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WITBANK, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 1917

Office as a Newspaper.

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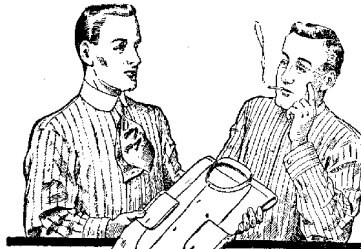
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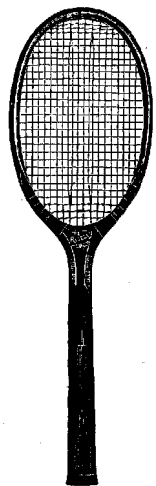
HATS.



COLLARS
and
TIES.



Working Men's
Trousers and
Shirts.



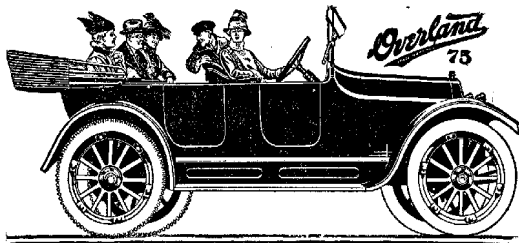
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Middelburg, T.P.

CELEBRATING THE CITY'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

Witbank - the city of black gold



In 1889, Lucas Cornelius van Niekerk settled on a lonely farm in the Witbank district, near to Balmoral, and shortly thereafter whites occupied many farms in the area.

Land values were very low until 1875. Because of the poor quality of the soil, farmers turned to cattle breeding in favour of agriculture.

The settlers knew, even in those early days that there was coal in the district as many of the outcrops were plainly visible along riverbanks.

Farmers extracted coal for their own use.

Prosperity

The Pretoria/Delagoa bay Railway line, completed in 1895, brought new prosperity to the area.

On a large scale, mining of the coal became an economical proposition. Seven mines were soon in operation, six being on and around the present site of Witbank.

Leraatsfontein, where the town was originally established, was the property of Mr Jacob Taljaard. Full power of attorney to sell the farm was given to him by Mr Samuel Stanford. He set about prospecting and worked a small plot of land from which a fair tonnage of coal was obtained.

Early days

In 1896, Stanford eventually sold the property. It changed hands a number of times before the Corner House Group took over mining operations and Witbank Colliery came into being.

It was from the large outcrop of white sandstone on Leraatsfontein that Witbank derived its name.

Initially, growth was very slow.

Witbank Colliery and Transvaal and Delagoa Bay (T&DB) Colliery were able to mine coal

and show reasonable profit while the Old Coronation and Middelburg Steam Collieries struggled to make ends meet.

On April 9, 1906 a health committee was appointed to take over the management of the town from Witbank Colliery.

On May 13, 1910 a village council was elected for and the administrator finally granted municipal status on November 8, 1914.

Witbank had a population of 1 901 in 1921, having felt only a slow growth due largely to the lack of water. This precious commodity was carted into the village every day and every household was allowed to draw off 210 litres.

Middelburg Observer (catering for Witbank and Middelburg) had in this time, already been in existence for 18 years.

In 1916, Mr OH Frewin took a giant step in the future of Witbank. He decided to start a separate

newspaper for Witbank called the WITBANK NEWS.

His confidence was well founded. Although the slow growth existed for a number of years, matters changed in 1926 when Eskom build the Doornpoort Dam and erected its first power station in Witbank.

The municipality purchased 6000 000 000 litres of water a day from Eskom.

Cheap power now available, Rand Carbide Corporation decided to manufacture carbide in the area.

Growing up

The year 1938 saw the establishment of the S A Cyanamid factory and the opening of the Witbank Engineering (Pty) Ltd.

During the following years, the white population grew to 9 232. Once again water became a problem.

In 1954, a municipal dam on the great Olifants River was completed. The wall of the dam was heightened two years later, giving a storage capacity of millions of litres of water.

Growth accelerating

By 1960, Witbank's future as an industrial hub was set.

In 1973, the elevated embankment of the dam was completed and the total length was 533 meters. The dam is still the biggest municipal in the Southern Hemisphere.

In 1994 Witbank was granted city status.

Today, Emalaheni (Witbank) is a leader in the province and is boasting a population of 350 000 to 400 000 residents based on a projection of households.



Preprimêre skool Pre-primary school

1973 - 2006

Mpumalanga Education Department
Steven Bantu Biko street
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Tel. No. 013 697 0446

Preprimêre skool vir 3 - 5 jarige leeders
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wit24nov/kieliekrankie/es



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Mr. S. Stanford.

*Mr S Stanford - November 14, 1924. Mr Samuel Stanford gave Mr Jacob Taljaard full power of attorney to sell the farm on which Witbank originated.

Main Street, the hub of Witbank



*Main Street, the hub of Witbank in the old days.



*Main Street as it is today.

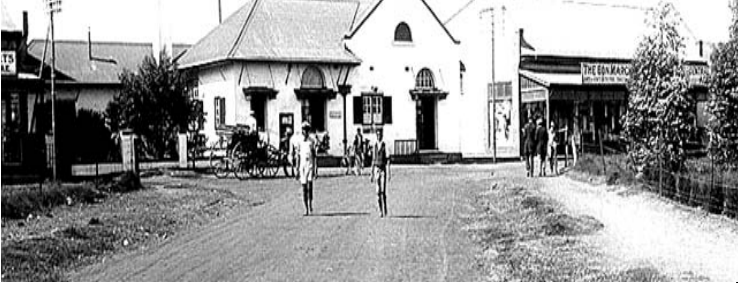
Herinneringe uit vervloë dae

Hier is so 'n staaltjie of twee van Witbank toe Mainstraat nog die "Main Street", van Witbank was. Meeste van die besighede was in Mainstraat gewees. Later het dit uitgebrei na die huidige St Georges Park. Waar die Nedbankgebou vandag is, was die hospitaal gehuisves in sinkgeboue. Ons onthou nog vir "Stanfords", 'n hardware besigheid, M&B Furnishers, Koolvelde Handelshuis die enigste tipe supermark van daardie tyd en me. Phillips se winkel in Old Coronation. Witbank was 'n myndorp met ook 'n baie besige Spoorweg en "Loko", nasien of werkswinkel. Baie spoorwegamptenare was in Witbank gevestig. In Mainstraat was daar spoorweghuise, asook oor die treinoorgang na Paxton. Die woonhuise direk na die oorgang na links, was bekend as Dingaans Kraal. Die rede daarvoor was omdat die huise in 'n vierkant gestaan het. Verder langs die spoor af was "Poker valley", die naam was afkomstig van die "Pokers" wat gebruik was om koolstowe mee te roer. Daardie jare was daar ook geweld tussen die spoorwerkers. Hulle het mekaar met die "Pokers" geslaan en "Poker Valley" se naam het so ontstaan. Later van tyd, sal baie inwoners nog die "Cherry" kafee en roadhouse onthou, Witbank was toe alreeds meer beskaafd. Ook onthou ons nog die Market Tea Room, 'n baie bekende bymekaarkomplek van daardie jare. Die mark was toe geleë waar OK-gebou vandag is. (Deur Adolf Gouws).

Ballenden's Pharmacy in Eadie Street in the early days



Witbank Poskantoor in vroeë dae



Kennisgewing van gratis inenting

Kennis word hierby gegee dat wegens het voorkom van een geval van Pokken in dit Municipale gebied, die Municipale Dokter zal aanwezig zyn in die Municipale Kantore, Witbank, op Maandag, Dinsdag en Woensdag aanstaande des namiddags van 4:30 tot 5:30, wanneer gratis zal ingeënt word. E.F Watson, M.B., B.Ch., Municipale Dokter. Witbank Nuus, 27 Augustus 1919).

A lady that truly loves Witbank, Mrs Mary Swan, remembers the old Main Street with great nostalgia. They used to live in Lynnville and the children walked across the bridge to get to town. Stanford's was the shop that had everything under one roof you could think of. It was also the first double storey shop. Stanford's and the Carlton Hotel were in the same building, it was the first structure to be built out of steel and wood. Main Street was the hub of Witbank. Stores ranged from Stanford's, Township Bottle Store (owned by Mr and Mrs Steddle), Pontings Outfitters, a hairdresser, Superman's, Railway Café, Dunbar and Kenly (Mr Kenly used to cut ham and

give the children some), Dr Schultz Surgery including other doctors, Fromans Chemist, café of Mrs May Griffiths, West Hair Dressers and M&B Furniture Shop (Mr Wilwisky). The sport field was owned by Witbank Colliery and was where Nedbank is currently. It also consisted of a tennis club.

Mrs Swan remembers the wonderful photographer and previous mayor Mr B. Swan (mayor from 1926-1927 and 1930-1934) with fondness. On Mayor's Day he gave the children buns and cool drink. Sometimes they were even treated to a bioscope ticket.

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Hotels brought luxury to Witbank



*The Athlone Hotel in the 1930's. The building in Eadie Street is still standing today.



*The face of the Carlton Hotel as it looked in the early years.



*The Athlone Hotel in the 1940's.

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*(Right) An invitation advertisement for the Boulevard Hotel that appeared in the Witbank News in 1969.

Carlton Hotel, Athlone Hotel and Boulevard Hotel have all played an important part in Witbank's history.

Carlton Hotel was a centre for travellers en-route to the then Lourenco Marques (Maputo) and the hub of social activities for miners, farmers and local socialites. It was situated on the corner of Main and President Streets and was housed in the first building that was made from wood and iron.

After the railway line from Pretoria to Delagoa Bay had been completed in November 1894, there were regular trains running from Pretoria to Delagoa Bay and back, which took in coal at Witbank Station.

The area in the vicinity of the station was still underdeveloped, but the store of Samuel and Stanford and the first Carlton Hotel, erected by Stanford during the late nineties of the nineteenth century were already in operation.

One of the strong points of this hotel was that a porter would meet guests at the station. Each room was provided with hot and cold water on tap and electric lights and fittings. Witbank Colliery Limited provided the electricity until 1926.

The hotel had 60 rooms, two large dining rooms and a beautifully furnished public lounge as well as a large hall for concerts and dances.

Next to the hotel a large concert hall was erected, which was later known as the Carlton Theatre. As from 1909 regular electric bioscopes were shown in the theatre.

The large hall in the hotel was used for many meetings and apparently at times four or five meetings in succession took place in one evening.

Regular so-called smoking concerts took place in the theatre and in 1908 a beauty competition was held where the prettiest woman and the most attractive man were chosen.

Unfortunately the hotel had deteriorated severely over the years and its name fell into disrepute. It was demolished in 1994 and replaced by a liquor store.

In June 1928 it was announced that a new hotel would be built at a cost of £10 000. This was the Athlone Hotel, which was named after the British High Commissioner in the Union of South Africa, Lord Athlone.

Here too hot and cold water was laid on in every room. It had an impressive dining room and 12 lock-up garages as well as well-fitted sample rooms.

There was a dancing hall and a porter met customers at each train. The hotel closed in 1988 and was made into a business centre.

The Boulevard Hotel was opened in January 1968. It was built by Archie and James Maclachlan and was one of the most modern hotels in Witbank. It was erected at a cost of R320 000.

It boasted an attractive exterior, comfortable and well-furnished lounges, a dining room that could seat 70 patrons and a public as well as a private bar. The hotel was situated where the Protea Hotel is now.



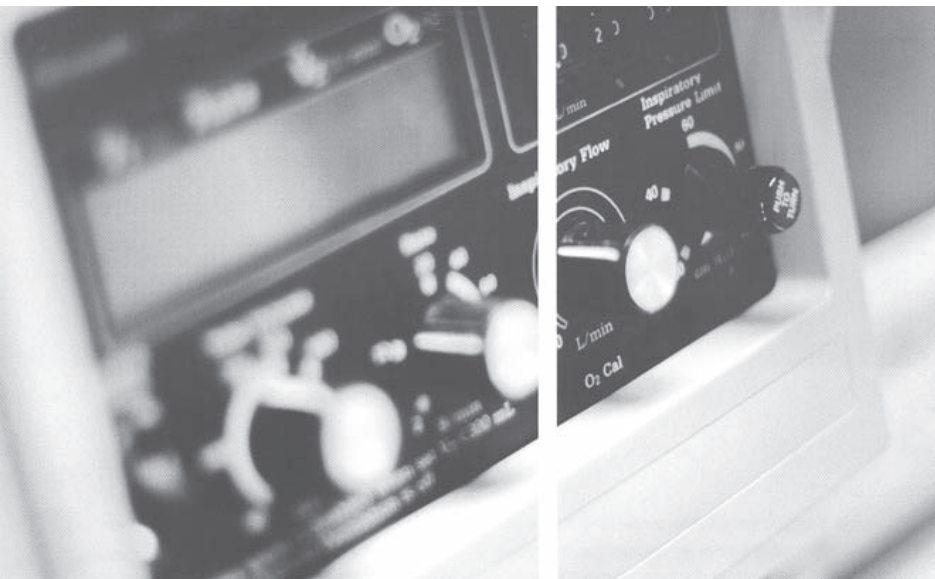
*A photo of a room at the Carlton Hotel.

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THE STAR, JOHANNESBURG, TRANSVAAL, TUESDAY, MAY 21, 1935.

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*Witbank on the map: An advertisement of the Athlone Hotel in The Star on May 21, 1935. The Star reported about the booming community of Witbank and that it is the ideal place to stay on your way to the Kruger National Park.

The mystery of the eight watches

By Eric Bolsmann

Winston Churchill arrived in Estcourt in Natal in 1899 at the age of 25. He came to report on the Anglo Boer War for the London Morning Post. The British troops were waiting to march on Ladysmith. In November of that year Churchill joined an armoured train reconnaissance heading towards Colenso North where Boer patrols had been spotted. Boers just north of Frere in Natal ambushed the train. A huge stone had blocked the line. When the train hit it, it was derailed. General PJ Joubert decided that Churchill had played too active a role in the skirmish. So he was taken to Pretoria to be imprisoned.

