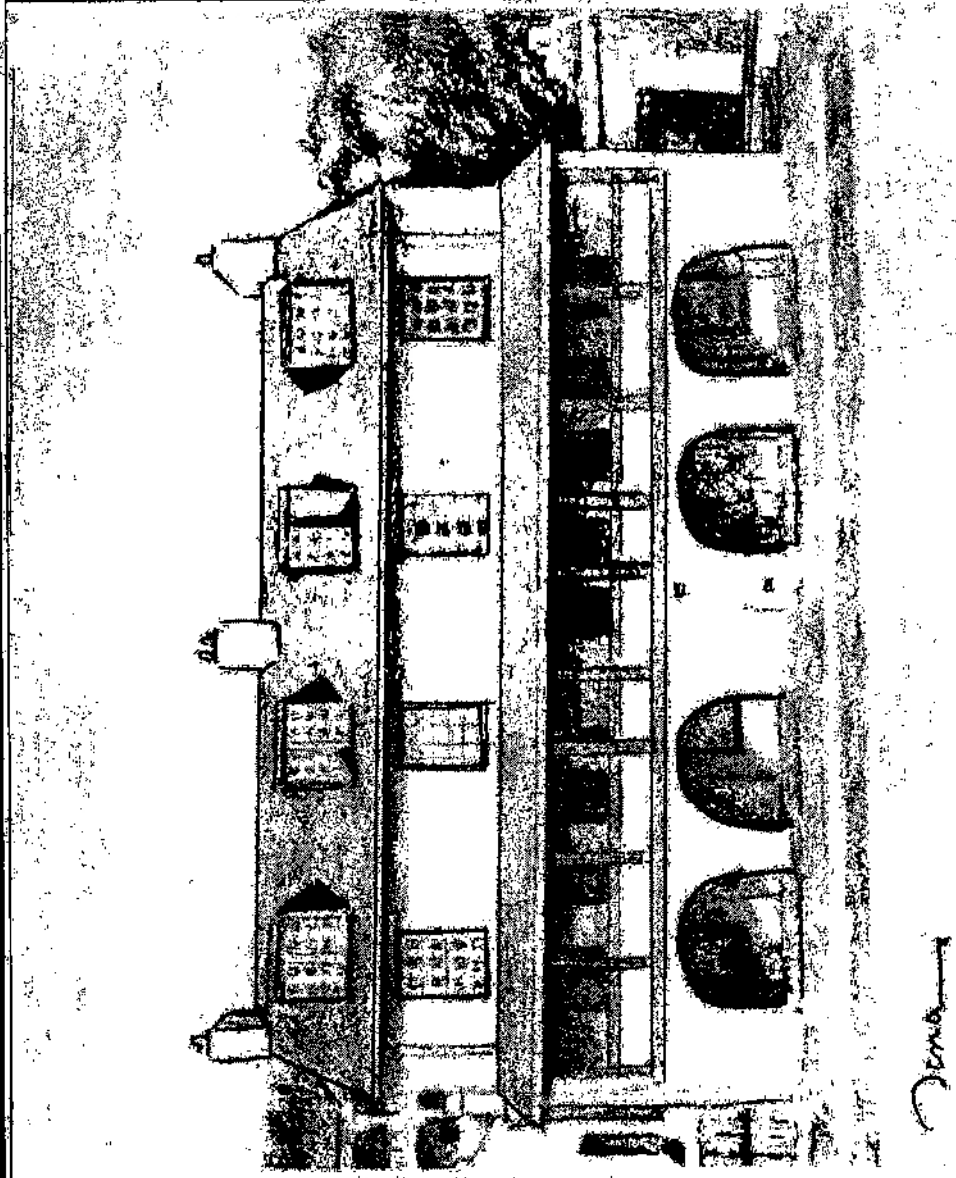
SNOEKTOWN *CALLING*

Vol 4 Issue 2 2 July 2001



R. N. Police Barracks

July Sponsor - Gladys Dilley Estates

Editorial

A brave member of our community has compiled an honest account of an armed robbery. Read this with care, there are lessons to be learnt which should be taken seriously in your own interests - be warned.

Now on another community matter - the persistent need for funds. Financial support for a CPO security officer, transport for the Police, financial assistance for the ambulance service, we desperately need our own traffic cop etc. - so the demand is real and persistent.

Thus, as always, sourcing funds, a campaign has been launched under the auspices of the Community Police Forum, to convert Jubilee Square into a pay parking area. A preliminary site inspection has been completed and preparation of a report is in progress. Some of the critical modus operandi as follows:

1. A Section 21 Company will be established and members of the Board will be elected as per old Simon's Town Council.
2. The current entrance will also be the exit, this will simplify management.
3. The current exit will be closed off except for access to Cole Point Parking.
4. Operation: 09:00 - 17:00 daily.
5. Parking fee: R2 per 15 minutes.
6. Tour buses will be accommodated on both sides of the palm pavement.
7. The palm pavement will be realigned and narrowed to accommodate buses.

These are peliminary criterea and I will report on progress. When the investigation and report is complete, a public meeting will be called for presentation and debate.

Reg Loxton
Editor
2 Chapel Road
786 1750

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Down the Historical Mile

Minutes of the June meeting of SLAP: Piet Pompies, the portfolio holder for traffic, parking and structures here and there, opened the proceeding with his report.

Mr. Chairman, I have good news: the west Dockyard gate is back, shiny and working fine and as Admiral Koos tells us, complete with nipples for lubrication.

Piet meant to tell us more, but he was stopped in his tracks by an outburst from Mientjie Boepens, her face distorted with indignation. What are you saying, ladies have nipples not gates. How dare you insult by putting us ladies together with gates.

Wingnut Williams, having trained as an apprentice in the Dockyard, tried to explain but the ladies of SLAP would have none of it - Sies, said Clara, dis a skandel, male pigs etc.

To change the subject, the Chairman requested Mientjie to report on the important function she attended at Rhodesia by the Sea.
Ja well, Mr. Chairman, being the Mayoress of Simon's Town (self-appointed editor) I feel it my duty to attend. The meeting was to be addressed by an important dignitary, the Deputy Minister if Justice, no less.

Well she spoke over half an hour but didn't say much, but one thing I remember well: she objected to the name Rhodesia by the Sea; she said it was racist of the terrible colonial past. So the meeting debated this issue and the consensus was that the place would always have that name because there was no other like it - Boulders, Seaforth Beach and so on.

Harold Hardekop was listening to all the talk and thinking. You see Harold was a deep thinker with strange ways - remember the time he communicated with adoons hulle, when we had an invasion by the baboons.

Mr. Chairman, I have a suggestion to make as a means of preserving the geographical connexion, why don't we change the name to "Mugabi on the Rocks".

There was absolute silence. Clara said "Oepsie" and the Chairman closed the meeting with "Ja well no fine."

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Ward Councillor's Report

1. **Budget Process**

The proposed budget has been advertised for comment. The rates and tariffs as proposed will be approved at the Council meeting of 27 June 2001. The rates increase of 7% across the board is based on the current property valuations and on the current rate in the rand. For Simon's Town it will also include a user correction.

There has been much debate about the fairness of an across the board increase. The fact of the matter is that until a new valuation roll has been completed for the whole city, with a valid cut-off date, there will always be flaws in the application. This process is in hand at the moment.

When the new roll is completed it will be published for comment. There will be an opportunity for each property owner to comment on his/her valuation. This valuation assessment will, in terms of national legislation, be based on the market value of the property.

It is at this stage that the process of determining the rate in the rand begins, i.e. how many cents or portion of a cent will be set as the rate to be levied by the municipality. Many factors come into play in this process, not least the question of impact on the ratepayer. Again it must be remembered that the Council works within parameters laid down by national government. Currently the rate varies widely and so does the inclusion and exclusion of certain services.

2. **Councillor's Offices**

Currently I have several "offices", the most important one being the one at my own

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[illegible] to accommodate the library in the ground floor I have an office upstairs temporarily and will be available every Tuesday afternoon from 2 to 5p.m. for anyone who might have an issue to discuss. The phone number there is 786 1552 but it will only be answered on Tuesdays.
I also am at Ocean View Civic Centre office from 2 to 5 p.m., every Thursday. The number there is 786 [illegible].

I do not have any secretarial assistance or answering service but if you leave a message at 786 [illegible] I will return your call. However, I must point out that I do not return calls to people who do not leave a surname and an indication of the matter to discuss. The reason for this is the number of tele-sales now operating!

I hope to re-start my evening monthly roundbacks soon but it has been a [illegible] to find a clear space in my schedule of evening meetings. Perhaps this could be combined with my monthly meeting with the Civic Association. There are many issues of importance to discuss with the community but an imperfect process to achieve it. I would welcome suggestions on how to improve this.

NICKI HOLDERNESS
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Simon's Town Civic Association

The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING will be at 7.30 pm on WEDNESDAY, JULY 25 in the TOWN HALL, ST GEORGES STREET, SIMON'S TOWN.

Please diarise it and try to be there. This is YOUR organisation, your decisions are needed, you must elect your new committee. The agenda is: Welcome and Apologies, Treasurer's Report, Win Some! Lose Some? - Chairman's Report, What's in Store - Ward Councillor Nicki Holderness, Confirmation of the previous AGM Minutes, Matters Arising from the Minutes, Proposed Changes to the Constitution, Priorities, Elections, Thanks and Closure. Tea and Coffee will be served after the meeting in aid of the Simon's Town Guide Association

One item is changes to the **Constitution**, which was accepted by last year's AGM as a draft. The Committee proposes several, most minor and cosmetic. Some are to broaden its base and make it more democratic. Unfortunately, because of its length we cannot include the full draft constitution here but a copy is in the Simon's Town Library so you can check the changes:

3.1 Change South Peninsula Municipality to read City of Cape Town.

6 Fees will be due on the January 1 annually. Pro rata rates will apply for those joining after the April 1.

6.5 Financial year shall be from the January 1 to December 31.

7, 8.3, 8.5, 8.7, E-mail to be included as a means of giving/receiving notification.

11 COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

11.1 The Executive Committee shall consist of 8 (Eight) Committee members

11.2 There shall be additional Extended Committee members to represent Government, Quasi Government and Special Interest Groups including the SA Navy, SA National Parks, Conservation, Cultural and Community Groups, Security, Business and Publicity, Red Hill and others.

11.3 The Executive Committee members shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting. Extended committee members shall be appointed by the Groups they represent and must produce a document mandating their representation.

