

# **THE EAGLESVALE HISTORY**

## **FILE**

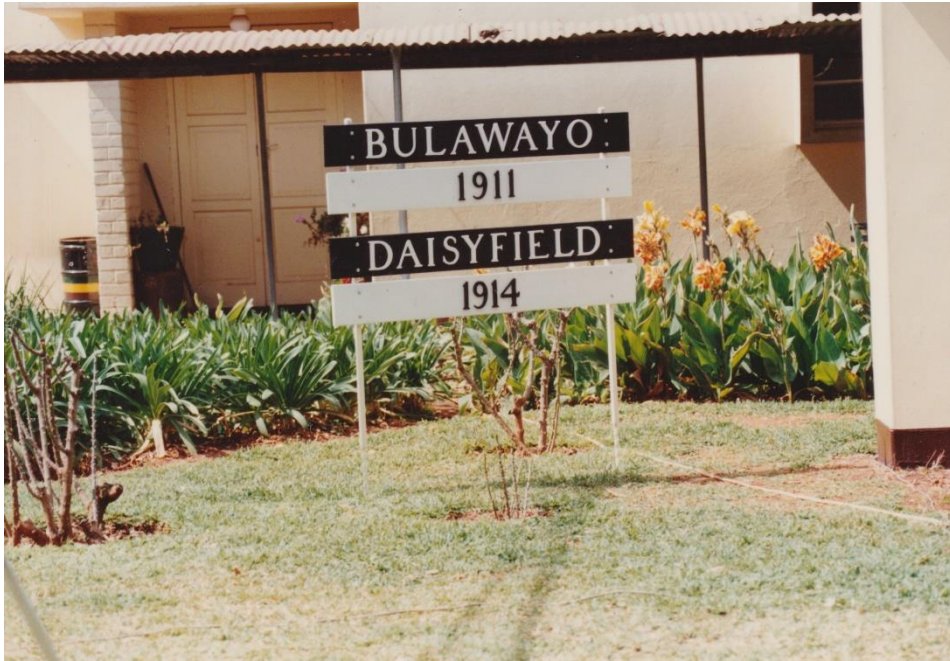


**BULAWAYO**  
**1911 – 1913**

**DAISYFIELD**  
**1914 – 1947**

**BOTHASHOF**  
**1948 - 1984**

**EAGLESVALE**  
**1985 -**



**PRESENTED TO EAGLESVALE SCHOOL  
ON THE OCCASION OF  
THE OPENING OF THE BOTHASHOF MONUMENT  
AND THE HISTORICAL DISPLAY  
ON 02 AUGUST 1995**



## THE HISTORY OF EAGLESVALE



In 1910, Rev Botha from the Dutch Reformed Church Parish in Bulawayo, found European children being looked after by kind Africans. The children's parents had died from diseases encountered on their trek from South Africa.

An orphanage was started in Bulawayo for these children and to educate them a school was built on the Church premises in 1914. The school was not restricted to orphans and grew to a total of 65 pupils.

In 1915 a new school was built at Daisyfield, a farm on the railroad between Gweru and Bulawayo. Afrikaans speaking children attended Daisyfield School from across the country to a total of 271 by 1936. At the time it was felt that the total isolation in which the children were being brought up adversely affected their ability to adapt to the modern, fast developing city life where most of the job opportunities were.

The D R C Presbytery Church of Bulawayo raised the sufficient funds to build a new school on a farm in Salisbury. Building commenced in 1945 and in 1948 Daisyfield School moved to the new premises and was re-named Bothashof. The new school provided attractive teaching facilities with hostels to accommodate nearly 300 children and staff houses for almost all members of staff. There the school boomed and soon reached the maximum number of 450 pupils.

By special consent of the Government, the school was allowed to use the syllabus of the National Education Department of South Africa in English Medium including the Matriculation Examinations which ensured acceptance of successful candidates to South Africa's Universities. This made Bothashof dependent on teachers who qualified at South African Institutions.

