhoudings. Referate is jaarliks op kongresse van die Suid-Afrikaanse Vereniging vir Gewasproduksie gelewer. Hy is die outeur van ses wetenskaplike publikasies oor plantwater-verwante aspekte. Gedurende 1987 het hy deelgeneem aan 'n uitruilprogram met die Ben Gurion Universiteit in Israel, waartydens navorsing gedoen is oor die gebruik van swak kwaliteit water vir besproeiing van gewasse. Hy het sedert 1988 as leier of medeleier van verskeie honores- en magisterstudente opgetree.

In sy proefskrif, getitel:

Waterverbruik en aanpassing by droogtestremming van sekere gematigde eenjarige voergewasse, word plantwaterverhoudings van voergewasse vir die eerste keer op 'n omvattende wyse in Suid-Afrika bestudeer en word besproeiingsriglyne neergelê om meer ekonomiese produksie deur intensiewe veeboere te bevorder. Begrip van droogte-aanpassingsmeganismes op selwater- en ultrastrukturele vlak, is deur hierdie navorsing verbreed. Die promovendus vind onder meer dat sekere gewasse tydens droogtestremming op selvlak aanpassings maak en dat dit meer deurslaggewend was vir volgehoue produksie as die ultrastrukturele aanpassings wat op blaarooppervlaktes gemaak is.

Ons wens hom baie geluk met sy prestasie.

Janssen Davies is een van Sage Life se Uivoerende Direkteurs. Hy is verantwoordelik vir Administrasie, Inligtingstelsels en Personeel. Hy glo dat die gebruik van die rekenaar die diversiteit van die

lewensversekeringspakkette moontlik gemaak het.
Ons is trots op ons nageslag.

Wie onthou nog vir Joe Ferreira?

Hy was onderwyser op Van Riebeeck-skool 1955-1975 en hoof van 1976 tot 1960. Hy het afgetree as Streek-direkteur van Onderwys te George. Hy bly nou in Durbanville. Hy sê Dries Brink en Jochie Joubert is oorlede, maar hy hou nog kontak met hulle weduwees.

Durbanville is bietjie ver maar moontlik sien ons hom nog by die byeenkoms.

QUESTION

Does anyone know what happened to the Holy Communion set which belong to the Nairobi congregation, this was presented by the late A N Smit, the casket was made by him and lined out. In the casket it had the following, which was in pure silver, the plate for the bread, the cup for the wine and the jug for pouring the wine.

ANSWER

YES! Someone does know!

It is in the Ned Geref Kerk Sinodale Sentrum, Visage Street, Pretoria. The box is there - in very good condition, as well as all its contents. Together with it, the communion table that was used at Thomson's Falls Church, and quite a number of other things. First floor, Block C - Archives.

TOE EN NOU

Deur mev F J Bouwer. Geskryf in 1955 as deel van die eerste uitgawe van die Van Riebeeckskool se jaarblad.

Toe ek nog maar 'n klein dogtertjie was, het my ouers van Transvaal Kenia toe getrek. Dit was toe nog Brits Oos-Afrika genoem en die jaar was 1908. Ons het met 'n Duitse skip van Delagoa-baai na Mombasa gekom.

Al wat ek van die reis op die boot onthou, is dat ek elke keer as die mishoring afgaan, geweldig geskrik het. Die trek met die ossewaens van Londiani na Plateau toe, onthou ek nog goed. Die mans moes padmaak en brûe bou sover as wat ons getrek het. Vandag nog dra twee van dié brûe die name van die voortrekkers wat hul gebou het, tw. die Erasmus en Arnoldi brûe, op die Eldoret-Londianipad.

Nou ry 'n mens so vinnig met die motorpad daar verby dat jy jou nouliks kan voorstaan hoe die Voortrekkers daar geswoeg het met transportry in die reëntyd. Name soos die Bamboesbos, die Rooisee, Suikervlei, Wolwespruit; watter herinnerings diep dit vir die oumense op, en vir sommige van die jongeres ook? Daar was altyd 'n blystanery van 'n ander wêreld vir jou. Die "Rooisee" was 'n stuk pad wat altyd in 'n diep moddergat verander het in die reëntyd en nie vermy kon word nie. Daarvan word vertel dat 'n wa en span osse daarin weggeraak het vir 'n hele dag! Die oumense was darem maar snaaks, né?