11.4 All Executive and Extended Committee members will have voting rights except those representing Government or Quasi Government bodies.

11.5 All Executive Committee members must be paid up members of the Civic Association.

11.6 Executive Committee members may represent Groups defined under 11.2 on condition they provide the necessary mandate.

12.1 The Executive Committee shall consist of 8 (Eight) members. Due recognition is to be taken wherever possible of the geographical nature of the Town to ensure that representation is well spread.

14.11 A quorum shall consist of 50% + 1 of the total current Executive and Extended Committee members.

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OTHER NEWS, not in any particular order:

Transport:

The **Cape Metrorail** problem is serious. You will recall that young Fish Hoek student Juan van Minnen was stabbed to death on the train near Wynberg recently. Violence on trains is not unusual - it is terribly commonplace. We have been told of a high school student so traumatised after being robbed of his watch and wallet three times by the same gang that he had to be sent abroad to recover. We knew of another high school boy who refuses to use trains; hitchhiking is safer. The elderly are often robbed. Such experiences are legion. Our Community Police Forum have invited Metrorail officials at least five times to meetings to discuss the problem and were promised they would come. They did not. In mid June Cape Metrorail's Regional Manager, André Harrison, invited several prominent people to discuss the Cape Town/Simon's Town line. He said that R28 million was taken off Cape Metrorail's budget this year, the gov-

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ernment funds it only to a certain service level, the subsidy for bus services is three times that for rail, fare evasion is 14-15 per cent, called theft has grown by 1000 per cent. R26 million is needed to increase security on the line, and two months are needed to implement security plans. All valid points. But he got small sympathy. A SA **Chamber of Business** officer said they had heard the same story every year and were tired of talk. The public needed a proper transport system but rail was less reliable now and far less safe. **Admiral Koos Louw**, Naval Officer-in-Command, Simon's Town, said many foreign ships were now visiting here and he could not advise visitors to use Metrorail. About 600 people now came by train to work in the navy yards and this would rise to about 1000 soon.

Ward Councillor **Nicki Holderness** said the public was fired of talk. She asked why nobody was present from the Ministry of Justice and Parliament's Transport Committee, why there wasn't better control at station entrances, and why a single address-the-board fare had not been introduced. She got no answers. It was, she said, the same old story year after year.

How a once excellent service that played so giant a role in the Peninsula's growth and popularity can so swiftly disintegrate pallies comprehension. It must not be allowed to become a killing field on wheels. Surely subsidies comes from providing a service people are happy to pay for?

Thieves:

Last month we said a number of the bronze plaques mounted at places of interest in Simon's Town had been stolen. Only one has been found, a National Monuments plaque. When they read this, Otto du Plessis and René Watkin of **Albertyn's Stables**, the local art gallery and fascinating bronze-casting works, offered to replace those stolen. If the original moulds were available they could cast new plaques. Unfortunately there were no moulds. The originals were cut with a router. And Capt Terry Kirsten of the Society was already having new ones routed from aluminium.

But many thanks to Otto and Rene for their generosity. Please say so when you visit the gallery.

Environment:
The **Glencairn Vlei** is an important conservation area thanks to its fauna and flora and its value to the community. Three years ago because of drought and official ineptitude toxic algae bloomed there and the authorities reduced its water supply. Serious degradation resulted.
In September last year Dr Barbara Gale produced (at a cost of R30000!) a draft plan to manage the vlei. Still nothing was done - no municipal action, no explanation why money set aside was not used, no effort to restore the vlei. Last month two Glencairn residents got fed up with the inexplicable delay and obfuscation and tackled the municipality. Result: notice from the Unicity environmental office that R30000 has been allocated this year for catchment management, plus other steps to implement the Gale report. A meeting has been set with Unicity officials to discuss and take action. Moral: things move when you kick.

Crime and Grime:
It was to get things moving that the STCA launched its **audit of complaints** by asking people to tell us about problems in their neighbourhoods. The response has been good. We received a wealth of information, and Jacky Weaver was able to chart them under the headings of alien clearance, roads and drainage, signage and road markings, litter, health, safety and Metrorail. There are potholes, inadequate road marking, sewage smells, perennially blocked stormwater drains, broken water pipes, mosquitoes, flies ... the list is long. Some problems have existed for years.
The Committee is already busy taking them up with the respective municipal officials. We will report on our progress. One example: we wrote to the Director of Engineering Services, the ever helpful Dave Ramsay, asking for a major pothole repair programme and the clearing of stormwater

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drains. By the time his office replied a fortnight later critical stormwater pipelines had been cleaned, orders had been given for the rest, the cleaning of sewage pipes had been scheduled, and some street resurfacing had begun although Simon's Town is a lower priority than other South Peninsula areas in a worse state.

The Navy:
As we have mentioned, the STCA and the Simon's Town Business Association were invited to put delegates on an extended committee convened by Armscor to consider the future of the **East Dockyard**. A tour and briefings by dockyard managers revealed that it is a world class, highly sophisticated shipping repair centre now seriously under-used at great cost to taxpayers in maintenance and lost revenue. It seems certain the government will do something about this. Debate now is how best to make use of its comprehensive facilities. Not being shipbuilders, dockyard managers or engineers, the STCA decided to find the right person to represent us as the community watchdog. Capt Bill Rice, retired, of the SA Navy, an engineer who knows the dockyard well, has kindly agreed be that person. He will go to meetings, give his advice and present the views of the community - particularly on environmental and planning matters like noise, dust, ancillary development and traffic.

Miller's Point:
The Miller's Point Home Owners' Association - trailer house owners at the campsite, some of them retired people with limited incomes - came to the STCA for help after the old South Peninsula Municipality two years ago unilaterally more than doubled their monthly fees and said their leases, previously renewed without demur, would end in 2003. The SPM refused to give reasons and owners refused to pay the full fees. Recently residents met SPA officials who promised to give them the report on which the old SPM's action was based, and to arrange a meeting with senior officials. Since then the SPA officers have backtracked and inexplicably refused to produce the promised report. Such bureaucratic dithering and secrecy are not acceptable. The STCA will look into it.

General:
An apology to CPO **Manu Choudree** whom we said in the last newsletter would be standing down from the Committee. Fortunately he is not - our mistake. He represents the Glencairn community and from now on will also represent the Community Police Forum, replacing Cdr Blackie Swart who has been recalled to Navy duties, and who with his team and Chubb Security helped make the **"Bobby-on-the Beat"** a reality. Manu is a moving spirit behind the Bobby project to assist our Community Police Officer and the

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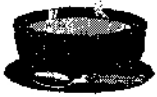
SA Police, who will administer both. Chubb will finance it for the initial three months. The "Blues Buddies" venture seems to have collapsed under the weight of its own aggression but people who donated money need have no concern - it is being used for the community police officer programme.

A tribute to our Treasurer, **Ian Allan**, who has set up computerised accounting, membership and mailing systems and a complete data base for our 330 paid-up members, half of whom are on e-mail. He is also the STCA Trustee on the Simon's Town Trust and took over its accounts, saving the Trust R3500 a year. With the SPA he has updated the Property Valuation Roll and the monitoring of plot clearing and helped launch Glencairn's new anti-crime initiative.

The **STCA finances** are in good shape. Our bank account held R18783 on June 4, thanks to an increase of about 100% in membership. It is not a lot of money considering the tasks that lie ahead including the equipping and possibly staffing of an office we have been allowed to use in the municipal building. The biggest costs have been the photocopying, postage and stationery needed to keep members up to date with STCA affairs.

Ward Councillor Nicki Holderness told the June Committee meeting that only R19.5 million had been allocated to the South Peninsula from the Unicity **capital budget** of R2.1 billion and operating budget of R6.8 billion. This was less than for any other region. The reason, she said, was its record of good financial management which apparently led the City fathers to think we didn't need more money. She and fellow councillors promptly complained and the allocation is being reconsidered. She said 42% of the city budget came from the sale of electricity and water. Formerly the municipality used the excess to **subsidise rates**. That now changes: the central government will take the excess to finance redistribution. That means rates will go up. Electricity **tariffs** will go up by 6%. Rateable valuation will be 2.3 cents in the rand. The cleansing tariff

Home Dinners



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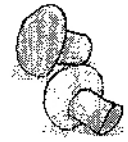

will stay unchanged as part of the rates.
The **Seaforth** restaurant project has new owners and should be open in November.
The traffic barrier at the Seaforth parking area has been removed and the traffic management system there is being re-assessed.
The old tank farm there will be resurfaced for parking, about doubling the area. A new toilet block will be built on the north-west corner. She recommends cancelling the Seaforth beach entry fees because the parking lot will raise money. The Committee agreed. Monique Ruthenbergh of the Cape Peninsula National Parks said contractors were already felling big **old gum trees** in the waterfall and other town areas where they posed a threat to homes. The CPNP was monitoring closely for possible land slippage and potential mud slides. The Ukuvuka programme could help finance equipment for the clearing of alien vegetation, if groups approached them through the CPNP.
Dr John Morris said the **municipal water** authorities had not reported on sampling for some time but the pollution problem at the Glencairn shopping centre seemed to have been resolved. The source of contaminition was difficult to pinpoint. Over-chlorination could have resulted from the manual addition of the chemical to maintain levels. On **signage pollution**, he said there were 41 estate agent signs between the Old Burying Ground and Goede Gift - too many.
Rogue parking attendants have become active on Jubilee Square. The public are asked NOT to encourage them.
The **Simon's Town Friends of the Coastline,** one of the groups affiliated to the STCA and valuable guards of our local environment, are starting a *weekly bulletin* or calendar of events. Anyone interested in receiving it by e-mail (for free of course) should send a message to "bergerm@iafrica.com".

Simon's Town Civic Association
PO Box 47 Simon's Town 7995
Chairman: Mrs Jacky Weaver 7825335,
Vice-chairman: Geoffrey Palmer 7865402,
Treasurer: Ian Allan 7822736,
Communications: Wilf Nussey 7861368

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Simon's Town Business Association

The AGM was held at Oatlands holiday Resort on Monday 21st May 2001

New Committee Formed

Chairperson : Peter Johnson
Vice Chairperson : George Bowes
Treasurer : Hester Fourie
Secretary : Marian Butcher
Additional members : Are paid up members

MADE AMENDMENTS OF CONSTITUTION:

1. Executive Committee be disbanded and re-named to the Committee.
2. The Committee to consist of all paid up members of the Association.

The Association's new address is as follows: Simon's Town Business Association P O Box 626, Simon's Town 7995.