Churchill did not stay captive for long, however. Within two months he had escaped and stowed away on a coal train heading east in the direction of Mozambique. The following evening the train stopped at Clewer siding near Witbank. Churchill decided to knock on some doors in search of food.

Fortune definitely favours the brave for the door he chose to knock on was that of John Howard. He was an Englishman and manager of the Transvaal and Delagoa Bay Colliery (T&DB). Churchill was fed well and later hidden in the underground stables of the mine. The Boer forces were searching high and low. Still later he hid behind some packing cases in the office.

Six days after his arrival at Clewer, he was hidden on a railway truck loaded with wool and bound for Mozambique. The train finally reached its destination two days later on December 21. The British Consul was not immediately convinced of Churchill's identity. But after two days a cable reached Howard at Witbank. It read, "Goods arrived safely".

In January 1901, while lecturing in Canada on his escape from the Boers during the South African War, Winston Churchill wrote to his mother, asking her to select some watches for the men, and a brooch for a woman who had helped him at T&DB in Witbank to reach safety in neutral Portuguese East Africa.

Six weeks later Churchill addressed a letter to John Howard, the manager of the mine, informing him that he was sending eight gold watches, all of them engraved with suitable inscriptions, in care of Standard Bank in Cape Town. With the war still raging on in the Transvaal, Howard felt it advisable to have the mine's secretary, John Adams collect the gifts. There was great excitement when the parcel was opened at Witbank, but soon this turned into disappointment for Howard when he discovered that no watch bore his name.

Besides the mine manager and Mr Adams, the mine's secretary, the mine's doctor, James Gillespie, engineer Don Dewsnap, the miners Joe McKenna and Joe McHenry, and Charles Burnham who arranged for Churchill to be taken by rail, hidden under bales of wool, to Delagoa Bay (Maputo), should have received a watch.

And if Churchill would have included a watch instead of a brooch for one of the ladies who saw to his food while hiding at the colliery, the consignment should have contained eight time-pieces.

Immediate enquiries as to what had happened to Howard's watch were fruitless. His name was not on the list Churchill had given to his secretary, and it could be possible that this resulted in him being simply forgotten when the gifts were ordered. Polite requests to have the mistake rectified were made in vain; Howard never received the precious keepsake he looked forward to as a reminder of the eventful days during the war.

More than seven decades later, the subject of the missing watch became once again a topic that stirred emotions. Jimmy McLachlan, the managing director of the Boulevard group of hotels and proprietor of the newly opened Boulevard Hotel in Witbank had been given permission by Lady Churchill to name a bar in his hostelry after the man who had been hidden in the Brugspruit mine of the T & DB Colliery.

Jimmy visited the State Model School in Pretoria from which Churchill had escaped, and there he was shown the letter Churchill had sent



*Winston Churchill

to Howard. It had been passed on to the Transvaal Education Department's library, which is housed in the former school building by Howard's son Lewis of Germiston. His father's watch Lewis treasured as a family heirloom.

Shortly after Jimmy came across an article in the Natal Mercury. Eighty-two year old Charles Burnham had given his watch for safekeeping to Killie Campbell of Durban. Jimmy was so fascinated by the whereabouts of the remaining watches that he changed the name of his pub, which was to be opened in November 1970 to celebrate Churchill's birthday, to the Eight Watches. That he would trace the watches Jimmy had no doubt. He arranged a press conference at the Boulevard Hotel in Pretoria, the announcement of which led to Don Dewsnap's grandson Errol to arrive from Edenvale to show off the watch he had inherited.

The whereabouts of three watches had been established. Jimmy's hunt for the golden mementoes was on. I met Jimmy McLachlan early in 2002. He had contracted me to write the history of the former Pretoria Boulevard Hotel, but no sooner had I started than he insisted that he knew what had happened to the eight watches, and that I record his story about them. It was, however, only after I had published the book on the Boulevard Hotel that I became interested in Churchill. Jimmy had become a good friend and I did make notes of his search for the watches that had taken him as far as Scotland, but sadly, he passed away in 2005 at the age of 82. Jimmy had traced Dr Gillespie's watch via Salisbury in Rhodesia to Drymen, in Stirlingshire in Scotland and had been on television with its owner, Major-General R E Urquhart, who had become famous for the battle of Arnheim in the Netherlands during World War II.

McKenna's watch had been passed on as a valued treasure to a McKenna family member in Guernsey.

The watch given to McHenry Jimmy believed the former miner carried as a lucky charm. McHenry served as a pilot of the 17th Squadron during the Second World War and was shot down and killed. Perhaps McHenry had left the watch behind on this fateful day, for it is on display at Churchill's country house, Chartwell in Kent. Of Adam's watch, the sixth watch known to have been sent to South Africa, Jimmy heard rumours that it was destroyed in a fire. While I would like to believe that only six watches existed, there might be someone who knows more. The bar at the Boulevard Hotel in Witbank still bears the name The Eight Watches and the chances are that an enthusiast counting them after a few drinks may well bring the number up to eight.

After all, it were the eight watches that led me, after meeting Jimmy McLachlan, to write a comprehensive book with new, previously unpublished information on Churchill in South Africa.

The book is to be published in 2007, and a launch at Witbank is on the cards.

Ndebele's colourful part of history

Witbank, Marble Hall, Groblersdal, Middelburg and Siyabuswa form part of the Cultural Heartland of Mpumalanga.

The Ndebele people have formed an integral part of Mpumalanga and Witbank's history. Their colourful geometric art works are famous around the world.

In the early stages of the history of the Ndebele people, there were many tough times.

They settled in the Pretoria area in the 1600's and there was a big increase in population.

Their king Musi died and a feud broke out between his two sons Manala and Ndzundza. After many battles and bloodshed, the sons decided to live separately, the Manala in the Pretoria area and the Ndzundza further east.

The Manala people later spread out to Bronkhorstspuit, Middelburg, Witbank, Delmas, Standerton, Marble Hall and other surrounding areas.

The Manala-Mgibe community has recently laid claim to various pieces of land in Witbank and surrounding areas, saying that they were forced off their land during the Apartheid years. The community is under leadership of Manala Mgibe Paramount King Mgibe II.



*Mnala Mgibe Paramount King Mgibe II.

Ons Beginsels

1. Ons werk om te dien: ons naaste, ons land en volk.
2. Ons wil aan elkeen regverdigheid laat geskied.
3. Ons gun elke ander mens dit wat ons vir onself toe-eien.
4. Ons glo dat nederigheid een van die belangrikste kenmerke van 'n groot leier is.
5. Ons glo dat elkeen van ons geskape is om 'n plek in die lewe vol te staan.
6. Ons glo dat die sukses van ons lewe afhang van ons werkkrag.
7. Ons glo dat struikelblokke, moeilikhede en teleurstelling die geleentheid skep om vernuf, volharding en durf aan die dag te lê. Elke struikelblok wat oorkom word, beteken 'n oorwinning.
8. Ons glo dat elkeen van ons oor genoeg talente beskik om hom/haar voor te berei vir 'n lewenstaak.
9. Ons glo dat ledigheid 'n tipiese kenmerk is van 'n mens wat nie sy verantwoordelikheid en plig besef nie.
10. Sport moet geniet word - ons neem deel om dit te geniet, nie om ten alle koste te wen nie. Dis slegs 'n middel tot 'n doel.
11. 'n Gesonde liggaam huisves 'n gesonde gees en 'n gesonde verstand.
12. Ons erfenis is vir ons mooi - ons sal dit nooit versaak of daarvoor skaam wees nie.

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pryse en die beste diens.

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Afrox purification plant opened

A steel giant on the doorstep

Afrox's acetylene purification and cylinder filling plant was opened in Witbank on November 1, 1972.

The plant was situated on the property of Rand Carbide where raw acetylene was made from carbide 'fines'.

Prior to this, acetylene was provided by Aprox Pretoria and oxygen from facilities installed on Aprox's Tonnage Oxygen Site at Highveld Steel & Vanadium.

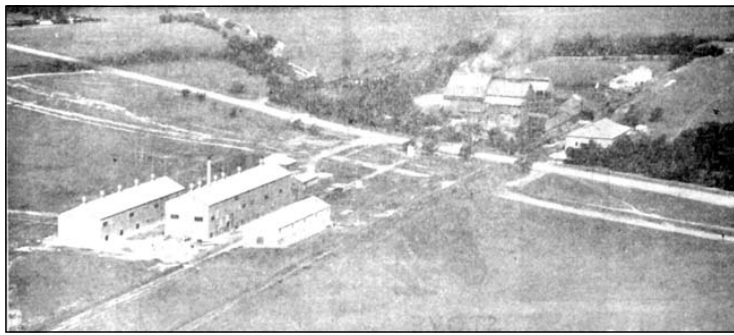
The WITBANK NEWS of November

10, 1972 reported the following:

"The new plant, together with existing facilities at Witbank now enables Aprox to supply all gas and welding requirements such as gas welding and cutting equipment, electric welding machines and welding consumables throughout the Eastern Transvaal."

With the advent of Highveld Steel & Vanadium Aprox installed a liquid oxygen producing plant to cater for Highveld's requirements. The excess oxygen produced became available for distribution and was sold either in liquid form or as compressed gas in cylinders.

For about 10 years before that Aprox gas was stocked by Stanfords Mining Supplies until Aprox established its own office and store in 1968.



*An aerial view showing the electro-chemical works of Rand Carbide and SA Cyanamid in August 1939. Note the absence of any houses or development near the two factories.



*Witbank's Aprox Acetylene Plant cost R¼-million, the price of a modern day medium family car, to erect in 1972.

Highveld Steel & Vanadium makes a formidable gateway to Witbank from the east and is as much a landmark in the area as the many mines that mark the region. With Rand Carbide they give the skyline its unique character.

The history of the Highveld Steel and Vanadium started in 1957 when the Minerals Engineering of Colorado opened a plant at Witbank designed to produce approximately 1.4 million kilograms of vanadium pentoxide annually.

Two years later Anglo American Corporation of South Africa Limited (Anglo) acquired a two-third share in Minerals Engineering.

In August 1960 the company's name was changed to Transvaal Vanadium Company (Proprietary) Limited. The Highveld Development Company Limited was established on May 19, 1960 to investigate the viability of processing the titaniferous magnetite ore for the production of liquid pig iron and vanadium bearing slag.

In November 1964, the company embarked on a programme to build an integrated iron and steelworks near Witbank and on June 11, 1965 the name of the company was changed to Highveld Steel and Vanadium Corporation Limited (Highveld).

Transvaal Vanadium Company (Proprietary) Limited became a division of Highveld in August 1966 following the acquisition of the remaining shareholding. This resulted in Highveld becoming the largest vanadium producer in the world.

Highveld acquired a 65% share in Transalloys (Proprietary) Limited, a company producing manganese alloys in 1976.

In 1978 Highveld acquired the total issued share capital of Rand Carbide Limited, which had been founded in 1918 in Germiston. The plant moved to Witbank in 1926 and Rand Carbide now operates as a division of Highveld, producing ferrosilicon and various carbonaceous products.

Highveld acquired the remaining 35% interest in Transalloys (Proprietary) Limited in 1985, which was subsequently incorporated and now operates as a division of Highveld.

The same year the Group acquired Rheem South

Africa (Proprietary) Limited (Rheem), a company involved mainly in the manufacture of drums, pails and crown closures.

The Group expanded its activities into stainless steel in 1991 with the acquisition of the stainless steel operation of Middelburg Steel & Alloys (Proprietary) Limited in partnership with Samancor Limited resulting in the formation of the Columbus Joint Venture (CJV). The partners in the CJV each sold a one-sixth share of the CJV to the Industrial Development Corporation in 1993.

The South African vanadium producer, Transvaal Alloys (Proprietary) Limited was acquired in January 1994. The new plant of CJV commenced production in 1995.

Hochvanadium Holding AG, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Highveld, and its wholly-owned subsidiary Hochvanadium Handels GmbH commenced business in Austria on December 1, 1998 for the purpose of processing and selling vanadium products.

Part of Rheem's assets were sold in 2002.

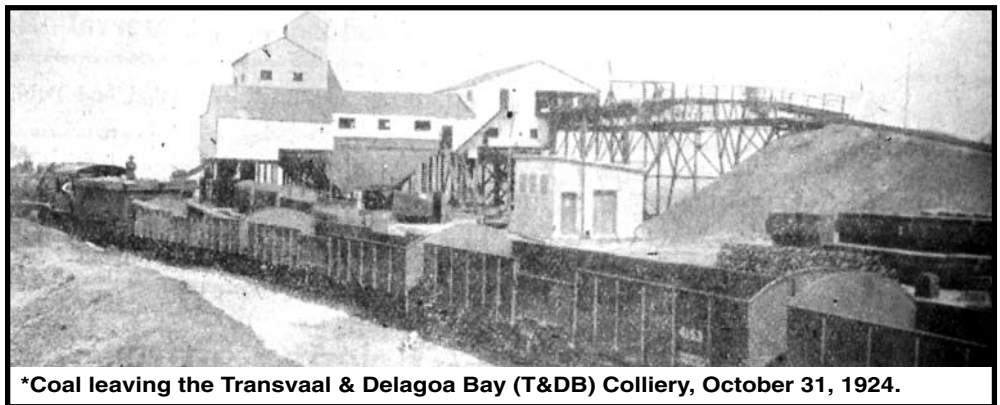
Highveld, with effect from January 1, 2002, disposed of 64% of its interest in CJV, thereby retaining a 12% interest in Columbus Stainless (Proprietary) Limited ("Columbus") and acquiring a 2.9% interest in the share capital of Acerinox, S.A., a Spanish company listed on the Madrid stock exchange.