Dit was darem eers later. Toe ons opgekom het, was dit erger. Dit het baie gereën en daar moes padgemaak word. Ons moes maar slaap waar dit donker word. Die osse moes aan die trekgoed vasgemaak word voor ons gaan slaap,

want leeu was volop. Menige nag word die hele geselskap uit die slaap geruk; die wa word rondgepluk met 'n geraas van kettings en jukke, osse blaas en ons weet dat Koning Leeu en sy familie iewers in die nabyheid is. Die mans probeer maar weer slaap, nadat die vure weer opgemaak is. Nie lank nie, of dieselfde storie herhaal homself. Leeu en sy vrou en haar kroos soek iets om te eet!

Eindelik het ons op ons bestemming gekom. Die land was maar woest en heeltemal onbeboud. Elke familie het maar vir hulself 'n verblyfplekkie gesoek en daar begin met 'n hartbeeshuisie, 'n tuin en landjie. Ons het begin boer.

Die eerste skool wat ek bygewoon het was ook 'n kerkskool. Dit was op Broederstroom waar die Sendingstasie Bwana Loubser vandag staan. Wyle ds Loubser het dit begin. Daarheen moes ons elke oggend met Dapper en Stapper ry; selfs ons meester, oorlede Bokkie von Maltitz, moes maar die anderhalf-myl na sy woning loop. Daardie dae het dit maar baie gereën en menige middag moes ons in die reën huistoe loop, maar wat, dit was lekker en ons het nooit siek geword nie.

Ons het toe nog Hollands geleer, wat maar moeilik was. Een van die resitasies wat ons moes leer, onthou ek vandag nog. Dit begin: "Kleine Jantjie stak zyn handje in de volle zuikerpot".

Lataraan het daar meer kinders skool toe gekom en ons het nog onderwysers van die Unie gekry. Onder andere mnr en mev Lourens, mnr Steyn en mnr Pienaar. Sondae was daar diens in die ou skooltjie, want ons kerk sou eers in 1921 gebou word.

Dit was die goeie ou tyd en ons kinders was baie gelukkig in daardie ou kerkskooltjie. Van kommer het ons nie geweet nie; baie gespeel met speeldyd en smiddae het ons leer-leer huis toe gestap. Met baie min het ons klaargekom en ons het tyd vir ons medemens gehad. Ons het nie verby mekaar gejaag nie maar eers altyd 'n geselsie aangeknoop. Dit was TOE.

En wat van NOU? My geagte Leser, u weet soveel daarvan as ek. Ons ry met gemak en vinnig oor die ou Londiani-pad. Voordat ons 'n vriend kan herken, is ons verby en ons het mekaar nie eers gegroet nie; ons het mooi en gerieflike huise teenoor die hartbeeshuisies van weleer. Maar dié was altyd vol vriende. al moes daar kooi op die vloer gemaak word; vandag staan ons vrykamers VRY want mense moet eers gevra word voordat hul kom kuier. Hulle is ook te besig. En so kan ek baie vergelykings tref. Die GROOT VRAAG IS OF ONS GELUKKIGER IS? EK WONDER.

Soms raak briewe soek, ook nie altyd in die pos nie. Hierdie brief van Irene van Rooyen, 12 Astoriahof, Marinerylaan, Somerstrand, PE het tussen die briewe bly lê. Ons publiseer dit vanjaar. Sy skryf....

As gevolg van die program "The Gentle Alternative" waarin kontak herstel word tussen vriende en familie, het ek aan haar geskryf en verneem of iemand in die land iets weet van 'n man met die naam Lanie van Wyk, met wie ek in Kaapstad in die veertigerjare goed bevriend was en laas van gehoor het toe

hy in Eldoret, Kenya gewoon en gewerk het.