All our meetings will be held on the 3rd Monday of each month.
Our goal is to bring people to Simon's Town be re-introducing tourist buses into the Town, thereby bringing business into Simon's Town.
Our next meeting is on Monday 18 June 2001 at the Quayside Lodge at 18h15 for 18h30.

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Karen Bassill
073 140 8561

Bobby on the Beat

At a special function following on the monthly meeting of the Community Police Forum, the Bobby on the Beat in the person of Mr. **Marius Harmsen**, was introduced by Martin Smolders, Regional Manager of Chubb Security Services.

Marius is a Boerseun born in Pretoria and completing his education in Middleburg in Transvaal. He is single and a Police Reservist.
The project was conceived by CPO Manu Choudree and taken to fruition by Martin Smolders of Chubb who will fund the project for the foreseeable future with the hope that financial support from the public will be forthcoming at an early date.

Marius is somewhat shy so let us be kind and supportive.

Editor

"DENTISTRY WITHOUT TRAUMA"

An extraordinarily gentle dentist, Dr. Jacques Rossouw is best known for his painless injections. Unfortunately, when he recently moved from the Sun Valley Mall, some patients from our region lost track of him. At the risk of giving him personally - rather than dental treatment without trauma - publicity, I therefore reveal his new address to help others who suffer unnecessarily. It is at Suite A2 Westlake Square, off Steenberg Road in Tokai and the phone number is 702-3980.

Bevan Pank

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PROPERTY WATCH No 30

JULY 2001

1. CURRENT APPLICATIONS

Details of applications currently being dealt with by the South Peninsula Administration are:

1.1. Erf No 3619, Glencairn: Application for Amendments to the Approved Site Development Plans at the Glencairn Shopping Centre to permit the building of 3 new shops and extensions to the Seven Eleven supermarket. This application has been approved by the Urban & Environmental Services Committee subject to environmental and aesthetic objections being resolved between the objectors and the developer. Comments from all parties have been received and the application has been approved and an agreement signed.

1.2. Erf No 1247, Simon's Town: (Cnr Harrington and Queens Roads, Seaforth). Application for a Departure to permit the establishment and operation of an art gallery and coffee shop on a residential property. This has now been approved.

1.3. Erf 60, Simon's Town (Glencairn): Land Use departure application on behalf of the Waldorf Schools. A report by independent consultants has been received but additional information is still required. No change from Report no 29.

1.4. Erf 2930, Simon's Town (Erica Road, Murdock Valley): Proposed Alienation or Lease of portion of this municipal land. This Erf was to be subdivided and the two portions purchased by the Applicant and a neighbour, subject to a final valuation of the property. However one applicant has withdrawn his offer to purchase and it appears that the other applicant may do likewise. No change from Report no 29.

1.5 Erf 2298, Simon's Town - Boulders Beach Guest House: Application to rezone from General Residential to Business. The applicant has lodged an appeal against the Urban and Environmental Services Committee's refusal to approve the rezoning application. The decision of the Provincial Government is still awaited. No change from Report no 29.

1.6. Erf 1180, 198 Queens Road Simon's Town: Application for a Land Use Departure to convert a Residential House into a Medical Practice. A decision regarding parking facilities is awaited from the Municipality on the basis of information provided by the applicant. This is currently being processed. No change from Report no 29.

1.7. Erven 4348 and 4349, Welcome Glen: Application for consolidation, rezoning from undetermined use to single residential and for subdivision into 10 portions. This was turned down by the SPM and is on appeal to the Provincial Government. No change from Report no 29.

1.8. Erf 4595 Cairnside: Application to subdivide into two portions was not approved by the SPM and has been referred on appeal to the Provincial Government, whose decision is awaited. No change from Report no 29.

1.9. Erf 625 Simon's Town: (Military Way, Bayview) Application to sub-divide into two

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portions without formal road access to one erf. One portion is to be consolidated with Erf 2643 following formal agreement. No change from Report no 29.

1.10. Erf 2212, Glencairn Heights: Application for a Bed and Breakfast establishment. Objections were received by SPM, who now await response from the applicant re parking facilities. No change from Report no 29.

1.11. Erf 2464, Forest Hill: Application for subdivision into two parts. Further outstanding information is awaited. No change from Report no 29.

2. **OTHER PROPERTY MATTERS**

2.1. CFM 983, Wildschutsbrandvlei: Application for Land Use Departure to permit an arts and craft shop, a pottery studio and sales outlet and a place for curio sellers. The Provincial Government's decision on a report submitted by the Urban & Environmental Services Committee is still awaited. No change from Report no 29.

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2.2. CFM 1404, Wildschutsbrand Farm: Application for Land Use Departurefor the Establishment of a Restaurant and Tea Garden, an African Arts and Crafts Market and Overnight Accommodation.
Province is satisfied with a Scoping Study and has given the applicant the go ahead to proceed with the EIA and the public participation process.

2.3. Erf 2204, Glencairn Heights: Application by Ericsson South Africa to permit the installation of a Cellular Communication Base Station and Antenna at 14 Golconda Street for the 3rd Cellular Service Provider. Objections have been received and an independent consultant has been employed by the SPA to advise on all cellular transmission masts in the area. No change from Report no 29.

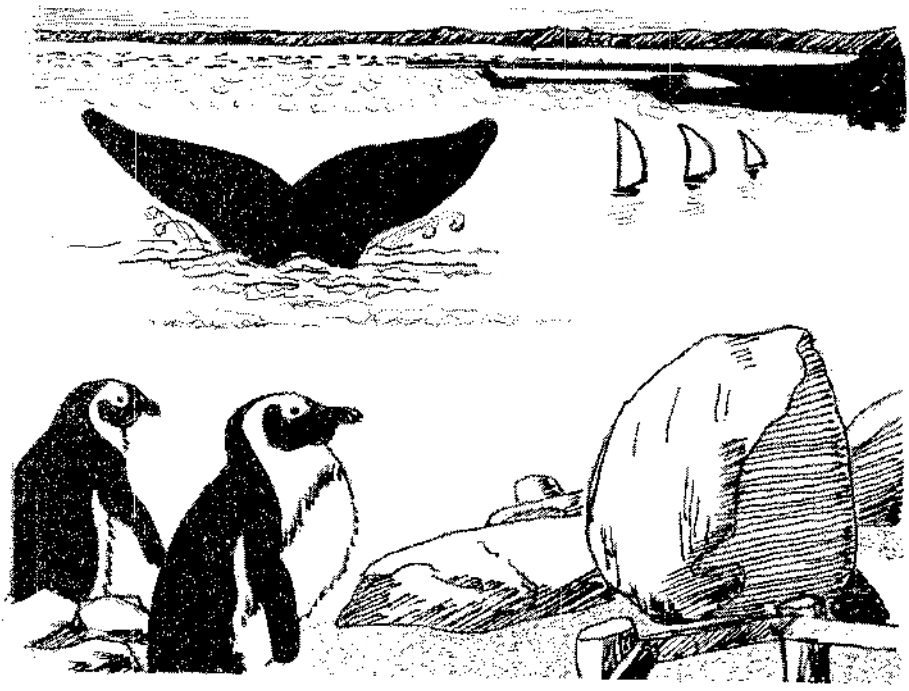
2.4. Erf 3321, Glen Marine: Application by Ericksson South Africa to permit the installation of a Cellular Communication Base Station and Antenna at Erf3312, Seemeeu Street for the 3rd Cellular Service Provider. The closing date for objections was 2 March 2001. Objections have been received. (See comment under 2.3.)

2.5. Erven 2904, 3333 and 3117, Simon's Town: These erven are being disposed of by the SPA. An auction offer of R760 000 for Erf 2904 has been approved. An offer of R81 000 for Erf 3333 is being considered subject to this offer being advertised. The closing date for objections is 29 June 2001. Erf 3117 is still awaiting offers.

Geoff Palmer
Simon's Town Civic Association

Station 10 N.S.R.I. Simon's Town

Due to computer malfunction, Don was unable to be rescued in time and regretfully there will be no article this month.



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News from Naval Base - Simon's Town

RUSSIA HONOURS CAPE TOWN ARCTIC CONVOY VETERANS

The Russian Federation awarded medals commemorating the 55th anniversary of the Victory in the Great Patriotic War of 1941 to 1945, to fifteen British and South African Arctic Veterans living in Cape Town, at a meeting / reception in Simon's Town on June 19, 2001.

The inscription is a reminder of the strong bonds of comradeship forged between South Africa and Russia during the terrible war in history and was attended with the opening of an exhibition of photographs and medals of the period of the Great Patriotic War of 1941 -1945.
Fourteen of veterans served in Royal Navy Ships and one of them was in the Merchant Navy. The veterans received great honour ships such as Revenge, Warrior, Scylla and Black Prince which escorted the convoys carrying the vital war supplies to Russia.

A total of 21 Allied Warships were sunk and 1 944 officers and men lost their lives. Ninety-eight Merchant Navy ships were sunk. Although the precise number of South Africans who served in the Arctic Convoys is not known it is estimated that there were at least 250 of them.

SAS OUTENIQUA AND SAS UMHLOTI SAIL FOR ST HELENA ISLAND

The two Naval vessels departed Simon's Town on 18 June 2001 for St Helena Island as part of a training cruise and will return on 4 July 2001. During the visit the ship's companies will be cleaning and restoring war graves at the Knollesyboes Military

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Cemetery on the Island.

CARTE BLANCHE ON BOARD SAS PROTEA FOR A FISHING PATROL

The SAS PROTEA recently departed for a fishing patrol with the TV crew of "Carte Blanche", MNET's actuality programme, to collect relevant footage for an investigative programme on commercial and recreational fishing. As part of the programme the role of the SA Navy in the policing and monitoring role will be highlighted.

From the Bosun's Chair

In the last issue of Snoektown Calling, I mentioned with tongue and cheek that if we did not receive adequate rain this winter, we would find ourselves bathing in either goats milk or red wine. After numerous telephone calls it appears that many people are less than happy with our local milk quality.

Many of our readers will remember the days when milk was delivered to the door in glass bottles, which in early days had cardboard stopper tops. This was *really* milk, the top third was thick cream and one could either draw off for other uses or stroke well to mix with the milk.

If one gets away to resorts such as Port Alfred one can still buy this creamy delight. Sometimes with the cream reaching halfway down the bottle, unhealthy? maybe, but who cares, you are getting what you pay for, full cream milk. Possibly the dealer buys direct from the farms. Here in "civilization" our full cream milk isn't, the cream having been pinched by the dairy who then sell it back to you should you need some. Rip-off?? I personally think so as do many others who spoke to me.