Pupils numbers dwindled in 1979 onwards and at the same time it was more difficult to bring in teachers from South Africa. Subject choices had to be restricted and for some essential subjects competent teachers could not be found.

The senior school had to be closed at the beginning of 1982, but during that year the Junior school pupils increased from 76 to 170. A new urgent demand developed for the re-opening of the senior school.

To overcome the teacher problem it was decided to adopt the A E B Syllabus in line with other private schools and in 1983 the school re-opened providing facilities up to Form 3.

Additional classes were added until it reached 'A' levels in 1986. Soon afterwards the senior school was doubled from 210 to 420 pupils and the school reached a total of 1 060 pupils in 1987 with a possible increase of 100. 30 classrooms were added. Boarding facilities and a fleet of buses had to be acquired to transport 480 pupils daily.

Since the humble beginning of the Dutch Reformed Church's involvement in education with the school for the small orphanage in

Bulawayo in 1911, the Church has provided all the capital required for the growth and expansion of the present big institution with 664 pupils.

The name of the school was changed from Bothashof to Eaglesvale in 1985 in line with the totally new character of the school, catering for all sectors of our community, but the cornerstone remains the same "Christian Education" – only in as much as the Church fulfils its calling in this respect, can the Church's involvement in education be justified.

## DAISYFIELD

1911 – 1947



In 1908 the Rev Geldenhuys, while at the Sinode defended plans for a school in Bulawayo for a school for less privileged children. In 1909 the Rev A J Botha arrived in Bulawayo as assistant minister and the first task set upon was that of providing accommodation for orphans and neglected European children.

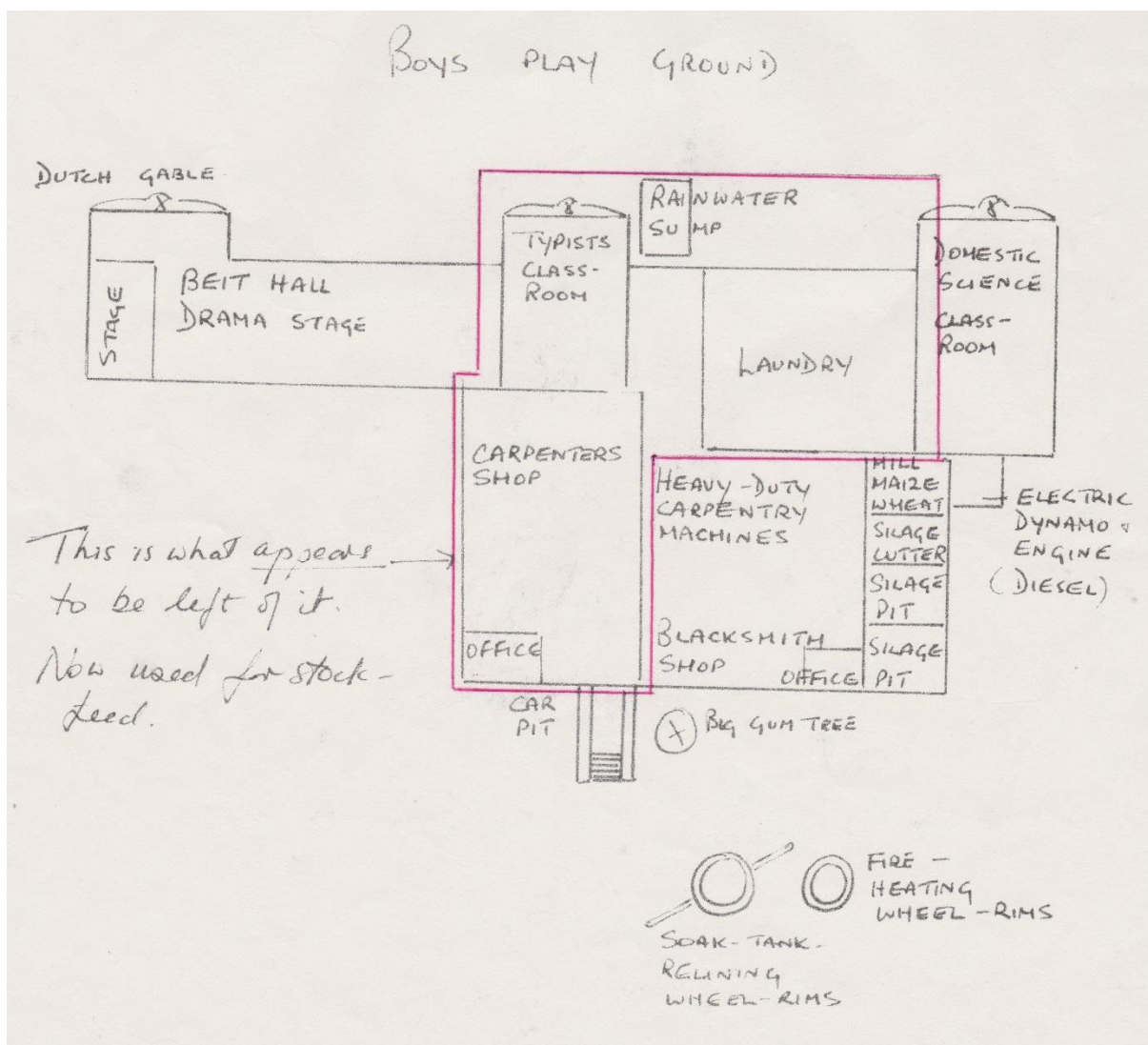
In July 1912 Miss Hauptfleisch was appointed as Dutch teacher. Mr T Honiball and Miss Steyn were responsible for opening of the orphanage school in that year.

