

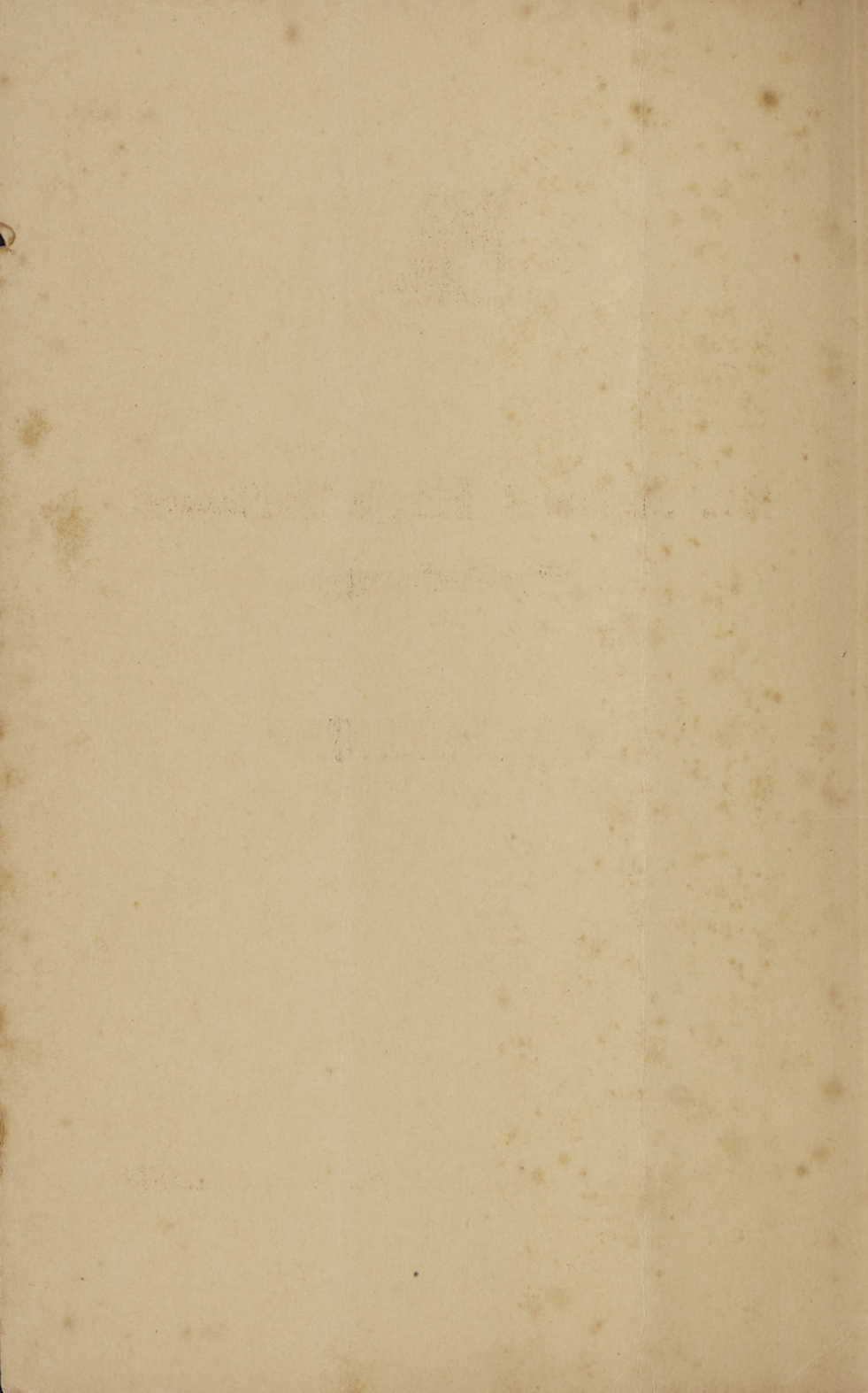


St. John's High School
MARITZBURG
MAGAZINE



Vol. XIX

1955





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By Gail Driver, Form V.

REVEREND MOTHER'S LETTER

Convent of S. John the Divine,
342 Loop Street,
Pietermaritzburg.
St. Patrick's Day, 1955.

My dear Past and Present Girls,

In 1957 the school will celebrate its Diamond Jubilee—sixty years of life. During those sixty years, I suppose, on an average twenty girls have left the school each year. If the leaving girls had joined the Old Girls' Association every year, its membership would number nearly a thousand, allowing for deaths and other just causes of falling off. There are, in fact, I imagine, not more than three hundred members of the Old Girls' Association, and of these there are perhaps twenty who carry out the necessary work of the Association.

It is a fellowship that keeps alive the friendship and spirit of the school and the members in touch with one another and their school. It is a tangible proof of love and loyalty.

A member of the Association who very readily undertook a service to the school, in answer to my letter thanking her, wrote: "I feel it is a great privilege to be able to give up time to St. John's after all St. John's did for me." That is the spirit that animates the girls who left the school over a decade ago. Is it so today? Or is there some truth in the assertion that today young people are out to get all they can and give nothing in return?

The school needs the support of its past, as of its present girls. I am not thinking now in terms of money-raising efforts, wonderful as these have been, but of that warmth of fellowship and loyalty which is such an inspiration and encouragement to those who run the school, and not least to the sisters whose school it is.

A school honours its pupils by imparting to them those special, precious things for which it stands, its special ethos. The pupils honour their school by what they are in their lives outside. This is also an illustration of our relationship with God. God glorifies His members by imparting to them His Holy Spirit. We glorify God by bearing witness in our lives to the Faith that is in us. How badly courageous witness is needed today!

The O.G.A., with characteristic readiness to give help where it was most needed, gave the splendid proceeds of the Fête, over six hundred pounds, to pay for doing up the outside of the boarding school and chapel. As well as giving the school a "new look", it saved big repair bills, for had it been left longer without repainting, much of the woodwork would have had to be renewed. With soaring costs and several unforeseen boarding vacancies, there was

no money to meet such a big item of expenditure out of income. We are very grateful to our Old Girls for renovating the buildings, which were beginning to look very shabby.

Perhaps for the Diamond Jubilee in 1957 someone will have the inspiration and urge to organise some big effort to pay off the building debt. The Golden Jubilee, in 1947, saw the inauguration of the O.G.A. Building Fund. How wonderful if the Diamond Jubilee saw the debt paid off!

The School Council's "maid of all work", the Finance Committee, was very sorry to part with Mrs. Russell, who as chairman of the Committee from the beginning, had carried out all the work. As she pointed out that originally she had consented to serve on the Council for one year, and had in fact been Chairman of the Finance Committee for five, we felt no further persuasion should be used! We are very grateful to her for the time and work she has given so generously to the Committee, and for consenting to continue as a member of the Council. Mr. Butcher was elected as the fourth member of the Committee in Mrs. Russell's place. As this means coming from Kokstad for monthly meetings, we are most grateful to Mr. Butcher for consenting to serve on it, even for a time. Mr. Jackson was appointed Chairman of the Finance Committee. At the end of the year Vera Tapson and Doreen Dykes, the representatives of the Durban O.G.A., resigned from the Council. Doreen had acted as secretary since the Council first came into being. We are very sorry to lose them from the Council. Sister Pauline has been appointed secretary, and Lyn Medway and Edna Galliers the Durban O.G.A. representatives, whom we welcome on to the Council. For the continued help and interest of all the members of the Council we are deeply grateful.

It was a great pleasure to welcome Mrs. Evans back after the Michaelmas holidays, looking much refreshed by her time overseas. Now Mrs. Brown is on her way to England as I write, on four months' leave. We hope she will have a very happy time and return rested and ready for anything.

Once again we have to thank the Maritzburg O.G.A. for befriending our S. Cross children and taking them for a lovely picnic in October. The annual street collection held in May was again organised by them and realised the record sum of £148 6s. They have nobly consented to run it this year on May 21st.

I can't imagine how Myrle is going to count the cash without Sybil, who will be in England!

Thank you all.

Yours affectionately,

† MARY RICHMAL, S.S.J.D., Mother Superior

REPORT OF HEADMISTRESS, 1954

My Lord, Reverend Mother, Mr. Nuttall, ladies and gentlemen, I have the honour to present my report for the year 1954.

It has been a year as full of activity as usual, and has been marked by an increase in numbers, especially among the day-scholars. We have very nearly reached the limit of accommodation in the classrooms as well as in the dormitories, and are glad to think that all the care and devotion of the Sisters is bearing such good fruit. They still visit us to take Divinity classes, as does the Chaplain, Canon Cranswick, to whom we are sincerely grateful for all his kindness to us and for his interest in the school.

This year I owe a special debt of gratitude to the Staff, who so loyally carried on the work of the school while I was away on long leave. To my Vice-Principal, Miss Stidworthy, who took charge during my absence, I find it difficult adequately to express my thanks: with unfailing tact and good humour she kept things going so successfully that everyone was happy, and it was a real joy to me to return to St. John's in such happy circumstances. Mrs. Bynoe also went overseas this year, and we are grateful to the music staff, especially Miss Millar, for all their work and interest in the music department. In August we welcomed Mrs. Stewart as Kindergarten mistress in place of Mrs. le Marchand, who has gone to live in Jersey, and in October Miss Coupland came to us as Junior Matron in place of Miss Hall, who is to be married soon. To-day we have several "good-byes" to say: to Mrs. Camp, Miss Algar and Miss Millar from the music staff, and also to Miss Story and Miss Herrington. To them all we offer our good wishes, together with our grateful thanks for all they have done for the school.