In 2003 the sale of the remainder of Rheem's assets took place.

The Corporation holds 50% shareholding in South Africa Japan Vanadium (Proprietary) Limited which operates a plant situated at the steelworks producing ferrovanadium specifically for the Japanese market.

Half the Acerinox, S.A. interest was sold on January 7, 2005 and the balance on May 13, 2005 together with the interest in Columbus.

In 2006 Anglo disposed of 24.9% of its shareholding in Highveld to Evraz Group SA (Evraz) and Credit Suisse in July. Evraz obtained options to acquire the balance of the shares of Anglo and the shares of Credit Suisse subject to competition authorities approval.



*Coal leaving the Transvaal & Delagoa Bay (T&DB) Colliery, October 31, 1924.

Rising from black gold

Coal - a hard black mineral used for burning to supply heat' - Oxford Dictionary.

Coal - the hard black substances that has been many a miner's curse is also the black gold on which a thriving city was built. It has claimed its share of blood, sweat and tears over the years.

The first records of coal mining in this area date back to mid 1800's when farmers settled in the region and began mining coal from outcrops in riverbeds for cooking and heating. Early attempts to exploit coal deposits failed until the construction of Delagoa Bay railway line reached the town in 1894.

Witbank Colliery was established by Samuel Stanford and the Neumann Group in Zeraatsfontein (now called Leraatsfontein). The town was laid out by Wit-

bank Colliery in 1903 and Samuel Stanford erected the first wood and iron building consisting of a shop and hotel.

In the early years Witbank seemed to encounter a problem with obtaining sufficient water for industry and mining but this was solved with the construction of the Doornpoort Dam and later the Witbank Dam, which is the biggest municipal dam in the country.

A railway line to Richards Bay assisted the growth and much of the area's high quality coal is exported via this route. The collieries presently in operation mostly use the opencast mining method due to the proximity of coal close to the surface.

Witbank grew from a wild mining camp into a city and its economy developed a wide base of industries and services.

Mining in Witbank

Coal reserves in South Africa stretch in sediments across the Karoo System and encompass a large area of the country in large, mostly shallow layers.

Underground and opencast mining methods are practised to extract the black coal. At Amcoal's Kleinkopje Colliery the coal reserves are found from 20m under the surface to 80m. The mines in the area mostly provide coal for export and to feed the hungry giant power stations that provide much of the country's electricity.

Coal from Kleinkopje and associated mines is loaded onto trains via the Rapid Loading Terminal (RLT) and transported to Richards Bay where it is loaded onto ships and exported to the Far East. RLT can load 4 000 tons per hour.

All mines in the area are concerned about the environment and reclamation enjoys much attention.

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First Power Station in Witbank



***Witbank Power Station puffs away after starting production.**

Witbank Power Station was a base load station at a high load factor, principally powered by using coal powder, or 'duff' as it was known. With its location in the heart of the coalfields, it enabled the Commission to provide electrical power very cheaply to its consumers.

Turbulent beginnings

The first formal meeting of the Electricity Supply Commission (Escom) was held on March 20, 1923. According to the minutes of the meeting the transfer of the Colenso Power Station in Natal from the South African Railways, as well as the establishment of power stations at Durban, Cape Town and Witbank was discussed.

The establishment of the power station at Witbank proved to be difficult and almost lead to open confrontation between Escom and The Victoria Falls and Transvaal Power Co. Ltd. (VFP). The minutes of the second formal meeting held on May 18, 1923 mention a 'confrontation' between the Commission and VFP.

VFP was founded in 1906 and registered in Southern Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe). The idea

was that the company would become a centralised provider of electricity. VFP wanted to provide existing as well as future industries with power that would be generated at Victoria Waterfall and Zambezi River. Mine owners insisted that a coal-fired power station also be built on the Reef for use in the event of power failures. The idea of harnessing the hydro-potential of the Zambezi River was soon abandoned for technical and financial reasons. VFP decided to erect thermal power stations close to the user area, thus making use of the coal-fields in Eastern Transvaal (now Mpumalanga).

In accordance with the Power Act of 1910, VFP wanted to establish a power station in the Witbank area. This area was ideally suited for such an

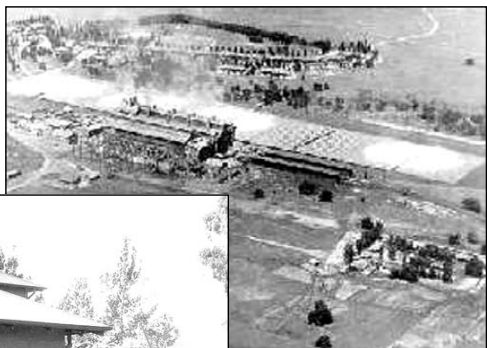
undertaking: the principal coal-fields in the Eastern Transvaal were in the Witbank area, there is an abundance of water, which is an important factor in the establishment of thermal power stations. Such a power station would be in close proximity to the Witwatersrand gold fields, which would be the main consumers. Further, it was hoped that the establishment of a power station in that area would encourage development in that area.

In May 1923 VFP applied to the Electricity Control Board for an extension of its license to the Witwatersrand. Electricity Control Board was created by the Electricity Act of 1922 to control the supply of electricity by Escom and private undertakings. The Commission had already started examining the power potentialities in the Witbank area and therefore opposed such an extension. The Prime Minister, General Jan Smuts, realised the seriousness of the situation and asked CH Merz, a world-renowned consulting engineer, to mediate between the two parties. A compromise was reached, dated 5 July 1924. According to the agreement, VFP would construct and operate the power station at cost price for, on behalf of, and in collaboration with the Commission. After a period of 12 months it would be decided if the Commission would take over the operation and working of the station or allow VFP to continue to

operate it on the Commission's behalf. The Commission would finance and own the station. All land servitudes and other rights acquired were registered in the Commission's name.

In the Annual Report of 1925 reasons were given for permitting VFP to construct the power station on behalf of the Commission. These included the fact that VFP was in a better situation than the Commission to start work immediately, since the Electricity Control Board had already approved many of the plans and specifications. Given the urgent need for additional power on the Rand, this was the only workable option. Whereas, VFP already received its licence on July 21, 1924, the Commission was only granted its licence to operate in the Witbank area on April 6, 1925.

In the Annual Report of 1924 it is mentioned that a gratifying feature of the settlement reached, is that the interests of both parties have been satisfied. In the commemorative issue of 1948, the agreement between these two parties is described as cordial. This is an example of the good co-operation that the Commission had with other undertakings. The agreement ensured that consumers would enjoy the benefits of a large and up-to-date power station with a guarantee of one-half share in any saving to the VFP resulting from the erection and operation of the Witbank Power Station. Mines, entering into new contract with the VFP, were guaranteed a 15% discount on standard prices from January 1923, rising to 17.5% on the date the Witbank Power Station came into full operation.



***Early days of Witbank Power Station**



***The administrative offices of Electricity Supply Commission (Escom) at the corner of Hofmeyer Street and Smuts Avenue.**

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Established in 1961 and now about to enter its 46th year of successful operation as part of the Witbank community, Witbank Brickworks (a member of the Clay Brick Association) is a wholly owned subsidiary of Kairos Industrial Holdings – a company listed on the JSE Securities Exchange. The company is managed by a highly competent management team, lead by Mr. Eric Brink as Managing Director, and supplies a product range of superior quality bricks through two brick making divisions – Witbank Brickworks and Tor Bricks. The colour and strength of any clay brick is determined by the type of clay being used, and this is one area where Witbank and Tor are very fortunate: the local clay enables them to produce high quality bricks with a popular and distinctive coloring.

The satin-textured light and dark yellow and salmon semi-face bricks provided by Witbank Brickworks are much in demand by architects and discerning developers, and the Sevilla and Cameo (travertine textured) face brick ranges from Tor Brickworks are similarly respected and sought after by the trade. In addition, both divisions produce a range of stock bricks. The company employs over 800 people, and is actively engaged in various upliftment and empowerment initiatives, with a firm black economic empowerment policy that benefits all its previously disadvantaged employees.

The company also seeks to take part in various community upliftments, thus supplying large contractors as well as local builders with their quality bricks. They also took part in the development of the new Highveld shopping mall, Bhp Billiton offices on the N4-middelburg, Riverview shopping centre, and various other buildings...No one too Big or too Small ...

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Pioneers in the air and on the ground

Witbank Aviation history started with an aviation enthusiast, Eric Wells who persuaded a number of aircraft owners to bring their planes to Witbank in 1928 with the view on starting a flying club.

He levelled a landing strip where Witbank Hospital stands today.

The original pioneers of Witbank's aviation were: HV Wells, Mrs Wells, RC Miller, NW Scott, HC Köhler, J. Zisman, E. Soar, D. Simpkins, Dr and Mrs HJ Schultz and Roland Cohen who had been a pilot in World War I.

The weather wasn't very kind during the first visit but joyrides on a later date were much more successful.

A meeting was held at Witbank Club in August 1928 to form a flying club which was established in October 1928.

The club's first instructor was HJC Gray and he travelled from Johannesburg Light Plane Club on a regular basis to give tuition.

Dr HJ Schultz was the first pupil to solo and became club president in later years.

By 1930 the club had accumulated enough funds to build a hangar and a tea kiosk. The following year an air pageant was held on May 2 attracting 23 aircraft.

On October 6 1931 the club changed its name to Witbank Aeronautical Association and acquired a DH 60 Cirrus Moth from Port Elizabeth.

The Cirrus Moth suffered an accident in 1932 and was repaired at SAAF's Aircraft Depot.

The Great Depression was disastrous for the country's flying clubs, including Witbank. The Moth was sold to Rhodesia.

There was a period of inactivity until 1935 when young mining engineer, George McPhee, flew a Miles M2H Hawk from Newcastle in the United Kingdom to Witbank. He left the UK on October 24, 1935 and on arrival was greeted by a crowd of 1 000.

The WITBANK NEWS of November 22 1935 included the following in its article on the event:

"Mr GA McPhee is the only son of Mr J.M. McPhee, MA, MSc. General Manager, Transvaal and Delagoa Bay Collieries and Mrs McPhee.

"Mr McPhee has been studying engineering at Stockton-on-Tees. He left Heston Airport, London on Thursday, October 24 in his Miles-Hawk low-winged monoplane, which has a cruising

speed of 135 mph. He undertook the journey by easy stages, following the airways' route as far as possible and anticipated arriving in Witbank much earlier, but was delayed all along the route by bad weather and storms."

A hangar was erected at T&DB and the Miles-Hawk is believed to be the first privately owned aeroplane in Witbank.

In 1937 a new class Allied airfield was constructed three miles north west of Witbank Railway Station.

Civil flying came to an end when World War II started and George McPhee sold his Hawk to the SAAF for £600.

The war brought a great demand for wartime

pilots. South Africa's Joint Air Training Scheme as part of the Empire Air Training Scheme established No. 5 Air School and in March 1941 a tent camp was erected.

In June a WAAF was added and by early May provision had been made for 376 personnel.

Three enormous hangars could house 48 Tiger Moths and by October 17, 46 pupil pilots were undergoing training with the intention of processing 48 pupils every four weeks.

Two auxiliary landing grounds were established at Nooitgedacht and Wolvekrans.

In 1942 there were fears that the Japanese could take over Madagascar and use it as a base against South Africa and its mineral wealth.

An operational squadron was established at each Air School, using instructors as combat pilots. Consequently 105 Squadron was formed on April 21, 1942 using Tiger Moths adapted to carry light anti-personnel bombs.

The Air School had its training programme changed to accommodate 120 pilots from 96.

In 1944 No. 5 Air School was closed after having trained 285 SAAF, 714 Royal Air Force and four Allied pilots.

The camp was eventually handed over to the Prisons Department and is the site of the present Paxton Correctional Services.

In November 1946 the airfield was listed as a Class V civil aerodrome with two runways, a single hangar and fuel was available from town. An ex-SAAF pilot, JJ du Toit established a flying school operated as Travel Air with two Piper Cubs.

Witbank Aeronautical Association was re-established and on December 15-16 an air rally (air show) was the first of many such events to come.

In 1950 the aeronautical association acquired a Fairchild which they had until the end of 1954. Training was done on a Piper Cub.

The airfield was used for a stop for the Governor General's Cup Air Race in May 1957.

In April 1963 G. Soutar was elected as chairman and Ron Davies (still active today) as secretary. The club's first Cessna was bought in 1972 and written off in November the same year.

In 1973 the present runways 04/22 were tarred and Tommy van der Woude (presently instructor at WAA) took over the charter company Glenair.

The control tower and clubhouse were erected in 1980 and in the same year the Witbank Sport Parachute Club (later renamed Witbank Skydiving Club) was established.

Witbank Aeronautical Association is currently the second oldest flying club in the country, after the Johannesburg Light Plane Club.

Thanks to Dave Bekker, SA Flyer and Ron Davies for information and photos.



*An early committee of Witbank Flying Club, some time in the early 1930's. They are, from left: (back) J.N. Ziman, O.H. Frewin, Jas McPhee, R. Humble (JLPC), C.E. Kidger, R. Douglas, E.F.V. Wells (chairman), E. Soar, D. Simpkins; (front) N.W. Scott (treasurer), Dr H.J.E. Schultz (vice-chairman), Mrs E.F.V. Wells, R. Cohen (hon. Secretary), J.J. Turnbull, C. Kohler and R.C. Miller. H.J.C. Gray (hon. Instructor) was absent.



*This Piper Cub was one of two owned by Travel Air (J.J. du Toit).



*George Mc Phee and his Miles M2H Hawk flew from Newcastle in the United Kingdom to Witbank in 1935.



*Tiger Moth 564 at SAS in 1943.



*Aerial view of 5 Air School on September 1942. The present hangars are situated in the lower left hand corner of the photo.