On 11 December 1913 it was decided to move the school to Daisyfield. The farm of 2000 morgen was bought and building started. The laying of the corner-stone and the inauguration was arranged for 13-19 August 1914. Rev Geldenhuys laid the corner-stone on 15 August 1914.

The school and orphanage started on 20 January 1915 with Rev Botha as housemaster and Mr Vermaak as Head of the school. By August, 65 pupils were enrolled. In 1915, the directors approached the Department of Education to allow lessons to proceed to Standard 8,

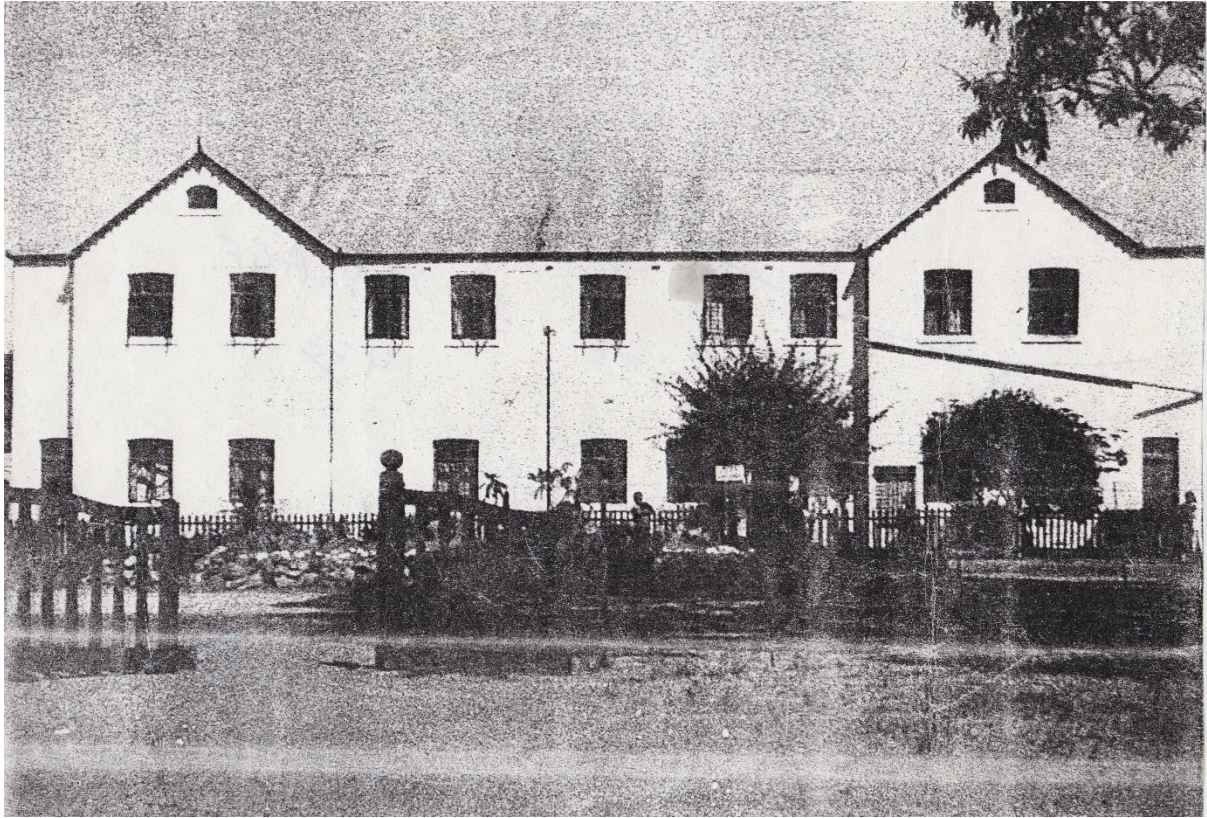
the orphans then being responsible for their own clothes and part of their school fees.