Our very special good wishes go to Miss Phillips, who is to be married in January, and also to Mrs. Ossowski and Mrs. Brown, who will both be going overseas on leave next year.

Staffing is, of course, still a major problem with us, as it is in all schools to-day, not only private schools, and not only in South Africa. We have been fortunate in securing the services of several part-time teachers, including our good friend, Mrs. Nuttall, who are willing to help us next year.

Examination results in 1953 were as follows: In the Senior Certificate and Matriculation Examination, 5 candidates gained 2nd class passes, 5 third class and there were 4 failures. Of the 10 passes, 6 gained Matriculation exemption and a 7th qualified in March. In the Junior Certificate Examination, out of 31 entries, there were 3 first class passes, 14 second, 9 third and 5 failures. Two of the 1st class J.C. girls left us at the end of the year, and one of them, Philippa Ballard, is now doing very well at the Cone-Ripman School in London, where she studies ballet, as well as academic subjects.

The music students have done very well in public examinations this year, and together with the elocution and dancing pupils, gave a very successful concert in September. Miss Millar's Listening Club meetings on Saturday mornings have given much enjoyment and interest to all who attended them.

The Art students, under Mrs. Nel's guidance, have produced some excellent work, as I hope you will see for yourselves, and have gained a very pleasing number of awards in the Azalea Week competition, and also at the Royal Show. No entries were sent in this year for the Payne Bros. competition, as it was held rather later in the term than usual.

During December, 1955, and January, 1956, we are hoping to send a party of girls, in charge of Mrs. Nel and other members of the staff, on a tour of some of the European countries and Great Britain, and shall be glad to give information about this to any parents who are interested and have not already been told about it. It should be a wonderful experience for those who are able to go.

We are again indebted to Mr. Peter Hey, and also to Miss Kingsley-Hall, of the University Faculty of Education, for the production of "Twelfth Night" with a cast from Form V, in September. The players thoroughly enjoyed rehearsals, and I am told that the final product was most creditable. We appreciate very much the interest taken and the hard work done by Mr. Hey and the Diploma students. In addition to "Twelfth Night", the girls have had the opportunity this year of seeing four other Shakespeare plays, "King Lear" and "Macbeth", at the University, "Richard II" at College, and "Richard III" in the open-air theatre at Michaelhouse. There have been other entertainments, musical and otherwise, both at school and away, including a delightful Evening of Sonnets, arranged by Miss Abraham, with the help of her elocution pupils.

In Games, Miss Gillitt's enthusiasm, and perhaps the example of the English women's hockey team and of the tennis player, Drobny, have inspired the girls to do well. Three of our girls were chosen for the Maritzburg Schools' hockey, Margaret Adam to play in the team and two others as reserves. For the first time, this year there was no League hockey, but a full programme of friendly matches, which were all very much enjoyed. Tennis matches could not be completed during the last quarter, owing to restrictions on school sport. Swimming continues to be popular, and in the Junior Gala St. John's gained third place.

In the Hofmeyr Memorial Contest for Public Speaking, the Head Girl, Elizabeth Lyle, represented us very creditably. This is always an interesting event in the school year, much enjoyed by the audience, if less so by the contestants.

Before the Bishop left on his tour of Britain and America, he conducted a Confirmation Service here. Twenty girls were confirmed and nearly all their parents were able to attend the service and meet staff members and girls at tea on the lawn afterwards.

St. John's Week-end was celebrated as usual in May, and the Old Girls organised a most successful Fête, at which over £600 was raised for school funds. It is our great good fortune to have a body of Old Girls so actively and practically interested in the school. Some of its members also serve on the School Council, which, with the Finance Committee, does so much in the service of St. John's, and one Old Girl, Mrs. Franklin, has earned our undying gratitude by coming to teach Biology for us.

When I was in London in June, I attended a Headmistresses' Conference—a most interesting and stimulating experience. Amongst other things I learned that 600 headmistresses at lunch could make nearly as much noise as St. John's boarders!

Many of the problems discussed were similar to our own, but it was brought home to me that in one respect we in South Africa are very much more fortunate than are citizens of Britain and other older countries, where competition is immeasurably greater than it is here. This begins in the child's school life when, at 11, she must pass an examination which will qualify her for entry to a Grammar School, a Technical School, or a Secondary Modern, according to her ability and aptitude. A more recent development is the large Comprehensive School, where all three streams are catered for and where numbers are in the region of 2,000. Whether she attends one of these State institutions or one of the smaller independent schools, the girl is faced with still more competition when she is ready to embark on her career. It is by no means easy to gain entry to the Universities and Training Colleges, especially the older ones, and she may find, first, that she does not qualify for acceptance by the College of her first choice, and then that even second and third choices are closed to her because of pressure of numbers. All this means that she must consistently put forth her best effort, if she is to achieve her ambition, or even part of it.

Our first thought is that we in South Africa are fortunate indeed in that our choice is less restricted and our opportunities greater. But is this necessarily a matter for congratulation? I think not, if it causes us to value these opportunities too lightly, which is just what I think we are in danger of doing. Every pupil should have the urge to achieve the best of which she is capable, and no one should be content to leave school at the earliest possible moment and take the easiest job that offers. A sound education is necessary as a basis for any worthwhile career, and it is the duty of parents and teachers to see that girls make the best use of their opportunities in this way.

Parents, in particular, can contribute a great deal to the development of a more balanced and responsible attitude. For this does not depend only upon the school environment, but very much upon that of the home also. A girl who is allowed, and even encouraged, to regard life during week-ends and holidays as one long round of parties and pleasure is not likely to settle down to serious work without some difficulty—nor is she likely to have the right approach to school life in general. The school does aim at equipping girls to take their place in society and to make a worthy contribution to it—it does *not* aim at giving them a society life *at* school. I do appeal to parents to do their part in combating this evil of premature sophistication and to help their daughters fulfil the high promise that is in them.

E. R. EVANS.

PRIZE LIST

- STANDARD I: Z. Tabachnik, B. Bailey, P. Stewart. *Special*: S. Withey.
- STANDARD II: J. Pistorius, E. Mackay, A. Fairweather.
- STANDARD III: R. Linscott, J. Heath, J. Corrigan.
- STANDARD IV: G. Croft, E. Mayo.
- STANDARD V: J. Abbott, E. Stewart.
- STANDARD VI: N. Stewart, P. Backeberg, J. Gillitt.
- FORM IIIb: J. Roberts.
- FORM IIIa: J. Gardner, B. Shaw.
- FORM IVb: E. Griffiths.
- FORM IVa: A. Howard.
- FORM V: E. Aulsebrook, L. Manning, D. Lee.
- FORM VI: P. Shaw, M. England, E. Proudfoot.
- MUSIC: P. Ridgway (*good progress*), H. Jackson (*dist. in exam.*), M. Adam (*good progress*).
- DOMESTIC SCIENCE (presented by Mrs. Henwood): P. Backeberg, E. Proudfoot. *Special* (Mrs. Ossowski): S. Wilkinson.
- ART (presented by Mrs. Russell): J. Gillitt, E. Middleton.
- DIVINITY (presented by S.S.J.D.): S. Richardson, E. Proudfoot.
- PROGRESS (anonymous): *Junior*: Gaye Mitchell. *Middle*: M. Dinkelman. *Senior*: J. Ashfield.
- SPECIAL (presented by H.M.): R. Fort, H. Dukes.
- ELOCUTION: R. Wilson.

CUPS

Inter-House Swimming : Athlone.
 Inter-House Tennis : Rhodes.
 Inter-House Hockey : Athlone.
 Inter-House Singing : Connaught.
 Junior Tennis Singles : L. McKenzie.
 Senior Tennis Singles : P. Shaw.
 Goodman Cup : M. A. A'Bear.
 Deportment Cup : E. Lyle.
 Dux Cup : E. Lyle and E. Tyrrell.
 Aggregate Cup : Athlone.

EXAMINATION RESULTS, 1954

Matriculation and School Leaving Certificates :

1st CLASS	(M)	P. Shaw.
2nd CLASS	(M)	H. Dukes.
	(M)	M. England.
	(M)	R. Fort.
	(SL)	E. Proudfoot.
	(SL)	T. Towler.
3rd CLASS	(M)	E. Tyrrell.
	(SL)	E. Lyle.
	(SL)	J. Nicol.

Junior Certificate :

1st CLASS	J. Clowes.
	A. Howard.
	P. Petty.
2nd CLASS	M. A. A'Bear.
	M. Adamson.
	J. Allenbrook.
	I. Caminsky.
	A. Driver.
	B. Evennett.
	P. Geekie.
	E. Griffiths.
	R. Jackson.
	D. Kanaar.
	A. Lyle.
	M. J. Mildenhall.
	J. Miller.
	P. Stacey.
	R. Suttie.
	G. Youngleson.