*Bill Robertson and André Wolmarans just before jumping out of Andrew Benic's Fairchild in August 1962. Although in his 80's Andrew Benic is still a current pilot and regularly flies his Dragonfly microlight.

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Louis Botha


Gum Botha



Johann en Ghodé Botha

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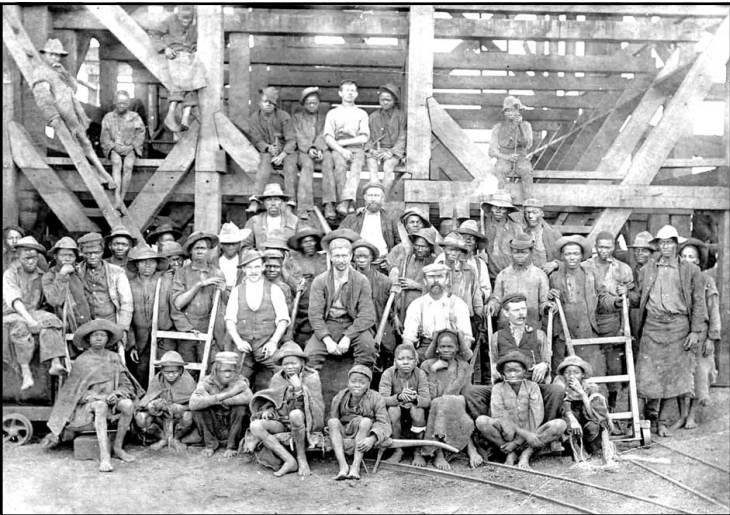


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Beginjare in myne



*'n Span werkers op een van die myne. Let op die groot getal kinders wat gebruik is vir die klein uitgrawings in die skagte.

Een grote ongeluk



Witbank se markplein was geleë waar die OK tans is, oorkant die landdroshof.

Hiër het daar in die veertigerjare 'n ongeluk plaasgevind wat moontlik 'n kop-aan-kop botsing was. Dit het 'n groot skare omstanders getrek en die verpleegpersoneel moes bontstaan om tussen almal die pasiënte te behandel.

Die verpleegsters se uniforms, asook karre in die agtergrond getuig dat die foto's van die jaar toet is.

(Verskaf deur mnr. Arthur Abraham)

**Eadie,
nie E.D.
Street**

In Witbank Nuus, January 9, 1920 is gerapporteer dat die jarelange telegrambode aangestel is as die eerste posafleweringsbeampte. In die koerant het die volgende gestaan oor sy aanstelling: "Doubtless his great-grandchildren will be very proud of him."
Een van die interessante gevolge van die nuwe stelsel van adressering was dat sommige briewe wat by die poskantoor vir persone en besighede in Eadiestraat aangekom het, nie as 'Eadie Street' geadresseer was nie, maar as E.D Street.

Witbank Nuus

Koerant met ryke geskiedenis

Die WITBANK NUUS is vanjaar 89 jaar oud en daarmee saam een van die oudste besighede in Witbank.

Tussen 1903 tot en met 1909 is nuus van Witbank in die Middelburg Observer geïnkorporeer onder die opskrif - Streeknuus. Tussen 1909 en 1916 is die Middelburg Observer en Witbank Nuus as een koerant gepubliseer.

In 1917 het die dorp so uitgebrei dat 'n koerant op sy eie geregverdig was en is die WITBANK NUUS gebore.

Die eerste redakteur van die koerant was die stigter, mnr. Oscar Henry Frewin homself. Daarna het redakteurs soos Baden Hammond (wat ook redakteur van die Middelburg Observer was), Leonard Neill, Jeanette McClain, Lynn Siebert, Marietjie Visser, Laetitia van Wyk en huidiglik Amanda Botha gevolg (snaaks genoeg dat die laaste klomp redakteurs almal vroue is).

In Mei 1980 is driekwart van die OH Frewin Maatskappy aan Perskor verkoop - 'n tyd waarin baie gemeenskapskoerante oor die hele land aan Perskor verkoop is. In 1989 word die res van die maatskappy ook aan Perskor verkoop.

Die Caxton-groep, waaraan die WITBANK NUUS tans behoort, het Perskor in 1998 oorgekoop. Die koerant word steeds by die drukkerij in Middelburg gedruk.

Die Frewin-legaat

OH Frewin was dan ook een van die eerste drukkers in die land. Hy is gereken as 'n meester drukker en in 1929 is dié drukkerij gereken as die vierde beste in die wêreld.

In 1909 het OH Frewin 'n vergadering belê wat later gelei het tot die stigting van die Gemeenskapsers Assosiasie - OH Frewin word gereken as die Vader van die Provinsiale Afdeling van die Koerantpers Unie van Suid-Afrika.

Na die dood van die 'Grand Old Man' in 1960 het die Frewin-geslag in die mediawêreld steeds voortgeleef.

Mnr. Jack Frewin, seun en erfgenaam van die OH Frewin drukkerij het in 1960 die leisels oorgeneem by sy vader. Hy word dan ook redakteur van die Middelburg Observer en

Witbank Nuus. Hy was 'n man met vele talente. Nie alleen was hy 'n goeie joernalis nie, maar het ook aandag gegee aan die advertensiekant van die koerante en het ook nie geskroom om self in te spring en die koerante te set en druk nie. Dit was veral sy goeie kamera-oog waarvoor hy onthou sal word. Onder sy bekwame hand het hy die koerant en drukkerij vir 25 jaar bestuur tot met sy dood in 1986.

Reeds met sy oupa se dood in 1960 het mnr. John Frewin, seun van mnr. Jack Frewin saam met sy pa betrokke geraak in die bestuur van die besigheid. Na sy pa se dood het hy die leisels oorgeneem tot met sy aftrede in 2005.

Mnr. William Zwart is tans die bestuurder van die Middelburg divisie van koerante, waarvan WITBANK NUUS deel is.

Die WITBANK NUUS het oor die afgelope jare 'n onlosmaaklike deel van die gemeenskap van Witbank geword.



*Mnr. Oscar Henry Frewin.

In 1903 verskyn die volgende in die Middelburg Observer/Witbank Nuus:
"Het is ons doel te kritizeeren zoo dikwels wij gevoelen dat kritiek vereischt wordt, en te prijzen wanneer wij beschouwen dat het gedane werk ten nutte van het publiek strekt." Na 89 jaar is dit steeds die beleid van die WITBANK NUUS.

Die koerant word in 'n sekere sin gesien as die waghond van die gemeenskap - om sonder voorkeure, regverdig, akkuraat en objektief berig te gee oor die vreugde en pyn van die stad en sy mense.

Lew Geffen

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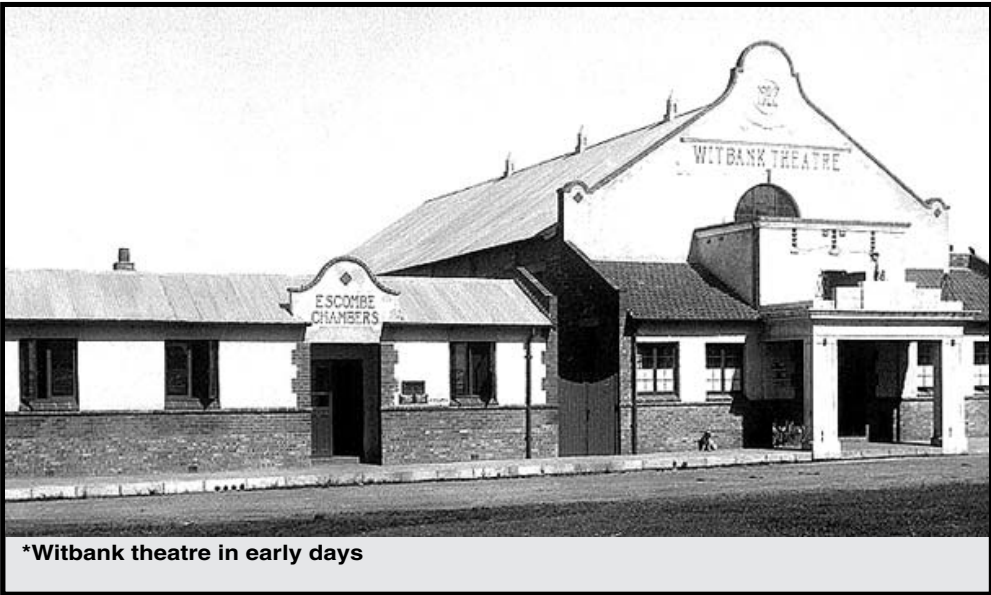
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En sommige dinge verander net nooit nie..... "Sedert 16 Desember het die ongeluksyfer op Witbank die hoogte ingeskiet. Vanaf 16-23 Desember is 26 motorongelukke by die polisie aangemeld."
(Witbank Nuus, 1 Januarie 1971).



*Witbank theatre in early days

R2 miljoen brouery vir Witbank

"Daar gaan binnekort begin word met die oprigting van 'n ultra moderne Sorghumbier-brouery te Ferrobank. Daar is reeds in 1967 begin met die beplanning van hierdie projek deur die stadsraad van Witbank. Dit is interessant om te meld dat die

huidige brouery gedurende 1957 begin produseer het. Die ou brouery was aanvanklik beplan met 'n produksievermoë van 10 000 (gelling) (45 000 liter) per maand teen 'n koste van 22 000 pond." (Witbank Nuus, 9 Augustus 1974).

Ingenieurs maak geskiedenis



*Mnr. E van Jaarsveld, mnr. H Gous (destydse stadstoesourier) en mnr. DS van der Merwe by die paneelbord van die unieke telemeterstelsel wat Van Jaarsveld en Van der Merwe in 1974 ontwikkel het.

Plaaslike ingenieurs het in September 1974 geskiedenis te maak deur die eerste telemeterstelsel in sy soort in Suid-Afrika en die wêreld te vervolmaak. Mnr DS van der Merwe, 'n stads-elektro-tegniese ingenieur en mnr E van Jaarsveld, hoof tegniese assistent was die ontwerpers van die stelsel wat sou verseker dat huishoudelike elektriese verbruikersmeters oor 'n afstand gelees

en die inligting na een sentrale punt teruggelei sou word. Met die stelsel sou 4 000 meterlesings wat al Witbank se huishoudelike verbruikers in 1974 ingesluit het, in minder as vyf uur gedoen kon word. Die stelsel was nog in 'n eksperimentele fase, maar die eindproduk sou 'n lonende en praktiese stelsel vir die munisipale dienste belowe. (Witbank Nuus, September 1974).

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EN KOOP TEEN KOSPRYS

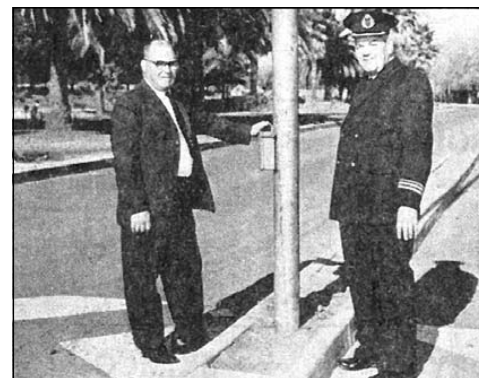
Leiras Juwelier het reeds van vroeg af in die WITBANK NUUS geadverteer

"Die munisipaliteit van Witbank het vir die eerste keer in die dorp se geskiedenis bouplanne ter waarde van meer as R3 miljoen in een jaar goedgekeur."
(Witbank Nuus, Januarie 1966).

Dam se sluise oopgemaak

"Vir die eerste keer sedert sy voltooiing in Oktober verlede jaar is die Witbank dam vol en behoort dit binnekort oor te loop. Dit beteken dat die dam tans 'n totale volume van 24 000 miljoen gallon of 41 000 morgvoet water (108 000) megaliter bevat. In vergelyking met die ou dam wat 4 000 miljoen gallon of 6 960 morgvoet water (18 000 megaliters) kon berg, is die huidige dam met sy totale wateroppervlakte van 1 120 morg en totale lengte van 28.53 km of 17.5 myl vanaf die meetwal bokant Wolvekrans Koolmyn tot by die damwal dus 'n reus en waarskynlik die grootste munisipale dam in Transvaal. Op Dinsdag 78 Januarie het die Witbank munisipaliteit toetse uitgevoer op die sluise en hul vir die eerste keer oopgemaak. Dit was 'n indrukwekkende gesig toe die miljoene gallon water deur die sluise uitgestroom het en die trek was so groot dat bome op die oorkant uitgespoel is." (Witbank Nuus, 11 Januarie 1974).

Spoorwegstasie kry nuwe voorkoms



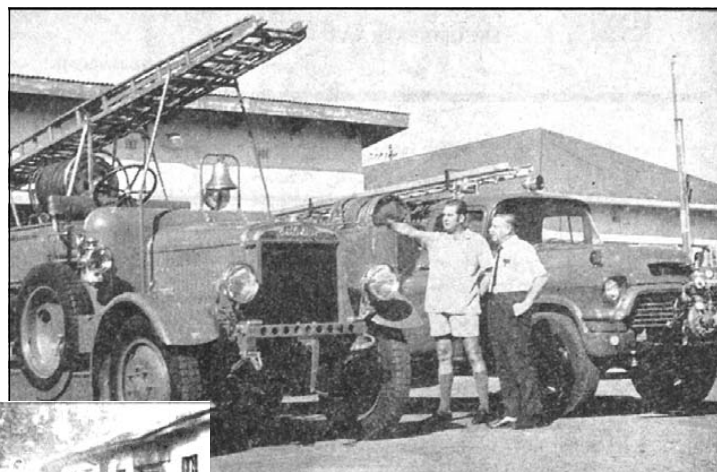
*Die spoorwegstasie is in Julie 1969 opgradeer.