As for 2% milk, well we have a family joke about this product. I frequently ask if we are going to buy 98% water and 2% milk today. Your comments are very welcome.

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Read This! It's Important!

Imagine sitting quietly with your partner, one evening, watching television, with your dog at your feet, when suddenly two masked black men, both armed with pistols, appear in your lounge doorway. You cannot possibly imagine that such a thing is happening to you. The shock, the fear, the violation of your home, and possibly your person, the humiliation, the despair, lies by with yourself if as in our case unity had been gained through our own negligence. These feelings are here to stay with us.

It happened a few weeks ago when the two robbers walked through our open back door. Open to allow the dog easy access! Police reports in the press report endlessly that the most common form of entry for robbers/burglars is through open doors - yet - we still leave them open. Since our disaster I have spoken to many people in our area who know of our trauma and they admit they still leave their doors open!

The robbers made us lie on the floor with their guns pressed to our heads and then one of them held my partner upside by the scruff of the neck and I imagined the worst rape, death etc. We were very lucky and this didn't happen and we were not harmed.

We were tied up and neglected and made to lie on the lounge floor for an hour while they helped themselves to those of our valuables they wanted. They found our bankbook safely and opened it with the keys which we carry on our persons. They left, taking one of our cars which they abandoned at the bottom of the road, undamaged. The value of what they took, both in bits and in cash value was very great and much of what they took cannot be replaced. I have been asked to relate the lessons we have learned from this experience and much of what I have discussed disturbs us greatly even to think about. In the interests of helping others perhaps to avoid what happened to us I daresay that the greatest lesson we have learned is that of total and constant vigilance.

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We had burglar bars on our windows, we have an excellent alarm system connected to armed response, we have a big dog and created mightily once they were inside the house, we have panic buttons and we have security lights. We had neighbours next door and across the road who were home and none of these systems as anything.

As I have said, they walked through an open door. My partner tried twice to get to panic buttons and was warned off at gunpoint. The alarm system was thus useless at that time. Our dog was as surprised as we were, our neighbours, either slow-morning or assumed all was in order. Had I had a gun at my hand on their entry, it would have been no good because there they were, guns already in their hands. It is not being paranoid to assume that all of us at one time or another during the day are under constant surveillance from these criminals. There are dozens of them all day walking around the area under the guise of selling compost, shellfish, collecting for charity, looking for work, working on building sites or doing repairs or alterations to houses, gardeners or people purporting to be gardeners, or simply walking around looking for soft targets. We are targets in our houses if any part of it is unsecured. We are targets walking from our cars to our houses or the reverse. We are targets at the All Ms. We are targets driving our cars, even with the windows shut and the doors locked. We are targets simply walking down the street. We are targets walking out dogs or walking by ourselves on the beach or in the mountains. Read the press. See where these people hit. They are everywhere.

Learn to look for people watching you. Don't go alone, have arrangements with your neighbours to watch each others houses even when you are in them. Have your windows and doors barred and closed. Have an alarm system which works. Be aware of common things which are not where they should be, or new things which should not be there. Have all these things out above all be vigilant and perhaps you will be fortunate enough to avoid misfortune of this nature.

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Neighbourhood Watch

Neighbourhood Watch, also known as Community Watch / Block Watch) is a further measure in the fight against CRIME.
The principle of Neighbourhood Watch is that the SAPS alone cannot successfully combat crime - it requires a combined effort by all sections of society. It is essential that information is passed to the SAPS by members of the public, as a police officer cannot possibly see the vast majority of these offences being committed. **"This is where Neighbourhood Watch comes in."**
Residents know the occupiers of and regular visitors to their neighbours houses. They are also able to spot suspicious strangers and unfamiliar vehicles, visiting houses in their respective areas.
By passing their suspicions to the street co-ordinator / or delivery to the SAPS, not only will much more crime be detected, but criminals will also be discouraged from invading your area (community).

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"LET'S FIGHT CRIME TOGETHER"

What is a Neighbourhood Watch (Home Watch)? Home Watch is a small group of *concerned* neighbours who combine with the aim of reducing crime in their immediate areas. Participants select their own representative to act as a co-ordinator, between the SAPS and the community.

Home Watch Involves:
1. Neighbours getting to know each other.
2. Recognition and reporting of SUSPICIOUS incidents.
3. Individual homes being secured with the appropriate locks.

Why is There a Need - Every year millions of crimes are committed in this country. As there cannot be a police officer standing on every corner due to manpower / budget shortages, it has become necessary to enlist the help and support of others like:
1. Neighbourhood Watch
2. Security Companies
3. SAPS Police Community Forum
4. Bobby on the Beat
5. CPO for the CBD area
6. Mountain Watch
7. And other organisations

How Do I Form a Home Watch
1. Contact your local Crime Prevention Officer, Inspector Store at 786 2127.
2. Talk to your Neighbours - visit them and introduce yourself, and discuss Home Watch.
3. Set up a first meeting with interested neighbours. (Invite one of the SAPS warders to attend the first meeting.)
4. Elect a co-ordinator. He / she will be responsible for:

a. Spokesperson for the group
b. Liaison between the SAPS and the Home Watch group
c. Receiving information from participants, and forwarding it to the SAPS.

Useful Information - So that you can recognise suspicious activity in your area, it is useful to have your neighbour's work telephone numbers. Other details that would

be helpful to you -

1. Details of individual family members
2. Hours of work
3. School attended by children
4. Registration number of makes of vehicles
5. Who has dogs
6. Planned holidays or visitors
7. Planned deliveries
8. Any other helpful information

You are not nosey by sharing such information - it would rather save somebody's life, or personal property / possessions.

General Guidelines for Each Member

1. All unusual incidents or suspicious behaviour to be reported to your co-ordinator / or SAPS.
2. If homes are to be unoccupied due to holidays / hospital treatment etc. a trusted neighbour is to be informed and given a telephone number for emergency use.
3. Keeping Watch involves keeping an eye on accumulating letters / newspapers.

Joint Activities - Having started a Home Watch Scheme, it becomes important to maintain the enthusiasm and effectiveness of the scheme.

Active Home Watch groups can:

1. Hold gatherings / social outings
2. Work together to find solutions to problems of your specific area
3. Work together in a clean up project
4. Inform the local Authority about shortcomings in your area.
5. Care about the Environment.

Home Watch Steering Committee - Your Steering Committee (consisting of all the appointed / elected co-ordinators should meet from time to time. At least one appointed / elected member should make an attempt to attend the approved Neighbourhood Watch Committee for the entire Simon's Town / Glencairn area.

Meetings Take Place - Every 2nd Tuesday of each month in the Beatrice Simon's Town Hall at 17h00 (5pm). You are most welcome to attend.

JE Page - Chairman Neighbourhood Watch Simon's Town / Glencairn Area

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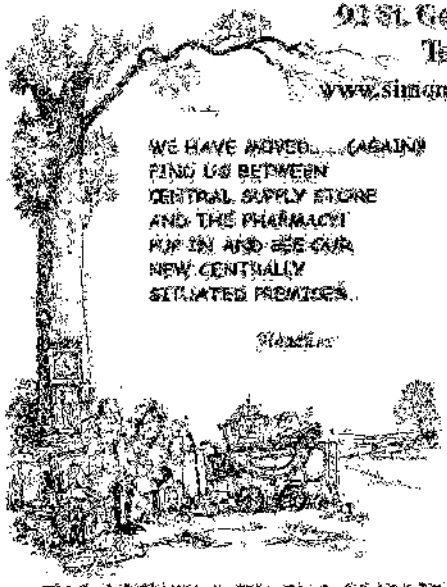
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THE AGENCY WITH THE "DIFFERENT" APPROACH

Peninsula Tourism
(Simon's Town Publicity Association – Tel. 786-2436)

Sadly both May and June have been exceptionally quiet months with relatively few local or foreign tourists, apart from the visit of the French Navy in late May. The French Embassy generously loaned an enormous National flag, which was flown on Jubilee Square to welcome our visitors . Thanks are due to Dave Hurwitz for arranging collection and the return of the flag and to Jeremy Wagner of Quayside for organizing the daily raising and lowering of the flag.

Simon's Town continues to be a magnet for journalists and a splendid article was featured in the June edition of "Getaway magazine". Justin Fox has combined an interesting, informative text with superb colour photographs. He says "I surveyed the scene and marvelled at Simon's Town's charm shaped by its relationship with the sea. The town is seaman-like, shipshape and bursting with Dutch, British and South African naval histories. The sight of a sail on the horizon, the moan of foghorns announcing the coming and going of ships... it's a place that celebrates the men and women who go down to the sea in ships."
His coverage of the tourist attractions of the town is also excellent.

Despite the reduced number of visiting tourists in recent weeks, the two telephone lines of the Information Bureau have continued to bring an avalanche of questions. Many are requests for accommodation or information on restaurants but we do get some unusual ones. One caller wanted to have her navel pierced and another wanted a full Afro plaited hairdo with hairpiece inserts. If we can't answer immediately we carry out hasty research as in these cases. Out of interest we found several body-piercing studios with Cape Town central phone numbers and you can get an Afro hairstyle at the Fish Hoek street market next to the station.

On the evening of the 27th July, the Publicity Association will be holding its Annual General Meeting followed by a dinner (optional) on the Cable-restorer. Invitations will be sent to all members and in addition interested friends and prospective members are most welcome. Enquiries Phone 786-5798 or 786-2436.

Peninsula Tourism are planning to hold their third annual cultural festival "Delightful days/ Enchanted evenings" in September and early October. Events were held last year throughout the Southern Peninsula and it may be recalled that a most sucessful caberet evening "Gershwin and all that Jazz" was held on the Cable-restorer. We would be pleased to hear from any organisation, business or individual interested in arranging a cultural event between the 28th September and 8th October.

Best wishes,
Sue Sturman.

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THE SIMON'S TOWN DOCKYARD POLICE 1888-1957

We do not know much about the early policing of our local West Dockyard in the days from the time the Royal Navy moved down from Cape Town in 1814. From 1806 to that time they moved here only for the winter months and resumed operating in Cape Town. We do know that after a big storm in December 1799 which wrecked many vessels in Table Bay, among them HMS SCEPTRE, that her ships timbers were used to fence off the Naval Dockyard in Cape Town, so we can presume that the powers that be were having trouble with pilfering even in those days. The naval yard was then situated very near to where present-day Boston House in Strand Street is situated i.e. opposite the end of Burg Street.