3rd CLASS W. Bastard.
 P. Butcher.
 H. Fletcher.
 F. Garrett.
 C. Joyner.
 E. Lynch.
 W. Maling.
 M. Nilsen.
 J. Rattray.
 P. Thian.
 H. Turnbull.
 R. Wallis.
 J. Wood.

1954

SCHOOL DIARY

- APRIL 21 School reopened after the Easter holidays.
 24 A combined Hilton-Michaelhouse team played a tennis match against our first team.
 26 A number of music pupils attended the concert given by the Durban Civic Orchestra.
- MAY 8 A Fête organised by the Old Girls' Association was held in the morning in the Town Hall.
 9 St. John's Day Mass was attended by about 20 Old Girls, followed by breakfast and Old Girls' Association meeting.
 21 The Fifth and Sixth Forms attended a performance of "King Lear" at the University.
 The Fourth Form attended the Maritzburg College production of "King Richard II" in the Rowe Hall.
 25 The Bishop confirmed 20 girls in the School Chapel.
 A group of 15 girls took part in a demonstration of folk-dancing at the Girls' High School.
 27 Ascension Day. A tennis tournament was arranged for the boarders spending the holiday at school.
- JUNE 1 The Junior School started exams.
 2 The Seniors attended a schools' performance of "Richard III" at Michaelhouse.
 3 The Senior School started exams.
 4 Elizabeth Lyle represented St. John's in the preliminary round of the Hofmeyr Speech Contest.
 5 Trinity College theory exams.
 The Maritzburg Schools' hockey team trials were held, and M. Adam, R. Fort and R. Jackson were chosen and M. A'Bear played for the practice team.

- 7 Mrs. Ossowski took a party of Domestic Science pupils to the Italian mannequins' parade.
 - 8 11 Senior girls attended the Michaelhouse dance and 5 the Maritzburg College dance.
 - 11 St. Charles played a tennis match against our first team.
 - 12 A film of the first part of the Royal Tour was shown in the school hall.
 - 21 A large party of girls went to a performance of "Iolanthe" by the Philharmonic Society.
 - 24 Schools' afternoon at the Royal Agricultural Show.
 - 26 A concert was given by Standard VI for the Organ Fund, the proceeds of which were £8 14s. 5d.
 - 30 School closed for the July holidays. Farewell to Mrs. le Marchand, who left S.A. to make her home in Jersey.
- JULY 25 School reopened.
Mrs. Stewart took Mrs. le Marchand's place as Kindergarten teacher.
A large party of girls went to the hockey match between England and Natal. M. Adam played in the Pietermaritzburg Schools' team which opposed Durban Schools in the curtain-raiser.
- AUG. 3 The Junior School attended a concert by the Austrian students.
4 The Seniors attended the Austrian concert.
10 Rev. Montgomery gave a most interesting talk to the school on "Life with the Eskimos above the Arctic Circle".
27 Associated Board, practical music exams.
28 A fancy dress dance was arranged for the boarders, and Mrs. Nel, Mrs. Turnbull, Canon and Mrs. Rogers acted as judges.
Seven Sixth Form girls went to the Kearsney dance.
30 A party of girls attended the concert given by Denis Matthews in the City Hall.
31, Sept. 1 and 3 "Twelfth Night" was produced in the School Hall by Mr. Peter Hey and Miss Kingsley-Hall with a cast from the Fifth Form.
- SEPT. 3 Boarders left for the free week-end.
8 A Youth Festival meeting was attended by the music pupils.
10 J.C. and Matric trial exams began.
Six of the Senior girls attended the Maritzburg College Rugby Dance.
17 The Junior Inter-house Gym Competition was held, judged by Miss Brazier, Athlone winning by a narrow margin.

- 18 Holy Cross Day. The Sixth Form boarders attended Mass at St. Cross.
- 24 Miss Walker judged the Senior Gym Competition, which was won by Rhodes.
- 25 Three hockey teams from Durban Girls' College spent the day at St. John's.
A variety concert was given by the music, dancing and elocution pupils.
- 28 The Inter-House Singing Competition, judged by Miss Heher, was won by Connaught.
- 30 School closed for the Michaelmass holidays.
- OCT. 12 School reopened. We welcomed Mrs. Evans on her return from England.
- 23 Mr. Coubrough, of Messrs. Campbell & Du Plooy, showed travel films in the hall.
- 25 A party of girls attended the Philharmonic concert in the City Hall.
- 28 Forms III and V attended a performance of "Much Ado About Nothing" at the Training College.
- 29 Standards 1 — 6 went to see Helen Cooper's marionettes.
- NOV. 5 Fireworks.
- 6 Mrs. Evans gave a very interesting talk, illustrated by pictures, about some of the places she visited while on tour.
- 7 A tennis match was played against the Old Girls.
- 11 Matric Oral Afrikaans Test.
- 13 The film "Travellers' Joy" was shown in the School Hall.
- 15 School exams started.
- 19 Matric week-end.
A most entertaining sonnet evening was arranged by Miss Abraham.
- 20 Mrs. Bynoe gave a very interesting travel-talk on her experiences overseas.
- 23 Matric exams started.
- 25 J.C. picnic.
- 26 A farewell party was given for the Sixth Form by the Fifth.
- 29 Standards V, VI and Forms III and V attended Mr. Peter Hey's production of "Macbeth" at the University.
- DEC. 4 A braaivleis was organised by the Old Girls for those leaving in Fifth and Sixth Forms.
- 7 The Staff and boarders' Christmas supper was held in the dining room.
- 9 The annual Carol Service was well attended, the tableaux having been arranged by Mrs. Bynoe, with Standard V taking part.

- 10 Prize-giving was held in the School Hall and prizes were distributed by Mr. Nuttall.

1955

- FEB. 1 School reopened a week late on account of polio.
19 Film at school "The Importance of Being Ernest".
22 Head Girl went to hospital and had her appendix out.
26 Mrs. Young came and gave us a talk about cripples, showed us a few films.
- MAR. 5 Film at school "Up Front".
8 Registration photos taken here at school.
12 Miss Muray gave us a delightful evening of music (records).
13 Head Girl returned to school.
16 Mrs. Brown left for her trip overseas and Mrs. Evans took over house duties.
19 Fifth Form put on a play reading of "Quality Street," which was very much enjoyed by the school.
26 Music Staff gave us an enjoyable and interesting evening of music.
31 School closed for Easter holidays.

CHAPEL NOTES

On Sexagesima Sunday, February 21st, the Bishop was the celebrant at Mass. It was a great privilege for us, and one which was much appreciated.

Our Patronal Festival was held on Sunday, May 9th, in the Octave of S. John A.P.L. The celebrant was Canon Cranswick, the Chaplain, assisted by the Rev. P. Hyde. The Rev. Mother was present, with Sisters Constance, Faith and Miriam, and about twenty of the O.G.A. were able to be with us.

The School Confirmation was held on Tuesday, May 25th. There were twenty candidates. It was, as always, a very happy occasion, particularly as the daughters of two of our Past Girls were confirmed, Vera Gace and Anne Blomeyr. First Communions were made on Sunday, June 6th.

On Sunday, June 27th, the Dedication Festival took place as is customary on the last Sunday of the second term.

David Bruce Anderson, Gwen's (Tedder) infant son, was baptized in the Chapel in September, XV Sunday after Trinity. All St. Joseph's were present and sang the hymns with evident enjoyment.

Father Evans conducted a Quiet Day for the Natal University Anglican Students' Guild and other young people in the Michaelmas holidays at school. The day began with Mass in Chapel at 8.30



"MUSIC"—by Eva Scott, Form VI.

a.m. and the Retreatants left at about 5 p.m.. It was a great privilege to be able to welcome them to the Chapel; all expressed themselves most appreciatively of what had been done for their comfort and of the happiness of being able to find quiet in the school grounds, library, etc.

On November 24th the weekly service for the African Staff was once more begun after a lapse of some time through various causes. It was resumed at the request of the men themselves, who had been deeply stirred by the tragic death in an accident of a much loved member of the staff. Father Kweyama is now taking the services.

The Day of Intercession for Missions was held on Saturday, November 27th.

On February 5th, 1955, the Chaplain blessed and presented their badges to the newly appointed prefects.

We have been sorry to bid farewell to Miss P. Millar and Miss D. Algar. Their help with the Chapel music has been deeply appreciated.

Katharine Mylne has in the opening weeks of the new school year carried on the work of organist with vigour and enthusiasm. She is helped by Jean Rattray and M. Adam.

The chapel monitresses carrying on from last year are D. Lee, J. Mackenzie, Eva Scott and Judy Maguire. Diana Kanaar and Helen Fletcher are preparing to take over from them in the course of the year.

MUSIC NOTES

This year our numbers have risen considerably, now having reached the maximum. We appreciate the installation of a new piano, but could comfortably find work for at least two more.

Happily the keen interest and steady work among the junior section continues, and public examination results show that good work is being done.

