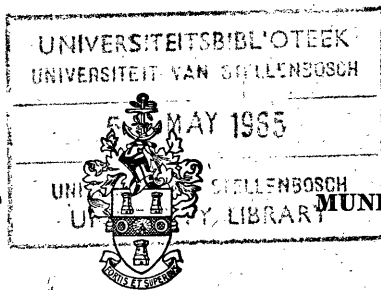


L.M.S.

Vol. I, No. 62

MUNISIPALITEIT



MUNICIPALITY

STELLENBOSCH

19th March, 1965.

SIMON VAN DER STEL'S BIRTHDAY

The Mayor will soon be calling a meeting the object of which it will be to form a committee which will consider a proposal that Simon van der Stel's birthday should be celebrated at Stellenbosch.

The idea comes from Mrs. M. van Huyssteen. To her the personality of Simon van der Stel who was at the Cape only 27 years after Jan van Riebeeck, is very much alive; she would describe him as not only interesting and dynamic but also attractive and lovable. Mrs. van Huyssteen is convinced that a birthday celebration of this kind could be made really attractive so that it need not share the fate of some Public Holidays which were established to mark certain occasions. She has many ideas and if her scheme materializes there will be no room for the cheap and the gaudy but only for things genuine and of true and lasting value and beauty.

THE GROSVENOR HOUSE MUSEUM

In times when it is difficult to report progress on many schemes of vital importance it is a pleasure to see that a start has been made on projects which are rounded off and which can be completed within a reasonable time to the pleasure of all who are interested. There will be a reference to the museum, I understand, in this issue of the *Eikestadnuus* but nevertheless I am glad to be able to state that a beginning has been made with the restoration of the existing building, and its adaptation to a purpose which differs somewhat from that which the Phillimore Ives Memorial Gallery served. The Museum had its annual meeting of subscribers on the 10th of March.

THE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Elsewhere in this issue of *Eikestadnuus*, details are published regarding the opening of the Municipal library at 7.00 p.m. on 24th March after affiliation with the Provincial service.

A great deal of very hard work has gone into the preparations, and I gladly pay tribute to the Librarian, Mrs. Korkie, and her staff as well as to all the other municipal officials concerned, who worked under the direction of the Deputy Town Clerk, Mr. F. W. Pohl, and the Professional Officer, Mr. H. D. R. Blok.

SWIMMING BATH

I would like to repeat the invitation to members of the public to come to the Municipal Offices to inspect the proposed layout at Bergzicht. Schemes of this kind need careful thought and constructive suggestions will be welcome.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO

The year 1865 started off with regular meetings on Tuesdays at fortnightly intervals. The handwritten minutes cover two to three pages, all matters are dealt with at the full meetings of the Commissioners as the Councillors were then called.

The minutes in English in those years invariably open with the words: "The resolutions of the last meeting were read and signed," and the first item is always devoted to the Market Master who "produced his book from which it appeared that the dues collected by him" for a certain period were so and so much — anything from £4.17.4½ to £15.4.2½.

The second item was devoted to the Secretary for submission of bills for approval. He also placed fines received on record. Late in 1864 a number of landed proprietors residing at the lower end of the Town of Stellenbosch asked to be protected by the Municipal Commissioners against "the annual damage which they have hitherto sustained to their vineyards, gardens, etc., in consequence of the arbitrary conduct of the miller of the Stellenbosch Mill by raising the sluices and turning off the water from the Mill Stream into other channels whereby the water is waisted(!) and the complainants prevented from receiving a sufficient allowance for irrigation of their plantations".

The Commissioners took this complaint seriously and approached the miller referring him to the conditions of sale and transfer of the mill dated 15th November, 1804.

The miller, Mr. William Hunt, attended a meeting and agreed that the Commissioners should "decide the quantity

of water which he requires continually to work his mill by regulating at the first sluice above the same".

The Commissioners proceeded to the spot and jointly regulated the quality of water required by the miller, who, early in 1865 was allotted a sluice of two feet in width and ten inches in height with the understanding that the said stream must continually run over the mill. Now the mill has given way to the O.K. Bazaars.

The minutes tell of a census to be taken for which "4 books of 200 each" would be required.

