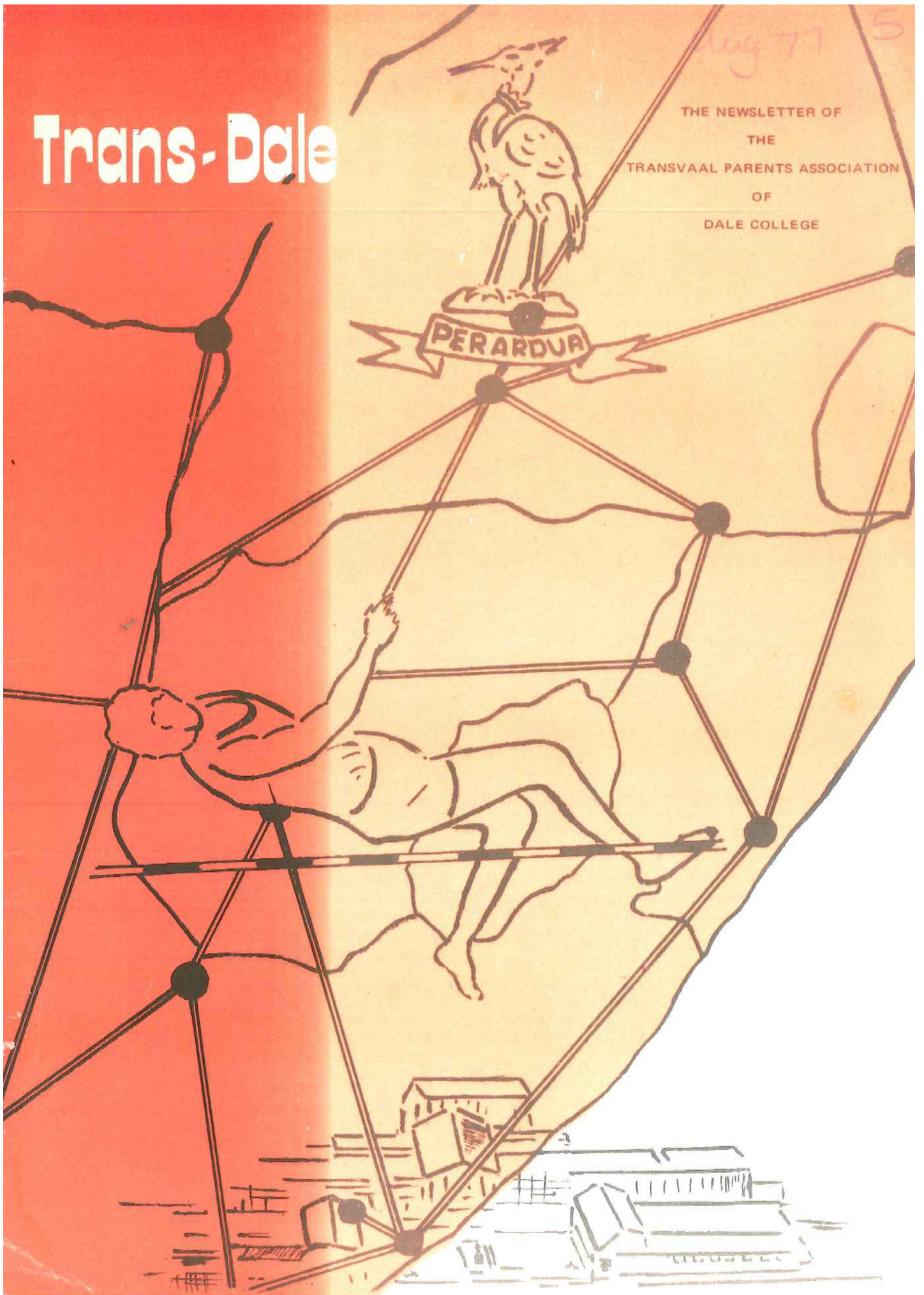


Trans-Dale

Aug 77 5
THE NEWSLETTER OF
THE
TRANSVAAL PARENTS ASSOCIATION
OF
DALE COLLEGE



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No. 5

August 1977

Our friend Billy

Billy Rowles, who retired in October, has not only been a dedicated Headmaster of Dale College, but a good friend to parents of Transvaal Dalians.