Practical subjects like boot-making and woodwork were introduced, a fourth teacher being appointed in 1917. The institution continued until 1948 when, to prevent the isolation of the children from the job market, it moved to the present property in Harare and was renamed "Bothashof."



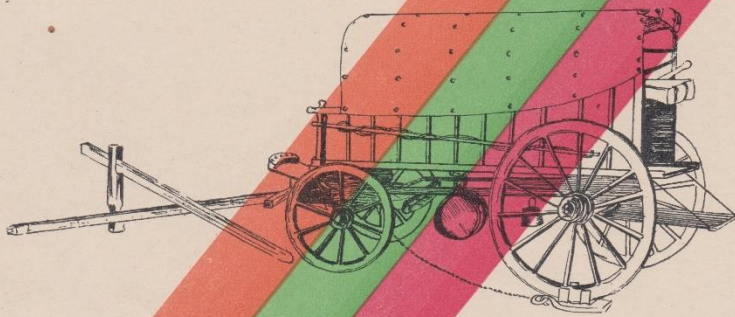
**FLOOR PLAN OF BUILDING PICTURED ABOVE**

**DAISYFIELD ORPHANAGE - PICTURED HERE IN 1938**





Voortrekkerskool  
Pioneer School



Deo Duce

Daisyfield 1945

## DAISYFIELD CHURCH



Standing opposite the site of Daisyfield School, the Church was restored in 1994/1995 by Mrs Pam Evans of Shangani who has been instrumental in helping us with information on Daisyfield. With the Women's Association they have fully restored the Church which, apart from the clock and weather vane, is as original. The roof, floor, and walls were restored and it now stands testament to the hard work in research that has helped us piece together our history.



**THE DAISYFIELD CHURCH 1945**

## DAISYFIELD

DO YOU REMEMBER?

“We are the girls of dear old Daisyfield  
We are old Daisyfield’s girls.  
For we know all our manners,  
And we show all our banners,  
We are respected wherever we go.  
Marching down from dear old Daisyfield  
Doors and windows open wide,  
For we can dance and we can sing  
And we can do most everything –  
We are old Daisyfield’s girls.

I was two years old when I came to Zimbabwe with my parents. At four, I got Malaria and Dr McNaughton said I had better return to South Africa. My mother took me to Ladybrand, to her sister, where I lived for five years for schooling.