Then there was a complaint about an intolerable nuisance proceeding from an adjoining property.

This matter was referred to the Chief Constable, who with his police, soon reported that the premises were in a very filthy state and none of them provided with any privy.

To get the nuisance removed proved to be not so easy and the matter dragged on well into 1865.

The police constables wrote to the Commissioners "requesting to be supplied with lighter uniforms or otherwise to reduce the performance of their duty".

The Commissioner decided to refer the constables to the magistrate and got on with preparations to call a General Meeting to elect the Commissioners for the next three years.

An encroachment was legalised, the Stellenbosch Cricket Club was given permission "to have the use of a part of the ground on Adderley Square of about 12 yards broad and 25 long in order that they may have the same turfed and levelled, provided the levelling was done under the supervision of the Superintendent of Works.

Irrigation water has always played an important part at Stellenbosch. A hundred years ago even more than now. Even those whom nobody would suspect of coveting other people's water, could get into trouble, as the following extract proves:

"A complaint having been lodged by the Superintendent of Waterworks that the Rev. Mr. Neethling has been diverting the water on the 23 ultimo from the course at a time that it should have run to other parties, it was.

Resolved to inform him that the hours allowed by the Municipal Commissioners to the former proprietor of all the ground of which his Erf forms a part, are as follows: every Monday and Thursday from 5 to 8 o'clock a.m. a quantity of 4 inches of water thro a board with a hole of two inches square."

J. C. DE WET.
Deputy-Mayor.

BOUPLANNE

Boubedrywighede word nog steeds op 'n hoë peil in Stellenbosch gehandhaaf. Ons het reeds tevore na die tempo waarteen daar in ons dorp die afgelope jare gebou word, verwys en kan net hier meld dat gedurende 1964 420 bouplanne ter waarde van R3,357,000 goedgekeur is. Die tendens word in 1965 voortgesit soos blyk uit die feit dat vir die eerste drie maande van 1965 die betrokke syfers 107 bouplanne van 'n geskatte waarde van R767,000 is. Die personeel van ons Bou-inspeksieafdeling het met die aftrede van mnr. Blok 'n hele gedaanteverwisseling ondergaan. Tans is mnr. H. S. P. Nell, voorheen van Benoni, die Boukontroleur en hy word bygestaan deur twee bou-inspekteurs, nl. mnr. E. King wat van Ndola kom en mnr. W. Hayter voorheen van Pietermaritzburg.

Omdat die werk van hierdie afdeling so uitgebrei het, het die Raad so pas besluit dat bouplanne wat by 'n raadsvergadering oorweeg moet word, die vorige Dinsdag reeds ingedien moet word. Elke plan moet so noukeurig deur die verskillende departemente nagegaan word dat die vorige reëling waarvolgens planne tot op 'n Donderdag ingedien kan word, nie langer gehandhaaf kan word nie.

FIETSLISENSIES

Die publiek word daaraan herinner dat die fietslisensies vir 1965 nou betaalbaar is en wel by die Inkomstekantoor in die Stadhuis. Die bedrag per fiets is 50c. Ons verkeersinspekteurs sal na 31 Maart begin om die nodige kontrole uit te oefen, en dit is in die belang van elke fietseienaar dat hy of sy die nodige lisensie voor daardie datum uitneem.

GEBOU IN DORPSTRAAT

Ons ontvang van tyd tot tyd navrae in verband met die drie ou geboue in Dorpstraat, nl. Transvalia, Tinetta en die ou woonhuis van wyle dr. J. R. Bosman. Daar heers skynbaar heelwat besorgdheid oor die vervalte toestand waarin hulle verkeer en die feit dat niemand skynbaar enige aandag aan hulle gee nie.

Die posisie is dat die Stadsraad reeds vir 'n geruime tyd met die Staat onderhandel om die eiendomme te bekom, in ruil vir munisipale grond in die omgewing van Bergzicht.

'n Paar maande gelede het dit gelyk of die transaksie uiteindelik gefinaliseer is maar 'n haakplek het onverwags ontstaan. Dit is egter intussen uit die weg geruim en ons hoop om enige dag nou te hoor dat die omruiling beklink is.