It was he who encouraged Transvaal parents to form an association and the links between parent and principal have seldom been closer than they are between Transvaal parents and Billy.

We will remember with affection his regular visits, the time he gave to hearing parents' problems and the personal interest he took in each boy.

His reports have never been dull, official jargon but bright and breezy comments on Dale life. For although Billy takes his job seriously he has a quiet sense of humour and a fund of stories about Dalians and his encounters with them.

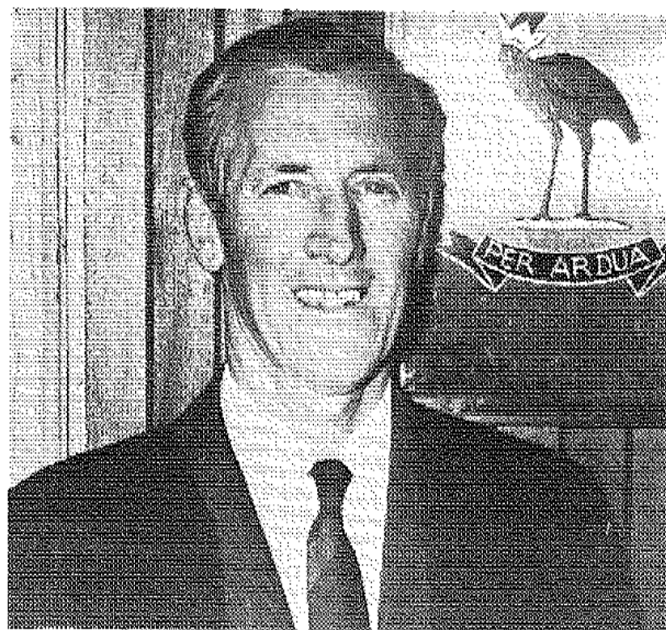
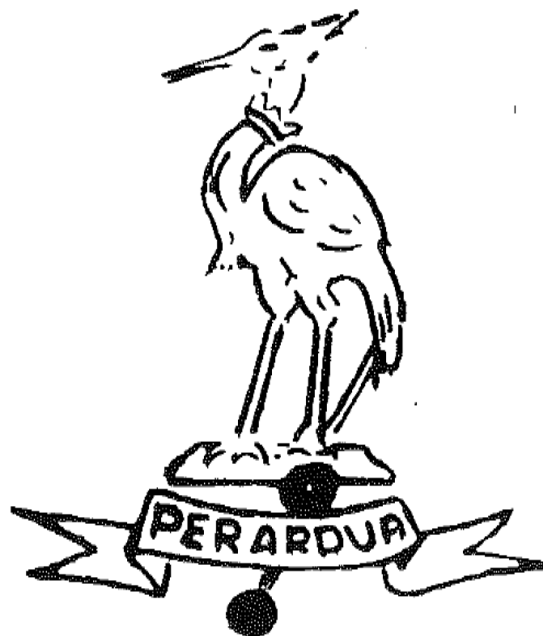
Like the time Billy was on his way from the school pavilion when he saw two small Dale Junior boys drinking water with their mouths over a running tap. He explained that this was unhygienic and showed how they should cup their hands to hold the water.

One of the little chaps handed his cap to Billy and asked him to hold it. Billy did this and both boys then had their drinks. As they walked off one said audibly: "Who does that chap think he is — Mr Taylor?"

Brian Nelson Rowles, to give him his full names, was a "King" boy and the son of the revered E. W. (Drollie) Rowles, a Dale master for 17 years till his death in 1946.

At school Billy won rugby and cricket colours and was a prominent athlete. During the Second World War he joined the SA Tank Corps and was later seconded to the Green Howards, a British infantry regiment. He served in North Africa, Italy, France and Germany and was wounded.