It can be presumed that the West Dockyard in Simon's Town had some form of security because in 1819 we find that when the sail loft was used for church services on a Sunday, Sir Jahleel Brenton, provided a marine guard for the sail loft and its contents during the time it was used for these services.

At this time (1814 onwards) in England, especially at Deptford and Woolwich yards there were WATCHMEN (who patrolled the boundary hedges at night with dogs) and PORTERS (who manned the gates and took charge of the keys). There were also ROUNDERS (who patrolled the yard) and WARDERS (to deal with any prisoners). The Watchmen were drawn from the workforce and were required to stay on duty after a normal day's work every fourth night. Why should it have been any different in Simon's Town?

By 1859 a review of the Dockyard Police in England had come about and the existing force was disbanded after the review by Supt. Mallalieu of the Metropolitan Police. Mallalieu recommended they be replaced by the new Dockyard Police Division of the Metropolitan Police which took over in 1860. The next review in England occurred at the end of World War I. In 1922 the Admiralty agreed that responsibility for U.K. dockyards' security should pass from the Metropolitan Police to the Royal Marine Police. This was a new force made up of Royal Marine pensioners aged 40 and over. The main benefit of this was that these men were already receiving an emolument from the service, i.e. their pension, so instead of paying them a full wage, the Admiralty could merely pay them a small supplement.

In 1888 or 1890 there existed a small force of Dockyard policemen here - we do not know how many but believe the number to have been 14. In 1910 with the opening of the East Dockyard the force was increased to about 22. We do know that Mr. H. J. Crocme was Senior Sergeant in the Dockyard Police at the time of his death in 1932 and he had been over 35 years in the force and had on many occasions acted in the

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absence of the Inspector i/c. Many of his companion policemen were retired sailors and marines who had married locally and having decided to make their homes here had "bought themselves" out of the service. They joined the police to supplement their naval pensions. Then in the early thirties a Mr. Loubser who had been farming, joined the dockyard policemen during the depression. His son Johannes went to the Simon's Town Secondary School then joined the Simon's Town Municipality as a messenger boy and went on to be a long serving Town Clerk of Simon's Town.
Sergeant George Haines retired in 1944 after 33 years unbroken service i.e. from 1911. R.C. Aupias served for over 27 years.

By 1928 the Police had a strength of 33 men. The Superintendent was Inspector Henderson, seconded from the Metropolitan Police. There was a plain clothes Detective Sergeant, 3 Sergeants and 28 constables in uniform. The last Superintendent from the Metropolitan Police was Herbert "Pat' Horrigan who retired in the early 1950s.

Shortly before 1928 the working hours were reduced from 7 shifts of 12 hours per week (84 hours) to 7 shifts of 8 hour's (56 hours). Quite an improvement in working conditions. There were no rest days and Annual Leave was granted at a rate of 12 days per annum. Wages were £3.8.9d per week for single men. Married men received £3. 14.6d. A Constable could rise to a top wage of £4.5/- and a Sergeant to a top wage of £5.18/-. The 2 Senior Sergeants were established but the remainder were not. Sick leave was catered for by permitting 2 months per year on half pay. Any subsequent sick leave was unpaid and was usually followed by discharge on Medical grounds.

In 1937 the rank of Leading Constable (wearing a Corporal's badges of rank) was introduced. 1938 brought more changes. Two more constables were added to the strength. Annual leave was increased to 16 days and one rest day per fortnight was granted. Maximum wages for constables were raised to £5.0.2d (how did they calculate that 1) and Sergeants to £6.12/-. The plain anchor cap badge was replaced by the crown and anchor badge.

In 1938 2 motor boats (petrol driven) were handed over to the Police to be used for patrolling the sea area between the 2 dockyards and the East Dockyard basin. Instead of today's yachts there were then many fishing boats anchored in the area between the two dockyards and smuggling had to be discouraged. During World War 11 these boats carried two depth—charges each but there is no record of their ever being used.

By the end of 1945 there were 80 policemen. In 1952 one rest day per week was granted and in 1954 annual leave was increased to 22 days per annum.
In 1957 the R.N. Base was handed over to the South African Navy and Sergeants Aupias and Bateman were presented with the Imperial Service Medal by the Earl of

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Selkirk, the then First Lord of the Admiralty, for services rendered. R.C. Aupias had been a Chief Petty Officer in the Royal Navy and had joined the Dockyard Police on 31 December 1929, serving the Admiralty for 27 years and 3 months before being transferred to the South African Navy on the handover of the Base.

The Dockyard Police in Simon's Town not only guarded the Dockyards and made sure there was no smuggling of goods out of the Dockyard, but they rang the Dockyard bell at required times during the day - 6.45 am., 6.55 am. and 7 am. when the gates were then closed and those who had not "clocked in" were caught outside the gates. The clock-in cards were kept at the police station just inside each dockyard gate. The bell rang again at 12.30 pm. for lunch and again at 1.15 pm. and then finally at 5 pm. for close of work. There was also a pre-arranged signal which the bell would ring if there was need for firefighters to assemble should there be a dockyard fire or a bushfire on the mountain, when all ships would also send help. An air-raid siren was fixed to the East Yard bell tower during World War II. Pis well as manning both Dockyard gates, the police also manned Lower North Battery. A constable was posted there for a month at a time and would receive 3 days off in lieu of travelling as no conveyance was provided to take him to and from work. He walked or if lucky, cycled. A man was also stationed in the Kloof when the arsenal was moved there and it is presumed similar arrangements pertained to him.

When an R. N. ship returned from a cruise the local Customs Officer would join the police on duty in order to see if there were dutiable goods being brought ashore and the dockyard police assisted him during busy periods.
It is interesting to note that the Duke of York in 1673 felt it necessary to lay down various laws for the dockyard porters (PRO ADM 7/ 633 No. 7) which read "he is in the absence of the Master Shipwright and his assistant to search all shipwrights, caulkers etc. at their going from their labour, and take from time to time all such useful pieces of timber plank, treenails etc which under the pretence of Chipps, he shall find them carrying out of the Yard, giving notice hereof to the Clerk of the Cheque and the Master Shipwright, for their further punishment as shall be thought convenient." Nothing had changed much during the 1939-45 war in Simon's Town when all sorts of things left the dockyard - allegedly on one occasion a motor caravan which had been manufactured in the yards Indeed this went on too at HMS MALAGAS (the Royal Naval Airstation at Wirigfield) and two Simon's Town men — one locally employed and one Home Agreement —served time.

A.E. READ

REFERENCES:
Notes on Dockyard Police Vol.2 No.1 Naval Dockyards Society Journal.
"Nongqai" Divisional Notes SA Police 1932.
Notes and assistance from Cdr Bisset, S.A. Naval Museum.

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"LET'S BEAUTIFY OUR BEACHES"

False Bay - and more specifically - Danger Beach will soon get world-wide publicity in the highly professional magazine "Océanorama". This is circulated world-wide by the prestigious Paul Ricard Institute of Oceanography in France. The article is being illustrated by the UCT Zoology Department and myself. Since it concentrates on the situation during spring rather than summer, our tourist season could well be extended. After all, I cannot imagine readers exploring this particular beach without also visiting Simon's Town.

What most impressed the Institute were photographs of daises in full bloom along the approach from St. James. Unfortunately, few beaches between Glencairn and Millers Point have such scenic splendour. We once had it at Long Beach, which featured on the cover of a travel magazine. The old Simon's Town Municipality at least seeded the path from Glencairn to Shelly Beach, but few tourists are aware of this short but glorious route.

Mackerel Bay - near the lower north battery - used to be one of the most beautiful beaches in the Cape. We have stuffed it up with an unsightly infrastructure. Why has the now obsolete railway siding not been removed? Why are we only beautifying our mountains, when beaches draw more tourists?

Of all our beaches, only Fisherman's and Franks Bay remain relatively unspoilt. If we really must have brick and concrete, why don't we go the same route as Jager Walk in Fish Hoek? There, the hard lines of its rocky embankment have been softened with a profusion of daisies.

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Friends of Simon's Town Public Library Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Simon's Town Public Library will be held at Simon's Town Museum, in Court Road, on Monday, 13 August 2001. Wine and light snacks will be served from 17:30 and the meeting will begin at 18:00.

The Committee of the Friends of the Simon's Town Library look forward to seeing everyone who uses the library at the meeting where apart from the official business, they will hear about the great progress which has been made towards the move to the new library premises.
Contractors are already on site at the Municipal Building and the creation of our new Public Library is under way. Melanie du Raan and her staff will have to manage a larger facility than before and it has never been more important to have an active "Friends" organisation to support them in their efforts to provide the excellent service which our community expects and, in fact, deserves. We need your support in order to be able to support your Public Library.

Members of the Friends can either renew their subscriptions (only R5.00 a year) prior to the A.G.M. or at the meeting and new Friends will be most welcome to join at the A.G.M.

We urgently need volunteers to serve on the Committee in order to ensure continuing support for our Library. Our Honorary Treasurer, Nigel Fawcett, who has so ably handled the "Friends" finances for the past five years, will be retiring after the AGM and we are looking for a volunteer to carry on where he has left off. Mr. Fawcett assures us that the work involved is not time consuming. Anybody who is prepared to undertake this vital task is requested to contact the Librarian at 786 1553 or the Chairman of the "Friends" at 786 3909. We look forward to seeing many new Friends at the meeting.

Beach & Coastal Patrol

As we all know, the SPA's responsibility extends far beyond our particular area. Yet it has already attended to some of the problems reported last month. It is also reacting positively to complaints beyond the parameters of our beach infrastructure. This is no doubt the excellent work of Alderman Nicki Holderness and the Simon's Town Civic Association. Since they are under considerable pressure, we can help by reporting at least minor problems direct. However, they must obviously be informed to avoid any duplication of duties.

Although the authorities welcome legitimate complaints, they are invariably obliged to prioritize those that concern our community rather than individuals - unless serious. Reports are always best put in writing to the appropriate Department head or field representative.
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Parks & Recreation - cbonthuy@spm.org.za
Roads & Drainage - kmathew@spm.org.za.
Another is Intersite's portfolio manager for the southern suburbs - dscheepe@intersite.co.za.

