CELEBRATING THE CITY’S 100TH BIRTHDAY
In 1889, Lucas Cornelius van Niekerk settled on a lonely farm in the Witbank district, near to Balmoral, and shortly thereafter whites occupied many farms in the area. Land values were very low until 1875. Because of the poor quality of the soil, farmers turned to cattle breeding in favour of agriculture. The settlers knew, even in those early days that there was coal in the district as many of the outcrops were plainly visible along riverbanks. Farmers extracted coal for their own use.

Prosperity

Farmers obtained full power of attorney to sell the farm to the Corner House Group took over mining operations and Witbank Colliery came into being. It was from the large outcrop of white sandstone on Leraatsfontein that Witbank derived its name. Initially, growth was very slow. Witbank Colliery and Transvaal and Delagoa Bay (T&DB) Colliery were able to mine coal and show reasonable profit while the Old Coronation and Middelburg Steam Collieries struggled to make ends meet.

On April 9, 1906 a health committee was appointed to take over the management of the town from Witbank Colliery. On May 13, 1910 a village council was elected for and the administrator finally granted municipal status on November 8, 1914. Witbank had a population of 1 901 in 1921, having felt only a slow growth due largely to the lack of water. This precious commodity was carted into the village every day and every household was allowed to draw off 210 litres. Middelburg Observer (catering for Witbank and Middelburg) had in this time, already been in existence for 18 years.

In 1916, Mr OM Freewin took a giant step in the future of Witbank. He decided to start a separate newspaper for Witbank called the WITBANK NEWS. His confidence was well founded. Although the slow growth existed for a number of years, matters changed in 1926 when Eskom build the Doornpoort Dam and erected its first power station in Witbank. The municipality purchased 6000 000 000 litres of water a day from Eskom. Cheap power now available, Rand Carbide Corporation decided to manufacture carbide in the area.

Growing up

The year 1938 saw the establishment of the S A Cyanamid factory and the opening of the Witbank Engineering (Pty) Ltd. During the following years, the white population grew to 9 232. Once again water became a problem.

In 1954, a municipal dam on the great Olifants River was completed. The wall of the dam was heightened two years later, giving a storage capacity of millions of litres of water. Growth accelerating.

By 1960, Witbank’s future as an industrial hub was set. In 1973, the elevated embankment of the dam was completed. The wall of the dam was heightened to 533 meters. The dam is still the biggest municipal in the province and is boasting a population of 350 000 to 400 000 residents based on a projection of households.

Preprimêre skool Pre-primary school

1973 – 2006

Mpuimalanga Education Department
Steven Bantu Biko street
(Ou Hendrik Verwoerd street)
Tel. No. 013 697 0446
Preprimêre skool vir 3 – 5 jarige leerders
Grade R – 6 year old learners
Parallel medium, OBEUGO
Gekwaliseerde personeel
Naskool sentrum vir eie leerders

MDO: Voorgeskrewe oopvaardigndige program
Computer literacy for grade & learners
Audiblokk 3 – 6 years (All classes)
Safe & well equipped playground:
Sandspel, water play, wielspelgoed, jungle gym.
Beheerde toegang – seurik trommel oor

Buie kunslike en aktiwiteite
Trompoppies, Choir & Artum Kunstes.

Ekstra Buie kunslike en aktiwiteite:
Playball, Play-tennis, Monkeynastix, Ritmiere danse,
English wise,

Indrywings tot 30 November 2006
Skool open 10 Januarie 2007

**Mr S Stanford - November 14, 1924. Mr Samuel Stanford gave Mr Jacob Taljaard full power of attorney to sell the farm on which Witbank originated.**
**Main Street, the hub of Witbank in the old days.**

A lady that truly loves Witbank, Mrs Mary Swan, remembers the old Main Street with great nostalgia. They used to live in Lynnville and the children walked across the bridge to get to town.

Stanford’s was the shop that had everything under one roof you could think of. It was also the first double storey shop. Stanford's and the Carlton Hotel were in the same building, it was the first structure to be built out of steel and wood. Main Street was the hub of Witbank. Stores ranged from Stanford’s, Township Bottle Store (owned by Mr and Mrs Strelitz), Pontings Outfitters, a hairdresser, Superman's, Railway Café, Dunbar and Kenly (Mr Kenly used to cut buns and give the children some), Dr Schultz Surgery including other doctors, Fromans Chemist, café of Mrs May Griffiths, West Hair Dressers and M&B Furniture Shop (Mr Wolswidt). The sport field was owned by Witbank Colliery and was where Nedbank is currently. It also consisted of a tennis club.

Mrs Swan remembers the wonderful photographer and previous mayor Mr B. Swan (mayor from 1926-1927 and 1930-1934) with fondness. On Mayor's Day he gave the children buns and cool drink. Sometimes they were even treated to a bioscope ticket.

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**Herinneringe uit vervloë dae**

Hier is so ‘n stadstjie of twee van Witbank toe Mainstreet nog die “Main Street”, van Witbank was.

Meeste van die besighede was in Mainstreet gewees. Later het dit uitgebrei na die huidige St Georges Park.

Waar die Nedbankgebou vandag is, was die hospitaal gehuisves in dit Municipale gebied, de Municipale Dokter zal aanwezig zyn in dit Municipale gebied, de Municipale Dokter.

Die sportgebied was toegelaat waar OK-tearoom was. Die richel was toe geleë waar OK-tearoom was.

Ook onthou ons nog die Market Tea Room, ’n baie bekende tearoom.

Waar die Nedbankgebou vandag is, was die hospitaal gehuisves in dit Municipale gebied, de Municipale Dokter zyn in dit Municipale gebied, de Municipale Dokter.

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**Main Street as it is today.**

**Ballenden’s Pharmacy in Eadie Street in the early days.**

**Witbank Poskantoor in vroëe dae**

**Kennisgewing van gratis inenting**

Kennis word hierby gegee dat weens die voorkom van en geval van pokken in dit Municipale gebied, de Municipale Dokter zal aanwezig zyn in de Municipale Kantore, Witbank, op Maandag, Dinsdag en Woensdag om 4:30 tot 5:30, en vanmiddag gratis zal ingeënt word. De arrestante, een van de laatste maatsal, 4:30 tot 5:30, en vanmiddag gratis zal ingeënt word. De arrestante, een van de laatste maatsal, 4:30 tot 5:30, en vanmiddag gratis zal ingeënt word. De arrestante, een van de laatste maatsal, 4:30 tot 5:30, en vanmiddag gratis zal ingeënt word. De arrestante, een van de laatste maatsal, 4:30 tot 5:30, en vanmiddag gratis zal ingeënt word. De arrestante, een van de laatste maatsal, 4:30 tot 5:30, en vanmiddag gratis zal ingeënt word.

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**Main Street, the hub of Witbank in 100 years**
Hotels brought luxury to Witbank

Carlton Hotel, Athlone Hotel and Boulevard Hotel have all played an important part in Witbank’s history.