Mnr Rex Kirk van George het hierop gereageer en geskryf dat Lanie vir hom gewerk het in Eldoret in sy afslaersonderneming, dat hy onder die indruk is dat hy oorlede is, maar dat u moontlik meer lig hierop kan werp. Lanie was met 'n Kruger meisie getroud en van haar broers boer nog in die omgewing. Ek sal dit opreg waardeer as enige lig hierop gewerp kan word.

Ons Kenia mense het ook sy aandeel kleurvolle karakters gehaad. Wie ken nie vir Billy Sayman nie? Hy skryf soos volg:

Geagte Oos Afrikaners, Ek het my Ma opgepas vir 6 jaar, sy was 15 Junie verlede jaar 102 jaar oud. Ons is van Duits-Hollandse afkoms. My Pa het Duits skool gehou in Windhoek en Musiek en sang gegee. Ma was 'n kleremaakster in en uit 53 dorpe in Suid Afrika. Daarom ek, Billy, reumatiek opgedoen in Boegoeberg langs die Oranjerivier. Toe besluit ek om in 1939 te fiets na penmaats in Kenia en in Mombasa te gaan kuier. Ek gaan via Mozambiek, zig-zag, sowat 5481 myl zig-zag. In my 5 jaar as soldaat het ek in 5 leërs gedien, onder andere onder genl Montgomery - waar ek 2 medaljes gekry het. My ma is nou in die HP Kriek Ouetehuis, sy sal nog 200 jaar word. Ek soek losies, 'n kamer of so iets. Ek kry nou soldate pensioen. Ek rook nie, drink nie, leef net vir Christus. Ek besit baie skyfies van baie land plus films oor Oos-Afrika, as Kerke geld nodig het. Cowboy Billy is baie lief vir kinders.

MY PA....

My pa-het met tye aan die praat gegaan en my vertel van sy ervarings toe hy Kenia toe is. Ek het dit baie geniet maar met tyd vegeet mens die kosbaarhede. Ek gaan begin en ek hoop ander gaan die tema opneem en aangaan.

Toe Pa in Kenia aankom het hy saam met sy neef Jan Murphy in Serikwa met koring geboer. Hulle grootste probleem was die wild wat die oes gestroop het voor hulle daar kon inkom.

Kwagga skiet vir die velle was nogal 'n lonende bedryf, die prys was goed. Ander wild was nie altyd so beskikbaar nie, daarom, toe hulle eland wou skiet, moes hulle steel by die buurman. Hulle het so ou kar gehad - sonder enjin, met 'n kwaggavel oor die enjinkap en 'n span osse voor vir perdekrag. Toe hulle die eland skiet, steek hulle dit onder die enjinkap weg. So het hulle weggekom.

Jan Murphy was blykbaar maar lief vir sy dop, dus kon die boerdery nie so goed vorder nie. Daarom het Pa besluit om op sy eie te gaan. Hy neem toe sy model T Ford en die paar besittings wat hy het en trek Eldoret toe om vir die bankbestuurder te sê hulle gaan nie meer die plaas bewerk nie. Met 2 skielings en 6 pennies in die sak en 5 sjielings in die bank trek hy Nairobi se kant toe. By Verbrandebos is daar 'n Indiërwinkel met 'n afdak langs aan. Hy kry toe brood by die Indiër en toestemming om die motor langs die winkel te parkeer. Daar slaap hy toe in die kar en gebruik 'n petrolkas se plankie waarop hy GARAGE skryf. Dit hang hy by die ingang op.

Die volgende dag sit hy en wag vir klandisie. Nie lank nie toe kom 'n motor oor die bult, al sukkelende en hikkende. Die eienaar verduidelik dat hy die motor by al die garages tussen Kampala en Eldoret gehad het en dit kom nie reg nie. Pa neem toe die paar spanners wat hy saam met die motor gekry het en begin kyk. Hy kry toe 'n vuil carburetter en neem sy tyd om dit skoon te maak sodat hy darem iets kon vra vir die job. Die eienaar sê toe as hy in Nairobi kom sonder moeite en weer terug sal hy die betaling kom verdubbel. Dit was toe ook so en Pa het weer geld gekry so paar dae later.