An informal Music Club, inaugurated by Miss Millar and Miss Algar, was most popular and proved an excellent training ground for the more serious International Arts League of Youth (formed in Durban some six years ago by Mr. Edward Dunn), and of which some 30 students have become active members. They will now be eligible as delegates for the Festival held in Durban during the July holidays.

Our outings have been very curtailed owing to the prevalence of polio in Natal, but one most enjoyable function was that of the Orchestral Concert held in the City Hall on 25th October. Some thirty-five senior students attended and enjoyed both orchestral items

and the Oratorio "Solomon" (Handel). Miss Marion Robinson was a solo artist at this concert and gave a very finished performance of the Greig Concerto (1st Movement).

It was with real regret that we said "goodbye" to Miss Millar, who left us at the end of the year. She took over the reins during Mrs. Bynoe's period of long leave overseas, and her keen and practical interest in all musical activities proved a stimulating influence—our thanks and good wishes go with her.

Miss Algar left us at the end of the Christmas term to take up a new post. Her unselfish work in connection with the Chapel was greatly appreciated during the time she was at St. John's and will be greatly missed. We wish her all success in her new sphere. Our good wishes go, too, to Mrs. Camp, who left us at the end of the year.

We extend a warm welcome to Miss Elaine Murray and Miss T. Cunningham Knowles, who joined the Staff as resident mistresses in the New Year. Miss Murray, who studied under Eric Grant and H. Farjoen at the Royal Academy, later joined the music staff at Downe House, Newbury, where she taught for a number of years. She has taken over the appreciation section in the school, and we hope her stay with us will be a happy one.

Miss Cunningham Knowles, who takes over the Junior Singing Section and Percussion, has had some Continental experience, and after graduating at the Royal Academy was for a time on the staff of Kettering Hall, Norwich. We hope she will be happy in her work at St. John's.

In June Stds. V and VI gave a most successful entertainment, the first half of the programme consisting of musical items, dances, speech work, etc., while in the second half a scene from "A Midsummer Night's Dream" was very well presented. The girls are to be congratulated on a most delightful and talented production.

Our usual music students' recital took on a light note this year with the inclusion of many variety items. Instrumental solos were relieved by choral work, action verse and several dance items—not forgetting the impressive percussion band members, who acquitted themselves well. It was a gay and happy affair and thoroughly enjoyed by both performers and the large, appreciative audience.

On September 28th the Inter-House Choral Contest was held, Connaught proving the winners with Athlone second and Rhodes third.

The set songs:

Unison: Worship Geo. Shaw
 Afrikaans: Bosveldhuisie Marais
 Two-part: Out in the Sun Pinsutti

Own Choice : Connaught : The Fairy Tales of Ireland

(Leader : P. Shaw)

Athlone : Silver and Gold

(Leader : J. Pickett)

Rhodes : Come to the Fair

(Leader : J. Nicol)

Miss Mavis Heher kindly acted as adjudicator, and our thanks go to her for the helpful criticism given at the conclusion of the evening.

Nativity Play

On December 9th a candlelight procession, with beautiful carol singing by both junior and senior choirs of the school, prefaced the Nativity story presented this year in colourful tableaux.

From the Annunciation Scene, the Birth and the Holy Vision, to the lowly Shepherds and the Adoration of the Wise Men, the beautiful Christmas music was woven through the pattern—choirs and tableau groups alike catching the quiet reverence and dignity of the Christmas message.

Several new carols collected by Mrs. Bynoe while overseas were introduced. The six tableau groups were enacted by Std. V with grace and sincerity. The Hall, glimmering in soft candlelight, banked with white arum lilies and fern, with glimpses of silver bells swinging gently from the branches of the Christmas Tree, made a beautiful and fitting setting.

During the Lenten term the music staff of the school presented an Evening of Music. The works chosen ranged from the old masters to the lighter syncopated rhythm of the modern school. The Schumann Romance in F sharp and Mozart Fantasia in C were solo items by Miss Cunningham Knowles, Miss Murray and Mrs. Bynoe playing two-piano arrangements of a Bach chorale and Schubert No. 2 impromptu. The Gavotte from "Mignon", together with a Bach Gavotte arranged as string trios, was played by Mrs. C. Lewis, Miss Shaw and Miss C. Knowles. In striking contrast of form and style was a modern group, Jenny Lind Polka, Jamaican Street Song and From San Domingo played as two-piano works by Miss Robinson and Miss Shaw. Mrs. Lewis played as her solo violin item the Mazurka of Weiniawski. An impressive two-piano arrangement for 8 hands of the Mendelssohn Ruy Blas Overture concluded the programme. Miss Abraham very kindly joined forces with the music staff and gave a well-chosen speech item, "The Courtship of Miles Standish," and delighted the audience with a humorous tongue-twisting rhyme as an encore.

Examination Results

Practical Examinations :

Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music—

Grade I: J. Heath (merit), G. Snyman (merit), R. Shaw (pass).

Grade II: A. Beardsworth (distinction), D. Kvalvsig (pass).

Grade III: H. Jackson (distinction), E. Buchan (merit), R. Gower (merit), R. Fisher (pass).

Trinity College of Music—

Grade V: J. Buchanan Clarke (merit), N. Mail (pass).

Trinity College of Music :

Theoretical Examinations—

Grade I: Judith Ivins (honours).

Grade II: E. Buchan (honours), N. Mail (honours), J. Scott (honours), L. McKenzie (honours), R. Gower (honours), R. Chapman (honours).

Grade IV: J. Gardner (pass).

FESTIVAL IMPRESSIONS

Salzburg — Bayreuth — Edinburgh

To visit once again the concert halls and theatres of London had been such an eagerly awaited event; it was difficult to realise that at last it had become reality. To be a part of that magic hush before the opening bars of a symphony played by famous orchestras—to see the baton in the hands of Sir Malcolm Sargent, Sir Thomas Beecham and others of world-wide fame was joy indeed. The London season had commenced, the new Festival Hall built on the south bank of the Thames was the venue for a continuous stream of absorbing and interesting events—international celebrity concerts, orchestral programmes, etc., and I was caught up in a whirl of musical activities almost at once.

Personalities stand out—Eileen Joyce (whom I had the honour of meeting at the close of one of her recitals), Dr. Josef Krips, the conductor who literally charms the music from his orchestra and who asked me with a twinkle in his eye if we had any orchestras in this wild South Africa! One memorable evening was that devoted to the works of Bach, Vivaldi and Mozart—works arranged for three and four harpsichords and played in masterly style by Eileen Joyce, Thurston Dart, George Malcolm and Denis Vaughan, together with the London Symphony Orchestra conducted by Boris Ord.

Covent Garden Opera House and the command performance of *le Coq d'Or*, decor unbelievably magnificent in crimson and gold by Robert Helpmann; Margot Fonteyn in the "Firebird" ballet; Laurence Olivier and Vivien Leigh acting together in the "Sleeping Prince"; Sir John Gielgud in a "Day by the Sea"; Sir Malcolm Sargent weaving his magic spell over the thousands of "Prom" enthusiasts at the Royal Albert Hall—all a host of precious memories.

The morning came some weeks later when London was left behind and the journey by coach to the Continent commenced. Travelling through France, Belgium, Luxembourg and the Saar valley to Mannheim and on to the Bavarian Alps, our objective was the age-old city of Salzburg in Austria and the birthplace of Mozart. Several days were spent at Hohenschawangau (swan country) in the heart of the Bavarian Alps viewing the fantastically beautiful castles built by the romantic young King of Bavaria, Ludwig II, whose life ended so tragically. He was a close friend of Richard Wagner, and many of the priceless tapestries and wall-length paintings decorating his castles depict scenes from Tannhauser and Lohengrin and other Wagnerian operas.

Passing through Oberammergau, where life centres round the Passion Play presented once every ten years in accordance with a vow made by the peasants in 1634, we came to Salzburg. Here one treads on old historic ground which looks back on a thousand years of rule by the princely Archbishops, whose architectural planning created a city of palaces, cathedrals and fair gardens set within natural surroundings of much grandeur. Here thousands gather to enjoy the Mozart Serenades, Operas, Symphony and Chamber Concerts and the Morality Play (Everyman) given each afternoon out of doors in the Domplatz. In the Mozarteum—a huge, magnificent hall—I attended performances of the D major Symphony, two celebrity concerts, one given by the young Hungarian pianist, Geza Anda, who at 28 years of age is well on the way to international fame. At the Festspielhaus, where the opera "Der Freischutz" was performed, one sat entranced as the pure strains of 100 violins of the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra (conducted by the late Wilhelm Furtwangler) floated out across tier upon tier of expectant listeners in the opening bars of the Overture. In this wonderful city, surrounded by vast woodlands, deep forest glens, icy mountain glaciers, alpine meadows carpeted with flowers, one finds at Festival time most of the leading artists of the world—conductors, singers, instrumentalists, choirs, Vienna State Opera Ballet members, all come to do honour to the genius of Amadeus Mozart, who, during so short a life time gave to the world some of its most lovely music.