Die verandering van die voorkoms van Witbank Spoorwegstasie was groot nuus. Die stasie is in Julie 1969 opgradeer. Die ingang van die stasie is verander deur eenrigting strate wat deur verkeerseilande geskei is, aan te bring. Dit het beteken dat bestuurders hul weg makliker vanaf die ingang to reg voor die stasiegebou en dan weer tot by

die uitgang kon kry. Daar is voorsiening gemaak vir 'n parkeerterrein met volop parkering vir gebruikers sowel as taxi's. Moderne beligting is ook aangebring. Die stasietuin met aalwyne en reusepalms het ook aandag getrek. Nuwe grasperke sou ook aangelê word.

Witbank's old stalwarts

*Mr. W. Vermaak, head of the Fire Brigade, with Mr. G. Stander, his assistant, at the machines. The engine on the left is a vintage model Leyland, dating back to the thirties. (WITBANK NEWS April 10, 1970.)



*(Bottom) A 'new' model fire engine in 1966.



"The long awaited nursery school, which Witbank so badly needs will be opened and conducted by two enterprising young Witbank teachers, Mrs Rosemary McKenna and Mrs Felicity du Plessis." (Witbank News, September 1966).



**n Baie besige Witbank Stasie iewers in die 1920's

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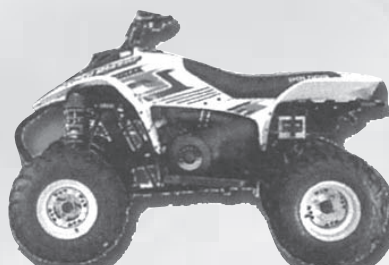
PREDATOR
R54 500 while stock last



HAWKEYE R43 000



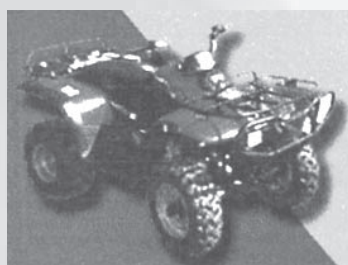
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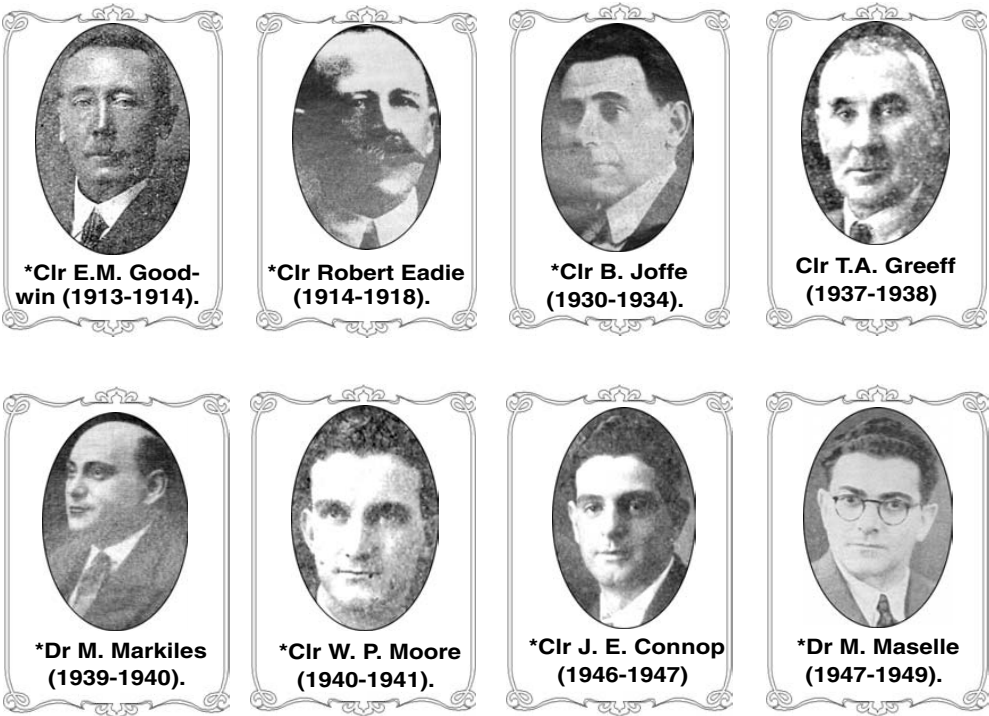


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100 years of mayors



*Clr E.M. Goodwin (1913-1914).

*Clr Robert Eadie (1914-1918).

*Clr B. Joffe (1930-1934).

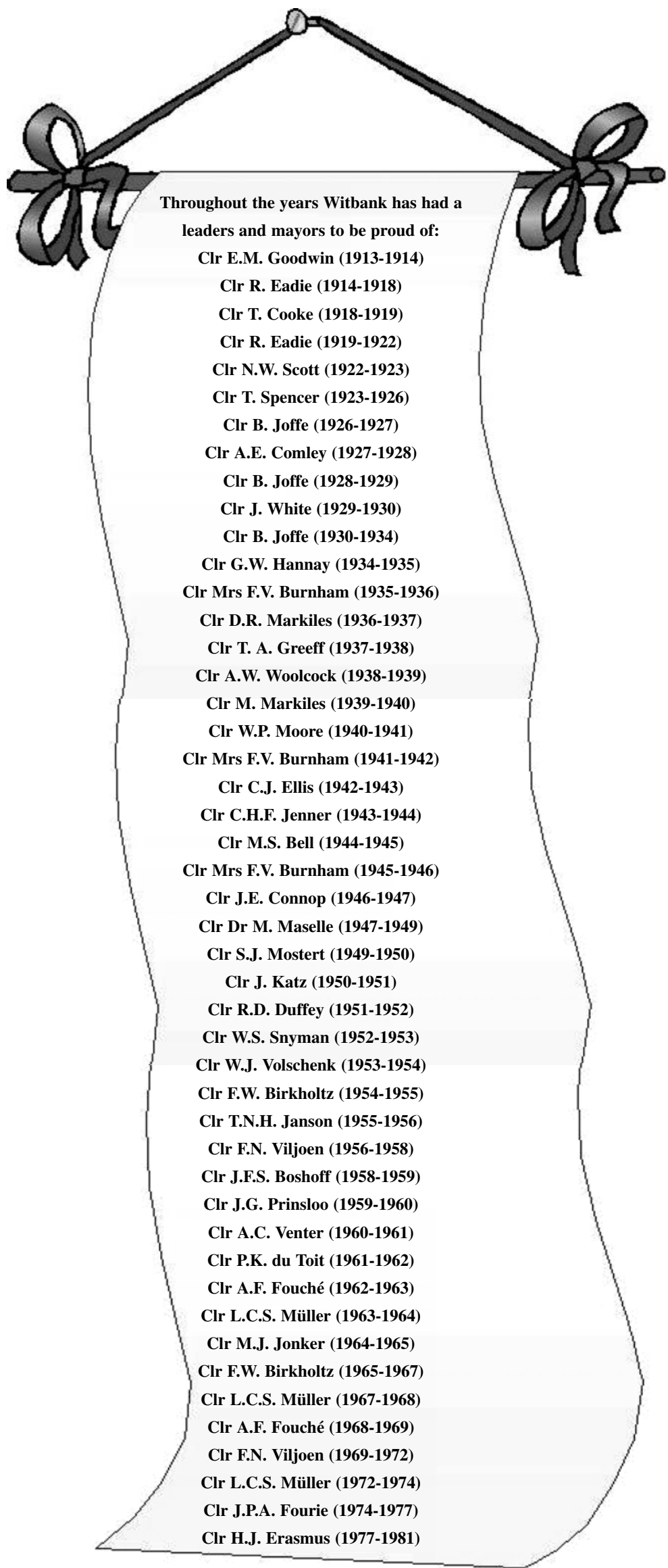
Clr T.A. Greeff (1937-1938)

*Dr M. Markiles (1939-1940).

*Clr W. P. Moore (1940-1941).

*Clr J. E. Connop (1946-1947)

*Dr M. Maselle (1947-1949).



Throughout the years Witbank has had a leaders and mayors to be proud of:

- Clr E.M. Goodwin (1913-1914)
- Clr R. Eadie (1914-1918)
- Clr T. Cooke (1918-1919)
- Clr R. Eadie (1919-1922)
- Clr N.W. Scott (1922-1923)
- Clr T. Spencer (1923-1926)
- Clr B. Joffe (1926-1927)
- Clr A.E. Comley (1927-1928)
- Clr B. Joffe (1928-1929)
- Clr J. White (1929-1930)
- Clr B. Joffe (1930-1934)
- Clr G.W. Hannay (1934-1935)
- Clr Mrs F.V. Burnham (1935-1936)
- Clr D.R. Markiles (1936-1937)
- Clr T. A. Greeff (1937-1938)
- Clr A.W. Woolcock (1938-1939)
- Clr M. Markiles (1939-1940)
- Clr W.P. Moore (1940-1941)
- Clr Mrs F.V. Burnham (1941-1942)
- Clr C.J. Ellis (1942-1943)
- Clr C.H.F. Jenner (1943-1944)
- Clr M.S. Bell (1944-1945)
- Clr Mrs F.V. Burnham (1945-1946)
- Clr J.E. Connop (1946-1947)
- Clr Dr M. Maselle (1947-1949)
- Clr S.J. Mostert (1949-1950)
- Clr J. Katz (1950-1951)
- Clr R.D. Duffey (1951-1952)
- Clr W.S. Snyman (1952-1953)
- Clr W.J. Volschenk (1953-1954)
- Clr F.W. Birkholtz (1954-1955)
- Clr T.N.H. Janson (1955-1956)
- Clr F.N. Viljoen (1956-1958)
- Clr J.F.S. Boshoff (1958-1959)
- Clr J.G. Prinsloo (1959-1960)
- Clr A.C. Venter (1960-1961)
- Clr P.K. du Toit (1961-1962)
- Clr A.F. Fouché (1962-1963)
- Clr L.C.S. Müller (1963-1964)
- Clr M.J. Jonker (1964-1965)
- Clr F.W. Birkholtz (1965-1967)
- Clr L.C.S. Müller (1967-1968)
- Clr A.F. Fouché (1968-1969)
- Clr F.N. Viljoen (1969-1972)
- Clr L.C.S. Müller (1972-1974)
- Clr J.P.A. Fourie (1974-1977)
- Clr H.J. Erasmus (1977-1981)

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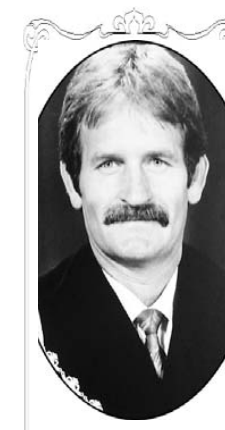
*Clr S. J. Mostert (1949-1950).



*Clr P.C. Coetzer (1990-1991).



*Clr PK Odendaal (1992-1993).



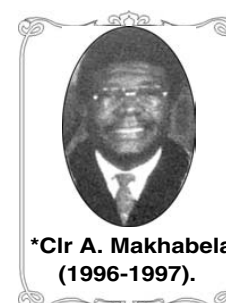
*Clr F.J. Labuschagne (1993-1994).



*Clr Fiona Martin (1994-1995).



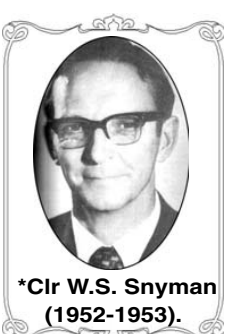
*Clr Paul van Castle (1995-1996).



*Clr A. Makhabela (1996-1997).



*Clr Grace Castle (1998-1999).



*Clr W.S. Snyman (1952-1953).



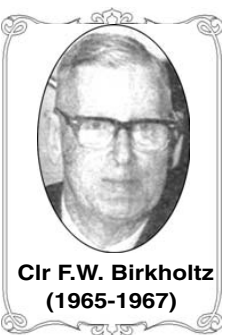
*Clr Jerry Radebe (1999-2000)



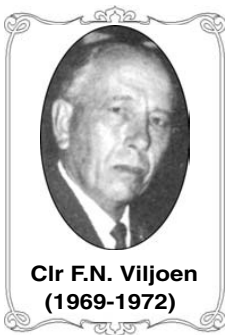
*Clr Glory Dlamini (2000-2006).



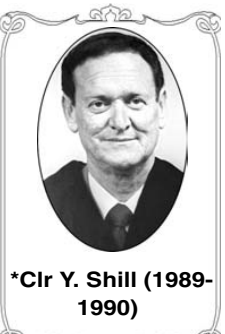
*Executive Mayor Clr Linah Malatjie (present).



Clr F.W. Birkholtz (1965-1967)



Clr F.N. Viljoen (1969-1972)



*Clr Y. Shill (1989-1990)



*Clr P.W. Cornelius (1984-1985, 1987-1988, 1988-1989).

- Clr T.J.P. Verwey (1981-1982)
 Clr D.J. Opperman (1982-1983).
 Clr P.W. Cornelius (1984-1988).
 Clr Yokkie Shill (1983-1984, 1989-1990)
 Clr Paul Broodryk (1985-1987)
 Clr P.W. Cornelius (1987-1989)
 Clr P.C. Coetzer (1990-1991)
 Clr PK Odendaal (1992-1993)
 Clr Ferdie Labuschagne (1993-1994)
 Clr Fiona Martin (1994-1995)
 Clr Paul van Castle (1995-1996)
 Clr Aaron Makhabela (1996-1997)
 Clr Grace Castle (1998-1999)
 Clr Jerry Radebe (1999-2000)
 Clr Glory Dlamini (2000-2006)
 Clr Linah Malatjie (present).