Besigheid het begin inkom en die boere van die omgewing het hulle trekkers vir hom gebring vir herstel. Hy het so met die tyd goed gedoen. Van daar het hy toe vir Rex Kirk gaan dors met die ou staan dorse - ook met sukses, maar die trek van plek tot plek het hom gevang en die begeerte was daar om 'n eie plaas te koop.

Die volgende avontuur was toe hy hoor van 'n vecarts op Kitale wat 'n bestuurder soek op sy plaas. Pa gaan toe en kry die ou baas McCall daar op Endebess. McCall se openingswoorde was dat elke keer wat hy terug Skotland toe was en terugkom, het hy 'n hofsak met sy bestuurder.

As jy die moed het van 'n pionier, is so 'n bedreiging nie te sleg nie. En dit was darem 'n wettige job en hy kon toe planne maak om te trou. Pa maak toe al die implemente langs die lande bymekaar en maak hulle reg. Daarna begin hy die varke in vlei vang (hulle was daar gelos na die pryse geval het). Dié het hy so bietjie afgerond en

ingeneem na die slagter. Pryse het weer begin goed word. Toe die gesaaides goed op die lande staan, kom die eienaar terug en kry meer geld in die bank as wat hy gelos het, wat 'n groot verbetering was na die beheer van ander bestuurders. My pa is toe getroud en die eersteling is gebore. Dit het met hom goed gegaan.

Sy volgende job was toe op Chorlim by Estates and Investments. Die besturende direkteur was Powles. Die maatskappy het behoort aan Lord Howard de Walden. Daar het dit ook goed gegaan, en uiteindelik het hy getrek na sy eie plaas op Patatadraai.

Danie Steyn

'n Regstelling..

Volgens 'n artikel in verlede jaar se brief het ons gesê dat Gordon Goby saam met Fairy Engelbrecht gery het in die Hudson Terraplane. Volgens twee mense wat reageer het was dit nie Gordon Goby nie maar wel Fred Hoply. Blykbaar staan die Terraplane in die museum in Johannesburg. Die wat belangstel kan dit daar gaan sien.

DONALD SUTHERLAND GARVIE: ADVENTURER AND KENYA PIONEER

Donald Sutherland Garvie was born to Laurance and Johanna Garvie in Edinburgh in the 3rd June 1873. The family with five boys, including Donald, arrived in the Cape about 1881, staying first at Knysna and then at Kimberley, and

eventually settled in Johannesburg. The boys, John, Donald, and George, were to settle in British East Africa after the Anglo-Boer War. Donald died in Nairobi. John and George had returned to Johannesburg by 1911.

Little is known of Donald, but a published letter from him has survived. Unfortunately the source of the publication is not known. The letter is dated 23rd January 199 and describes, in his words, "a voyage of experience and discovery" into Central Africa. He tells of a journey commencing in Bulawayo, a trek northwards along the Guay River, crossing the Zambezi at Wankies Drift some eighty miles east of the Victoria Falls and moving some 250 miles into Central Africa. From this letter, however, it may be deduced that Donald was a seasoned trader, explorer, adventurer and hunter.

In October 1899 Donald was involved in the Relief of Kimberley, for which he was awarded a medal. The Scottish soldier then promptly married a young Boer girl, Nellie (Cornelia) Steyn!

After the War, in 1902, Donald and Nellie sailed to Kenya. From Mombasa they travelled by rail to Nairobi and stayed there, living in tents.

Dolly (Dorothy) Riddell, their daughter, says: "From Nairobi they went to their farm, in Nandi accompanied by my mother's youngest brother Stephen Steyn. During their stay on the farm the Nandi rebellion took place."

Errol Trzebinski writes in *The Kenya Pioneers*: "There were also two other families of Boers living in the region who were squatting illegally (sic) on Nandi property called Garvie and Steyn. They were only discovered by Meinertzhagen when they asked for a guard from Nandi Fort to protect them."