Roads & Drainage are now particularly busy in our area. Much of their time is being wasted by heavy trucks mounting curbs and driven over those manhole covers seated in plastic junction boxes. In Glencairn, two behind Phoenix Lodge had to be rebuilt in brick and concrete. They also repaired a previously reported storm-water drain near the beach-front car park. Damaged shade-cloth was replaced and sand between them leveled, to prevent it from blowing into properties across the road. Most - but not all - litter along a highly visible stretch of fynbos on the Vlei side has been removed. Furthermore, traffic lights were repainted and the hotel's parking area resurfaced, although both jobs have yet to be completed.
Still in need of attention are many partially blocked drains, crumbling pavements, unswept gutters, damaged bus-shelter seating and the tatty beach-subway. The muddy gap between Glencairn station and its tarred approach road has now become a serious problem through recent rains. Further down the line, Shelly Beach has lost its only litter bin close to the pool. The stark and rusty support joins those of Metrorail with missing signs. The toilet block still has missing doors and steps above the pool are disintegrating.

Next come Mackerel Bay. As previously reported, the shocking infrastructure of this magnificent beach is being witnessed by foreign tourist to our shame! When will the now obsolete railway siding be removed? Furthermore, when will the bumpy Main Road above it be resurfaced? Closer to Simon's Town at Long Beach, when will the Station's adjoining wall of Vibracrete topped with razor-wire be replaced with a less industrialized product? After all, this is a family beach and not a factory premises!

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The good news at Seaforth is that the conveniently situated change-rooms will remain and the two tatty toilet blocks are to be demolished. The bad news is that new toilets will be built some distance away. At nearby Water's Edge, CPNP erected a penguin-proof fence with a gate and even varnished one of the two benches. The other - being municipal property - is not maintained. This also applies to the rickety structure at the main entrance, which is long overdue for renewal. Finally, the smelly old garbage drum has gone, hopefully to be replaced with something more attractive.

Continuing to Boulders Park, CPNP have solved the erosion problem below Willis Walk. Besides pegging logs in terraces to spread rather than channel rain, they have also revegetated spaces between penguin burrows. Furthermore, at Boulders Beach, more logs have been used to prevent encroachment of soil on the pathways for easier wheelchair access. These guys are so professional in their attention to detail, that they have even painted glaring blue plastic litter- bins a more subdued green.

Just as the toilet block at Frank's Bay long ago lost part of its roof, it has happened at Windmill Beach - and our winter rains have only just started! There is still no sign to indicate the women's section. Neither has the steep embankment on the south side been secured with pegged logs for elderly walkers.

At Fisherman's Beach, the only problem is the increasing spread of invasive clover on its lawn. Incidentally, the road is being resurfaced southwards from here, so we can only hope that the remaining bad section between Glencairn and Simon's Town has not been forgotten! The whole infrastructure at Miller's Point is a mess. Fortunately, its stone structures are basically sound and more attention to roofing in particular would make all the difference. Now that there is far better communication with the authorities, we expect improvements to this and all other beaches before next summer.

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The Night Sky

In the evening sky soon after sunset at 5;52 pm. (in the middle of the month), Spica, magnitude 1, is visible in the West. In the East the red planet, Mars, magnitude -2.4, is seen rising over the mountains across the Bay, together with the constellation of Scorpio. This constellation has a bright first magnitude star Antares in the centre of its long body, whose name means "rival of Mars". At present it is not much of a rival, as Mars is so close to the Earth.

In the early morning Eastern sky before sunrise at 6;51 am. the very bright planet Venus, magnitude -3.9 heralds the dawn. Saturn, magnitude 1, is also an early morning planet, together with Jupiter, magnitude -2.7. Be on the lookout for the three early morning planets, Venus, Jupiter and Saturn, which some readers have reported seeing through their bedroom windows.

At the same time the bright red Mars is setting in the west. Saturn and Venus will be in conjunction on the 15th, so Venus may appear larger and brighter to some, who do not know what has happened.

At this time of the year the constellations Scorpio and Sagittarius, the Archer, dominate the night sky, and Sagittarius is the centre of the Universe. It is worth going outside on a clear cold night, seeing Scorpio overhead, followed by Sagittarius, the centre of our spiral galaxy.

There are about 3 000 stars visible at one time if one looks at the Milky Way with the naked eye. With the assistance of optical aid, over 6 000 are visible, but they all cannot be seen at one time. Most of the bright stars seen are concentrated towards the Milky Way, which we now know as being bun shaped, being six times as long as it is deep. Some astronomers refer to the Galaxy as being disc shaped. The concentration of stars is towards the centre where the constellation of Sagittarius is situated, being the centre of our Galaxy.

In the early evening Scorpio is directly overhead, followed by Sagittarius, Leo is setting in the west, and Capricornus the Goat, is rising in the east. At the end of one of the horns of the Goat is a double star known as. Alpha Capricornus, this is easily seen with binoculars, but if the two stars can be identified with the naked eye, then it is a test for good eyesight.

Can you identify this double star, or not ?

The Planets

Mercury, magnitude -1.2 is visible in the east before sunrise until the 29th. On the 13th it **will be 1.9°** South of Jupiter, and on the 19th 1° South of, the Moon, and on the 27th 6° South of Pollux. It will be in opposition on the 30th.

Venus, magnitude -3.9 is the very bright morning planet seen in the east before sunrise. It will be in conjunction with Saturn on the 15th, and is 0° 35' from the Moon on the 17th at 20hrs.

Mars, magnitude -2.0, rises in the east at sunset and spends the month between the constellations Scorpio and Ophiuchus. It becomes a morning planet in the west at sunrise. Mars is 6° south of the Moon on the 30th.

Jupiter, magnitude -1.9, is a morning planet

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in the east with Venus and Saturn. In midmonth it will move into Gemini, it is 0°.2 north of the Moon on the 19th.

Saturn, magnitude + 0.1, is a morning planet visible in the east before sunrise. On the 17th it is 0 °.6 north of the Moon.

Uranus, magnitude +5.7, is in Capricorn, optical aid is necessary to see it.

Neptune, magnitude 7.9, is visible with optical aid in Capricorn

Pluto, magnitude +14 is in the 13th sign of the Zodiac, only being visible using a large telescope.

The Moon

New Moon is on the 20th; First Quarter 27th. Full Moon 5th; Last Quarter on the 13th.

The Sun

On the 1st Sunrise is, at 0 7;53 am. and Sunset at 5;48 pm. On the 30th Sunrise is at 07;39 am. and Sunset at 6;06 pm.

The Solar Eclipse

This was a fascinating sight for all those who Observed it. A number Of people appeared to use the special Solar Glasses, either purchased or obtained as a free gift from a local newspaper, the majority seemed to be using the tea bag folded over twice, suggested by the demonstrator of the Johannesburg Planetarium. The most pleasant colour obtained was by using No 14 welder's glass filter (for electric welding). The optical aluminium available called Mylar was also used. The Eclipse was visible from 13hr 17min. as the Moon's shadow crept across the face of the Sun. 41 % of the Sun was covered at 14hr 36min.

The Moon's shadow finally moved away from the Sun at 15hr 49min. Photographs of totality from Zimbabwe or Zambia will be of great interest as stars and Solar activity will be shown. Keep your glasses as the next Solar Eclipse will be on the 4th December 2002, with totality in the Kruger Park area and over 60% at Simon's Town.

Comet

The Comet C/2001 A2 Linear is visible in the evening sky using binoculars, at about Zero meridian of the Celestial Longitude.

Anniversary

This year we celebrate the anniversary of the visit to South Africa of the famous French astronomer Abbe N. de la Caille, who came to the Cape a hundred years after the arrival of Commander Jan van Riebeeck.

De la Caille identified and plotted 10,000 new stars which are not visible in the Northern Hemisphere. He published a Star Catalogue of 400 of the brightest stars observed and reduced with the utmost care which was far superior to any predecessors work, as well as calculating accurately the distance of the Moon from Earth.

A number of readers have asked for a list of the times taken by the planets to go around the Sun particularly as one newspaper printed obviously incorrect information.

Mercury takes 87.9 days; Venus 224.7 days; Earth 365.25 days; Mars 686.9 days; Jupiter 11.86 years; Saturn 29.46 years; Uranus 84.01 years; Neptune 164.8 years; Pluto 248.5 years.

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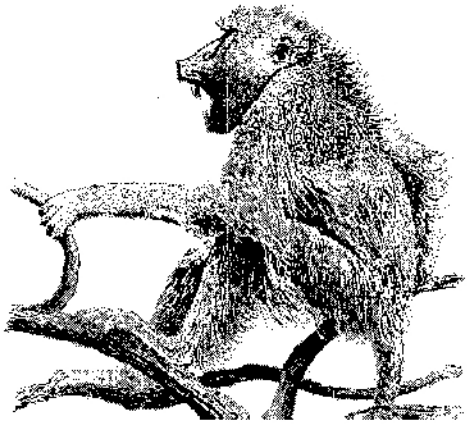

BABOON MONITORS DISCONTINUED

Funding for the baboon monitors who have been employed to keep the Welcome Glen and Da Gama Park troop out of residential areas, ended at the end of May - already resulting in mayhem in both areas.

Unsuspecting residents have had their homes, bins and gardens badly raided and dogs have had some uncomfortably close encounters.

Gutters get damaged as the baboons scramble over rooftops and generally they cause endless damage in their endeavours to get food. Baboons come into residential areas because people have fed them and food is easier to come by. Nutritionally a discarded half loaf of brown bread is equivalent to 4 hours foraging in their natural habitat and they are getting enough natural food.

South African National Parks, Province and Cape Town Mega-City have each agreed to contribute 1/5 each of the money needed to employ the baboon monitors **on condition that residents in the affected areas contribute 1/5 of the money needed** (the final 1/5 of the money would need to be raised from the private sector). We need at least 250 households from both areas to contribute

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R20.00 a month for monitors to continue. If all 500 households contributed, this could be reduced to R16.00 a month! This is a lot cheaper than replacing broken gutters and stolen food! Summer is around the corner - imagine having to keep all windows and doors locked and sorted against the likelihood of a baboon raid.

Funds are administered and managed by the Baboon Management Team comprising of three authority bodies and the Kommetjie Environmental Awareness Group (KEAG). Records are transparent and open to scrutiny at any time.

Special boxes have been placed at Jacks Superette (De Gama Park), Kommetjie Post Office, Mickeys Mousetrap (Scarborough) and KEAG Offices (tel: 782 9612 and 780-1857) for your contributions. Further specifics: Wally Petersen (KEAG) or Rosemary Ashley (Wildcats Girl resident 781-6018).