The very name of Vienna calls up pictures of a city of such beauty and elegance, beauty which is so much a part of the very hearts of its people—beauty of palaces, gardens set with magnificent

playing fountains, gracious wooded boulevards, statues of illustrious sons looking down and becoming part of everyday life. Beethoven, Mozart, Brahms, Schubert, Strauss—all had homes and apartments and worked and lived there. The Vienna State Opera House, badly damaged during the war, is almost rebuilt and is to re-open later this year.

The quiet town of Bayreuth, dating back to the 12th century, appears to have changed little in character since the days of the Margrave and Margravine—their palaces still standing as evidence of a departed glory. It is not surprising that Richard Wagner chose this spot as a worthy home for his Festspielhaus, with its wonderful unsurpassed acoustics and built on gigantic lines by him in 1874/6 and managed at the present time by his two grandsons, Wieland and Wolfgang Wagner.

At 4 o'clock one warm afternoon I was one of many thousands walking quietly up the tree-lined avenue to the Festspielhaus to attend the performance of "Parsifal", which commenced at 4.30 p.m. and concluded at about 10.30 p.m., with two intervals, during which one could visit the various restaurants and coffee lounges set among the beautifully laid out gardens. The Festival Orchestra of some 200 players is seated in the sunken hall underneath the stage, the scenic changes made mostly by floodlighting, the lamps fixed high above the front of the stage, and such is the height of the stage that men walking about among these lights on platforms look from below like tiny ants. To have attended a Wagner opera in such a setting is to have gained a deep spiritual experience quite beyond description.

A masterpiece in architecture is the Baroque Opernhaus—the small Royal Opera House in the town and used now only for the performance of the Beethoven Ninth during Festival time.

A flight across Europe by Sabena brought me once more to Britain—this time to the lovely city of Edinburgh—a city with such a warm-hearted welcome for her Festival visitors. The Castle set on the skyline high above the town in such magnificent grandeur and at night a breathtaking sight when floodlit—the Royal Mile, the kilted Highland Regiments swinging down Princes Street (surely the most lovely street in the world!) to the skirl of the pipes each noon, everywhere gay tartans and friendly smiles, all created an atmosphere of keen anticipation for the wealth of music and drama so lavishly assembled.

My first concert was memorable—the Halle Orchestra under the baton of Sir John Barbirolli, with solo artists Elizabeth Schwarzkopf, Constance Shacklock, Richard Lewis and Hans Hotter, gave Verdi's Requiem Mass in memory of that great and beloved artist, Kathleen Ferrier, who had been so closely associated with previous Festivals. As the last notes of the Mass died away, Sir John motioned everyone to rise, and we stood in silence, moved by thoughts of the tragic end

of so great an artist mingled with the exciting and inspiring impression made by the great performance itself. There followed Claudio Arrau, Rubinstein, great soloists accompanied by great orchestras in their concerto works, the Strauss opera "Ariadne auf Naxos" by Glyndebourne Opera Company, the impeccable presentation of "Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme" by Comedie Francaise and the most widely discussed event at the Festival, the "Dream". Presented by the Old Vic Company with Moira Shearer as Titania, Robert Helpmann as Oberon, Stanley Holloway as Bottom, with all ballets and full Mendelssohn score, it was a Dream of such wondrous beauty that one felt nothing but praise for the magnificent scenery and effects after the shock of not being able, at any one stage of the spectacular production, to associate it with one's traditional ideas of Shakespeare.

The Torchlight Tattoo staged on the terrace of the Castle at midnight was the grand finale—massed bands of the Royal Scots Regiments, augmented by bands of the Royal Horse Guards, all in colourful regalia, presented a truly wonderful sight. A fireworks display at the conclusion of the Tattoo was staged to the strains of Handel's Fireworks Music—guns roared, flames shot up from moat and battlements, all culminating in one immense fireworks set piece, a brilliant picture of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

M. BYNOE.

May/September, 1954.

GAMES REPORT, 1955

Tennis

Inter-House Tennis: Won by Rhodes, with Athlone second, Connaught third.

Tennis Championships: Senior, P. Shaw.
Junior, L. McKenzie.

Teams:—

1st VI: P. Shaw, R. Jackson, D. Lee, E. Tyrrell, M. A'Bear, J. Clowes.

2nd VI: B. Evennett, G. Youngleson, J. Rattray, C. Joyner, C. McKenzie, J. Miller.

LEAGUE MATCHES (1st VI) Points

Mar. 1	Epworth	Won	8—4
Mar. 11	Collegiate	Lost	8—4
Mar. 20	St. Anne's	Lost	7—5
Mar. 27	Convent	Lost	11—1
Nov. 1	Technical College	Won	12—0



1st TENNIS TEAM

E. Tyrrell, M. A. A'Bear.

P. Shaw (Capt.), Miss Gillitt, R. Jackson.

D. Lee, J. Clowes.

FRIENDLY MATCHES

1st VI—

Mar. 6	Ixopo	Won	42—39 (games)
Apr. 24	Michaelhouse-Hilton	Lost	5—4
May 19	Collegiate	Lost	7—5
June 11	St. Charles	Lost	56—25 (games)
Nov. 7	Old Girls	Won	44—37 (games)

2nd VI—

Mar. 11	Collegiate	Lost	64—46 (games)
Mar. 27	Convent	Won	8—4

U. 15—

Mar. 6	Ixopo	Won	42—39 (games)
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Junior—

Mar. 6	Ixopo	Lost	57—24 (games)
Sept. 19	Cordwalles	Lost	16—0

1954 has not been a very successful year for St. John's, owing mainly, I think, to a general lack of interest in tennis. I hope that in future more enthusiasm will be shown by both the Seniors and Juniors.

In February we were fortunate enough to watch an exhibition match by Juroslav Drobny, who later won the men's singles at Wimbledon.

Rosemary Jackson and Prue Shaw represented St. John's in the Smythe Trophy and succeeded in winning four matches out of seven.

Three teams from Ixopo High School visited St. John's on March 6th. We succeeded in winning the 1st and Under 15 team matches, while the tables were turned in the Junior match.

During the Michaelmas holidays St. John's girls entered in both the Port Shepstone and Matatiele tournaments, and in the latter Eleanor Tyrrell, Margaret-Ann A'Bear and Constance Joyner were successful.

I should like to thank Mrs. Brown and Mrs. Grant very much indeed for their unfailing co-operation in providing us with such generous teas, but thanks go too to Miss Gillitt, Miss Phillips and Miss Herrington, whose help has been much appreciated.

Good luck, everyone!

P. SHAW, Captain.

Hockey

Teams:—

1st XI: B. Ivins, G. Youngleson, M.-A. A'Bear, J. Nicol, J. Pickett, R. Jackson, D. Lee, M. Adam, R. Fort, P. Geekie, H. Dukes.

2nd XI: E. Lyle, L. Manning, J. Buchanan-Clarke, J. Rattray, P. Walters, J. Stacey, P. Wheeler, J. McKenzie, M. Dinkelman, J. Allenbrook, J. Gardner, J. Wood.



1st HOCKEY TEAM, 1954.—Top Row : M. A. A'Beir, R. Fort, H. Dukes, D. Lee.
 Second Row : R. Jackson, G. Youngleson, M. Adam (Capt.), Miss Gillitt, J. Nicol, G. Pickett, P. Geekie.
 Goalie : B. Ivins.

LEAGUE MATCHES

		1st XI	2nd XI
May 14	Epworth	Lost 4—0	Lost 2—0
May 15	Wykeham	Won 6—0	Drew 3—3
June 19	Technical College ...	Won 5—0	Won 2—0
Aug. 7	St. Anne's	Drew 2—2	Won 3—0
Aug. 16	Voortrekker	Drew 1—1	
Aug. 19	Russell High	Won 9—0	Won 4—0
Sept. 10	G.H.S.	Drew 2—2	Lost 3—0
Sept. 11	Convent	Drew 2—2	Won 7—2

FRIENDLY MATCHES

		1st XI	2nd XI	3rd XI
June 11	Ixopo	Won 3—1		
June 23	St. Charles	Lost 3—0		
Aug. 7	St. Anne's			Lost 3—1
Aug. 21	Estcourt	Drew 2—2	Won 4—1	
Sept. 25	Drbn. Girls' Coll.	Drew 3—3	Lost 3—2	Lost 1—0

Standards 5 and 6 and an Under 15 team played a number of friendly matches against Russell High School and Scottsville School, and it is obvious that the school has promising players for the future.

The hockey season this year has been most successful. Individual and team play has continued to improve, and our thanks go to Miss Gillitt for her helpful coaching and kind encouragement.

During the first part of the season inter-form matches were played, and the result was a win for Form V, with Form IV coming second. Inter-house matches followed, Athlone coming first, Rhodes second and Connaught third.

Several friendly matches were arranged, and one week-end the first and second teams travelled to Estcourt, where a most enjoyable time was had by all.

On June 5th the Inter-Schools Tournament was held to select a Maritzburg schools team to play against a team of Durban girls in the curtain-raiser for the England versus Natal match. Four girls were chosen as "probables"—Reva Fort, Rosemary Jackson, Guinevere Youngleson and Margaret Adam. Margaret-Ann A'Bear was chosen to play for the "possibles" team. When the team was finally selected, M. Adam was chosen to play, with the other three girls as reserves. Our congratulations go to them. The match between England and Natal was attended by the school from Standard 5 upwards, and I am sure we all benefited by watching such outstanding hockey.