Lede van die Raad het intussen 'n inspeksie daar uitgevoer om die toestand waarin die geboue is, te bepaal. Die Raad is begerig om finaliteit te verkry, veral waar hierdie gebouekompleks so 'n prominente plek in die ou deel van Dorpstraat inneem.

2nd April, 1965.

ROAD WIDENING SCHEMES

At the incitation of the Council, property owners in Van Riebeeck Street and Jonkershoek Road met the Council during the week and frank discussions took place regarding the impact and implications of the proposed schemes to widen these two streets. It is quite obvious that the people concerned are alarmed at the prospects that quite drastic inroads will be made on their properties and at the financial burden which the scheme will impose upon the ratepayers.

Having heard the points of view of those affected, Council will again have to give serious thought to the whole matter. It is obviously a very involved problem with no readymade solution. On the one hand, the Council has to face the fact that traffic problems have to be tackled before they get quite out of hand; on the other hand there is the danger that schemes such as those under discussion might destroy part of the unique character of Stellenbosch, apart from the fact that it will create hardships for a number of people.

WATER SUPPLY

It was with some anxiety that Council noticed at what rate water was being drawn off from the Idas Valley dam during the height of the summer. Now that the winter is about to set in the supply will soon be replenished but the need to augment our storage facilities is becoming more urgent. The Council is fully alive to this fact and negotiations with the Department of Water Affairs have been going on for some time. Our Member of Parliament, Mr. Hennie Smit, has given us valuable assistance in this matter and it is hoped that further talks with the Secretary for Water Affairs will soon take place.

GARDEN REFUSE

Some property owners still persist in dumping their garden refuse on the sidewalks, much to the annoyance of

pedestrians using those streets. Apart from this, the sight of these rubbish heaps certainly does not contribute to the beauty of our town. The regulation in question requires property owners to deposit garden refuse on their own properties as close as possible to the street boundary, and I shall be pleased if those wishing to avail themselves of this service will co-operate with the Council.

9 April 1965.

HEENGAAN VAN TWEE BEKENDE PERSOONLIKHEDE

Sedert ons vorige rubriek, is twee persone wat 'n intieme verbintenis met die Stadsraad gehad het, heengegaan. Mnr. J. Theron Smit is verlede Saterdag na 'n kort siekbed oorlede. Hy was nie alleen een van ons vooraanstaande sakemanne nie, maar was ook Stadsraadslid van 1957 tot 1960. Sy kennis en ervaring was vir ons 'n groot bate en dit was vir sy destydse kollegas op die Raad 'n groot teleurstelling toe hy hom nie vir 'n verdere termyn wou beskikbaar stel nie.

So pas het ons ook verneem van die heengaan van mev. Susan Krige, weduwee van wyle mnr. W. A. (Wakkie) Krige, wat haar reeds in 1952 ontval het. Die Krige-familie se verbintenis met die Stadsraad van Stellenbosch gaan so ver terug as die begin van hierdie eeu. Mnr. Wakkie Krige self het stadsraadslid in 1919 geword en het onafgebroke gedien tot aan sy dood in 1952 — 'n tydperk dus van 33 jaar. In daardie tyd was hy twee maal burgemeester, nl. van 1936 tot 1938 en weer van 1944 tot 1946. Mev. Krige het sedert haar eggenoot se heengaan stil in ons midde geleef. Vir haar wye vriendekring was sy altyd die verpersoonliking van 'n dame wat al die mooi en voortrefflike eienskappe besit het wat ons met die ouer geslag assosieer.

Namens die Stadsraad wil ek graag aan mev. Girlie Smit en haar gesin en aan die kinders van mev. Krige ons opregte meegevoel betuig met die smartlike verlies wat hulle gely het.

BEHANDELING VAN STOKERY-AFVLOEISEL

Die publiek van Stellenbosch is baie goed bekend met die probleme wat deur die wynafvloeiels afkomstig van die stokerye in ons dorp veroorsaak word.

Die afgelope jare het ons meer as een metode om hierdie afloop te behandel op die proef gestel, maar geneen het volle bevrediging gegee nie. Die onaangename reuke het nog steeds voorgekom, tot groot ergernis van die bewoners van die omgewing.