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A Tanganyika Diary - Part 6

January 15 1963

A Doctor Schüpf and his wife have arrived at the Mission. He is a surgeon on a working holiday - and his very first case was the smashed stomach of a man who had fallen from a coconut palm. These trees are impressively tall. Sailor and I met him at his temporary home: a dark, thin, affable person. He offered us a choice of drinks: whisky, brandy, gin? I asked for a brandy, Sailor opted for a whisky. To our amazement both drinks were poured from the same bottle which contained a clear colourless liquid. Add soda and you have whisky, a dollop of Rose's Lime gives you brandy. Rather potent, but pleasant. This all-purpose alcohol is distilled by the Brothers, for purposes other than sundowners.

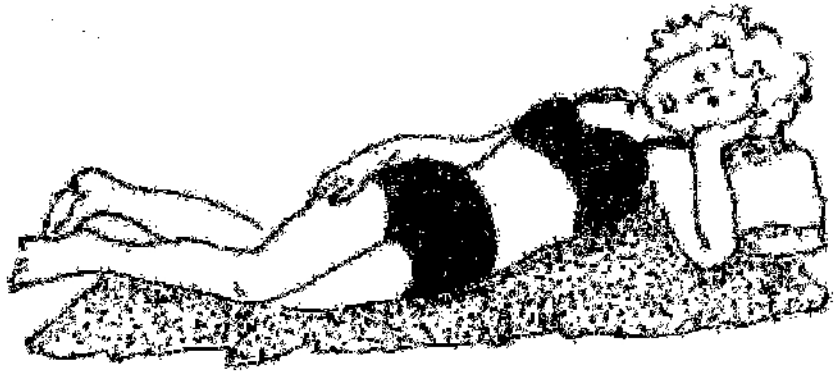
February 15

Well, well, Dr Schüpf has shaken a finger at Sailor, who arrived home looking like death warmed up and full of malaria. Not surprisingly: he'd been wading endlessly through water which at times reached chest-high. The good surgeon knows enough about tropical diseases to realise that Sailor's condition was very serious; he administered shots and ordered him to bed - and to stay there. When Schüpf arrived next day he found his patient missing. Sailor had disappeared with Mkombo and a few peasers. He resuscitated two days ago, having cured himself - he said - with the internal application of a bottle of Red Heart rum; but now he has jaundice, which is a serious condition. Sailor has promised to obey doctor's orders from now on. I must say he looks rather odd with those curry-coloured eyes.

March 17

This morning there was the sound of returning water. Regina rushed in: "Amepiga chui Bwana! Kula sabisa!" My poor fatherless child, I thought. Regina's excitement seemed rather callous, until her words reshuffled themselves: Bwana had killed a leopard, not vice versa.

Besides a dead leopard, Sailor has brought back an intriguing story. In Mtunga village, on the Rutpa River, the headman was officially styled the NKOSI and his sub-head was called the INDUNA, surely the names of Zulu origin. The Nkosi said his forefathers had come from elsewhere a long time ago: why and how was a mystery. One can only speculate, says Sailor, that a Zulu inca was sent North - circa 1800 - on a raiding/exploration mission and arrived in the Kilombero Valley after a trek of over 2,000 miles. Not having accomplished their mission, perhaps, finding the terrain to their liking, the inca decided to settle there and take control. Now all that remain are the titles and system of administration. No trace of the Zulu language has survived.



The End of an Era

Thursday 8 March 2001 was an historic day in the history of the South African Navy. On that day the era of the "Ton Class" minesweeper effectively came to an end. I was lucky enough to be invited to attend the activities on that auspicious day.

Having joined SAS WALVISBAAI (Cdr Wayne Beattie) at C Wall for 'stand easy' at 10:00, the ship sailed from Simon's Town soon after 11:00. The aim was to meet up with a tug and its tow that had left Germany some five weeks previously and was expected in Simon's Bay that afternoon. Unfortunately the tug, having encountered the Benguella current, had not been making the speed it had projected and the latest report showed that it was by then some 7 to 10 hours behind schedule. We nevertheless proceeded, hoping to meet up with her off Kommetjie.

We could not have selected better weather if we had tried. It was indeed a beautiful day, False Bay was flat calm with the water being riffled by a light breeze, there were a few light white clouds scudding by overhead in an otherwise azure blue sky. The well-known and very distinctive noise of WALVISBAAI'S two Deltic engines once again spread out over the waters of False Bay as we made our busy way down to Cape Point.

After rounding Cape Point we encountered the normal long low swells of a calm South Atlantic, imparting the well known slow roll and slight pitch so common to the Ton Class ships.

In due course shortly before 14:00 we sighted the tug and her tow some miles west, north west of Cape Town and closed to inspect the barge. High and dry on the barge were six German Type "351" MCM Vessels previously of their Navy and recently acquired by the SA Navy. After circling the tug and its tow we set course back to Simon's Town and entered harbour as the sun was setting.

This all sounds very routine and nothing really much out of the ordinary as far as the WALVISBAAI is concerned. However when we consider that this was most probably the last ever operational task at sea for WALVISBAAI, then one begins to appreciate that this was no routine or mundane task.

SAS WALVISBAAI is one of the ten Ton Class Minesweepers acquired by the SA Navy during the 1950's. They together with other ships were part of the so-called "Simon's Town Agreement" between South Africa and Britain. The WALVISBAAI was one of the last to arrive in South Africa and has seen some 43 years of service.

Most of those of my generation who served at sea in the SA Navy, saw service on these hard-working little ships at some time during their careers. The most common task allocated to them were fishery patrols off both the Namibian coast and off our own

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coast. Naturally they also carried out Mine Countermeasures training and took part in many MCM exercises in the approaches to all our harbours. It was in these ships that we learnt our seamanship, ship handling and navigation. It was in these ships that we gained the experience required to enable us to move to more complex vessels - be they frigates, strike craft or the more modern mine hunters.

There are now only 4 of the ten (6 were disposed of in 1988/89) left in the service. In their five decades of service in the SA Navy they were recognised as the workhorses of the Navy, carrying out many of the routine and rather mundane tasks that other ships tried to avoid. As a result in that time the Ton class mineswepers have become a routine sight sailing from Simon's Town, working and training in False Bay. They also became a regular and visible representation of South African maritime authority both in our own coastal waters and those of friendly neighbouring States.

The class had its origin in the supply pants that hit the US and British Navies when a mine threat developed in the opening stages of the Korean War. The bugs mine countermeasures forces built up by these two navies in World War II had been allowed to dissipate in less than five years through lack of interest.

Suddenly the two biggest navies in the world at the time were brought up short in Korean waters by a simple and oft forgotten weapon, the sea mine. What all had failed to understand was that sea mines were, and still are, relatively readily available and can be laid by unsophisticated vessels, even by small fishing boats. In the years since 1945 over 50% of the 20 or so US Navy warships sunk or damaged in hostile waters, were as the result of mines.

Britain built some 118 Ton class ships in that period and they have seen service in European waters, Hong Kong, and South America as well as in South Africa.

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Of all the 518 Ton class minesweepers built, SAS WALVISBAAI is the last in operational commission. The sailing on 8 March was thus not simply the last for the WALVISBAAI, or the last for the SA Navy of those gallant little ships; it was the last for any navy in the world.

The newly arrived "551's" are of a similar age and the question can well be asked, why not keep those ships that we know rather than replace them with other ships of similar age. A large part of the problem lies in the fact that the Ton Class vessels have a wooden hull fixed directly to an aluminium framework. A chemical reaction occurring with the aluminium over the decades of use has weakened these joining points, and repair requires the complete replanking of the hull without in reality solving the cause of the problem. With other problems such as spare parts for engines and systems they are therefore becoming increasingly expensive to maintain.

The German ships although they also have wooden hulls, are different in that they also have a wooden frame and do not therefore suffer from the same problem. It is projected that they should still have at least one or possibly even two decades of life in our Navy. Further these six ships plus all the remaining logistic backup for the class, were offered to us at a bargain basement price and could thus be purchased largely within the original budget proposed to keep the 4 Ton Class viable. Of the six only four will be commissioned and operated, the other two will be used as a source of spares for those four.

Chris Bennett, March 2001

"Naval Digest" the Journal of the SA Naval Heritage Society, is of great interest and well worth buying. You may find an acquaintance within its illustrated pages.

Logo for Da Gama Park

The committee of Da Gama Park has decided to erect entrance welcome boards at 10th Avenue and in the vicinity of SAMI. We now invite anyone to participate in the competition for designing a unique Da Gama Park Logo and slogan.

The prize for the winner will be an electric weed eater to the value of R300-00. The closing date for the competition is 27 July 2001.

All entries to reach Annatjie Gouwa at the DSO Building, No 972, during work hours and after hours at No. 9, 11th Avenue, Da Gama Park. Telephone no. (w) 787 4449 or after hours 786 5953.

Wag 'n Bietjie Vetkoek Den

60 St Georges St, Simon's Town

Tel: 786 4829

Best value for your money!

Try our Vetkoek, Fanie and Monica

We deliver!

CRIME REPORT

Simon's Town SAPS

If your car breaks down in an isolated area:

- Open your bonnet.
- Sit inside the car with the doors locked until help arrives.
- Leave the windows up while you talk to whomever comes near. It may be safer to stay in your car than to go with strangers to get help.
- If someone comes up to your car, ask them to call the police, somebody you know or, tow truck - wait in your car.
- Remember that freeways are constantly patrolled

If your think a person in another car is following you:

- Do not drive home.
- Head for the nearest police station or open business, such as a petrol station, where you can call the police.
- Do not allow another car to force you to the side of the road. Your life is worth more than fixing a dent to your car.
- Get the registration number and write it down.

Approaching your destination: Practise the 1km security routine to enhance your concentration levels. This involves the following when you're this far from your destination:

- Turn off your cell phones and radio, and quieten down your passengers.
- Be aware of people in the area,
- Consider removing your safety belt as you get even closer to your destination (this is against road regulations but will mean that you'll have less to do if you are in danger).
- Good lighting and clearing any of bushes and trees around your garage and entrance are good security measures.

When you arrive at your destination:

- Practise the 1km security routine
- Park in a well lit spot as close as possible.
- Look around for people before opening your car door.
- Try to park in an attended parking area
- If you are using a parking valet, remove your car key from your key ring and take all other keys with you.

Insp. GT Store

Proudly sponsored in the interests of public safety

Chubb ARMED RESPONSE

Be Warned!

A form of TATTOO called THE BLUE STAR is being sold to school children.