Carlton Hotel was a centre for travellers en route to the then Lourenço Marques (Maputo) and the hub of social activities for miners, farmers and local socialites. It was situated on the corner of Main and President Streets and was housed in the first building that was made from wood and iron.

After the railway line from Pretoria to Delagoa Bay had been completed in November 1894, there were regular trains running from Pretoria to Delagoa Bay and back, which took in coal at Witbank Station. The area in the vicinity of the station was still undeveloped, but the store of Samuel and Stanford and the first Carlton Hotel, erected by Stanford during the late nineties of the nineteenth century were already in operation.

One of the strong points of this hotel was that a porter would meet guests at the station. Each room was provided with hot and cold water on tap and electric lights and fittings. Witbank Colliery Limited provided the electricity until 1926.

The hotel had 60 rooms, two large dining rooms and 4 beautifully furnished public lounges, a dining room and well-furnished lounges, a large hall for concerts and dances.

Next to the hotel a large concert hall was erected, which was later known as the Carlton Theatre. As from 1909 regular electric bioscopes were shown in the theatre.

Ladies meetings and apparently at times four or five ladies meetings in succession took place in one evening.

Regular so-called smoking concerts took place in the theatre and in 1908 a beauty competition was held where the prettiest woman and the most attractive man were chosen.

Unfortunately the hotel had deteriorated severely over the years and its name fell into disrepute. It was demolished in 1994 and replaced by a liquor store.

In June 1928 it was announced that a new hotel would be built at a cost of £10 000. This was the Athlone Hotel, which was named after the British High Commissioner in the Union of South Africa, Lord Athlone.

Here too hot and cold water was laid on in every room. It had an impressive dining room and 12 lock-up garages as well as well-dated sample rooms.

There was a dancing hall and a porter met customers at each train. The hotel closed in 1958 and was made into a business centre. The Boulevard Hotel was opened in January 1968. It was built by Archie and James Maclachlan and was one of the most modern hotels in Witbank. It was erected at a cost of £1 200 000.

It boasted an attractive exterior, comfortable and well-furnished lounges, a dining room that could seat 70 patrons and a public as well as a private bar. The hotel was situated where the Protea Hotel is now.

Our modern, sophisticated facilities include:
- 205 beds and 7 theatres
- A 6 bed general intensive care unit, equipped with leading diagnostic and monitoring facilities
- A 4 bed high care unit
- A 22 bed maternity unit with well-appointed wards and secure facilities
- A 10 bed neonatal intensive care unit complete with state-of-the-art monitoring and life support equipment providing the best possible environment for our smallest patients.
- A radiology facility, with a comprehensive range of sophisticated diagnostic equipment including a CT scanner.
- A wound care clinic.
- Pre-admission clinic.

Medical and surgical disciplines:
- Pathology
- Physicians
- Plastic surgery
- Psychiatry
- Radiology
- Urology
- Gynecology
- Obstetrics
- Maxillofacial surgery
- Neonatology
- Neurosurgery
- Orthopaedic surgery
- Paediatrics

Cosmos Hospital
President Street, Witbank 1035
Tel: 013 655 0000 Fax: 013 656 5658
www.cosmoshospital.co.za

*The Athlone Hotel in the 1930’s. The building in Eadie Street is still standing today.

*The face of the Carlton Hotel as it looked in the early years.

* (Right) An invitation advertisement for the Boulevard Hotel that appeared in the Witbank News in 1969.

*A photo of a room at the Carlton Hotel.
Winston Churchill arrived in Estcourt in Natal in 1909 at the age of 25. He came to report on the Anglo-Boer War for the London Morning Post. The Boers were waiting to march on Ladysmith. In November of that year Churchill joined an armoured train reconnaissance heading towards Colenso North where Boer patrols had been forced. Boers just north of Frere in Natal ambushed the train. A huge stone had blocked the line. When the train hit it, it was derailed. General JT windowHeight decided that Churchill had played too active a role in the skirmish and was taken to Pretoria to be imprisoned. Churchill did not stay captive for long, however. After two days a cable reached Howard at Witbank, asking her to select some watches for a woman who had helped him at T&DB in Witbank to reach safety in neutral Portuguese East Africa.

Six weeks later Churchill addressed a letter to John Howard, the manager of the mine, informing him he was sending eight gold watches, all of them engraved with suitable script, to the secretary of Standard Bank in Cape Town. With the war still raging on in the Transvaal and Delagoa Bay Colliery (T&DB), Churchill decided to knock on some doors in search of food. Fortunately that frugal the cover for the door he chose to knock on was that of John Howard. Howard was the acting director of the Boulevard group of hotels. He was also the mine's secretary, the mine's doctor, James Gilleard, and proprietor of the newly opened Boulevard Transvaal and Delagoa Bay Colliery (T&DB). Churchill was fed well and later hidden in the underground stables of the mine. The Boers were searching for high and low. Still later he Shid with a packing case in the office.

Six days after his arrival at Clewer, he was hidden on a railway truck packed with wood and bound for Mocambique. The train finally reached its destination two days later on 21 December. The British Consul was not immediately convinced of Churchill's identity. But after watching him closely, he confirmed his suspicion that it was the Young Englishman from which Churchill had escaped, and stowed away on a coal train heading east in the direction of Mocambique. The following evening the train stopped at Clewer siding near Witbank. Churchill decided to knock on some doors in search of food.

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Afrox established its own office and store in Afrox installed a liquid oxygen producing plant in the Eastern Transvaal.

Prior to this, acetylene was provided by Rand Carbide where raw acetylene was produced at Rand Carbide's filling plant. The new plant was provided by Afrox's acetylene pumping station.

Afrox's acetylene pumping station was installed on the property of Rand Carbide where raw acetylene was produced at Rand Carbide's filling plant. The new plant was provided by Afrox's acetylene pumping station.

Afrox's acetylene pumping station was installed on Afrox's property and was provided by Rand Carbide where raw acetylene was produced.
Withbank Power Station was a base load station at a high load factor, principally powered by using coal powder, or ‘duff’ as it was known. With its location in the heart of the coalfields, it enabled the Commission to provide electrical power very cheaply to its consumers.

**First Power Station in Witbank**

Withbank Power Station was founded in 1906 and registered in the Commission and VFP. According to the minutes of the second formal meeting held on May 18, 1923 mention a ‘confrontation’ between the two parties. A compromise was reached, dated 5 July 1924. According to the agreement, VFP would construct and operate the power station at cost price for, on behalf of, and in collaboration with the Commission. After a period of 12 months it would be decided if the Commission would take over the operation and working of the station or allow VFP to continue to operate it on the Commission’s behalf. The Commission would finance and own the station. All land servitudes and other rights acquired were registered in the Commission’s name.