Colours were awarded to Reva Fort, Rosemary Jackson and Guinevere Youngleson.

Our thanks go to Miss Gillitt for helping to make the season so successful and to Mrs. Brown and Mrs. Grant, who so kindly provided us with refreshments after matches.

M. ADAM, Captain.

Swimming

Even more enthusiasm has been shown at the swimming bath this year, and this is mainly due to Miss Gillitt, who has done so much to encourage us all and to improve our swimming.

On the 2nd November an inter-form gala was held, which caused much excitement. The result was a win to Form IV with 56 points, with V and VI Forms with 43 points coming second and Form III and Std. 6 third with 36 points. Both spectators and swimmers enjoyed themselves immensely and look forward to the next inter-form gala.

I feel sure that next year St. John's girls will excel themselves in the Inter-Schools Gala and that there will be keen inter-house competition.

H. DUKES, Captain.

Netball

The junior classes have continued to enjoy playing netball, and the enthusiasm shown is most inspiring. Miss Moore and Miss Vine are to be thanked for their helpful coaching.

PRODUCTION OF "TWELFTH NIGHT"

Excitement was rife in the Fifth Form when we learnt that Mr. Hey was able to produce "Twelfth Night" with us.

There was a sudden stir as Mr. Hey walked into the classroom—then silence. Every day for a week he asked us to read different parts and finally they were allotted.

In spite of the fact that Mr. Hey and Miss Kingsley-Hall, our co-producer, had great difficulty in arranging the rehearsals, they were wonderful in helping and encouraging us throughout the production. No part was too small for them to give their full attention and consideration to it. We continued rehearsals to the end of term and were asked to learn our words in the holidays. Unfortunately, as no one pays much attention to school work during the holidays,

we failed to keep our promise and learn our words! On our return we realized that this break had interfered with the general run of the production.

Once back to normal routine at school, we found rehearsals rather difficult to arrange because of various extra lessons and games. However, we all enjoyed the rehearsals, because amusing incidents never failed to crop up! It always provides a laugh when we think of poor old Sir Andrew, of whom we were all expecting a graceful landing after a somewhat exaggerated caper, when all we got was a loud crash—of course, a typical Sir Andrew error! he had misjudged the length of the stage and fallen off!

Another source of amusement was Fabian's daily supply of apples, which he had to eat during an incident in the by-play. We may add, confidentially that behind the scenes it was always "Hey! Fabian, give me a bite!"

The weeks sped on and frantically we arranged last-minute rehearsals. It was during this time that we began to acquire confidence, as we had begun to feel and understand our parts, and live them in everyday life. This helped tremendously in the production, and at last we felt that we were getting somewhere.

Of course, the last few days before "first night" were days of feverish preparation. We were kept busy renovating costumes, because on most people they were about two sizes too big! We also had to arrange dress rehearsals and help with the "props," which lent the stage a more realistic air. For this we have the University students to thank.

At last—the first performance was upon us. Backstage we were nervously waiting to be made up. The atmosphere was one of panic and tension, and the smell of grease-paint and spirit-gum made us feel like professional actresses.

First act was upon us! There was dead silence as the curtains rustled apart and the familiar words of the play, "What country, friends, is this?" rang out. At first, because we were aware of the audience, we were tense and inclined to speak hurriedly. As our characters came alive, we felt oblivious of everything else, and enjoyed acting. Each night the performance ran quickly and smoothly, no one forgetting her lines.

It was such an anti-climax to see the closing curtain and hear the applause ringing in our ears as the sea of faces disappeared for the last time.

The work of weeks, terminated in three short nights, was aptly rewarded by the smiles of Mr. Hey and Miss Kingsley-Hall, to whom we owed so much.

"THE CAST."

THE CREATURE IN SMOKY MOUNTAIN

I am a native belonging to the N'duline tribe and we live on the side of a thickly wooded valley.

At the other end of the valley is a flat-topped hill, on one side of which a huge krantz drops almost sheer into the bush on the banks of the river which winds through at the bottom of the valley. The native name for this hill means "Smoky Mountain".

This name was given to it by our ancestors long, long ago, because at the farthest end of the krantz out of a hole in the rocks comes a wisp of smoke, but there are no flames and, as everyone knows, smoke cannot be made without fire. The creature who makes this smoke is a queer person, who is half a man and half a tree, who does not need matches or wood to make his fire—he just makes it out of air.

He does not make his fire every day, because on some days you cannot see the smoke, but I have often seen it when I have been out riding my horse or walking to work on my boss's farm.

I have never seen this creature, but my grandfather told me that my grandfather's grandfather had seen it and he had just got away in time before it changed him into smoke. This is what the tree man does, for he does not like to be seen, and if you go too near him, he will change you into smoke.

Once long ago a boy went to see if he could see him and he never returned, but that afternoon twice as much smoke was seen rising from the hole in "Smoky Mountain" and the natives here knew that this boy had been punished for his curiosity.

BRENDA HAMPSON, Form IV.

MY JOURNEY TO NIGERIA

The 'plane I was flying in was a Super Constellation, and we took off at 9.15 a.m. from Jan Smuts Airport. At first I felt slightly deafened by the noise of the turbines, but gradually the noise became more bearable. After a few hours' flying we had lunch, which consisted of crabs, lobsters, crayfish, salads and other rich Dutch food. It was delicious, but rather sickly.

We landed at Maya-Maya, the airport at Brazzaville, at about 3.30 p.m. We stayed at Maya-Maya for roughly one hour. The airport café was very modern, but a rather gaudy place, and had excellent service. The weather was stormy, very hot and altogether disagreeable. Shortly after we had left Maya-Maya we flew into a storm. We had some bad jerks, which were to be expected, but otherwise we were all right.

Our captain, Capt. Voorspey, was very nice and came through from the cock-pit and spoke to us frequently.

We landed at Kano late at night. I spent the night at the Chief Engineer's house and what sleep I did manage to get was very refreshing. I went into town, as the Argonaut I was to fly in was late and it could only take off at 12 o'clock. I spent a very enjoyable morning in Kano looking at the people—tall, stately Arabs, with their long, flowing burnouses; fat, wealthy Syrians being driven around in their limousines, and many other people.

At last, after struggling through the customs, I boarded the Argonaut.

During this flight I spent most of my time in the small library at the back of the 'plane.

Soon we were circling Lagos, and I recognized the important landmarks, such as Government House, etc.

As soon as I stepped out of the aeroplane I was welcomed by my parents and sister, and we arrived back home just in time for my small sister's fifth birthday party, after two most enjoyable flights.

SHEILA FICHARDSON, Form III.

There once was a budgie named Dinah,
Whose friend was an Indian Mynah,
The two got on well,
But after a spell
The Mynah left Dinah for China.

SHIRLEY WILKINSON, Form III.

RIDDLE-ME-REE

My first is in sew but not in hem,
My second in petal and also in stem,
My third in Jean but not in Clem,
My fourth is in how but not in where,
My fifth is in here and also in there,
My sixth is in naartjie but not in pear,
My seventh in stitch but not in mend,
My whole is the school which I attend.

JENNIFER IVINS, Form III.

Answer: St. John's.

SUNSET

At sunset when the sky is gold,
The clouds do form a splendour bold.
Giants' castles, dragons' caves,
Lost princesses, scurrilous knaves,
Knights in armour shining bright,
Riding forth to put wrongs right.
All these are seen at the set of sun,
When the day's labour has been done.

PRISCILLA LEWIS, Standard 6.

MY LITTLE BLACK MARE AND ME

Oh, I love to go galloping over the plains,
With mountains and hills to see,
With outstretched tail and flying mane,
My little black mare and me.

Oh, I love to hear as I gallop along
The thudding of hooves on the turf.
It's like music to me to go with my song,
Like the sound of the thundering surf.

Oh, I love to go galloping over the veld,
When the wind is blowing free,
Jumping the ditches and fording the streams,
My little black mare and me.

GILLIAN CROFT, Std. 5.

THE TELEGRAM

The sea rolled on to the sand in grey, angry waves, almost up to Merle's feet. She was sitting on a rock, gazing with unseeing eyes across the grey sea, to a small island that jutted out a few yards from the shore. Thoughts were racing through her mind like quicksilver.

"If Jill were coming we'd row to the Country Fair. I wonder if it will be held at Seabrooke this year? I wouldn't fancy living there," she thought.

Jill was her best friend. Every minute of their holiday together had been planned, and now, of all times, Jill was suspected of having measles. Mother had said Merle could invite another friend, but a holiday with another friend could not be imagined.

The sea was wetting her feet as she stood up and started walking up the beach to her house. Suddenly Mother ran out of the kitchen door, a thing she had never done before; Merle stopped and stared. Anyone would stare to see their dignified mother running down the path waving a telegram in her hand.

Merle's heart gave a sickening thump, turned two somersaults and stopped beating, or so it seemed to her!

She had a secret dread of telegrams, for they had in the past brought bad news. It was thrust in front of her nose and, oh, bliss, it said that Jill could come after all; it had been a false alarm.