Then came the “Black October” of 1918 with the Influenza Epidemic. My father died, so my mother brought me back to this country. For one year I went to a farm school, where I stayed with my sister whose husband worked for Mr Lilford. My mother was a midwife, working with Dr. Appleyard and after my Brother-in-law inherited a farm in South Africa they left. I was sent to board in Broedway House, Salisbury and we went to the school in our little Dutch Reformed Church, the “Holandse Helpmekaar School”.

At the age of 11 years I went to DAISYFIELD. My mother was very worried as it was the first time in my life I had to travel alone. She was booked to nurse a lard on a lonely farm in the Sinoia District. Her train left Salisbury Station at mid-day; mine that evening. My mother took me to an empty compartment and showed me, after the conductor clipped my ticket, to put the latch on the door and stuff my

hanky in on top of the latch so that no one could worry me. I followed all the instructions and then fell fast asleep.

At midnight, a big bang on my door and someone shouting "Daisyfield" awoke me. A porter took my little trunk and helped me out into a pitch black night, on one to be seen.

In the distance we saw a light and he asked if I would be able to walk there, but the Engine Driver started to whistle for him. As he turned towards the train two young boys appeared and asked "Are you the new orphan? They told us you were a boy! They should have sent two girls". But each grabbed a handle of my trunk and we started walking down a rough road with several drains for the rain water to run off.

Every time we came to one of these drains they warned me "Mind, here's a ditch!" On the right of us I saw a dark patch and asked what it was and they explained it was a Gum Tree plantation and warned if the staff caught us there, there would be great trouble. They also said never to try to run away, they're sure to catch you, and then.....

At last we arrived at the Girls's Hostel. A double storey building. They took me upstairs, left my trunk against the wall by the door and told me to go straight to the end and wake the girl there and ask her where I should sleep. When I got there the last bed was bare, not even a mattress on it. I tried to wake the girl next door but with a grunt she turned her back to me. I kicked off my shoes and crawled in next to her.

Next morning I awoke to find a lot of strange eyes fixed on me. One of them took me to the Housemother, a lovely motherly old lady, who settled me in.

After a few days I met a friend who was with me in the H H Hostel in Harare, who told me that her two sisters were there too. What a comfort that was!! Postage was 3 p a letter. I went into Rev Botha's Study and asked for "A tickey in stamps?" He said "Get out and come

back when you can talk your own language” so I bribed someone else to go and buy them.

We had a cement washing area and took turns with the boys to do the washing. A big girl came to me and said I was to get a pillow case hanging on the line. Thinking it belonged to her I took it openly. (Meanwhile it was the boy’s washing). She then ordered a few others and myself to follow her into the gum trees where she placed us certain distances from each other and told us to ‘watch” She went right to the end where there was a Watermelon on the field. She rolled a big one to the first girl, who rolled it to the next, and so on, until it reached me. We had a nice feast. Much later I found out how wrong it was.

Once I saw some girls going upstairs after our school study at night, with cards of permission, and they said any of the older girls who wanted to join asks for one from Rev Botha’s secretary. She told me that Rev Botha read from the Bible and explained the text and then prayed with those who wanted to pray. I joined in and the first evening he asked me “Are you a child of God?” I got such a shock as I thought how could an ordinary human being be so impertinent as to call themselves “A child of God?” When he asked me the same question for the second time, I said “I don’t know!” Then – “Didn’t you ever ask Jesus to come into your heart? I said yes, I always had, but he took a glass and gave it to me, saying “I give you this glass and tomorrow I’ll ask you to whom does this glass belong? Will you also say “ I don’t know?” Then I understood what was meant by saying you are a child of God.