The Garvie boma was situated some four miles from Nandi Fort or Kaptumo. After the British officer, Meinertzhagen, who was not very partial to the Boers, had visited them, he recorded on 13th April 1905: "The only European settlers in the whole of Nandi country are two Boer families called Garvie and Steyn. They have recently come from the Transvaal and are related to the ex-President of the Orange Free State. They all seem terrified of the Nandi and have been applying for a guard of my men... I went over to them to have a look at their camp, which is some four miles distant. They had, of course, taken no steps to guard against attack, in spite of the fact that they were told that they could only remain at their own risk."

In Meinertzhagen's exaggerated style they were "living in filthy grass huts without any attempt to make them either comfortable, sanitary or weatherproof. There is no excuse for this, as grass is plentiful and the men are not badly off. It is simply the Boer standard of life." He had written them of as bumpkins. Little did Meinertzhagen appreciate the privations of the early Pioneers.

Nevertheless he agreed to send ten men to guard the boma from attack. A dispute followed when the guards were accommodated with the pigs! The officer withdrew his men.

Meinertzhagen's antagonism stemmed from a post-war prejudice. Moreover he had been told that Garvie and Steyn were squatting illegally. It transpired that a British official by the name of Mayes had deceived them. Meinertzhagen reports: "I told Mayes that the Boers had informed me that they pay rent for their land and that this is at variance with what [Mayes] had told me before. His reply was, 'You bloody well mind your own business!' I explained that it was my business, and as I had to find men to protect them and that if they were paying rent they had the right to assistance." Mayes broke down and

confessed and was subsequently discharged. The relationship between the officer and the settlers seemed to improve from then on. They were invited into the protection of Nandi Fort.

In February 1905 Nellie had given birth to their first child, Dorothy, at Kapsabet. Dorothy later recalled that "the Chief of the Nandi tribe was so taken at seeing a white woman with lovely long golden hair and a small white baby that he told them he would see no harm came to them."

After the Nandi Expedition the Garvies returned to Nairobi. Joan Cole-Edwardes, the daughter of John and Lily Garvie, recalls: "Donald sold his land to John Garvie and decided to settle in Nairobi. He built a boarding house and then a bioscope."

Donald became a well-known townsman of Nairobi who had contributed much to the entertainment of the early pioneers of Kenya by means of his bioscope, the first in Kenya.

Donald was involved for a short time in the newspaper industry of Kenya. E Rodwell of *Coastweek* writes: "The *East Africa and Uganda Mail* was the first newspaper produced in Mombasa. The plant from this concern was later purchased for the *Times of East Africa*, a sheet published in Nairobi by Mr Frank Watkins from July, 1905, which had four editors within the space of 18 months; the last of them disappeared into thin air and was never seen or heard of again. The publication was continued without the assistance of an editor for 7 months until Mr DS Garvie was engaged. Four months later the sheet folded. Another company bought the plant and produced *Advertiser of East Africa*. A year later that company in turn was dissolved.

A newspaper obituary states that Donald was "formerly the leading spirit of the newspaper the ADVERTISER... He

belonged to the quiet an unostentatious sphere of true gentility". A far different appraisal than that of Meinertzhagen!

Donald died in 1912 at the age of 39 after taking ill with pneumonia. His niece, May Garvie, was the chief mourner. The service was conducted by the Rev G Burns, later Archdeacon of Nairobi. The pall bearers were members of the Royal Arch Chapter and Lodges Harmony and Scotia. A sprig of acacia tied with a blue ribbon was placed on the coffin prior to it being lowered into the grave.

Nellie Garvie, Donald's wife, died in 1979 at the age of 94 years. She is buried in the cemetery in Deal, Kent, England where she lived with her daughter Dolly. The story of Stephen Steyn remains a mystery. Family tradition has it that he died and lies buried in an unmarked grave somewhere in Central Africa. Somewhere an unmarked grave tells the story of a forgotten pioneer.