Merle's heart sang as she ran in with Mother to help get Jill's room ready. All was well, six gorgeous weeks with Jill. Yes, all was certainly well.

JENNY CORRIGALL, Std. IV.

I LIKE TO WALK

I like to walk
Along the shore,
Or in the snow
Where no one's walked before.

I like to walk
On gravelly ground,
Where walking makes
A crunchy sound.

Through puddles in the street,
Or where soft earth
Is beneath my feet,
I like to walk.

But most of all,
When I can choose,
I love to walk
Without my shoes.

BARBARA MACMILLAN, Std. IV.

RIDDLE-ME-REE

My first is in cup, but not in teapot,
My second is in suck but not in lick,
My third in cross but not in angry,

My fourth in make but not in made,
My fifth in Pope but not in priest,
My sixth is in whole but not in half.
My whole is something that calls out in a clock.

GILLIAN BARTON, Std. III.

Answer : Cuckoo.

MY PET DOG

I have a pet dog called Robbie. He is very playful and full of fun and loves to run after bicycles. When we throw a ball he runs after it and won't give it back. He can beg very nicely. He makes ridiculous noises when he sleeps. He loves children, as most other dogs do.

BRIGID BAILEY, Std. 2.

WHAT HAPPENED AT THE BEACH

One day we went for a holiday at the beach. My brother took his budgie on to the beach. His budgie was on his shoulder. (The budgie is called Jacko.) Then Jacko suddenly flew away about 200 yards out to sea, then he flew back into a bush near the cottage. The next day an old man, called Walter, came to stay. He came in a truck. Just before he came we heard a cheep. It was Jacko's cheep! When Walter came he said it might be in the bush. He was there. My brother crept in and caught him.

DIANA JAMES, Std. 2.

MY PET

I have a cat called Timothy. He is a ginger cat and I love him very much. At one time he got very thin indeed, and when the holidays started Mummy said, "You must start giving him lunch." So I started that very morning. He got fatter and fatter and now I think he is about fat enough.

ELIZABETH FRANCIS, Std. 2.

WHEN I CAME TO SCHOOL

It had been raining for two weeks. When I came to school it was very wet, and it was so wet that the next morning when Daddy went to the milking he told the boy who drives the tractor to go to the bottom of the hill to see if we got to the top of the hill. If we got stuck he would come and pull us out with the tractor. We had a few skids, but we got up without his help.

ELIZABETH ROBINSON, Std. 2.

Wie het die koppie al stukkend gebreek?
Wie het die prentjies op die muur gesteeke?
Wie se spoor sien ek op die vloer?
Wie het die visdammetjie met 'n stok rond geroer?

Wie het in die water geval?
Al raas sy ouers met hom elke maal.
Wie het by die venster soos 'n perd gerumnik?
Klein ondeug natuurlik!

GILLIAN CROFT, Std. V.



"LIONESS"—by J. Allenbrook, Form V.

THE "COMPLEINT" OF AN OLD GIRL

" You say I've done quite well at college,
And then you ask what were the *fons*
And the *origo* of my knowledge——
Of course! St. J****!

I'm sure that what I there was told,
I'll not forget e'en in delirium,
Especially the 'Rule of Gold'
By Sister M*****!

How charming were we in our ways,
How clearly 'loving one another'
(When fixed beneath the eagle gaze
Of Reverend M*****).

I'll never lead the social whirl,
Or be like Churchills, Strydoms, Bevans.
I'm just a 'medium' sort of girl,
Ask Mrs. E****!

Although I 'medium' am like this,
In marriage I might be bid-worthy
If I could learn to dress like Miss
S*****.

With dress like hers it's very sad
To think that I should more than fill it,
I *wish* that in our time we'd had
Miss G*****.

No niche for me in hall of fame;
You know as well as I know.
But all I learned of music came
From Mrs. B****!

My pictures to the National Gallery
I fear that I shall never sell.
Now I can scarcely draw—my salary.
Oh! Mrs. N**!

I've tried to sing like Burns or Lyly
When writing English lyrics. 'BUT all
Your Hudibrastic rhymes are silly,'
Said Mrs. N*****!

Never I'll shine like Simkins (Merle)
Or sing my songs like Lily Pons.
I'm just a 'medium' sort of girl.
Vivat! St. John's!"

ST. JOHN'S OLD GIRLS' ASSOCIATION

23rd Annual Report

After a short rest in 1953, all members set to with a will to work for another Fête, this time the entire proceeds to go to the Building Fund.

Unfortunately I was unable to be in Pietermaritzburg that morning, but from all accounts and particularly from the tangible proceeds, a most successful Fête was held, all the more creditable as the large total—£640—was made in a morning only. Our sincere thanks go to Deena Streek for so ably convening this Fête. Our thanks also go to all those Old Girls, Present Girls, Parents (particularly the fathers) and friends without whose help and generous contributions the Fête could not have been held. Here let me say that the Old Girls—despite the amount of work and worry entailed—have never really feared to run any Sale of Work for the School or Association Funds, as they know that they will always have the parents and members behind them. The total amount was first handed to the School to be placed in the Building Fund, but it was considered that renovations to the School were more urgent, so this money was used for that purpose.

As the Fête was held on the Saturday morning of the week-end, it was decided not to have the usual games matches against the Present Girls, but a most enjoyable party was held at Audrey Kennedy's home at 6 o'clock that evening.

Communion was held on Sunday morning, 9th May, followed by breakfast with the School—this is always enjoyed by the Old Girls.

The Annual General Meeting was held in the School Library at 10.30 a.m. Again 31 members were present. At this meeting Rev. Mother suggested the possibility of reducing the Life Membership subscription. It was proposed to reduce it to £3 3s., and after discussion this was agreed to. The success of this venture is shown by the number of girls who have since become Life Members.

Two Bursaries have been awarded this year—one for 1955 only and one for 1955/56. The former has been given to Lindsay Manning, the granddaughter of St. John's oldest Old Girl and the third generation of that family to attend St. John's. The latter—1955/56—has been given to Diana Kanaar.

We are all very pleased to see so many new Old Girls joining the Association and—which is more heartening still—pulling their weight. I would like here to welcome them most sincerely and hope that those in Pietermaritzburg and Durban attend the meetings whenever possible.

Here, although it has happened in 1955, and thus after the period of my report, I would like to thank Sybil Barras for all her work as Treasurer for the Association and the Branch. She and Norma are going to England for a year and thus she had to give up her office. I think I speak for all members when I say a most sincere "Thank you very much, Sybil, and bon voyage to you both." We welcome Noelle Peckham in her stead and wish her well.

M. I. SIMKINS.

PIETERMARITZBURG BRANCH

Annual Report

The year has been one of hard work and relaxation; another similar to 1953. All members did yeoman work under the convenorship of Deena Streek for the morning Fête on 8th May and are to be heartily congratulated on the result.

Meetings have been held regularly and have been quite well attended, particularly, of course, by the stalwarts. At an Association meeting it was suggested that the present girls be invited to attend our monthly meetings to give them an insight into the work done by the Association and also to meet the members—which would make them feel at home when they became members. The first of these was hld at the October meeting and proved most successful; Deena Streek arranged a games evening and all enjoyed themselves. This has borne fruit, as several of these girls have joined and much to our pleasure have attended the meetings this year. We hope to see them at all meetings.

We ran the St. Cross's street collection again, and although the amount collected was not as much as the previous year, it was still good. I would like to thank all Old Girls who assisted, particularly Sybil Barras, who helped so much with the arrangements.

A successful jumble sale was held in June—£20 being raised—and later a cake sale was run which realised £8 15s. To all those members who helped with these we say thank you.

Gwen Anderson found she had to give up the Secretaryship and her place was taken by Monifay Henwood. We thank Gwen for all she did for us during her term of office and welcomed Monifay. Unfortunately at the time of writing Monifay has gone to live in Durban, so has had to relinquish her office and Pat Mace has agreed to carry on. We thank Monifay for all her work and wish Pat a happy term of office.

Helen Dommett and Deena Streek were elected as our representatives on the Association Committee.

In October we took the St. Cross Children to Boughton for the afternoon and we all enjoyed ourselves. If possible we will try to arrange this outing earlier in the year on account of the unsettled weather in October.

A tennis match was arranged later in the year against the Present Girls and a happy time was spent, the Present Girls winning.

Deena Streek very kindly offered us her house and grounds for the braai-veils for the girls leaving School, and a most enjoyable evening was had by all. We thank her sincerely.

A Christmas party was held in my home on 13th December and again a delightful evening was spent. We were very pleased to have Mrs. Evans with us.

I would here like to thank most sincerely all members for their help during the year, especially the Secretaries and Treasurer and those who so kindly undertook to run the various activities.

M. I. SIMKINS.

DURBAN BRANCH

Chairman's Report, 1954-55

The monthly meetings of the Durban Branch of the Association are now held at the homes of the various members. Usually there are about twelve members present. How grateful we are to the "Old Faithfuls" who keep the Branch together and to the new Old Girls who have joined us. We hope more will follow in their footsteps.

Lyn Medway and Edna Galliers are the two Durban members now on the Board of St. John's.