In May 1923 VFP applied to the Electricity Control Board for an extension of its license to the Witwatersrand. Electricity Control Board was created by the Electricity Act of 1922 to control the supply of electricity by Escom and private undertakings. The Commission had already started examining the power potentialities in the Witbank area and therefore opposed such an extension. The Prime Minister, General Jan Smuts, realised the urgent need for additional power on the Rand, this was the only workable option. Whereas, VFP already received its license on July 21, 1924, the Commission was only granted its licence to operate in the Witbank area on April 6, 1925. In the Annual Report of 1924 it is mentioned that a satisfying feature of the settlement reached, is that the interests of both parties have been satisfied. The good co-operation that the Commission had with other undertakings. The agreement ensured that consumers would enjoy the benefits of a large and up-to-date power station with a guarantee of one-half share in any saving to the VFP resulting from the erection and operation of the Witbank Power Station. Mines, entering into new contract with the VFP were guaranteed a 15% discount on standard prices from January 1923, rising to 17.5% on the date the Witbank Power Station came into full operation.

The establishment of the power station at Witbank proved to be difficult and almost lead to open confrontation between Escom and The Victoria Falls and Transvaal Power Co. Ltd. (VFP). The minutes of the second formal meeting held on May 18, 1923 mention a confrontation between the Commission and VFP. VFP was founded in 1906 and registered in Southern Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe). The idea was that the company would become a centralised provider of electricity. VFP wanted to provide existing as well as future industries with power that would be generated at Victoria Waterfall and Zambezi River. Mine owners insisted that a coal-fired power station also be built on the Reef for use in the event of power failures. The idea of harnessing the hydropotential of the Zambezi River was soon abandoned for technical and financial reasons. VFP decided to erect thermal power stations close to the user area, thus making use of the coal-fields in Eastern Transvaal (now Mpumalanga). In accordance with the Power Act of 1910, VFP wanted to establish a power station in the Witbank area. This area was ideally suited for such an undertaking: the principal coal-fields in the Eastern Transvaal were in the Witbank area, there is an abundance of water, which is an important factor in the establishment of thermal power stations. Such a power station would be in close proximity to the Witwatersrand gold fields, which would be the main consumers. Furthermore, it was hoped that the establishment of a power station in that area would encourage development in that area.

In the event of power failures. The idea of constructing a power station in that area would encourage development in that area. The establishment of the power station at Witbank in the heart of the coalfields, it enabled the Commission to provide electrical power very cheaply to its consumers.

**Turbulent beginnings**

The first formal meeting of the Electricity Supply Commission (Escom) was held on March 20, 1923. According to the minutes of the meeting the transfer of the Colenso Power Station in Natal from the South African Railways, as well as the establishment of power stations at Durban, Cape Town and Witbank was discussed. The establishment of the power station at Witbank proved to be difficult and almost led to open confrontation between Escom and The Victoria Falls and Transvaal Power Co. Ltd. (VFP). The minutes of the second formal meeting held on May 18, 1923 mention a confrontation between the Commission and VFP.

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**Commission and VFP.**

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In the Annual Report of 1925 reasons were given for permitting VFP to construct the power station on behalf of the Commission. These included the fact that VFP was in a better situation than the Commission to start work immediately, since the Electricity Control Board had already approved many of the plans and specifications. Given the urgent need for additional power on the Rand, this was the only workable option. Whereas, VFP already received its license on July 21, 1924, the Commission was only granted its licence to operate in the Witbank area on April 6, 1925. In the Annual Report of 1924 it is mentioned that a gratifying feature of the settlement reached, is that the interests of both parties have been satisfied. The good co-operation that the Commission had with other undertakings. The agreement ensured that consumers would enjoy the benefits of a large and up-to-date power station with a guarantee of one-half share in any saving to the VFP resulting from the erection and operation of the Witbank Power Station. Mines, entering into new contract with the VFP were guaranteed a 15% discount on standard prices from January 1923, rising to 17.5% on the date the Witbank Power Station came into full operation.
Pioneers in the air and on the ground

Withbank Aviation history started with an aviation enthusiast, Eric Wells who persuaded a number of aircraft owners to bring their planes to Witbank in 1928 with the view on starting a flying club.

He levellled a landing strip where the Withbank Hospital stands today. The original pioneers of Withbank’s aviation were: J.V. Wells, Mrs Wells, RC Miller, NW Scott, HC Köhler, J. Zisman, EA Soar, DM Simpkins, DE Dober, and Mrs HH Schultz and Roland Cohen who had been a pilot in World War I.

The weather wasn’t very kind during the first visit but joyrides on a later date were much more successful.

A meeting was held at Withbank Club in August 1928 to form a flying club which was established in October 1928.

The club’s first instructor was HJC Gray and he travelled from Johannesburg Light Plane Club on a regular basis to give tuition.

Dr HJ Schultz was the first pupil to solo and become club president in later years.

A meeting was held at Witbank Club in August 1928 with the view on starting a flying club. Withbank Aeronautical Association (aeroplane diving Club) was established.

The club’s first Cessna was bought in 1972 and later in 1973 the present runways 04/22 were tarred and Ron Davies (still active today) as secretary.

More planes were bought and in 1980, the club bought a 1946 C.9 Fairchild in August which they had until the end of 1954.

In 1963 G. Soutar was elected as chairman of Witbank Aeronautical Association and a Fairchild was the first of many such events to come.

In 1950 the aeronautical association acquired a Fairchild which they had until the end of 1954. Training was done on a Piper Cub.

The airfield was used for a stop for the Governor General’s Cup Air Race in May 1957.

In 1944 No. 5 Air School was closed after having trained 283 SAAF, 714 Royal Air Force and four Allied pilots.

An operational squadron was established at each Air School, using instructors as combat pilots. Consequently 105 Squadron was formed on April 21, 1942 using Tiger Moths adapted to carry light anti-personnel bombs.

The Air School had its training programme changed to accommodate 120 pilots from 96. In 1944 No. 5 Air School was closed after having trained 283 SAAF, 714 Royal Air Force and four Allied pilots.

The camp was eventually handed over to the Prisons Department and is the site of the present Paxton Correctional Services.

In November 1946 the airfield was listed as a Class C civil aerodrome with two runways, a single hangar and fuel was available from town.

An ex-SAAF pilot, J. du Toit established a flying school operated as Travel Air with two Piper Cubs.

Withbank Aeronautical Association was re-established and on December 15-16 an air rally (air show) was the first of many such events to come.

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The control tower and clubhouse were erected in 1980 and in the same year the Para Club (later renamed Witbank Skydiving Club) was formed.

Witbank Aeronautical Association is currently the second oldest flying club in the country, after the Johannesburg Light Plane Club.

Thanks to Dave Bekker, SA Flyer and Ron Davies for information and photos.

The all new Barloworld

Toyota Witbank

Cnr. Swartbos & President Avenue 0 (013) 653 3200

Barloworld Leading Brands

Barloworld TAKE THE LEAD

Hygienic Vleis

Groter, Beter, lekkerder......