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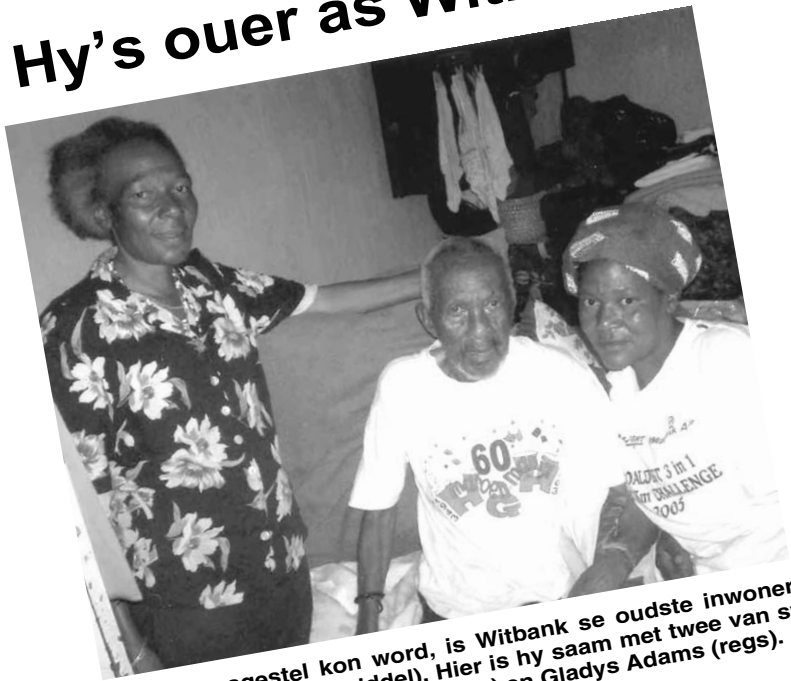
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Goue oues...

Hy's ouer as Witbank



*Sover vasgestel kon word, is Witbank se oudste inwoner, mnr. Henry Adams (middel). Hier is hy saam met twee van sy dogters, Mammetjie Adams (links) en Gladys Adams (regs).

Witbank se oudste inwoner is al ouer as Witbank self. Mnr. Henry Adams het op 9 November sy 105de verjaarsdag gevier. Hy is in 1901 in Oudtshoorn gebore, waar hy later op 'n plaas gewerk het as voorman. "Werk was skaars en ek moes skool verlaat om my ouers te onderhou. Na 20 jaar het die eienaar van die plaas besluit om te verhuis en my ouers het teruggetrek Bombardie toe," het mnr. Adams vertel. Hy het na Pretoria verhuis waar hy sy vrou, Violet Elizabeth ontmoet het. Hulle het saam vyf dogters en een seun gehad. Na baie swaar jare het hy goeie werk in Witbank gekry en het hulle 'n huis in Schoongezicht gebou. Sy vrou is in 1987 oorlede. Een van hul dogters en hul seun is ook oorlede. "Ek wil net dankie sê vir God wat my al die goeie jare gespaar het om te sien hoe my kinders en kleinkinders grootword," het mnr. Adams gesê.

First church building

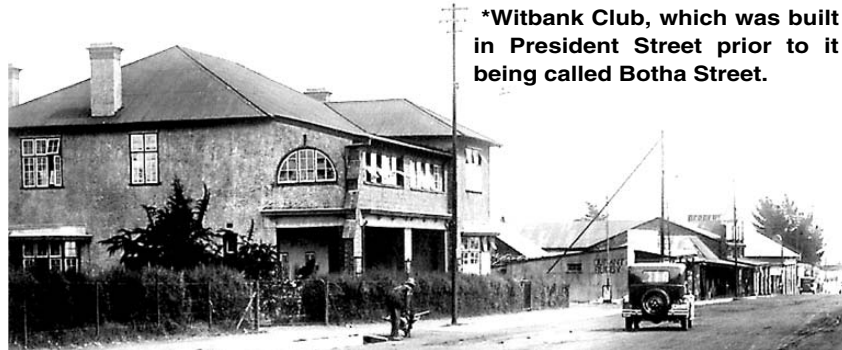


*The original Catholic Church building, which was erected in 1921.

The Catholic Church in Allenby Street is one of the oldest church buildings in Witbank that is still standing. The Catholic Church was the first building to be erected in the new extension of the town. Bishop Charles Cox OMI laid the foundation stone for the first church in Witbank on August 31, 1921, which was finally dedicated to the honour of the Immaculate Conception by him on December 18 1921. The first resident priest was and OMI missionary Fr. De Houvre who had previously travelled from Pretoria to minister in Witbank.



Witbank Club remembered



*Witbank Club, which was built in President Street prior to it being called Botha Street.

Witbank Club, one of the oldest clubs in Witbank is still open today. The first memories of the original club is that of Ms Mary Acutt formerly Taylor who stayed in Witbank since 1913. "The manager of the colliery was Mr JK Addie who owing to his designation was automatically elected as president of the newly formed Witbank Colliery Recreation Club, which in later years was known as Witbank Club," remembered Ms Acutt. In the original club they held grand balls with suppers held under the trees. In this club the Amateur Dramatic Society was formed, which entertained the town. There were large stables in front of the club and members arriving by horse and carriage were able to stable their horses whilst enjoying a period at the club. At the club there was a very well equipped library with a reading room and expensive magazines, which were

attached to tables by chains. In the centre of the complex was a ballroom where various activities took place, boxing being one of these. There was also a swimming pool. In 1921 the Witbank Colliery donated the stand for a new club to be built in President Street, prior to being called Botha Street this club was in operation until 1981 when a new and most modern club was built in Churchill Avenue.

Oud, ouer, oudste.....



Een van die oudste huise in Witbank is 61 Plumerstraat. Die huis is in 1923 gebou.



Golden oldies...

Oldest learning institute



***The first public school was built in 1907 in Witbank and was opened in May 1908 by Mr NJ de Wet. The school was later known as Robert Carruthers School but was broken down in later years to make space for the theatre.**

During 1905 and 1906 petitions were sent to Pretoria to the British Colonial government to build a school for the growing number of children in Witbank. The government agreed to build a school and construction began in 1906. On May 2, 1908 the new public school was opened by Mr NJ de Wet and on May 18, 1908 the first classes started. The headmaster of the new school was Mr Robert Carruthers and the school later became known as the Robert Carruthers School. The school building was extended in 1915 and on March 27, 1915 a new wing was opened. The school was first known as Witbank Town School but in 1922 became known as Witbank Intermediate School. On January 19, 1943 the school once again changed its name to English Medium Primary School. The headmaster of the school Mr Robert Sutton Carruthers died on May 13, 1937. He was principal of Witbank Intermediate School from 1908 to November 1935. Other principals were Mr A Lincoln (1936), Mr Starker (1937 to 1945), Mr CJ James (1946 to 1947), Mr A Beron (1948), Mr CW Stoltz (acting principal 1948 to 1949), Mr RM van der Schyff (1949 to 1951), Mr J Higgs (1952 to 1957), Mr JS Veldhuisen (1958 to 1964) and Mr R de Fourie (acting principal 1965).

Methodists 101 years in Witbank

The Methodist church is one of the oldest communities in Witbank. Although the first church building was erected in 1905 and Witbank had its own minister in the person of Rev Whitehouse, the work was begun a year or two earlier by the Rev. Henry Goodwin. The first church building was erected near the Carlton Hotel near the railway in 1905 and continued in use until 1923. This building was a wood and iron model. Parts of the building were transferred to the new building in 1923, the Wesley Hall. The Wesley Hall was the Church building from 1923 to 1953 and was afterwards used as the Sunday school hall and for social events. The hall was preserved for posterity. From 1953 until October 1992 the Methodist Church building was situated in Kitchener Avenue. The church was opened by Rev Dr JB Webb. On October 1992 the Methodist Church moved once more and opened in Del Judor. The church is still situated on the corner of Louise and Sophia Streets.

Ou wiele



***Die Daimler BB18 het sy eie kleurryke geskiedenis.**

'n 1927 Buick is een van Witbank se oudste karre. Die kar, wat oorspronklik swart was, word tans hersprei. Die eienaar, mnr. Martin Duncan, het nog 'n kar waarmee hy ook met reg kan spog. Hy besit 'n 1947 Daimler BB18 wat slegs een van sewe motors is wat destyds tydens 'n Koninklike Toer in Suid-Afrika gebruik is.

Lawyers' firm 98

Harvey, Nortje, Wagner and Motimele Attorneys is one of the oldest existing businesses in Witbank.

The firm was founded by EA Harvey in 1908. He had his practice on a piece of ground, which is now occupied by the Old Mutual buildings. The firm occupied



***Mr E.A. Harvey the founder of one of the oldest businesses in Witbank.**

these buildings until they decided to move to the UBS building.

The firm has been known as Harvey, Mostert, Jonker and Bailey; Harvey, Mostert, Jonker and Tee and Harvey, Mostert and Jonker.

The firm amalgamated with Venter and Wagner in 1986.

In 1992 Harvey Mostert and Jonker amalgamated with another old firm in Witbank, Nortje and Krugel and the firm became known as Harvey Nortje Incorporated with seven partners.

During 2006 Harvey Nortje Incorporated became known as Harvey, Nortje, Wagner and Motimele. The present partners are Willie Nortje, Barry Wagner, Shirley Motimele, Mthokozai Ncongwane and Marius Botha, with associate Danel Nel in the Pretoria office and PA Christa Veldman with article clerk Anandi Olivier together with a staff component of 40 people.

83 years in Witbank

Helen More has been living in Witbank for longer than most people and is probably the person that has lived here the longest.

Helen More and her family moved to



***Helen More (95).**

Witbank from Middelburg in 1923 and have been living here ever since. "I remember Witbank when everything was concentrated on the bottom part of the town namely Main Street and Eadie Street and Witbank Colliery was still producing coal. The railway station was over the bridge opposite the Carlton Hotel and people used to wonder over there on a Sunday evening to fetch their Sunday newspaper. Klipfontein Dam was the water supply until the Doornpoort Dam was built by Escom (Victoria Falls Power Station)," said Helen.

Helen's first job was at the railway station where all the newspapers were sold. In 1936 Helen was married in the second Methodist Church built in Witbank. During the war from 1939 to 1945 the Witbank woman filled many important posts. She worked in the Revenue Department of the municipality and later for Duncan and Elliot Builders and Plumbers.

Helen is residing at the MOTH cottages.

Goeie fondament



Sover vasgestel kon word is die ou Barclaysbank gebou in Eadiestraat een van die oudste geboue in Witbank. Dit is in 1907 reeds gebou.

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Beeldradio is deesdae 'n baie gewilde onderwerp van bespreking. Die koors loop hoog en volgens mnr. Frits Beumer, bestuurder van Jet Radio and television, bly die Witbankers glad nie agter nie.

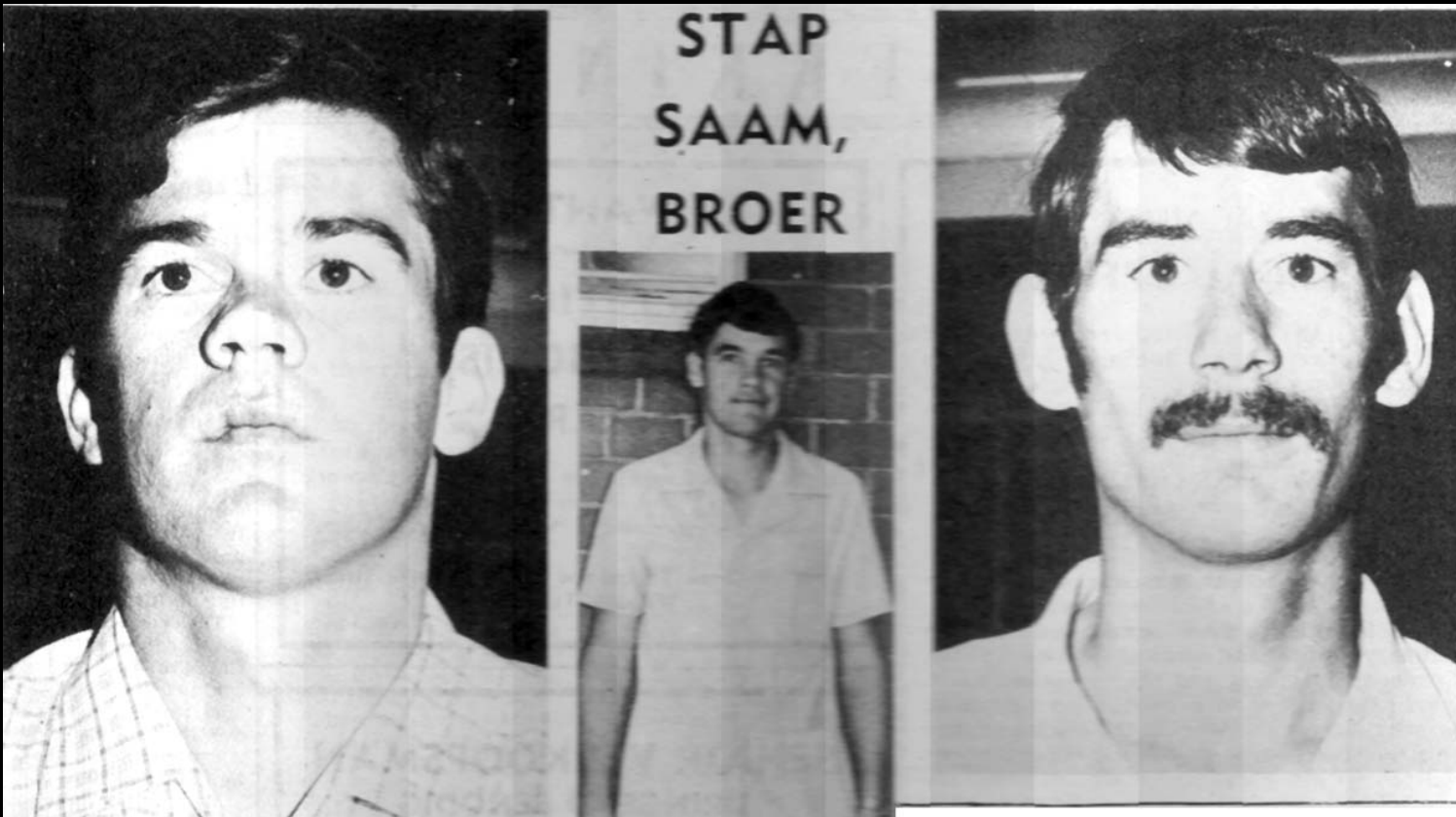
Hoewel beeldradio amptelik eers in 1976 in Suid-Afrika sal wees, moet daar reeds voor die tyd 'n begin gemaak word met eksperimente en voorlopige programme om belangstelling onder die publiek aan te wakker.