Colin G Garvie

[Rev Garvie is researching his family history in British East Africa. Readers who may have recollections of the Garvies of Kenya are invited to correspond with him. He is particularly interested in locating the Garvie farms. Some old maps of Kenya are said to have indicated them. John Garvie was one time station master at Nakuru. John and George had farms near the present day Eldoret. Colin Garvie's address is PO Box 50216, MUSGRAVE, 4062, South Africa]

So 'n ietsie oor tannie Joey Coetzee (deur 'n suster, tannie Hester Becker [voorheen Katze van Rensburg]

Joey het in Kenia by haar dogtergebly tot en met haar afsterwe op 9 Maart 1995. Sy het verlede jaar vir haar

kinders in Suid-Afrika kom kuier, en sommer haar 80ste verjaarsdag hier by ons almal kom vier. Ongelukkig het sy geval en haar been gebreek en sy moes twee maande in HF Verwoerd-hospitaal deurbring waar ds Eddie de Waal haar ook gaan besoek het. Haar dogter het ook van Kenia af gevlieg om haar te kom help versorg, en haar dan saam met haar terug te neem. Joey wou so graag weer teruggaan Nairobi toe, na haar huis toe.

Haar dogter, Heletjie Taylor, is suster van Dirk Coetsee en Boet Coetsee. Dirk is met Rena van oorlede oom Fritz Roussouw getroud, en Boet Coetsee met Chrissie Roets, dogter van oorlede oom Marthinus en tannie Kotie Roets.

Eksel was in 1992 in Kenia waar ek na so baie van die plase gaan kyk het, maar dit was so hartseer, alles is so verwaarloos - ons mooi plaas op Turbo is in stukkies en brokkies opgesny. My huis met sy seder deure en vensters is alles donkerblou geverf, amper swart. Dit was net hartseer. Dus kan ek net sê: "Onthou Kenia soos wat julle daar weggegaan het." Groete, Hester Becker.

Deaths

Mev Stien Kruger, wife of the late Jan Kruger who farmed at Ol'Kalou. She is survived by three sons.

Mr Johnny Stolz is survived by his wife Kitty, and two sons. He once worked for Airways in Nairobi.

Jurie and Ansie Potgieter. They were the children of Mev Truia Potgieter (nee Meintjes) and were from Eldoret, but

lately lived at Ruaraka outside Nairobi. Truia now lives in an old age home in Ermelo.

Return to Sender Onafgelewer

Verlede jaar het ons besonder goeie reaksie gehad op hierdie kolom. Die meeste het ons opgespoor, Dankie aan al die wat moeite doen om te help. There are many who write to tell us they have moved and we appreciate their trouble.

Ons het verlede jaar so bietjie van 'n probleem gehad met die adresselys, tog het ons soveel hulp gehad dat dit lyk of die lys weer baie naby aan reg is. Hier is verlede jaar se verlorene, weer vra ons hulp om hulle op te spoor.

Edith Anderson, Posbus 958,
Wendywood, 2144. (left)

Toya Britz, Saraway Hof 12,
Randfontein, 1760. (moved)

Mev B Cloete, Monte Carlo, Ampthill
laan 127, Benoni. (?)

G Danhauser, Kerkstraat 3A,
Groblersdal, 0470. (Onbekend)

Hennie Danhauser, NG Kerk
Jeugsentrum B619, Vermeulen str.,
Pretoria 0002 (Vertrek)

Kobus Davies, Pickard str 33, Delmas,
2210. (Onbekend)

Mnr W J de Beer, von Backstrom str.
115, Nylstroom. 0510 (Vertrek)

Mnr en Mev A S De Beer,
Jakarandalaan 22 Cullinan, 1000.
(Vertrek)

John & Myrtle de Lange, Posbus
1168, Odendaalsrus, 9480.
(Onbekend)

Izak de Lange, Droogekloof 47,
Posrestante, Warmbad, 0480.
(Onbekend)

Richard & Sonja Erasmus, Posbus
15881, Lynn East, 0039. (Onbekend)

Mnr Ben Greyling, P O Box 1721,
Pietersburg, 0700. (Return to Sender)

Mnr TED Jacobs, Privaatsak X5012,
Matla Kragstasie, Matla, 2274.
(Vertrek)