Vir jare en jare was slegs die beste gehalte vleis, vriendelike diens en die lekkers te boerie, goed genoeg vir ons kieler.

Na 70 jaar poog ons nog steeds om dit so te hou!

4 Generasies

Dankie vir u troë ondersteuning teen al die jare - dit word nog steeds gememoreer.

Louis Botha

Gum Botha

Johann en Ghodé Botha

Diogo Midas Klipfontein 0 (013) 697 0548

*This Piper Cub was one of two owned by Travel Air (J.J. du Toit).

*George Mc Phee and his Miles M2H Hawk flew from Newcastle in the United Kingdom to Withbank in 1935.

*Aerial view of 5 Air School on September 1942. The present hangars are situated in the lower left hand corner hand corner of the photo.

*Bill Robertson the airfield André Wolmarans just before jumping out of Andrew Benic’s Fairchild in August 1962. Although in his 80’s Andrew Benic is still a current pilot and regularly flies his Dragonfly microlight.

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The airfield was used for a stop for the Governor General’s Cup Air Race in May 1957.

In April 1963 G. Soutar was elected as chairman and Ron Davies (still active today) as secretary. The club’s first Cesna was bought in 1972 and written off in November the same year. In 1973 the present runways 04/22 were tarred and Tommy van der Woode (presently instructor at WAA) took over the charter company Glacier.

The control tower and clubhouse were erected in 1980 and in the same year the Para Club (later renamed Witbank Skydiving Club) was formed.

Witbank Aeronautical Association is currently the second oldest flying club in the country, after the Johannesburg Light Plane Club.

Thanks to Dave Bekker, SA Flyer and Ron Davies for information and photos.
Beginjare in myne

Witbank Nuus
Koerant met ryke geskiedenis

Die WITBANK NUUS is vanjaar 89 jaar oud en daarmee saam een van die oudste besighede in Witbank.
Tussen 1903 tot en met 1909 is nuus van Witbank in die Middelburg Observer gepubliseer onder die opkryp - Streetkunis. Tussen 1910 en 1916 is dit die Middelburg Observer en Witbank Nuus as een koerant gepubliseer.
In 1917 het die dorp so uitgebreid dat 'n koerant op sy eie gereeld was en is die WITBANK NUUS gebore.
Die eerste redakteur van die koerant was die stigter, mnr. Henry Frewin homself. Daarna het redakteurs soos Ben Hammond (wat ook redakteur van die Middelburg Observer was), Leonard Veel, Jeanette McClain, Lynn Steber, Marietjie Visser, Laetitia van Wyk en huidiglik Amanda Botha gevolg (sanaa genoeg dat die laaste klop redakteurs almal vroue is).
In Mei 1980 is drikveld van die OH Frewin Maatskappy aan Perskor verkoop - 'n tyd waarin baie gemeenskapkoerante oor die hele land aan Perskor verkoop is. In 1989 word die res van die maatskappy ook aan Perskor verkoop.

Die Caxton-koerant, waaraan die WITBANK NUUS tans behoort, het Perskor in 1998 in oorgekoop. Die koerant word steeds by die drukkerie in Middelburg gedruk.

Die Frewin-legaat

Witbank Nuus was dan ook een van die eerste drukkers in die land. Hy is gerekend as 'n meester drukker en in 1929 is die drukkerie gebraak as die veld toe in die wereld.
In 1909 het OH Frewin 'n vergadering belê wat later geleë het tot die stigting van die Gemeenskapkapers Assosiaasje - OH Frewin word gerekend as die Vader van die Provinsiële Afdeling van die Koerantpers Unie van Suid-Afrika.
Na die dood van die 'Grand Old Man' in 1960 het die Frewin-legaat in die mediawêreld steeds voortgeleef.

Mnr. Jack Frewin, seun en erfgenaam van die OH Frewin drukkerie het in 1960 die lelies oorgegroen by sy vader. Hy word dan ook redakteur van die Middelburg Observer en Witbank Nuus. Hy was 'n man met vele talente. Nie alleen was hy 'n goeie journalis nie, maar hy het ook aandag gegee aan die advertensiemark van die koerante en het ook nie geskrom om self te spreek nie.

Die koerant word in 'n sekere sin gesien as die waghond van die gemeenskap - om om die lelies oorgegroen te word. Dit is ons doel om kritiek vereis het en te kritiseer toe dit vereis is.

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In 1903 verskyn die volgende in die Middelburg Observer/Witbank Nuus:
"Is dit een doel te kritiseer een dikwels wêreld is kritiek vereis?" En in 1989 is dit steeds die beleid van die WITBANK NUUS.

*Mnr. Oscar Henry Frewin.

Een grote ongeluk

Witbank se markplein was geleë waar Witbank se markplein was geleë waar die res van die maatskappy ook aan Perskor verkoop.

Bylae tot WITBANK NUUS Vrydag 24 November 2006

Wees Dunlop Seker

Congratulations WITBANK with your 100 year anniversary!!
And we pray for God's blessing in the years to come
FROM
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www.sotheybsreallywitbank.com
En sommige dinge verander net nooit nie..... “Sedert 16 Desember het die ongeluksyfer op Witbank die hoogte ingeskiet. Vanaf 16-23 Desember is 26 motorongelukke by die polisie aangemeld.” (Witbank Nuus, 1 Januarie 1971).

**R2 miljoen brouery vir Witbank**

“Daar gaan binnekort begin word met die oprigting van ’n ultra moderne Sorghum-brouery te Fernbank. Daar is reeds in 1967 begin met die beplanning van hierdie projek deur die stadsraad van Witbank. Dit is interessant om te meld dat die huidige brouery gedurende 1957 begin produuser het. Die ou brouery was aanvanklik geplaas met ’n produksievermoë van 10 000 (gelling) 45 000 liter) per maand teen ’n koste van 22 000 pond.” (Witbank Nuus, 9 Augustus 1974).

Plaaslike ingenieurs het in September 1974 geskiedenis te maak deur die eerste telemeterstelsel in sy soort in Suid-Afrika en die wêreld te vervolmaak. Mnr DS van der Merwe, ’n stads-elektro-techniese ingenieur en mnr E van Jaarsveld, hoof tegnieke assistant was die ontwerpers van dié stelsel wat sowat 4 000 meterleesings wat al Witbank se huishoudelike verbruikers in 1974 ingesluit het, in minder as vyf uur gedoen kon word. Die stelsel was nog in ’n eksperimentele fase, maar die eindproduk sou ’n lonende en praktiese stelsel vir die munisipale dienste beloop. (Witbank Nuus, September 1974).