Daar gaan reeds vroeg in September 'n stel in Jet Radio and Television geïnstalleer word.

(Witbank Nuus, Februarie, 1974).



Mnr. Frits Beumer - 2 Februarie 1974



*Die Etsebets het besluit om die Witbank polisiestatie oor te neem. Piet Etsebeth (links) het goed gevorder nadat hy by die mag aangesluit het en is vandag speurder sersant Etsebeth. Faan Etsebeth (regs) het ook besluit om aan te sluit en is nou speurder konstabel. En nou het kleinboet ook aangesluit. Antonie Etsebeth (middel) is die jongste toevoeging tot Witbank polisiemag. (Witbank Nuus, 18 Oktober 1974).

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Koo Fresh Garden Peas 3 for	25 c
Koo Sweet Corn 3 for	25 c
Koo Spaghetti in Cheese 3 for	25 c
Yim 3 for	39c
Wax Wrap 2 for	35c
Roadsaal Instant Coffie 750 g	99 c
Window cleaner 2 litres	75c
Buffalo Salt 1 kg 2 for	29 c
Poppy Toilet Rolls 5 for	49 c
Bingo Washing Powder 1 kg	59 c
Ponds Tissues Pocket	29 c
Colgate Shampoo 1 litre	75 c
Blossom Yellow Margarine 250 g	18 c
Lily Milk Powder 5 kg	R5,99
Ocean Fresh Pickled Fish 400 g	32 c
Ocean Fresh Curried Fish 229 g	22 c
Tomango Meat Balls Large tin	33 c
Tomango Beans and Viennas Large tin	33 c
Tomango Chicken Cassarole Large tin	33 c
Lion Matches 2 for	23 c
Vinegar 2 bottles for	29 c
Lyons tea bags 100's	69c
Rama new soft margarine tub	23c
Rice-O-Mix Pocket	22c
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Baie misdaad en ongelukke

"Witbank se polisiestatie is ongetwyfeld die besigste stasie in Oos-Transvaal. Derhalwe kan afgelei word dat die dorp die hoogste misdaadsyfer in die area het, volgens Brig. A de Waal.

32 besighede en 48 private persone is vanaf die begin van die jaar beroof. 220 klates van aandrading is aangemeld.

Sedert die begin van 1975 was daar meer padongelukke in Ogies as in 1974. 95 mense is reeds in die Witbank omgewing beseer in botsings hierdie jaar. Dit was 'n totaal van 24 mense ernstig en 53 ligtig beseer, en sowat 18 mense het op die paaië omgekom."

(Witbank Nuus, 13 Junie 1975).

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*Van toeka tot nou. 'n Eastvaal Ford advertensie in 1971.

Taalfees se 1970 hoofleiers



*Taalfees se skoolleiers soos op 20 Februarie 1970 afgeneem is (van links): Buks van der Westhuizen (onderhoofseun), Raymond Scott (hoofseun), Alta Harmse (hoofdogter) en Elmarie de Jager (onderhoofdogter). In die middel sit mnr. J.P.A Fourie (hoof). (Witbank Nuus, Februarie 1970). (Alta Harmse, oftewel Booyens (omkring), is al vir baie jare onderwyser by HGH).

Witbank coded for automatic exchange

'Witbank has now officially been 'coded' for the purpose of the automatic telephone exchange, according to Mr M.A Weisser, the newly appointed senior technician of the exchange. Witbank's official number is 01351, which is the number all other exchanges will dial to raise a telephone subscriber in the Witbank area. (WITBANK NEWS Friday, June 12, 1970)

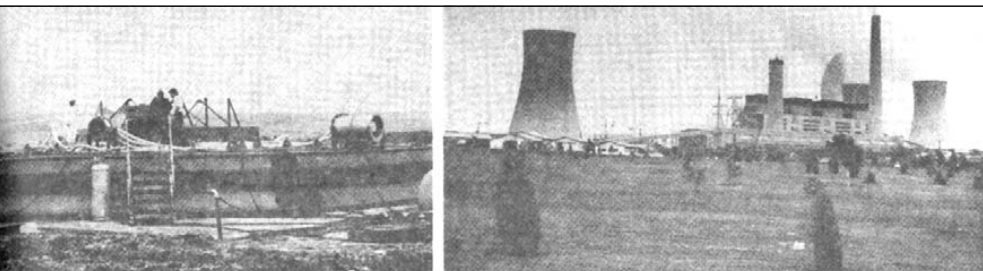
Name held high in Belgium

In 1969, Witbank's name was engraved in the town hall of Ypres Dinant and Laurin in Belgium to record Witbank's generosity of supporting the King Albert War Fund.

Baie dop bestuurstoetse

"Volgens 'n verslag van die hoofverkeersbeampte van die stadsraad het 117 persone gedurende Februarie 1970 om bestuurslisensies aansoek gedoen. Van die totaal het 92 geslaag en 35 gedruip. Van die 137 kandidate wat aansoek gedoen het om leerlingbewyse is 106 toegestaan en 31 geweier. Die verkeersdepartement het 593 motors getoets vir registrasie, hiervan was 163 nuut en 430 gebruik." (Witbank Nuus, 3 April 1970).

First dragline at Kriel



*Erection of first dragline at Kriel in April 1977. Kriel Colliery started production in February 1976 underground. Draglines are as much a feature of the Witbank countryside as are mine dumps and these giants are a necessary fixture on opencast mines.

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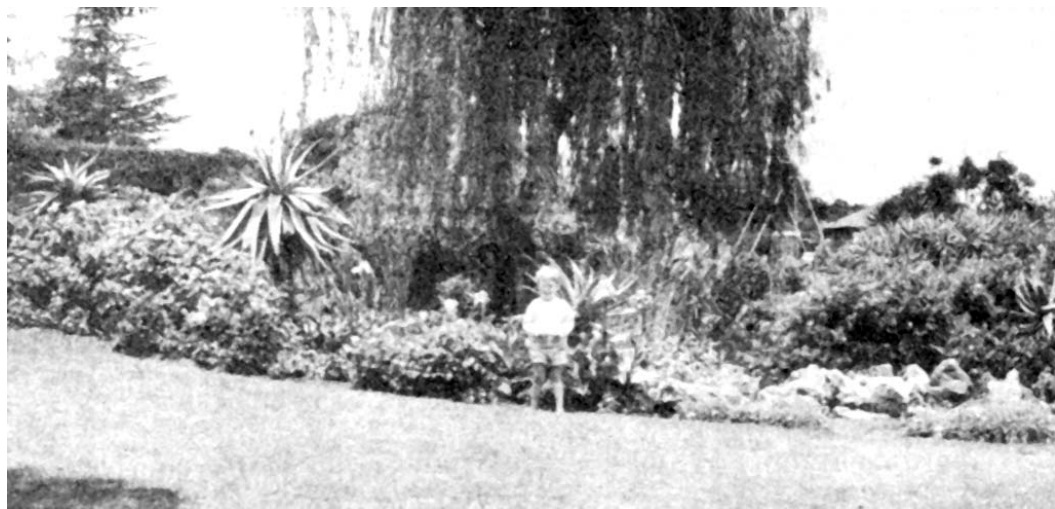


Burgersentrum in aanbou

1972



*Daar word fluks gevorder met die uitgrawings van die fondament van Witbank se nuwe Burgersentrum wat teen 'n geraamde koste van R6¼ miljoen oor 'n tydperk van drie jaar gebou sal word. Die raad het verlede maand 'n lening van R4 m aangegaan wat onmiddellik deur die Trust Aksep Bank volskryf is. Nadat dit weer vir die tussentydse periode winsgewend by Trust Bank en Rand Bank belê is. (Witbank Nuus, 24 November 1972).



*King Georgepark in Rhodesstraat het op 1 Maart 1975 sy vyftigste bestaansjaar gevier. Inwoners van Witbank het die geleentheid met 'n luisterryke tuinparty gevier. (Witbank Nuus, Maart 1975).

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*And
Witbank
has its
own share
of
ghosts....*

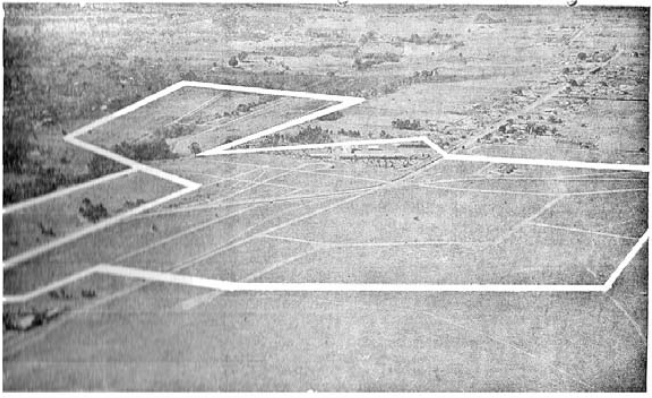
*"The little village of Clewer, on the outskirts of Witbank, has suddenly been awakened out of its seemingly endless lull, when stories of the appearance of a 'ghost' on the road linking it with Witbank was revived." (Witbank News, January 1966).

*"The notorious 'ghost', which has haunted number 26 Montgomery Avenue has reappeared after its ostensible absence of a few months." (Witbank News, February 1966).

*"Die lastige 'spook' in Van Deventerstraat is nog steeds besig om die huismense se lewens te versuur. Hy het reeds vanaf 25 April homself begin opdrag aan die drie huisbewoners." (Witbank Nuus, Mei 1969).

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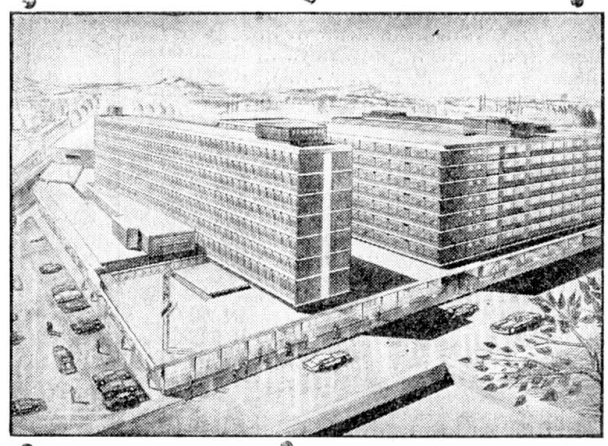
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HERE TODAY, HERE TOMORROW



*Witbank Rugbyklub het verlede Woensdagaand (2 Februarie 1974) sy nuwe bestuur saamgestel. (Staanende van links) kapt. Pierre Botha, mnre. Julius Weber, I Joubert, Lofty Nel, Johan de Lange, Piet Retief, Mike Crossman, Bertus Luus, Brian Clarke; (voor) mnre. Tobie Verwey, J.P.J Coetzer, F. Potgieter, maj. J.H Bosch en mnre. H.J.J de Lange. (Witbank Nuus, 1974).

The fine sports fields of Witbank

Witbank's new sport stadium has taken shape and will soon be ready for use. The aerial picture shows the old rugby field, the new stadium, the new tennis courts and top right a portion of the soccer field. The golf course and some of the water hazards can also be seen.

The town council until June 1972 spent an amount of R170 000 on the project, presently valued at more than R300 000.

At present the council is building four tennis courts where the basketball fields were. The new basketball and jukskei fields are moved to Extension Eight where also the sports field and clubhouse for paraplegics has been build.

Tenders have been called for the fencing of the stadium, which will give the final touch to its completion.

Curriebeker: eerste wedstryd Saterdag op Witbank

"Die eerste Curriebeker-wedstryd vir die 1974-seisoen word Saterdag op die Johan van Riebeeck-stadion beslis wanneer Suidoos-Transvaal en Grens teen mekaar te staan kom. Die hoofwedstryd begin om 16:00. Verlede jaar het Suidoos en Grens ook teen mekaar te staan gekom en Suidoos het die wedstryd gewen." (Witbank Nuus, 24 Mei 1974).

"Witbank word op 26 Junie op die wêreldkaart van rugby geplaas wanneer die Pumas uit Argentinië al hier hulle eerste wedstryd van hulle toer deur die Republiek speel." (Witbank Nuus, 5 Februarie 1971).



*Dr. Danie Craven (president van die Suid-Afrikaanse Rugbyraad), mnre. Flip Coetzer (voorsitter van die N. Tvise subunie), onder wie se voorsitterskap die beraad met dr. Craven belê is en mnre. Gert Potgieter (S.A. Sportstigting) het op 4 Februarie 1966 in Witbank ontmoet om die grense van die rugby unies te bespreek. (Witbank Nuus, Februarie 1966).

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Miss Witbank



*Ms Jenny Concar was crowned as Miss Witbank in 1985. She was 22-years-old at the time.

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GLAD FREEZER BAGS 25's	45c	SHIELD A.P.S. AEROSOL DEODORANT (Regular or Sportsman) 110 g	65c
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*Checkers advert in Witbank News August 9, 1974.