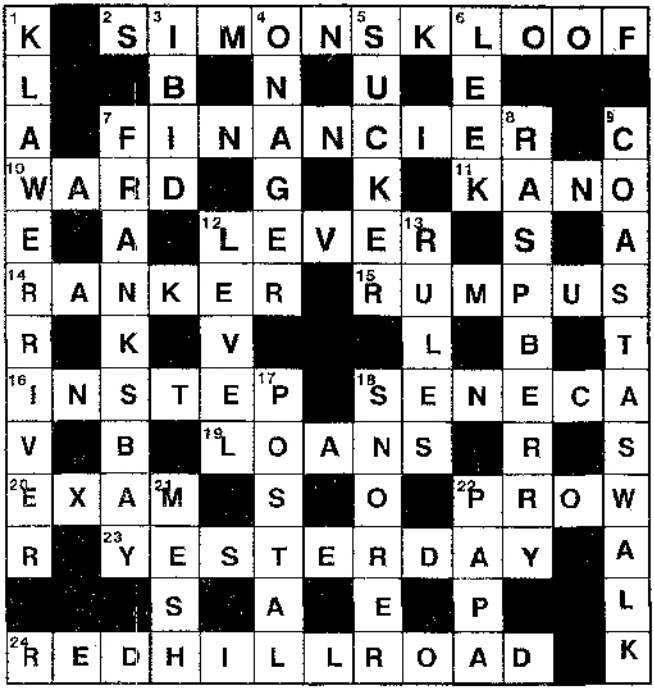
Description - This a small sheet of paper containing "blue stars. They are the size of a pencil top eraser.
Each star is soaked in LSD.
THE DRUG CAN BE ABSORBED THROUGH THE SKIN SIMPLY BY HANDLING THE PAPER.
There are also brightly coloured tabs resembling postage stamps which have pictures of Clowns, Superman, Mickey Mouse, Bart Simpson, Butterflies and other Disney Characters. Each one is wrapped in foil. This is a new way of selling 'acid' by appealing to young children and your child could come across these and have a "fatal trip".
It is also believed little children could be given a tattoo by other children who want to have some fun by cultivating new customers.

A stamp called THE RED PYRAMID is also being distributed; along with microdots in various colours. Another is THE WINDOW PANE; which has a grid that can be cut out. ALL OF THESE ARE LACED WITH DRUGS.

If your child gets hold of any of the above DO NOT HANDLE THEM. These are known to react quickly and some are laced with STRYCHNINE.

Symptoms - Hallucinating, uncontrolled laughter, changes in body temperature, severe vomiting and mood changes.

SOLUTION PUZZLE 5

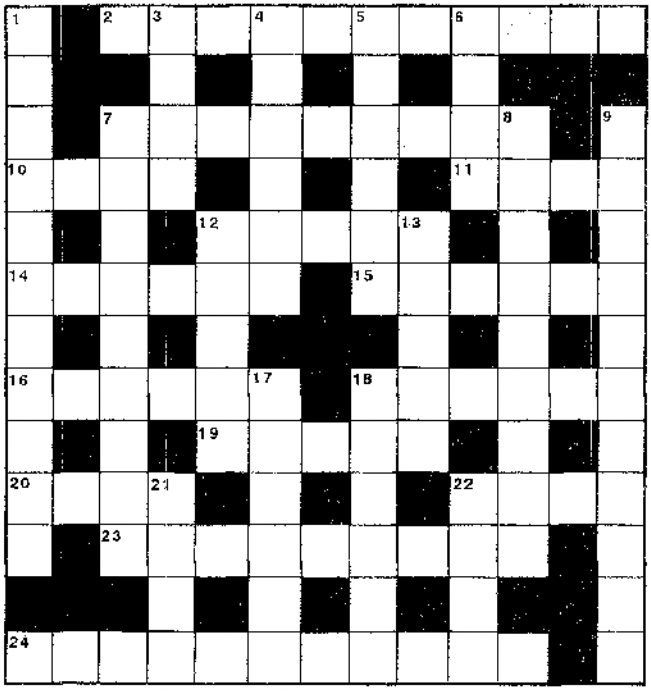


WINNER for Crossword No 5 - G. Siddle

Simon's Town Civic Association
Committee Members and their Portfolios:

Chairman:	Mrs Jacky Weaver	782 5335
Vice-chairman & Property Report:	Geoffrey Palmer	786 5402
For the ex-GCA:	CPO Manu Choudree	782 7241
	and Ian Allan	782 2736
Treasurer:	Ian Allan	782 2736
For the ex-STRRA:	Dr John Morris	786 1765
	and Wilf Nussey	786 1368
Communications:	Wilf Nussey	786 1368
Red Hill:	Amos Lombo	780 9204/W
		780 9123/ H
Security/Safety:	Cdr. Blackie Swart	786 2508
Cultural Affairs:	Cpt. Terry Korsten	782 1889
Environment:	Dr. Mike Berger	786 4823
Economic Development:	Andre Duraan	786 1918
Recreation/Community:	Dr Reg Loxton	786 1750
SA Navy:	Captain Chris Roodt	787 3049
National Parks:	Justin Buchmann	780 9100
Pollution Monitor:	Dr John Morris	786 1765

CROSSWORD PUZZLE 6



Across

1 A simple fellow shut in Glen Ridge (5,5)
8 See4Dn.
9,24 Nothing will enter a draft horse for a ride down to a local school (8,4)
10 Mount transport on a chopped-up tree (6)
11 A satisfied exclamation follows a backward idiot - a sponger! (6)
12 The period before is backward, too (3)
13 A team makes a personal remark (5)
15 The wallaby, a lout, can be a private rule (2,3)
17 A signal emergency (3)
19 Arrange return from the Trossacks (6)
21 It's sad to return a smoke after a sound meal (6)
23 To go places, this should be forward (4,4)
24 See 9
25 'Gryl' Gladys roughly to disclose a God's horse or a universal tree (10)

Down

2 Do these pubs have equal pressure from their customers (7)
3 It's money for old rope getting this caulking material (5)
4,8 Acr. It's south of us, where the rook has the diamond ! (6,4)
5 It speaks, "is nothing clear ?" Confused ? (5)
6 It's green and the branch is carried by E Coy. as ordered (7)
7 If it's this violet, you can't see it (5)
14, 20 The dressy pot is upset with DTs and gets where the owner of the Salty Seado~ should have lived and what he took when he danced (7,5)
16 The maid is suffering from a big ailment (7)
17 How Johnnie Walker (1820) is still going (6)
18 A roast, cooked to a T, is still in the generator (6)
20 See 14
22 Scare out some tracts of land (5)

PRIZE: R100 voucher valid at Café Pescado

Name: ..... Tel. No: .....

- Entries in plain envelope addressed to Snoektown Calling Crossword Puzzle and delivered to Simon's Town Bottle Store before 20 June 2001.
- First correct entry drawn will be the prize winner.
- Only one entry per person permitted.
- Result and solution in the following issue of Snoektown Calling.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS
JULY 2001

1. SIMON'S TOWN MUSEUM Ph. 786 3046 **Wed. 12th July - 5. 30 for 6 pm. "William Fehr Collection, Cape Town Castle"** Talk by Karl Kopelski R10 per person (includes a complimentary glass of wine/fruit juice prior to lecture).

2. FRIENDS OF THE SIMON'S TOWN COASTLINE Enquiries Ph. 786 2890 - All welcome

Sunday 8th July at 0930 Alien Vegetation Hack with SAVE. Venue: South end of Watsonia Drive, Murdock Valley North.

Sunday 8 July at 9.30 Alien Vegetation Hack and Planting of Indigenous Shrubs at Boulders and Links Crescent. Meet at Boulders Car Park.

Saturday 15th July at 9.30 Alien vegetation hack and planting of indigenous shrubs. Venue: Links Crescent BUT meet at Boulders car park.

Tuesday 15th August at 7:30 Illustrated talk - "Processes and Sea Water Quality in Simon's Bay" by Mr. Karel Wahman (I.M.T. staff member) Venue: Auditorium, Institute of Marine Technology, Martello Rd, Simon's Town.

Sunday 22 July at 9.30 Combined Allday Walk with Simon's Town Flora Conservation Group in the Cape of Good Hope Nature Area from Smitswinkel Lookout to Boat-se-Skerm. Meet at the Main Gate, Cape of Good Hope Nature Area (The normal entrance fees are payable) Enquiries 789 1336

Thursday 26 July at 7.15pm for 7.30pm Illustrated Talk on Fynbos Ecology with special reference to the Southern Peninsula and Simon's Town area by Dr Tony Rebelo, Botanical Research Institute. Venue: Museum Hall, Court Rd, Simon's Town. Enquiries 786 6890.

Saturday 28 July at 9.30am Combined Alien Vegetation Hack with Simon's Town Flora Conservation Group to safeguard a population of Sonuria cynardides from alien plant encroachment. Meet at the entrance to Woodlands suburb, Da Gama Parkvia Dido Valley Rd. Enquiries 786 1620.

3. PENSIONER'S FREE MONTHLY SHOPPING BUS To Pick 'n Pay from Murdoch Valley (via Crest bus terminus), then Simon's Town, Glencairn and Fish Hook to Sun Valley and return. For dates, times and pick-up points please telephone 786 3197

4. WALKING TOURS OF THE HISTORIC MILE, SIMON'S TOWN Every Tuesday and Saturday (Booking essential) Ph. Bubble 786 3189 (Tues) Ph. Audrey 786 1806 (Sat)

5. SPOORNET LEGAL TRAIN IN TOWN 2-7 July - The train, which is fully equipped as a legal office and law clinic, offers legal aid to those members of the community who do not have other access to the law. The service is free and legal consultations are provided by qualified attorneys. An interpreter will also be available.

6. MASONIC CLUB

6 July - QUIZ 8 pm, R10 pp (supper @ R8).
13 July - DANCE 8 pm. Free
20 July - BINGO 8 pm, R25pp incl. supper
27 July - DANCE 5 pm. Free.
Bookings: Sylvia @ 782 7161 or Norma @786 2129.

7. SIMON'S TOWN MUSEUM & HISTORICAL SOCIETY - 19 July. Lecture by Andre K. Martinaglia and Maria Martinengo - Italians in South Africa and Simon's Town, 5.30 pm for 6 pm at the Museum. R10 donation.

Deadline for August Edition

Thursday 26 July

Publication Date - Monday 6 August
Contact Sue Sturman
Tel 786 5788 or 786 2436
(Simon's Town Publicity Assoc)