Marietjie Joubert, Posbus 31108,
Odendaalsrus, 9480. (Nie so Nommer
nie)

Mnr Jan M Kruger, Posbus 231,
Sundra, 2200 (Onbekend)

Johannes Louwrens, Posbus 1015,
Vryheid, 3100. (Onbekend)

Alet Ludik, 4de Laan, Florida, 1902.
(Adres onvoldoende)

Mrs Nigel Luies, P O Sundra, 2200.
(Onafgehaal)

Mrs McCullum, Townsview High,
Krugersdorp, 1740. (No longer at this
address)

Mnr F R Miller, P O Box 475,
Warmbaths, 0480. (Onbekend)

Babs Muller, Posbus 75, Eloff, 2211.
(Onbekend)

Mnr & Mev Tom Niewenhuizen, TPA
Huis 1, Naboomspruit, 0560. (Vertrek)

Mev W S Oosthuisen, Posbus 2706,
Pietersburg, 0700. (Not for this box)

Mnr Fanie Plomp, Paul Krugerstraat
92, Nylstroom, 0510. (Onbekend)

Dr F Porati, P O Box 217, Ezulwini,
Swaziland. (Unknown)

Mnr P L Prinsloo, Posbus 263771,
Drie Riviere, 1939. (Posbus gesluit)

Mnr Willie Prinsloo, Posbus 38327,
Booysens, 2016. (Box closed)

George & Doret Prinsloo, P O Box
1341, Sasolburg, 9570. (Return to
Sender)

Billy Saayman, P O Box 24717,
Innesdale, 0031. (Bus gesluit)

Mev Bettie Smith, Ons Eie, Posbus
397, Delmas, 2210. (Onbekend)

Mev A D Smit, Kerkstraat 5, Bethal,
2310. (Vertrek)

Mrs W R Sparrow, P O Box 123,
Annerly, 4230. (Unknown)

Piet & Jeanetta Storm, Posbus 935,
Marble Hall, 0450. (Vertrek)

Mnr W F van Blerk, Posbus 545,
Ermelo, 2350. (Posbus gesluit)

Mev A van der Westhuizen, Posbus
54, Bethal, 2310. (Onbekend)

Susan van der Westhuisen, Posbus
1358, Britz, 0250. (Bus gesluit)

Christo van Schanse, Kamferfoelie 44,
Amadalsig, 7580. (Vertrek)

Mev Sara van Rensburg, Caravan
Park, Barberton, 1300. (Onbekend)

Petrus van Rensburg, Posbus 192,
Elloff, 2211. (Onbekend)



Ernestine van Vuuren, Kelkiewynstr
12, Nelspruit, 1200. (Onbekend)

H A van Wyk, P O Box 28, Dunnottar,
1590. (Vertrek)

Mnr F G Viljoen, Tungstonstraat 18,
Cartonville, 2500. (Onbekend)

Dolly Viljoen, Flat AA08, Allam Park,
Kempton Park, 1620. (Return to
Sender)

Servaas von Maltitz, Posbus 895, van
der Bijl Park, 1900. (Onbekend)

Mnr F Wahl, Posbus 545, Ermelo,
2350. (Bus gesluit)

It takes a good wizard to keep up to date with the movements of the East Africans. They seem to have kept their nomadic tendencies. If anyone wants a list of addresses and in that way help us check the correctness or otherwise of the people's whereabouts, please let us know (We will have to charge a small fee for copying). We did have a small mishap with the address list, so maybe you will see discrepancies. We depend on the friends to assist us.