*Witbank theatre in early days

LEIRAS Juwelier het reeds van vroeg af in die WITBANK NUUS geadverteer

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Diamonds 18 ct set from R80
Sharp calculator from R11
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INFLASIE?? KOM NA

LEIRAS JUWELIER
Presidentlaan, Foon 5005, Witbank, Posbus 870,
EN Koop Teen Kosprys

"Die munisipaliteit van Witbank het vir die eerste keer in die dorp sesgeskiedenis bouplanne ter waarde van meer as R3 miljoen in een jaar goedgekeur."
(Witbank Nuus, Januarie 1966).
Witbank's old stalwarts

*Mr. W. Vermaak, head of the Fire Brigade, with Mr. G. Stander, his assistant, at the machines. The engine on the left is a vintage model Leyland, dating back to the thirties. (WITBANK NEWS April 10, 1970.)


The long awaited nursery school, which Witbank so badly needs will be opened and conducted by two enterprising young Witbank teachers, Mrs. Rosemary McKenna and Mrs. Felicity du Plessis. (Witbank News, September 1966.)

Spoorwegstasie kry nuwe voorkoms

*Die spoorwegstasie is in Julie 1969 opgegradeer.

Die verandering van die voorkoms van Witbank Spoorwegstasie was groot nieu. Die stasie is in Julie 1969 opgegradeer. Die ingang van die stasie is verander deur eenrigting strate wat deur verkeerseilandte geskei is, aan te bring. Dit het beteken dat bestuurders hul weg makliker vanaf die ingang in reg vir die stasiegebou en dan weer tot by die uitgang kon kry.

Daar is voorziwing gemaak vir 'n parkeer-en-reusapelgruwparkering waar die gebruikers beweeg kan met hul voertuie. Moderne beligting is ook aangebring. Die station is ook aangedag met volop parkering vir gebruikers sowel as hul taxis.

**Die spoorwegstasie is in Julie 1969 opgegradeer.

*Die trek was so groot dat bome op die oorkant uitgespoel is. (Witbank Nuus, 11 Januarie 1974.)

The trek was so great that trees on the opposite bank were washed away.

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Spoorwegstasie kry nuwe voorkoms

*The trek was so great that trees on the opposite bank were washed away.
Throughout the years Witbank has had a leaders and mayors to be proud of:

Clr E.M. Goodwin (1913-1914)
Clr R. Eadie (1914-1918)
Clr T. Cooke (1918-1919)
Clr R. Eadie (1919-1922)
Clr N.W. Scott (1922-1923)
Clr T. Spencer (1923-1926)
Clr B. Joffe (1926-1927)
Clr A.E. Comley (1927-1928)
Clr B. Joffe (1928-1929)
Clr J. White (1929-1930)
Clr B. Joffe (1930-1934)
Clr G.W. Hannay (1934-1935)
Clr Mrs F.V. Burnham (1935-1936)
Clr D.R. Markiles (1936-1937)
Clr T. A. Greeff (1937-1938)
Clr A.W. Woolcock (1938-1939)
Clr M. Markiles (1939-1940)
Clr W.P. Moore (1940-1941)
Clr Mrs F.V. Burnham (1941-1942)
Clr C.J. Ellis (1942-1943)
Clr C. H. F. Jenner (1943-1944)
Clr M. S. Bell (1944-1945)
Clr Mrs F.V. Burnham (1945-1946)
Clr J.E. Connop (1946-1947)
Clr Dr M. Maselle (1947-1949)
Clr J.S. Mostert (1949-1950)
Clr J. Katz (1950-1951)
Clr R.D. Duffey (1951-1952)
Clr W.S. Snyman (1952-1953)
Clr W. J. Voetschenk (1953-1954)
Clr F.W. Birkholz (1954-1955)
Clr T.N.H. Janson (1955-1956)
Clr F.N. Viljoen (1956-1958)
Clr J. F. S. Bosho (1958-1959)
Clr J.G. Prinsloo (1959-1960)
Clr A.C. Venter (1960-1961)
Clr A.F. Fouche (1962-1963)
Clr L.C.S. Muller (1963-1964)
Clr M.J. Jonker (1964-1965)
Clr F.W. Birkholz (1965-1967)
Clr L.C.S. Muller (1967-1968)
Clr A.F. Fouche (1968-1969)
Clr F.N. Viljoen (1969-1972)
Clr L.C.S. Muller (1972-1974)
100 years of mayors

Clr T.J.P. Verwey (1981-1982)
Clr Paul Broodryk (1985-1987)
Clr P.C. Coetzer (1990-1991)
Clr Ferdie Labuschagne (1993-1994)
Clr Fiona Martin (1994-1995)
Clr Paul van Castle (1995-1996)
Clr Aaron Makabela (1996-1997)
Clr Grace Castle (1998-1999)
Clr Jerry Radebe (1999-2000)
Clr Glory Dlamini (2000-2006)
Clr Linah Malatjie (present).

*Clr W.S. Snyman (1952-1953).
Clr F.W. Birkholtz (1965-1967)

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PROUDLY SERVING WITBANK SINCE 1941
The Catholic Church in Allenby Street is one of the oldest church buildings in Witbank that is still standing.

Bishop Charles Cox OMI laid the foundation stone for the first church in Witbank on August 31, 1921, which was finally dedicated to the honour of the Immaculate Conception by him on December 18, 1921.

The first resident priest was an OMI missionary Fr. De Houvre who had previously travelled from Pretoria to minister in Witbank.

The original Catholic Church building, which was erected in 1921.

The Catholic Church in Allenby Street is one of the oldest church buildings in Witbank that is still standing.

The Catholic Church was the first building to be erected in the new extension of the town.

The first resident priest was an OMI missionary Fr. De Houvre who had previously travelled from Pretoria to minister in Witbank.

The original Catholic Church building, which was erected in 1921.

Witbank Club remembered

Witbank Club, one of the oldest clubs in Witbank is still open today.

The first memories of the original club is that of Ms Mary Acutt formerly Taylor who stayed in Witbank since 1913.

"The manager of the colliery was Mr JK Addie who owing to his designation was automatically elected as president of the newly formed Witbank Colliery Recreation Club, which in later years was known as Witbank Club," remembered Ms Acutt.

In the original club they held grand balls with supper held under the trees. In this club the Amateur Dramatic Society was formed, which entertained the town. There were large stables in front of the club and members arriving by horse and carriage were able to stable their horses whilst enjoying a period at the club.

At the club there was a very well equipped library with a reading room and expensive magazines, which were attached to tables by chains. In the centre of the complex was a ballroom where various activities took place, boxing being one of these. There was also a swimming pool. In 1921 the Witbank Colliery donated the stand for a new club to be built in President Street, prior to being called Botha Street this club was in operation until 1981 when a new and most modern club was built in Churchill Avenue.

Witbank Club, which was built in President Street prior to it being called Botha Street.
Oldest learning institute

“The first public school was built in 1907 in Witbank and was opened in May 1908 by Mr N de Wet. The school was later known as Robert Carruthers School but was broken down in later years to make space for the theatre.”

During 1905 and 1906 petitions were sent to Pretoria to the British Colonial government to build a school for the growing number of children in Witbank. The government agreed to build a school and construction began in 1906. On May 2, 1908 the new public school was opened by Mr N de Wet and on May 18, 1908 the first classes started.