What really grieved me was when the Committee decided on a “stay in” Christmas and no one was allowed to go home, the reason given being that some people went dancing instead of going to Church on Christmas day. On one such Christmas my mother came to see me, her first visit to Daisyfield. Rev Botha called me and said there was a new rule:

Parents were welcome to come and visit us, but the orphanage could not afford to put them up. Thus if they came in the morning they were to leave again in the evening. That afternoon I had to go for Piano lessons but all I could do was sit and cry. My teacher after hearing my story got in touch with Rev Botha and came and said she'd got permission from him. I was to go, get my Mother's case and my clothes, as we were to stay with my teacher for a week!

One Christmas holiday we were camping for a week on Rev Botha's Farm, Doorenhoeck, which we enjoyed thoroughly. We baked bread and dried out rusks after going there by Oxwagon. We also went by oxwagon once a year to Somabula Siding to compete against Gweru in Sports. The girls against the boys. They hit that cricket ball so hard, it hurt our hands! So Rev Botha said they must bat with their left hands. They laughed, and we could not make out why, until we found out that most of them were left-handed.

There was a girl suffering from Epileptic fits in the orphanage in our dormitory. Rev Botha asked me to keep an eye on her and one evening all in bed, she screamed "The Bakery is burning. The Bakery is on fire!" I thought she was having a fit again, but to make sure I went to investigate. Her window faced the Bakery and sure enough, she was right. I ran to the study and called Rev Both and told him to rescue a little hen that was breeding in a corner. Everybody was out of bed and stood in the windows upstairs looking at the awful flames. The Daisyfield boys and neighbours all tried their best but the Bakery and Butchery was burnt to the ground. My little hen was safe, however. When things went against us we often used to wish the orphanage would burn down but after that terrible sight you never heard anyone wishing that again!

The girls often came to me and begged me to ask Rev Botha for permission to play games in the Dining Hall. I always refused but they

nagged until I gave in. The next day was a holiday, and he said yes. We called the boys to shift the tables etc and although we had our own generator and lights, the bulb on the stage was out. Rev Botha stood on a chair to replace it. Suddenly he fell, - and I stood there laughing, not realising that he got hurt. Only when he started groaning did I run and call Mrs Botha. They took him to Gweru, where he was hospitalised for a while.

A few other children and I passed Standard VII and they tried their best to find a teacher to get us through J C (Junior Certificate), but to no avail. Thus, we were at a loose end for a year. We worked hard for our Annual Bazaar and my mother sent me 5/-, but while I was washing up the dishes after breakfast, someone stole my money and a valuable pearl necklace. I was so heart broken that I sat crying at lunch. Rev Botha enquired why, and I told him "You always worry what will happen to these lot if they leave Daisyfield, but you need not worry, they are qualified thieves! And who gave this place the name of Daisyfield?" I never saw a single daisy in all the six years I've been here!" He said "You must be blind," (waving his arms over all the children at the table) "look at all the daisies sitting here in front of me"

I hated needlework! The girls were all compelled to learn it.

One day we had to make khaki shirts for the boys and all went well until it came to putting in the gussets on the sides, so I went to the teacher and asked her to explain. She flew into a rage and said "If all the other can do it, why can't you?" I threw the shirt on the floor and vowed not to touch it again and she sent someone to call Rev Botha. He calmly picked up the shirt, and to this day I can still see him standing with the miserable shirt in front of me saying, "We'll have to make another plan for you". That evening at supper table he called me onto the stage, and told the children what a terrible disobedient child I was, and for my punishment I was to look after the pigs and chickens from now on. Little did they know what a joy that was to me! I cleaned the pigs troughs and gave nice clean water and



Makatans and bread crumbs. I built nests for the chicken and soon I was able to take a few eggs to the kitchen. Rev Botha saw me but said nothing. After a while he saw that I really meant it and he gave the pigs back to the boys to look after. We built lovely runs and hen houses and an incubator room. I joined the Egg Circle in Gweru and was proud and happy that I could at last also help a little.

As my bed was next to a window I often used to read in the moonlight after our "Lights Out". Now at 87 years old, I have had an operation and large cataracts removed from each eye.