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Kinders verkleum in sprokieswêreld

"Twee kinders het in afsonderlike voorvalle verkleum en honderde-duisende rande se skade is deur boere gely toe sneeu op Witbank en omgewing geval het.

Die twee kinders, Pieter Masango (7) van Tweefontein en Lettie Mahlangu (7) van Kromdraai se verkleumde liggaampies is eers Vrydag, 11 September, ontdek. Hulle is dood weens blootstelling in die sneeu en ysige weer.

Boere in die omgewing het onberekenbare skade gely toe die sneeu Witbank, 10 September in 'n wit sprokieswêreld verander het."

(Witbank Nuus, 18 September 1981).



*Mr Wabbie Bester and his daughter Adrie braved the cold weather on September 10, 1981 to build a snowman.

Misdaadsyfer besonder hoog

"Ek was geskok om op Witbank te kom en die hoë misdaadsyfer waar te neem."

Dit is een van die gewaarwordinge van maj. Frederik Jacobus le Grange (39), 'n man wat reeds in die kort tydperk wat hy aan die stuur van die Suid-Afrikaanse Polisie stasie in Witbank is, daarin geslaag het om die inbraaksyfer aansienlik af te bring. Sedert die begin van sy diens as bevelvoerder het maj. Le Grange reeds

berge versit om die geweldige hoë misdaadsyfer in Witbank te verminder.

In samewerking met die plaaslike speurtak het die polisie en speurders weekliks 'n dag opsy gesit, waartydens hulle patrolliewerk doen en leegleërs oplaai.

Dit het reeds dividende getoon deurdat daar 'n afname in die inbraaksyfer is.

(Witbank Nuus, 24 Januarie 1986)



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*Skoonheidskoningin, Anneline Kriel.



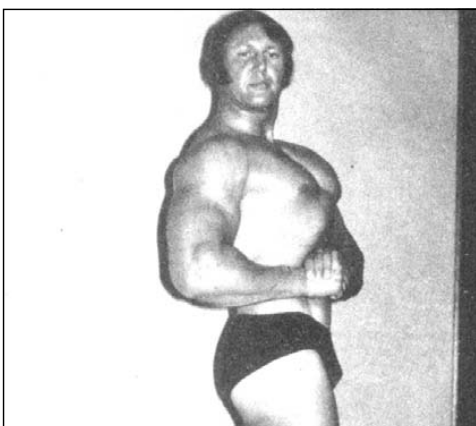
*Aktrise, Anéle Jonker.



*Country'sanger, Charles Jacobie.



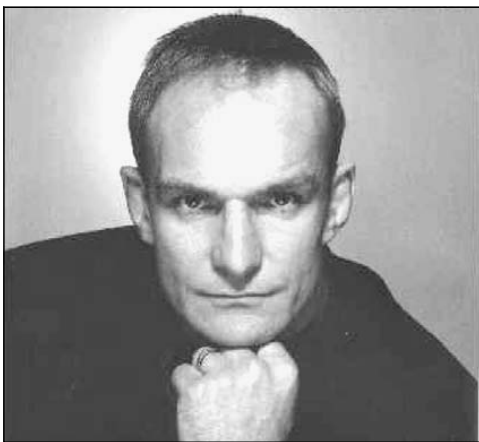
*Operasanger, Pieter Serfontein.



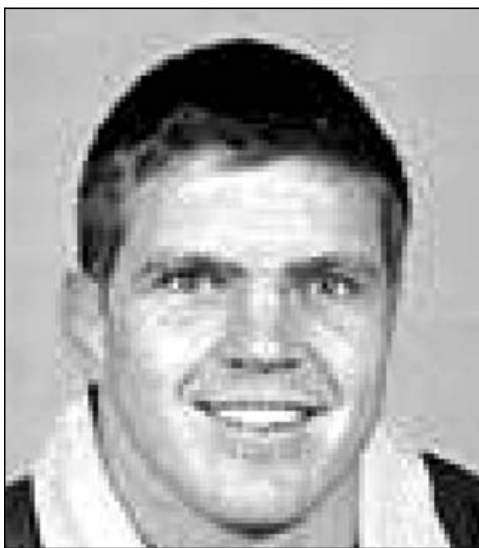
*Mnr. Suid-Afrika, Solly Grobler .



*Jazz musikant, Hugh Masikela.



*Springbok rugbykaptein, Francois Pienaar.



*Springbok rugbyspeler, Krynauw Otto.



*Aktrise, Chanelle de Jager.



*Akteur, Ivan Zimmerman.

Witbank het sy eie 'groot name' oor die jare opgelewer, bekendes wat roem verwerf het en die stad trots gemaak het.

Hier is 'n paar bekendes wat hier gebore is en of hier skoolgegaan het of iewers in hul lewe hier woonagtig was:

*Sekerlik die heel bekendste is die mooie Anneline Kriel wat in 1974 as Mej. Wêreld gekroon is. Anneline het hier skoolgegaan aan Laerskool Kragbron en gematrikuleer aan Hoërskool Generaal Hertzog. Haar ouers, maj. en me. J Kriel was inwoners van Del Judor.

*Nog 'n Mej. Wêreld, Penny Coelen was vir 'n tyd in Witbank woonagtig as kind.

*Anéle Jonker, bekende aktrise in die sewentigerjare. Sy het in 1971 aan Hoërskool Generaal Hertzog gematrikuleer. Sy was ondermeer te sien in Afrikaanse rolprente soos: *Die Ongewenste Vreemdeling*, teenoor Marius Weyers, *Dans van die Flamink* en *Sonneblom uit Parys*.

*Harriet Pienaar, ook 'n aktrise wat 'n inwoner van Witbank was, het ondermeer verskyn in die destydse televisie vervolghaal, *Seepsteenbataljon*.

*Plaaslike liggaamsbouer, Solly Grobler is in 1972 as Mnr. Suid-Afrika gekroon.

*Pieter Serfontein, wat in die jare 70's 'n bekende operasanger was. Hy het aan Hoërskool Generaal Hertzog gematrikuleer en het groot bekendheid verwerf in Engeland waar hy ondermeer rolle in *Die Towerfluit* en *Die Huwelik van Figaro* van Mozart en *Somernagsdroom* van Shakespeare vertolk het.

*Bekende country-sanger, Charles Jacobie was op 'n stadium in Witbank woonagtig.

*Die liedjie *Master Jack*, wat deur Four Jacks and a Jill bekendgemaak is, is deur David Markantonos (Dave Marks), 'n plaaslike inwoner gekomponeer.

*Springbok spiesgooi-atleet, Ansie Rogers het hier in Witbank skoolgegaan. Sy het verskeie nasionale en wêreldrekords laat spat.

*Die sanger, Kupido was in Ogies woonagtig. Hy het veral bekend geword met die liedjie: *Was ek maar 'n digter*. Hy het ook

gereeld saam met wyle Cora Marie opgetree.

*Bekende jazz musikant, Hugh Masikela het vir 'n tyd lank in Witbank gebly.

*Springbok rugbyspeler en kaptein van die 1994 wêreldbekerspan, Francois Pienaar het aan Hoërskool Patriot gematrikuleer. Sy ouers is steeds hier woonagtig.

*Nog 'n Springbok rugbyspeler, Krynauw Otto het hier skoolgegaan aan Laerskool Panorama en die Hoër Tegniese Skool waar hy gematrikuleer het. Sy broer, Johan, wat steeds in Witbank bly, het ook vir die Blou Bulle gespeel.

*Die akteurspaar, Nico Liebenberg en Trudie Taljaard (wat vir baie jare die Morkels advertensie op televisie gedoen het), het vir 'n tyd in Witbank gewoon.

*Bekende akteur, Paul Slabolepsky het aan Witbank High gematrikuleer. Hy word veral onthou vir sy rolle saam met komediant/akteur Bill Flynn in ondermeer *Heel against the head* en *Braai te beloved country*. Hy is ook 'n bekende verhoogakteur en skrywer.

*Ivan Zimmerman, wat al verskeie rolle in 7de Laan en Egoli (Koert) vertolk het, het hier skoolgegaan en het aan Hoërskool Reynopark gematrikuleer. Sy pa, wyle Calla Zimmerman was skoolhoof van Laerskool Ogies en Laerskool Klipfontein en was self ook 'n Springbok hoogspringatleet. Sy ma is steeds hier woonagtig.

*Die aktrise Chanelle de Jager, wat tans die rol van Des in Egoli vertolk, is in Witbank gebore.

...en meer onlangs:

*Drie lede van die popgroep Prime Circle, wat besig is om internasionale roem te verwerf, is in Witbank woonagtig.

*Die Idols-deelnemer, Nelda van Rensburg het hier gematrikuleer aan Hoërskool Generaal Hertzog. Haar ouers is steeds hier woonagtig.

*Die huidige Mej. Joolkoningin, Suid-Afrika, Donnalee Roberts is 'n oud-Witbanker wat aan die Hoër Tegniese Skool gematrikuleer het. Haar ma woon steeds hier.




Die Mikar span SG Pretorius, Johan Taljaard, Barry Luus, Michil Erwee, Abie Joubert, Simon Nyoni, Daniel Mashalane

Met gesamentlike verkoops ervaring van oor 'n 100 jaar is Mikar Witbank die nuwe leier in motoronderdele, met hierdie kennis en ervaring het ons geen gelyke in Witbank. Hierdie span staan gereed om u as kliënt van die beste diens en produkte te lewer. Alle bekende handelsname is hier beskikbaar teen die beste pryse! Mikar is die vinnigste groeiende onderdele netwerk in Suid-Afrika. Kyk uit vir ons Kersfees-promosie wat binnekort bekend gestel gaan word. Mikar is nou betrokke by die plaaslike gemeenskap deur gemeenskapsprojekte en is trots daarop om deel te mag wees van hierdie gemeenskap.

Kom besoek ons asseblief in ons nuwe winkel op die hoek van Ryan en Rosmead straat, Greenpoint Centre 2, Klipfontein.

Ons wil ook al ons kliënte 'n Geseënde Christusfees en 'n Voorspoedige 2007 toewens!!

Baie dankie vir u volgehoue ondersteuning en vriendskap!

**Kontak ons gerus by Tel: 013 6925114 / 6925421
Faks: 013 6924497**



*'n Bomontploffing in 1988 op die hoek van Bothalaan en Delvillestraat by die ou NBS-gebou het Witbank geruk. Die bom is in 'n gaparkeerde motor geplaat.

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OUR PROFESSIONAL TEAM CONGRATULATES WITBANK ON THEIR CENTENARY!!

Beniece Alice Miempie Estelle Audrey Susan Willie Les Pieta

Member of imperial 24HR

Groot haelstorm veroorsaak ongelukke

'n Groot haelstorm in Oktober 1995 het 'n dubbele ongeluk op Sondag 28 Oktober veroorsaak.

Die hael het so dik soos sneeu in die strate van Witbank en op die N12 gelê.

Volgens Mnr Vollie van Volenstee wie se besittings goed deur die hael deurgeloopt het, het die hael plek-plek 15cm dik gelê.

Motoriste wat op die paaie in die hael vasgekeer was, moes stadig ry om veilig by hul huise aan te kom.

(Witbank Nuus: Oktober 1995).

Die hael het plek-plek 15cm dik gelê



Final farewell to old post office

*The old post office in Eadie Street has breathed its last breath and is in the final stages of being demolished to make place for a parking area. April 19, 1994.

City status for Witbank

"Witbank was at last rewarded city status on Friday. Town clerk, Mr Hans Pretorius made a surprise announcement to municipal workers at a party only 45 minutes after he received the good news from Mr Danie Hough, Transvaal Administrator.

"The status will give the town council more marketing opportunities and will also help to market Witbank internationally," he said. Mr Pretorius told personnel that despite the recession Witbank had shown a positive growth rate."

Witbank News: March 8, 1994

Laaste parkeermeters in besigheidsgebied verwyder

"Die laaste van die stadsraad se parkeermeters in die sentrale besigheidsgebied is verwyder. Die ou meters word nou vervang met een uur parkeergeriewe.

Motoriste word vriendelik versoek om gehoor te gee aan die inligtingstekens en nie langer as 'n uur in 'n bepaalde parkeervlak te parkeer nie. Die verontagsaming van die verbod kan meebring dat motoriste vervolgt en beboet word."

Witbank Nuus, 7 Junie 1994



WITBANK

Theuns Janson Street (013) 697 5116



Congratulations Witbank on your 100th birthday

Winds of change

*Emalahleni means
'Place of coal'*

**EADIE
WALTER SISULU**

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NAMES**

**SWARTBOS
OR TAMBO**

**PRESIDENT
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the joy,
laughter,
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and sadness
of
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**Witbank
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LOCAL IS LEKKER!

Changing the name Witbank to Emalahleni was inevitable. The decision to change them was not taken overnight, it has been two years of deliberation, urging the public to take part in this initiative and finally it is taking place. The decision to take this drastic step started on January 29, 2004 when a Place Names Committee was appointed to identify the public places, settlements and streets to be renamed. They had to manage the consultation process and table its proposals and recommendations by March 2004. The objective of the committee was to assure that the renaming was an inclusive, consultative process that enjoyed public and political sup-

port. A delegation from the Mpumalanga Provincial Geographical Names Committee embarked on the process of auditing the progress of naming and renaming. The MEC for Arts and Culture was happy with the process and sealed the fate of Witbank (Emalahleni), Kriel (Ga-Nala), Swartbos Road (OR Tambo Road), President Street (Mandela Street), Eadie Street (Walter Sisulu Street), Schönland Drive (Moses Kolane Drive), Hendrik Verwoerd Street (Steven Bantu Biko Street) and Jonker Street (Ingrid Jonker Street). Ga-Nala means 'abundance' in Zulu and Emalahleni means 'Place of coal'.



**With thanks
Met dank**

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- *Emalahleni Library.
- *Everybody who have contributed by means of information on historical places and events.

**Witbank
100**