The headmaster of the new school was Mr Robert Carruthers and the school later became known as the Robert Carruthers School. The school building was extended in 1915 and on March 27, 1915 a new wing was opened.

The school was first known as Witbank Town School but in 1922 became known as Witbank Intermediate School. On January 19, 1943 the school once again changed its name to English Medium Primary School.

Intermediate School. On March 27, 1915 a new wing was opened.

The headmaster of the school Mr Robert Sutton Carruthers died on May 13, 1937. He was principal of Witbank Intermediate School from 1908 to November 1935. Other principals were Mr A Lincoln (1936), Mr Starker (1937 to 1945), Mr CJ James (1946 to 1947), Mr A Beron (1948), Mr CW Storrie (acting principal 1948 to 1949), Mr RM van der Schyll (1949 to 1951), Mr J Heggs (1952 to 1957), Mr JS Veldhuisen (1958 to 1965) and Mr R de Fourie (acting principal 1965).

Lawyers’ firm 98

Harvey, Norton, Wagner and Motimele Attorneys is one of the oldest existing businesses in Witbank. The firm was founded by EA Harvey in 1908. He had his practice on a piece of ground, which is now occupied by the Old Mutual buildings. The firm occupied these buildings until they decided to move to the UBS building.

The firm has been known as Harvey, Mostert, Jonker and Bailey; Harvey, Mostert, Jonker and Tee and Harvey, Mostert and Jonker.

The firm amalgamated with Venter and Wagner in 1986.

In 1992 Harvey Mostert and Jonker amalgamated with another old firm in Witbank, Norton and Krugel and the firm became known as Harvey Norton Incorporated with seven partners.

During 2006 Harvey Norton Incorporated became known as Harvey, Norton, Wagner and Motimele. The present partners are Willie Norton, Barry Wagner, Shirley Motimele, Mthokozeli Ncoglomane and Marius Botha, with associate Daniel Nel in the Pretoria office and PA Christa Veideman with article clerk Anandi Olivier together with a staff component of 40 people.

83 years in Witbank

Helen More has been living in Witbank for longer than most people and is probably the person that has lived here the longest.

Helen More and her family moved to Witbank from Middelburg in 1923 and have been living here ever since. “I remember Witbank when everything was concentrated on the bottom part of the town namely Main Street and Eadie Street and Witbank Colliery was still producing coal. The railway station was over the bridge opposite the Carlton Hotel and people used to wonder over there on a Sunday evening to fetch their Sunday newspaper. Kiplonne Dam was the water supply until the Doornpoort Dam was built by Escom (Victoria Falls Power Station),” said Helen.

Helen’s first job was at the railway station where all the newspapers were sold. In 1936 Helen was married in the second Methodist Church built in Witbank. During the war from 1939 to 1945 the Witbank woman filled many important posts. She worked in the Revenue Department of the municipality and later for Duncan and Elliot Builders and Plumbers.

Helen is residing at the MOTH cottages.

Methodists 101 years in Witbank

The Methodist church is one of the oldest communities in Witbank. Although the first church building was erected in 1905 and Witbank had its own minister in the person of Rev. Henry Goodwin, the church building was later built by a wood and iron structure erected near the Carlton Hotel near the railway station in 1905.

The building was transferred to the new building in 1923, the model. Parts of the building were transferred to the Church building from 1923 to 1953 and the Wesley Hall was used as a place for social events.

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Goeie fondament

Sover vasgestel kon word is die on Barlaysbank gebou in Eadiestraat een die oudste geboue in Witbank. Dit is in 1807 teeds gebou.
Die Etsebeths het besluit om die Witbank polisiestasie oor te neem. Piet Etsebeth (links) het goed gevorder nadat hy by die mag aangesluit het en is vandag speurder sersant Etsebeth. Faan Etsebeth (regs) het ook besluit om aan te sluit en is nou speurder konstabel. En nou het kleinboet ook aangesluit. Antonie Etsebeth (middel) is die jongste toevoeging tot Witbank polisiemag. (Witbank Nuus, 18 Oktober 1974).

Beeldradio is deesdae 'n baie gewilde onderwerp van bespreking. Die koors loop hoog en volgens mnr. Frits Beumer, bestuurder van Jet Radio and television, bly die Witbankers glad nie agter nie.

Hoewel beeldradio amptelik eers in 1976 in Suid-Afrika sal wees, moet daar reeds voor die tyd 'n begin gemaak word met eksperimente en voorlopige programme om belangstelling onder die publiek aan te wakker.

Waar gaan reeds vroeër in September 'n stel in Jet Radio and Television gëinstalleer word.

(Witbank Nuus, Februarie, 1974).

Baie misdaad en ongelukke

"Witbank se polisiestasie is ongetwyfeld die besigste stasie in Oos-Transvaal. Derhalwe kan afgelei word dat die dorp die hoogste misdaadsyfer in die area het, volgens Brig. A de Waal.

32 besighede en 48 private persone is vanaf die begin van die jaar beroof. 220 klotes van aanranding is aangemeld.

Sedert die begin van 1975 was daar meer padongelukke in Ogies as in 1974. 95 mense is reeds in die Witbank omgewing beseer in botsings hierdie jaar. Dit was 'n totaal van 24 mense ernstig en 53 ligtig beseer, en sowat 18 mense het op die pad omgekom."

(Witbank Nuus, 13 Junie 1975).
Bylae tot WITBANK NUUS Vrydag 24 November 2006

Witbank coded for automatic exchange

Witbank has now officially been 'coded' for the purpose of the automatic telephone exchange, according to Mr M.A. Weisser, the newly appointed senior technician of the exchange. Witbank's official number is 01351, which is the number all other exchanges will dial to raise a telephone subscriber in the Witbank area.

(WITBANK NEWS Friday, June 12, 1970)

Baie dop bestuurstoete

"Volgens 'n verslag van die hoofverkeersbeampte van die stadsraad het 117 persone gedurende Februarie 1970 om bestuurslisensies aanvraag gedoen. Van die 137 kandidate wat aanvraag gedoen het om leerlingbewyse is 106 toegestaan en 31 geweier. Die verkeersdepartement het 593 motors getoets vir registrasie, hiervan was 163 nuut en 430 gebruik."  
(Witbank Nuus, 3 April 1970).

First dragline at Kriel

"Erection of first dragline at Kriel in April 1977. Kriel Colliery started production in February 1976 underground. Draglines are as much a feature of the Witbank countryside as are mine dumps and these giants are a necessary fixture on opencast mines.

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Name held high in Belgium

In 1969, Witbank's name was engraved in the town hall of Ypres (Izant and Laurin in Belgium) to record Witbank's generosity of supporting the King Albert War Fund.