As in the past, several of the members assisted with the street collection in aid of St. Martin's Home.

During October a few members attended a tea-party given by the Public Health Department to welcome Lylie Chapman home on leave after two years with the World Health Organisation.

A Bring and Buy Sale has been instituted at our monthly meetings. The moneys from this and from the jumble that Edna Galliers has sold for us during the year have helped considerably to augment Branch funds. Thank you, Edna!

Special thanks must be made to our Secretary, Hillary Galliers, and Treasurer, Lyn Medway.

P. C. COCK.

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER, 1954

Liabilities

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Bursary Fund	80	12	8			
Add amount invested	1,100	0	0			
				1,180	12	8
Life Membership	40	15	1			
Add amount invested	400	0	0			
				440	15	1
Association Account				41	4	2
Magazine Account				30	15	2
Building Fund Account				1	0	0
Recipe Book Account				9	5	7
Fête Account				9	6	9
				£1,712	19	5

Assets

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Cash on hand				0	4	5
Cash in Bank				212	15	0
City Permanent Building Society—						
18 'A' Shares at £50	900	0	0			
16 'B' Shares at £25	400	0	0			
				1,300	0	0
United Building Society, 2 £50 Shares				100	0	0
Johannesburg Building Society—						
4 £25 Shares				100	0	0
				£1,712	19	5

ENGAGEMENTS

Mary Peerman to Colin Gibbons.

Betty Fletcher to John Hodgkiss.

MARRIED

Erica Pay to David Bingham.

Denise Perks to Eddie Read.

BIRTHS

Helen Dommett (Henwood), a daughter.

Jenefer Thornton (Henwood), a daughter.

OLD GIRLS' NEWS

ALEXANDER, ELAINE.—Is now living at Reunion and attends meetings whenever possible.

ARNOLD BEATRICE.—Has a flat of her own and is an enthusiastic member of the Durban Branch.

ALLAN, SHEILA.—Nursing at Addington.

ALLEN, GILLIAN.—Training for Radiography at Addington.

ASHFIELD, JANE.—Is going overseas in June. On her return in September will start nursing at Grey's.

ALLEN, RACHEL.—Is doing her final year in B.Sc. Jane has just obtained her B.A. degree and plans to further her studies in London.

BENNETT, MARGARET (MANNING).—Still living at Westville. Her mother, Elaine Manning (Holder) lives with her.

BODLEY, MERYL (GILSON).—A very keen and enthusiastic member of the Durban O.G.A. Her family keeps her busy.

BENNETT, JANE.—Is at Rhodes University in her second year.

BOSWORTH-SMITH, JEAN (PEERMAN).—Farming at Nottingham Road. Mary has enjoyed a trip overseas.

BLAMEY, BRIDGET.—Working at Umkomaas.

BOWMAN, WENDY and ARLINE.—Both working in Durban.

- BARKER, BETTY (MACNAB).—Working at the Secretariat, Lusaka.
- BRUCE, VALERIE.—Passed her final nursing exams at Grey's—a most efficient night staff nurse. Hopes to go overseas shortly.
- BROWN, JEAN (BRUCE).—Living in Greytown.
- BIGG, ZOE.—Doing her B.A. course at University in Pietermaritzburg.
- BAKER, JOAN (PEARCE).—Living in Umtali.
- BUTLER, JOAN (ADNAMS).—Still living in Umtali. Is visiting Pietermaritzburg this year on long leave.
- CHAPMAN, Dr. LYLIE.—Is still with the World Health Organisation. She was home on leave for two months in October.
- COCKS, PAT (SPEARMAN).—Chairman of the Durban Branch. Her family of three keep her busy.
- COLLIE, JOAN.—Hopes to go nursing at Grey's.
- CROSSE, JILL.—Working in Durban.
- DUKES, HEATHER.—Going overseas.
- DE SALIS, JOAN (HENWOOD).—Teaching in London and spending all her vacations abroad.
- DAVIS, PRUDENCE.—Is attending Business College in Durban.
- ENGLAND, MIRIAM.—Attending Finishing School in Switzerland, which she is thoroughly enjoying—returning at the end of the year.
- FREDERICK, WENDY (HENWOOD).—Has just spent three weeks in Cape Town with Jenefer, who has two daughters.
- FOWLER, JUNE.—Working in Pietermaritzburg.
- FORT, REVA.—Joined the O.G.A. and working in Pietermaritzburg as a Librarian.
- GRIFFIN, ROSEMARY (CHENNELLS).—Has a third daughter.
- GREENE, DESIRIE (LABISTOUR).—Living on a farm at Karkloof and starting to breed thoroughbred racehorses.
- GIBBINGS, SALLY (LAMBERT).—Living at Manze, N.R. Is kept very busy with a daughter of 2½ and a son born in February.
- GALLIERS, HILLARY (DORNING).—Secretary of the Durban Branch. Has two sons to keep her busy.
- GALLIERS, EDNA (DORNING).—One of Durban Branch's very keen and enthusiastic members.
- GLASS, JILL.—Another very keen Durban Branch member.
- HENWOOD, PAT.—Nursing in London doing a special course in plastic surgery.

- HESTERMAN, ANNE.—Taking a commercial course at Durban Business College.
- HEARD, HELEN (LUMSDEN).—Now living on a farm at Karkloof and hopes to pay a visit to St. John's soon. Her three sons keep her busy.
- HENWOOD, MONIFAY.—Is now working in Durban at Acutt & Sons, and Pam has just spent her annual leave at Drakensberg Gardens.
- KANAAR, SUSAN.—Doing a private secretarial course at the Durban Technical College.
- LITTLE, LINDSAY.—Attending Business College in Durban.
- LLOYD, ANNE.—Still working at Barclays Bank in Benoni.
- LYLE, ELIZABETH.—Doing B.A. course at University.
- LITTLE, SHEILA.—Just written final nursing exams.
- MICHEL, BERNADINE and ISOBEL.—Both doing business courses in Durban.
- MILLER, MONICA.—Nursing in East London.
- MACE, PAT.—Doing Fine Arts at University of Natal.
- MARAT, MARY (MARSHALL-SMITH).—Living in Umhlali, has two daughters, Katheryne and Jenefer.
- MIDDLETON, EVELYNNORA.—Going overseas shortly.
- MEDWAY, LYN (STRACHAN).—Treasurer of the Durban Branch. She now has a daughter at St. John's.
- MILNE, MONICA and PAULINE.—Have just returned from a trip overseas. Maureen is teaching in London for a year.
- NEELY, YVONNE.—Working at Hunt, Leuchars & Hepburn in Durban.
- NICOL, JENNY.—Nursing at Grey's.
- POVALL, MARLENE.—Serving an apprenticeship as a hairdresser in Kloof.
- PROUDFOOT, ELIZABETH.—Doing business course.
- PECKHAM, NOELLE (LITTLE).—Enthusiastic member of the Maritzburg Branch. Has taken over as Treasurer.
- PEYCKE, JUNE (POPE ELLIS).—Living near Lusaka. Kept very busy running a poultry and citrus farm. Hopes to spend June at the coast. Sees a lot of Sally Gibbings.
- PICKETT, GILLIAN.—Doing business course in Durban.
- PETTY, PENELOPE.—Attending Technical College in Springs.
- PENNEY, JOAN (RRTUR).—Living in Nacheke.

QUARMBY, PAM (GOODMAN).—Living in Pinetown. Kept very busy with her small son.

ROSE, MARGARET.—Still working and living in Pinetown.

ROSS, GWENNETH (FLEMMER).—Has just left for the U.K. She is spending a year with her daughter, Jenifer, now living there.

RIDGWAY, SHIRLEY and CHARLOTTE.—Nursing in Johannesburg and Cape Town.

ROBERTSON, JOAN (ASBURY).—Has another son and is kept busy with Anne, Richard and Bruce.

STANLEY, AUDREY (ALLEN).—Now has one daughter and three sons. Is living at Durban North.

SHIPMAN, ISMAY (HODGES).—Has sons at Hilton and Kearsney, and her two-year-old daughter keeps her busy.

SAUNDERS, GAYNOR (ARBUTHNOT).—Still living at Balla Balla, S.R. Has recently met Muriel Stringfellow (Stanford), who is living in Essexvale, where her husband is a doctor. She has two sons.

SPENCE, PAULINE (WRIGHT).—Still living in Beira.

SHAW, PRUE.—In Italy at time of publication, and is anticipating another trip overseas.

TAPSON, VERA (PASSMORE) and BETTY.—Living at Reservoir Hills and are interested members of the Durban Branch.

THOMPSON, DENISE.—Working in Durban.

TYRRELL, ANNE.—Anne was married in February to Ronnie Usher and is living in Umkomaas. Janet is still working at Grey's. Eleanor is going to Groot Schuur in June.

USHER, MARY.—Living in Cape Town. Doing social work. Congratulations on being chosen for the Springbok hockey team last year.

WILLIAMSON, PEGGY (FORDER).—They are now living at Germiston.

WRIGHT, CYNTHIA (BRIDSON).—Living on a farm 70 miles from Umtali, S.R.

WARD, DOROTHY.—Hoping to go to Training College next year.

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