

Holidays we were to either remain at the college or go to an Aunt in Steynsburg. The charge for remaining at the college was very nominal, I think £1.

There was no comparison with the huge present day buildings. On the area bounded by Oxford Street on the west and Recreation Road on the east there were three schools, the girls on Oxford Street, the Kindergarten and Selborne and boarding establishment as well as the principal's house; all now demolished and on which is built the Grens Junior School. The school was a large double storey building with our class room, Junior certificate as it was then known upstairs. The seating was not at all good for one had to share a desk in which you kept your books in a small box under the cover. However, we managed and got through the exam at the end of the year. We soon settled down and made friends with both the old and new boys. Among the boarders were the Miles of Cathcart - farmers, about seven - all cousins, Hartly from Dordrecht, Krugers, two Jews from the Free State, Lowe, McIntosh etc.

The boarding establishment had only been opened the previous year. They were all very friendly and had as yet got up to pranks on new boys. My brother and I came from furthest north but we were later joined by others from up north; Urry and Welsh from Mafeking and one or two others. The boarding house was a large double storey building with upstairs two large dormitories each with twenty beds and a bath and shower at the end of each. There were two small rooms for sick bays. Downstairs a large dining room with four tables where we fed and at the head of each table sat Miss Munro, the matron, Duke Metcalf - a 1903 Springbok, the Netherlands master, Neethling and at the fourth the master on duty for the week. Here we also did our homework and studying. The masters had their rooms downstairs as also Miss Munro. There were of course the usual kitchen etc. As there was no sewerage in those days the 'toilet' or whatever you like to call it were three 'smallest rooms' out in the yard, so that if one was taken short it was a case of running downstairs hoping for the best. The food was plentiful, plain, but good. Porridge and bread and scrape for breakfast (the smell of the master's bacon and eggs etc!). meat, vegetables in season and pudding for dinner and at night bread and jam.

Duke Metcalf was a great sportsman and coached football - rugby only came later - cricket and tennis. Our grounds were about a quarter acre of gravel but fortunately across the road was the Recreation ground, now called the Smuts ground. On the way, at the corner of Recreation Road was a small tuck shop run by a Mr Frankish. He told me that his name was George Nettelton Frankish - spelt leton and not as we do elton. We must have been bad spellers - which I still am - and so may have lost a fortune for having the wrong spelling.

For the first short holiday - Easter - we remained at school but we always had something to do. Either go for a picnic to Bats Cave or elsewhere and were always provided with a very fine basket of food. On other days we would be taken up to Green Point by Neethling who was a member of the Leander Rowing Club who in those days had a few wherries - I think they are called. It was lovely being out on the Buffalo in a nice boat. These boats were built by the caretaker - Feeby or Phoebly. Other days we three or four just walk down Oxford Street -

untarred/