After the war he obtained his B Comm degree and teacher's diploma at Rhodes University, which he



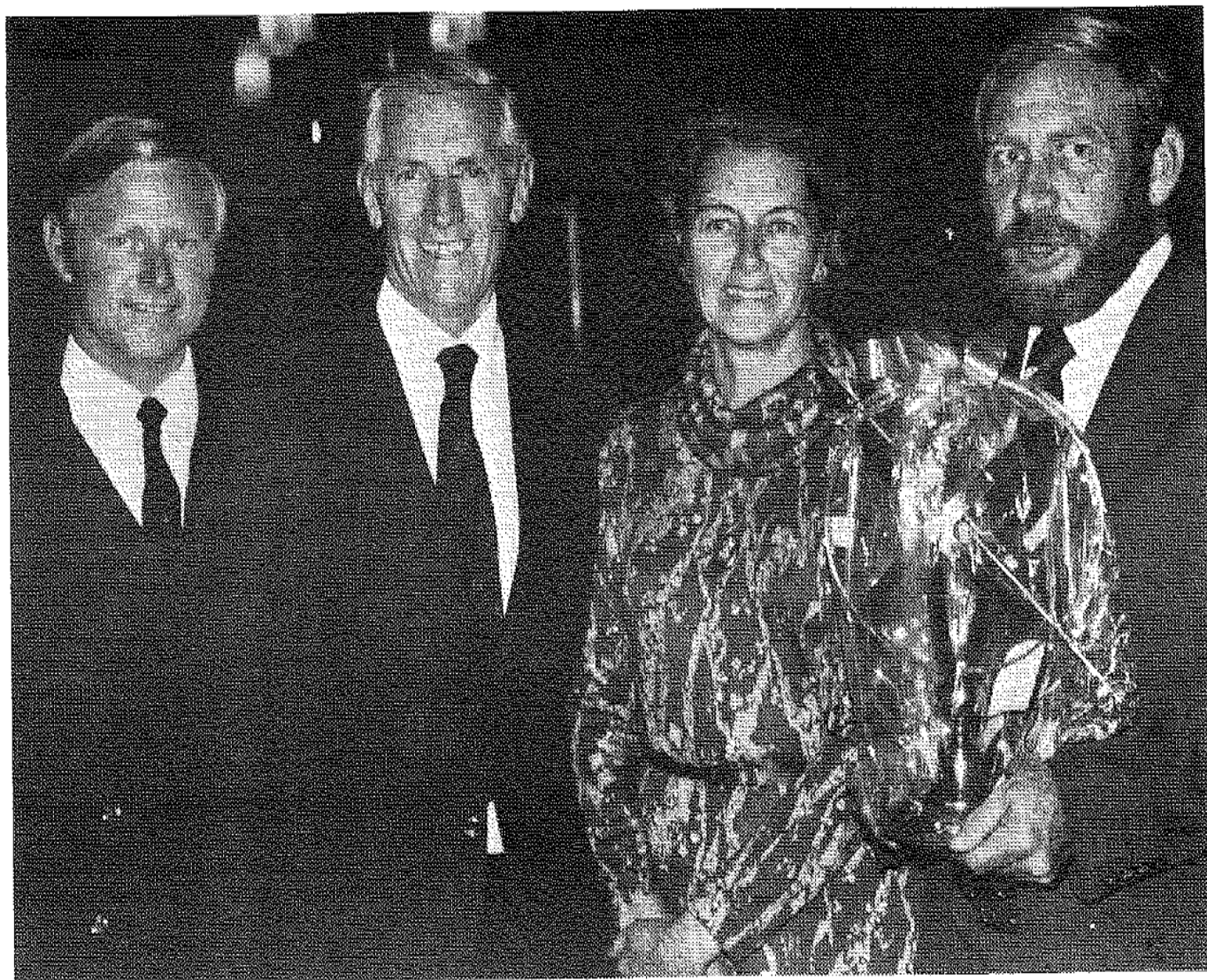
represented at rugby. He taught at Queen's College for ten years and was Headmaster of Graeme College for two years before returning to head his old school in 1965.

The eighth head of Dale and the second Old Dalian to fill this post, Billy has devoted himself to the school and the welfare of its boys. He has been a headmaster of integrity and moral strength who has not deviated from the high standards he set even when this proved unpopular.

Dalians will remember him for his hair discipline. He has always been a stickler about hair neatness and held firmly to his ideas on the ideal length for a schoolboy.

At this month's Reunion weekend Billy Rowles will be given a rousing send-off. Transvaal parents join Old Dalians and others in wishing him and his wife Isobelle many years of health and happiness in their retirement.

Goodbye . . . from Old Dalians and parents



Transvaal parents and Old Dalians combined to say farewell to Billy and Isobelle Rowles, who leave Dale College in September after 12 years.

