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1. "Sarie Marais" is to South Africans what "Annie Laurie" is to the Scots.... "Sarie" is the diminutive or affectionate form for "Sarah". The war referred to is, of course, the Boer war.

Literally:

"My Sarie Marais is so far from my heart,
But I hope I will see her again.
She lived in the district of the Mood river,
Even before this war began."

Refrain

"Oh, take me back to the old Transvaal,
There where my Sarie loves;
There below in the Mealie-field, by the green
thorn-tree,
There loves my Sarie Marais,
There below in the Mealie-fields by the green
thorn-tree,
There lives my Sarie Marais.

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Jan Pieriewiet Generations of S. African children have poked fun at the little boy, unfortunate enough to be called "Jan Pieriewiet". A Pieriewiet is a small S.African bird of the Bush-shrike family, named, like the American Whippoorwill, for its call.

Literally:

Jan Pieriewiet, Jan Pieriewiet,
Jan Pieriewiet stand still,
Jan Pieriewiet, Jan Pieriewiet,
Jan Pieriewiet turn round.
He turned round and he borrowed
From his grandmother her spectacles,

(continued)

And he searched with the spectacles
For a little wife for himself.

3.

The World is very, very big"

This song, known as "Afrikaanse Pop", is a particular favorite. The literal meaning of the word POP, is "doll", but colloquially it is used to mean a girl.

Literally:

" The world is very big,
* Everyone knows that,
And everywhere you will find girls
Who are worth quite a lot.
But you can go from East to West
And I'll bet you for a drink,
That nowhere will you find such a girl
As the Afrikan~~der~~ doll.

* The second line, "Dit weet die aap se stert, is an idiom. It actually translates as "Even the monkey's tail knows that."

4.

Marching to Pretoria.

There are other lustier, but unprintable, versions of this famous marching song. Pretoria, of course, is the administrative capital of the Union of South Africa.

Clap your little hands, all little baboons,
There's a big feast, old buddies,
There's a big feast, there's a big feast.
Over the little hills, come little baboons,

3. (continued)

There' a big feast, old buddies,
Come, little baboons, come.

The refrain, in this song, is always sung in English

"We are marching to Pretoria, "etc.

The English versions as well as the arrangement of
these songs, are by, Josef Marais.