Reeds verlede jaar het ons melding gemaak van 'n nuwe eksperiment wat deur die Instituut van Watervorsing van

die W.N.N.R. hier uitgetoets sou word. Kortweg kom dit daarop neer dat die stokery-afloop in 'n sekere verhouding met die rioolwater by ons uitvalwerke gemeng word. So-doende hoop ons om van al die onaangenaamhede ontslae te raak.

Hierdie eksperiment is 'n paar weke gelede op groot skaal aan die gang gesit en so pas het ons besoek gehad van dr. G. J. Stander, hoof van die Instituut vir waternavorsing in Pretoria, en van dr. G. G. Cillie wat in bevel van die Streekkantoor van die Instituut in Kaapstad is. Hulle was vergesel van mnre. H. C. Blersch en A. Abbott wat as ons konsultante optree.

Sover is hierdie deskundiges baie tevrede met die verloop van die eksperiment wat sal voortduur solank stokery-afvoelisel beskikbaar is. Hulle het in elk geval belowe om 'n voorlopige verslag teen die einde van Mei te lewer en ons sal die publiek dan inlig oor hulle bevindinge.

15th April, 1965.

ROAD SAFETY

As the Easter weekend lies ahead and many of us will be taking to the roads, it is natural to give thought to safety and to express the hope that the holidays will not be marred by accidents. As far as Stellenbosch is concerned, it is indeed heartening to read in a recent news item concerning the inter-town Road Safety Competition, that in the group of 20 towns with which it is classified, Stellenbosch up to the end of November, 1964, took the first place with Pietermaritzburg second. The competition is conducted on the basis of the greatest decrease in accidents compared with the previous year. In the case of Stellenbosch this amounts to 3.11%. There is every reason to anticipate that Stellenbosch will win the competition and gain the trophy because the decrease was fully maintained during the month of December with only one accident during the festive season.

I have pleasure in paying tribute to our Traffic Department for the good work it is doing and for the arrangements which it has made with the available staff to effect such an improvement. Other towns have been less fortunate and one can only hope that instead of experiencing an increase in the casualty rate, they will succeed in effecting an improvement such as Stellenbosch has been able to do.

SAFETY BELTS — YES OR NO?

The South African Road Safety Association has submitted to the Cape Province Municipal Association a strong plea in favour of the use of safety belts, made according to the spe-

cification of the S.A. Bureau of Standards, by drivers of all motor vehicles and by all passengers, whether they are sitting in front next to the driver or on the back seats.

The memorandum gives the results of experiments carried out in America which prove conclusively that the answer should be "yes". It refers to a report issued by the Automotive Crash Injury Research Unit of the Medical College of the University of Cornell.

Seven hundred accidents where safety belts were used were compared with seven hundred similar ones where no belts were used. The results are classified as follows:

Occupants injured:

Without safety belts	-	-	-	75.5%
With safety belts	-	-	-	29.9%
Difference	-	-	-	2½ to 1

Occupants killed:

Flung out of car (no belts)	-	-	17.4%
Inside the cars (with belts)	-	-	2.2%
Difference	-	-	8 to 1

As from 1st January, 1965, it is compulsory for each new motor car to be provided with two safety belts for the front seats.

As it has been proved, however, by tests with anthropometrical dolls, that a passenger on a front seat has a better chance for survival if the weight of a passenger travelling on the back seat is not brought to bear on him in the case of a collision the use of belts for drivers and all passengers is recommended by the Road Safety Association.

Further research by the Automotive Crash Injury Research Group has proved that it is necessary for drivers and passengers to remain in their seats as it improves their chance for survival five times as compared to people flung out of cars as a result of accidents.

It is interesting to note that statistics in the U.S.A. show that 40% of all fatal accidents in urban areas occur at speeds of under 20 miles per hour and 70% at speeds of under 30 miles per hour.

The Road Safety Association suggests that local authorities set an example by taking the initiative in fitting all their motor vehicles with belts to the specification of the S.A. Bureau of Standards and making it a stern rule that drivers and passengers use them.

W. C. DEMPSEY