It was a rousing send-off at the New Club, Loveday Street, Johannesburg, on June 24, attended by about 100 old boys, wives and girl friends and a good sprinkling of parents. Present parents were joined by "old hands" Ted and Shirley Crossey, Dave and Mona Halse, and Harry and Ruth Voerman.

Transvaal parents' chairman Doug Gordon presented Mr Rowles with a futuristic sundial. The Old Dalians, who are contributing to a national presentation to the retiring headmaster, gave a set of candlesticks to Mrs Rowles.

The speeches were short, sweet and witty. Doug Gordon (an Old Queenian at that!) spoke for the parents. Old Dalian speakers included Rod Nash (the chemist's son) and the doyen of Transvaal old boys, Gordon McEwan, whose daughter Amy made the presentation.

At the farewell cocktail party: Old Dalian chairman Rod Nash, Mr and Mrs Rowles, and parents' chairman Doug Gordon (holding the presentation sundial).

Old Dalians rendered the school war cry. Billy Rowles reminisced with due humour about Dale, its boys and teachers. Boys, he said, had not really changed from the days when their dads were at school.

He was retiring, he said, because he felt Dale needed a young headmaster and he had confidence in the man chosen for the task.

Mr Rowles presented gifts to several Old Dalians for their services to the school.

As a postscript Mr and Mrs Rowles joined about a dozen parents and Old Dalians for a late supper at the Jan Smuts Holiday Inn.

MIDGE HILTON-GREEN, housemaster of Sutton House, describes a turbulent trip in the school train from King William's Town to Johannesburg.

He didn't sleep much but his journey proved a point: Daliens are well behaved — at least when there's a master on the train.

• A master will travel home with Transvaal Daliens every term. The cost to parents: R3 a family (for his train ticket and the return air fare).

Keeping Daliens from going off the rails

My train trip up with the Daliens was an experience! I was born in Pretoria and have a number of friends and relations scattered around Pretoria and Johannesburg, so I was quite looking forward to a long overdue reunion. Little thought, however, was given to the preceding 24 hours! Before that, it had taken three late nights to complete the usual mountain of end-of-term administration in order to leave school a day early.

After a jolting journey to Blaney Station in one of the old school buses, I "hired" an unpaid manservant in the form of Christopher Middleton to carry my case and track down my coupe. (I wasn't quite sure if I'd find my compartment amid the melee of schoolboys bustling about the usually tranquil, dusty station).

Fortunately no pranksters saw fit to remove the evidence of my reservation and we duly pulled out at 12.20 pm. As we slowly trundled out I spotted one lonely, dare-devil Dalian waving gaily to his mates from the platform. He had obviously forgotten about my

presence and had opted to forfeit the train journey for more important plans! I too started formulating plans for him!

Looking forward to a peaceful 24 hours of sleeping, reading, eating and dozing, I soon nestled into Muhammad Ali's "The Greatest", having quickly become bored with watching the countryside float by.

I hadn't read two pages when there was a knock and a clank. In shuffled the conductor — to present me with a list of the 80 Daliens (for checking) and to inform me that one of them had no reservation or ticket! What hurt even more he was from my efficient hostel!

The usual investigation followed but by this time everyone had changed compartments. After some worthwhile exercise the culprit was found, the obvious answer given and I returned to my coupe none the wiser but having taken on the responsibility to "sort it all out" at the other end.

A while after the lunchtime gong sounded and I spent the next hour guzzling the unimpressive but stomach-filling fare in the dining saloon. Not a Dalian was to be seen.

The warm afternoon dragged by slowly and was broken only by an inspection of the Daliens' compartments from which 50 per cent of the occupants were missing. However, my sensitive ears had detected no screams or yells and the conductor had not returned, so I presumed all to be well. The 4 pm highlight proved to be a sticky cup of coffee and a soggy toasted sandwich which cost about 70 cents.

The warmth of the afternoon sun had been supplemented by the coupe's heater so I left the door slightly ajar to circulate some fresh air. To my amazement a Dalian slouched up against the opening and started to bribe the passing steward to buy him some cigarettes — as he was "not allowed to buy them" himself! You can imagine his amazement when I confirmed his last statement. After that, everyone knew where I "lived"!

The afternoon stretched boringly on but, to ensure a good night's sleep, I resisted the temptation to doze. With a large number of additional schoolchildren on the train, things began to liven up. Running and shouting up and down the corridor was wild. These sort of activities continued unabated throughout the night.