Taalfees se 1970 hoofleiers

"Taalfees se skoolleiers soos op 20 Februarie 1970 afgeneem is (van links): Buks van der Westhuizen (onderhoofseun), Raymond Scott (hoofseun), Alta Harmse (hoofdogter) en Elmarie de Jager (onderhoofdogter). In die middel sit mnr. J.P.A. Fourie (hoof). (Witbank Nuus, Februarie 1970). (Alta Harmse, oftewel Booyens (omkring), is al vir baie jare onderywer by HGH)."
Burgersentrum in aanbou

*Daar word fluks gevoerder met die uitgraavings van die fonda-
ment van Witbank se nuwe Burgersentrum wat teen 'n geraamde
koste van R6½ miljoen oor 'n tydperk van drie
jaar gebou sal word. Die
raad het verlede maand
'veliger van R4 en aange-
gaan wat onmiddellik
deur die Trust Aksep
Bank volskryf is. Nadat
dit weer vir die tussen-
tydse periode wins-
gewend by Trust Bank en
Rand Bank belê is.
(Witbank Nuus, 24
November 1972).

1972

*King Georgpark in Rhodesstraat het op 1 Maart 1975 sy vyftigste bestaansjaar gevier.
Inwoners van Witbank het die geleentheid met 'n luisterryke tuinparty gevier. (Witbank Nuus, 
Maart 1975).

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2.6 KW Wolf Paraana ................................. R2  508.00
3000w Wolf Hunter .................................... R2  875.00
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**AND**
Witbank has its own share of ghosts....

"The little village of Clewer, on the outskirts of Witbank, has sud-
denly been awakened out of its seemingly endless lull, when stor-
ies of the appearance of a ‘ghost’ on the road linking it with Witbank
was revived." (Witbank News, January 1966).

"The notorious ‘ghost’, which has haunted number 26 Mont-
gomery Avenue has reappeared after its ostensible absence of a

"Die lastige ‘spook’ in Van Deusenstraat is nog steeds besig om
die huismense se lewens te ver-
suur. Hy het reeds vanaf 25 April
om die drie huisbewoners." (Witbank Nuus, Mei 1969).
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Tony’s Market Gardens

BEATTY AVENUE

and

Bella Vista Fruit Shop

VAN DEVENTER STREET

TELEPHONE 411.

Special Offer: 1st Grade Potatoes: 45c and 65c per pocket.

*Vegetables were cheap in 1969.

*Planning Die Heuwel Ext. 1 in 1971.
The fine sports fields of Witbank

Witbank's new sport stadium has taken shape and will soon be ready for use. The aerial picture shows the old rugby field, the new stadium, the new tennis courts and top right a portion of the soccer field. The golf course and some of the water hazards can also be seen.

The town council until June 1972 spent an amount of R170 000 on the project, presently valued at more than R300 000.

At present the council is building four tennis courts where the basketball fields were. The new basketball and jukies fields are moved to Extension Eight where also the sports field and clubhouse for paraplegics has been build.

Tenders have been called for the fencing of the stadium, which will give the final touch to its completion.

Curriebeke: eerste wedstryd Saterdag op Witbank


"Witbank word op 26 Junie op die wêreldkaart van rugby geplaas wanneer die Pumas uit Argentinië al hier hulle eerste wedstryd van hulle seisoen te Republiek speel." (Witbank Nuus, 5 Februarie 1971).

"Dr. Danie Craven (president van die Suid-Afrikaanse Rugbyraad), mnr. Flip Coetzer (voorsitter van die N. Tvlse subunie), onder wie se voorsitterskap die beraad met dr. Craven belê is en mnr. Gert Potgieter (S.A. Sportstigting) het op 4 Februarie 1966 in Witbank ontmoet om die grense van die rugby unies te bespreek. (Witbank Nuus, Februarie 1966).

Congratulations Witbank!

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“After eight months of talk about two new shopping centres for Witbank (Pick ’n Pay and Hypercenta), the construction of the two giants became a reality when builders moved onto the two different sites a while ago.

If everything keeps on running smoothly, as it has up to now, this centre should be completed early in 1981.

In order to make way for this giant, the present Kentucky Fried Chicken depot will have to be demolished.

Apart from the 13 shops that will be housed in the new building, there will also be a brand new Kentucky Fried Chicken depot.

The Hyperama is presently being constructed in the centre of Witbank on the old market square.

Although the Hyperama is expected to open its doors to the public in October, the other shops housed within the complex will only open in March, 1982.

These include Jet Stores, Sales House, Triuworths, United Building Society and a CNA.”

Witbank News: August 1, 1980.

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“Ferro-silicon producing furnace installed at Ferrometals in early 1970’s was one of the largest of its kind in the world at the time.

The installation was the fourth electric furnace at the Witbank plant.

The furnace cost R4-million to erect and construction was in co-operation with a Norwegian company, while most of the equipment was manufactured in South Africa.

At the time it was predicted that the unit would have a lifespan of at least 10 years to supply the requirements for the local steel manufacturers as well as alloys for export.

The value of alloys produced by the Witbank plant of Amcor will be increased to about R8-million per year of which R6-million will be exported, earning valuable foreign exchange for South Africa.


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“Dr R. Olivier, hospital superintendent at the Witbank Hospital with Sister Jalobe.

“If my memory serves me correctly, I first met Sister Jalobe 17 years ago and that I worked together with her for five years in the Bantu Polio Clinic in the Witbank Bantu residential area. It is a great pleasure for me to be here today to say ‘Tot Siens’ to her on behalf of myself, the Director of Hospital Services, Transvaal, the Matrons and nurses of Witbank Hospital and to hand over to her a certificate for a long and faithful service in the nursing profession.”

Dr R. Olivier, hospital superintendent at the Witbank Hospital continued saying that Sister Jalobe had done midwifery for many years. In that time, she had delivered more than 5,000 babies, and is able to proudly say that many of these babies were white babies.

“This is a true reflection of the attitude of a devoted person who finds himself or herself in a medical profession. They refuse unconditionally to be influenced by petty differences between different creeds and colours.”

Dr Olivier concluded by saying that he sincerely hoped that Sister Jalobe would, with her pending retirement on December 31, consider putting her knowledge and valuable experience to practical use for those with whom she is hopefully to spend many, many more fruitful and happy years.

A beaming Si Jalobe made the following speech in thanks for the gesture.

“I wish to thank Dr Olivier and the matrons for giving their time to come and honour me in this manner. I have nursed for eight years before I came to the Transvaal, to Witbank and in the place where I worked for years in the Cape, there was no white midwifery. So I did midwifery among black and white and I enjoyed it,” she said.”


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**Kinders verkluiym in sprokieswêreld**

“Twee kinders het in afsonderlike voorvalle verkluim en honderd-tusande rande se skade is deur boere gely toe sneeu op Witbank en omgewing geval het.

Die twee kinders, Pieter Masango (7) van Tweefontein en Lettie Mahangu (7) van Kromdraai se verkluimde liggaampe is eers Vrydag, 11 September, ontdek. Hulle is dood weens blootstelling in die sneeu en ysige weer.