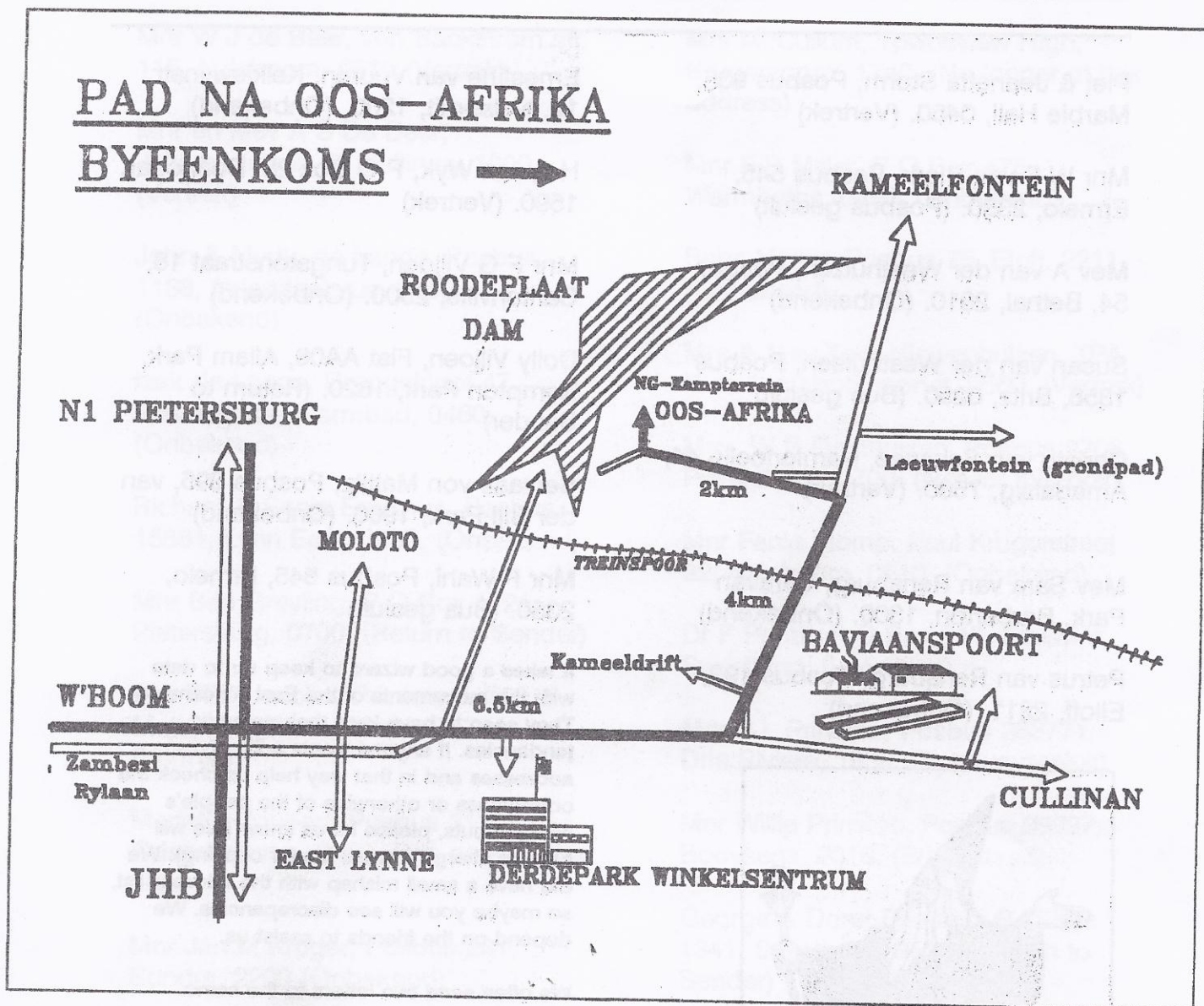
We often send two letters to the same address. It appears to be two different people but maybe its the same. Help us correct these. The postage is expensive. To send duplicates is a waste.

As u weet van mense wat nie die brief kry nie of indien u twee kry. Laat weet asseblief. Ons kostes begin hand uit ruk.

KWAHERI

Volg die swart paaie wat in die pyltjie by die dam eindig:

PAD NA OOS-AFRIKA BYEENKOMS →



.....
Skeur af en gee in by die hek.

OOS-AFRIKA BYEENKOMS

7 OKTOBER 1995

NAAM

VOERTUIG REGISTRASIE

AANTAL PERSONE IN VOERTUIG

HANDTEKENING