My only consolation was that on each investigation, the pupils responsible were found to be from other schools. I obviously had an inhibiting influence or the Daliens were too clever for me.

I managed to last until my final check at 9 pm and then crawled into bed. I hadn't been sleeping long when I was woken by some loud knocking — two little Daliens wanted to know if they could swap compartments! I refrained from suggesting they change trains. From then on I snatched only handfuls of sleep between the yelling at passing trains and screaming in the tunnels.

Friday eventually dawned crisp and clear and after an eternity we reached Johannesburg. It was great arriving. I thoroughly enjoyed painting the Golden City red over the weekend and flying home on the Sunday. On reflection I would do the trip again.

The Daliens were, on the whole, extremely well behaved and co-operative. One hears all sorts of stories about these train trips and I'm quite sure the presence of a master on the train goes a long way to preventing bad behaviour or bullying.

Gentlemen David and Harry call 'Time'

David Turnbull and Harry Voerman have decided to call it a day. The two stalwarts who helped to found the Transvaal Parents' Association of Dale College in 1973 have retired from active service.

Dave has withdrawn through pressure of business. He feels that now the association is firmly established it's time to give way to new blood. Harry is no longer a Dale parent — his second son Robert matriculated at the end of 1976 but he remained an active committee member till the AGM in June.

Dave and his wife Tessa have been closely tied to Dale since 1967 when they sent their eldest son Ewan to "King" as a boarder. Ewan matriculated in 1971 and was followed by Grant, who matriculated in 1975. A third son, Graham, is now in Std 9 at Dale.

As the first chairman Dave Turnbull got the Transvaal Parents' Association off the ground. He held the reins for three years, then handed over to Ted Crossey in 1976 and has since remained a staunch committee member. He and Tessa hosted a successful braai/evening for Dale parents at their Johannesburg home in April only a week after returning from a business trip to Japan.

The Turnbulls are enthusiastic supporters of Dale.

They have been to every Reunion since 1969 and the August farewell Reunion to Billy Rowles will be their eighth and not their last.

Harry Voerman's main contributions to Dale and the Transvaal association have been through the Dale Clock project and the Trans-Dale newsletter, which he has edited since it was started in 1975.

Harry personally canvassed advertisements during visits to King William's Town, collected news about the school and the activities of Transvaal parents and wrote a number of articles for the newsletter. Dave Turnbull was closely involved on the printing side.

The clock scheme was Harry's own. It was mainly through his personal efforts that 200 clocks were sold in two years, raising more than R1 000 for Dale funds. And they are still being sold!

Harry and his wife Ruth have hosted many committee meetings and hardly missed a Reunion since their eldest son Harry went to Dale in 1971. They and Dave and Tessa Turnbull accompanied the 1975 Dale rugby team on their successful tour of Rhodesia.

Thank you Dave and Harry — and you too Tessa and Ruth. We will miss your hard work and encouragement — but look forward to seeing you at Dale functions in King and in the Transvaal.

Stephen from Springs is Head Boy

This year's Head Boy of Dale is a Transvaal — 18-year-old Stephen Burden of Springs.

He is the son of Mr and Mrs B. E. Burden of Kent Circle, Petersfield, who immigrated to South Africa from England eight years ago. Mr Burden is an electronics engineer at the Atlas Aircraft Corporation and his wife is a school teacher.

Stephen asked his parents to send him to a boarding school and they chose Dale, on the advice of David Turnbull. Stephen has been at Dale for five years and

the Burden's two daughters are boarders at the Kaffrarian High School for Girls.

Stephen, who is at Frank Joubert House, has loved Dale ever since he went there in Std 6. He is now in the first rugby team, captains the athletics team and is in charge of the school's commando unit.

The Burdens, including Stephen, are now South African citizens and Stephen hopes to do his national service next year in the Air Force.

On his future career he is undecided: Accountancy, science or perhaps he may become a pilot.

"The Nest" Restaurant

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The Dalians Find the Best in The Nest

Mr Billy Rowles, paying his last visit to the Transvaal as Headmaster of Dale College, attended the 1977 annual general meeting of the Transvaal Parents Association.

He announced that Dale had been allocated six additional teachers which would mean that classes would have 18 pupils per teacher.

The meeting was held on the afternoon of Saturday, June 25, at the Presbyterian Church Hall, St David Road, Elma Park, Edenvale. Parents from Johannesburg, Reef towns and Witbank were present.