Boere in die omgewing het onberekenbare skade gely toe die sneeu Witbank, 10 September in 'n sprokieswêreld verander het.”

*(Witbank Nuus, 18 September 1981)*

**Misdaadsyfer besonder hoog**

“Ek was geskok om op Witbank te kom en die hoge misdaadsyfer waar te neem.

Dit is een van die gewaarwordinge van maj. Frederik Jacobus le Grange (39), ‘n man wat reeds in die kort tydperk wat hy aan die stuur van die Suid-Afrikaanse Polisie stasie in Witbank is, daarin geslaag het om die inbraaksyfer aansienlik af te bring.

In samewerking met die plaaslike speurtaak het die polisie en speurders weeklikse opstelling in die sneeu en ysige weer.

Boere in die omgewing het ook onberekenbare skade oor die snep van sy boere aangelaag.”

*(Witbank Nuus, 24 Januarie 1986)*
from
witbank
town council

to
emalahleni local municipality
HAPPY BIRTHDAY

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Witbank het sy eie 'groot name' oor die jare opgelewer, bekendes wat roem verwerf het en die stad trots gemaak het.

Hier is 'n paar bekende wat hier gebore is en/of hier skoolgelaag het of sewers in buie lewe hier woonagtig was:

- Beekende akteur, Paul Slabolepsky het aan Witbank High genaturaliseer. Hy was veral onthou vir sy rolle saam met komediant/akteur Bill Flynn in ondernemer Heel against the head en Brutal beloved country.
- Die akteurspaar, Nico Liebenberg en Prinses Haakon bleef saam in Witbank woonagtig.

*Skoonheidskoningin, Anneline Kriel.

*Aktrise, Anéle Jonker.

*Mnr. Suid-Afrika, Solly Grobler .

*Aktrise, Chanelle de Jager.

*Jazz musikant, Hugh Masakela.

*Springbok rugbykaptein, Francois Pienaar.

*Country'sanger, Charles Jacobie.

*Aktrise, Chanelle de Jager.

*Springbok rugbyspeler, Krynauw Otto.

*Operasanger, Pieter Serfontein.

*Akteur, Ivan Zimmerman.

*Die sanger, Kupido was in Ogies woon-agtig. Hy is ook bekendgemaak as die Master Jack, 'n tyd in Witbank woon-agtig as kind.

*Die sanger, Charles Jacobie is in 1972 as Mnr. Suid-Afrika gekroon. Hy het hier verskyn in die destydse televisie vervolging Seepsteenbataljon.

*Die aktrise Chanelle de Jager, wat tans die rol van Des in Egoli vertolk, is in Witbank gebore.

*Die aktrise Andé Jonker is 'n oud-Witbanker wat aan die Hoër Tegniese Skool genaturaliseer het. Haar ouers is steeds hier woonagtig.

*Drie lede van die popgroep Prime Circle, wat besig is om internasionale roem te verkry, is in Witbank woonagtig.

*Bekende akteur, Paul Slabolepsky het aan Witbank High genaturaliseer. Hy was veral onthou vir sy rolle saam met komediant/akteur Bill Flynn in ondernemer Heel against the head en Brutal beloved country. Hy is ook 'n bekende verhoogaktories en skrywer.

*Die akteur Ivan Zimmerman, wat al verskeie rolle in 7de Laan en Egoli (Koet) vertolk het, het hier skoolgelaag en aan Hoërskool Reymont genaturaliseer. Sy was skoolhoof van Laerskool Ogies en Laerskool Klawfontein en was steeds hier woonagtig.

*Die aktrise Andé Jonker is 'n oud-Witbanker wat aan die Hoër Tegniese Skool genaturaliseer het. Haar ouers is steeds hier woonagtig.

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"n Bomontploffing in 1988 op die hoek van Bothalaan en Delvillestraat by die ou NBS-gebou het Witbank geruk. Die bom is in 'n geparkeerde motor geplaat.
Final farewell to old post office

*The old post office in Edie Street has breathed its last breath and is in the final stages of being demolished to make place for a parking area. April 19, 1994.

City status for Witbank

"Witbank was at last rewarded city status on Friday. Town clerk, Mr Hans Pretorius made a surprise announcement to municipal workers at a party only 45 minutes after he received the good news from Mr Danie Hough, Transvaal Administrator.

"The status will give the town council more marketing opportunities and will also help to market Witbank internationally," he said.

Mr Pretorius told personnel that despite the recession Witbank had shown a positive growth rate."

Laaste parkeermeters in besigheidsgebied verwyder

"Die laaste van die stadsraad se parkeermeters in die sentrale besigheidsgebied is verwyder. Die ou meters word nou vervang met een uur parkeergetoes.

Motoriste word vriendelik versoek om gehoor te gee aan die inligtingstekens en nie langer as ‘n uur in ‘n bepaalde parkeervak te parkeer nie. Die verontagsaming van die verbod kan meeneming dat motoriste vervolg en beboet word."

(Midrand Nuus: March 8, 1994)

Groot haelstorm veroorsaak ongelukke

"n Groot haelstorm in Oktober 1995 het ‘n dubbale ongeluk op Sondag 28 Oktober veroorsaak. Die hael het so dik soos sneeu in die strate van Witbank en op die N12 gelei. Volgens Mnr Vollie van Vollensteine wie se besittings goed deur die hael deurloop het, het die hael plek-plek 15cm dik gelei. Motoriste wat op die padie in die hael vasgeroer was, moes stadig ry om veilig by hul huise aan te kom."

(Transvaal Nuus: Oktober 1995)
Winds of change

Emalahleni means 'Place of coal'

Changing the name Witbank to Emalahleni was inevitable. The decision to change them was not taken overnight, it has been two years of deliberation, urging the public to take part in this initiative and finally it is taking place.

The decision to take this drastic step started on January 29, 2004 when a Place Names Committee was appointed to identify the public places, settlements and streets to be renamed. They had to manage the consultation process and table its proposals and recommendations by March 2004.

The objective of the committee was to assure that the renaming was an inclusive, consultative process that enjoyed public and political support.

A delegation from the Mpumalanga Provincial Geographical Names Committee embarked on the process of auditing the progress of naming and renaming.

The MEC for Arts and Culture was happy with the process and sealed the fate of Witbank (Emalahleni), Kriel (Ga-Nala), Swartbos Road (OR Tambo Road), President Street (Mandela Street), Eadie Street (Walter Sisulu Street), Schönland Drive (Moses Kolane Drive), Hendrik Verwoerd Street (Steven Bantu Biko Street) and Jonker Street (Ingrid Jonker Street).

Ga-Nala means 'abundance' in Zulu and Emalahleni means 'Place of coal'.

With thanks
Met dank

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* Mr Arthur Abraham for providing old photos.
* Emalahleni City Council.
* Emalahleni Library.
* Everybody who have contributed by means of information on historical places and events.