The chairman, Mr Doug Gordon, welcomed Mr Rowles and parents. Addressing the meeting, Mr Rowles discussed his retirement and said he had always enjoyed his visits to the Transvaal and the warm welcome and friendship he had received. He felt sure parents would do the same for his successor, Mr Colin Fraser Thomson, who was coming to Dale with high qualifications.

Mr Rowles thanked Mr Harry Voerman and Mr David Turnbull, retiring committee members, for their years of service to the association. Mr Voerman's efforts with the Dale Clock Fund and the Trans-Dale magazine had made substantial contributions to the college.

Mr Rowles made presentations to Mr Turnbull, Mr Voerman, Mr Gordon and Mr Aubrey Hall, secretary-treasurer, and thanked the committee for their efforts.

The Headmaster assured parents he would take up complaints about the food at Dale hostels with housemasters early in the new term.

Discussing courses of study, Mr Rowles said parents should not be disturbed because many boys were restless just before and after examinations. Recommendations for pupils' study should be left to the school who had a greater appreciation of the direction boys should take. Maths was no longer required for a university entrance pass and the accent was now on oral work.

On fund-raising, the Headmaster said the people of King William's Town had borne the brunt of this and money from the Transvaal was greatly appreciated. The funds were used for many activities, especially for transporting boys to other towns for sports fixtures.

On school holidays, Mr Rowles said the boarders leaving by train should leave school according to the train schedules. Boys leaving by road or air would remain at school until it closed.

Mr Voerman asked whether study methods could be geared to prepare pupils for university. Mr Rowles replied that six additional staff members had been allocated to the school and future classes would have about 18 pupils to each teacher. With this a higher standard would be attained and more emphasis put on university preparation.

In his report, the chairman, Mr Gordon, thanked Mr Voerman for his efforts and Mrs Ford for her assistance with train block bookings.

The secretary-treasurer, Mr Hall, reported on the association's finances.

As a result of a resolution taken at the last AGM to continue with the development fund levy, R200 had been collected and sent to Dale in December 1976 and R245 in April 1977. The balance in the building society account was R205,48. A cheque for R200 would shortly be sent to the school.

More teachers for Dale

HEADMASTER REPORTS TO PARENTS

The meeting resolved unanimously to continue with the levy of R10 per term per family.

Mr Hall called for suggestions on the payment of the fare to and from Johannesburg of the master accompanying pupils on the school train. It was agreed that an additional R3 per family be sent to Mrs Ford with the money for block bookings.

Mr Voerman announced his resignation from the committee and thanked Mr Rowles for all he had done for Daliens. It had been a pleasure to work for the committee and to establish the Dale Clock Fund and the Trans-Dale magazine, he said.

The following parents were elected to the committee:

Mr D Gordon, 24 Landau Street, Morehill, Benoni, 1500. Phone 849-6974.

Mr A. C. Hall, 77 Third Avenue, Highlands North, Johannesburg, 2192. Phone: 40-4436.

Mr I. Patterson, PO Box 12280, Benoryn, Benoni, 1500. Phone: 36-2341.

Mr J. de Klerk, 105 Westmoreland, 1 O'Reilly Road, Johannesburg, 2001.

Mr and Mrs J. Sutton, 33 Sheila Street, Dunvegan, Edenvale. Phone 53-4927.

Mr I. Turnbull, vice-chairman of the Witbank Dale Parents Committee, apologised for those members who had not been able to attend the meeting. The branch would advise the Transvaal committee of their committee members and when they would send their development fund donations to the school.

Mr Voerman explained the costs of producing the Trans-Dale magazine and asked parents if they felt the magazine should be continued. It was agreed to retain the magazine.

After the meeting Mr Rowles held private discussions with parents.

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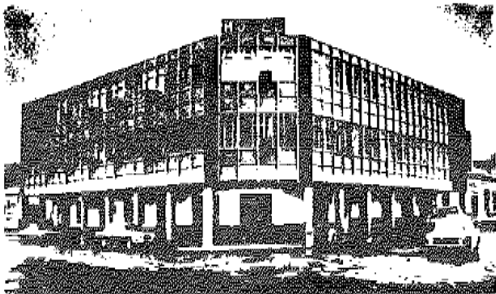
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