I am enjoying my old age –  
Best wishes to all of you

**SALLY FLANAGAN**  
**DAISYFIELD PUPIL**

## VOORTREKKER MONUMENT MEMORIAL

1949



On 7 December 1949, a cement slab was poured on what is now the 'Eaglesvale Green'.

Between the 4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> of November, despatches were sent with messages of goodwill and congratulations on the occasion of the unveiling of the Voortrekker Monument in Pretoria on 16<sup>th</sup> December 1949. A Despatch Riders Festival was held at Bothashof when all the messages from the Dutch Reformed Church congregations were placed in the saddlebags of two horses, the riders of which went to Pretoria, one, Mr Andries Mentz, was the official contractor who built Bothashof. In the wet cement, the horses hooves were imprinted, as were the footprints of Mr C J O Groenwald (The Headmaster). The Rev Joubert of the Dutch Reformed Church, Mr Andries Mentz and Mr J S Schlebusch the groundsman who poured the slab. Unfortunately only the footprint of Mr Groenewald remains, the others having been damaged or lost. The slab is inscribed as well with "Psalm 121 vs 8" which reads;

"The Lord will guard your going and your coming Now and evermore"

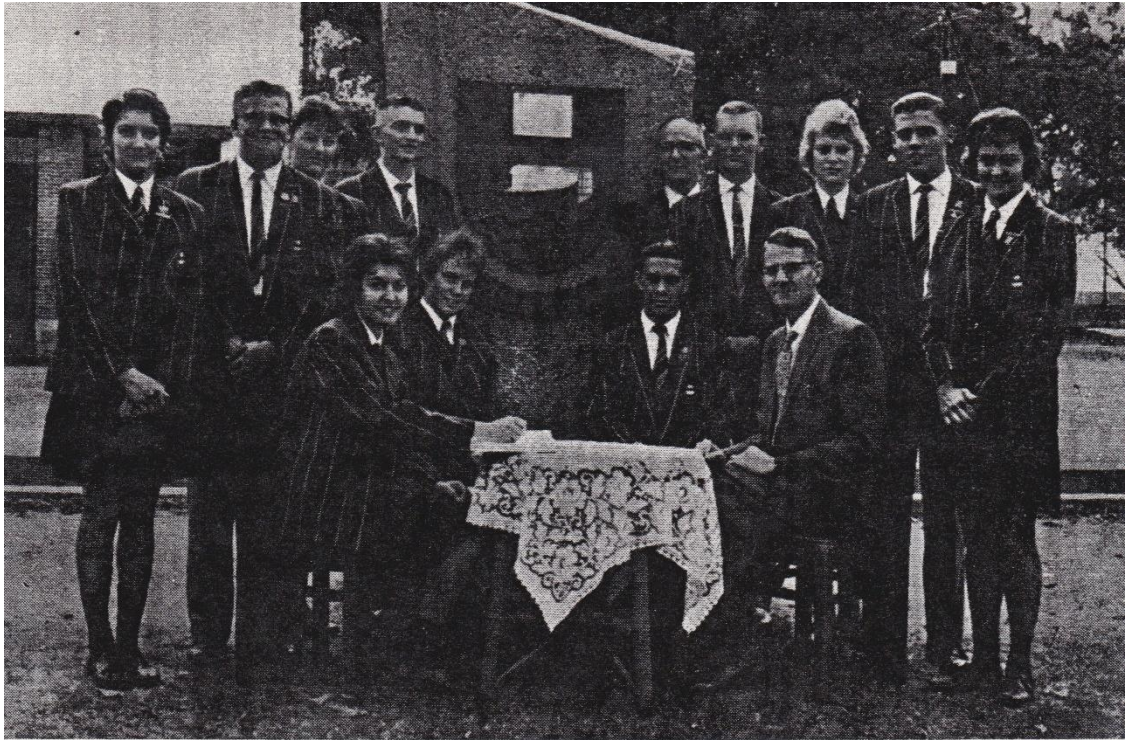
## The 50 Year Memorial

1961

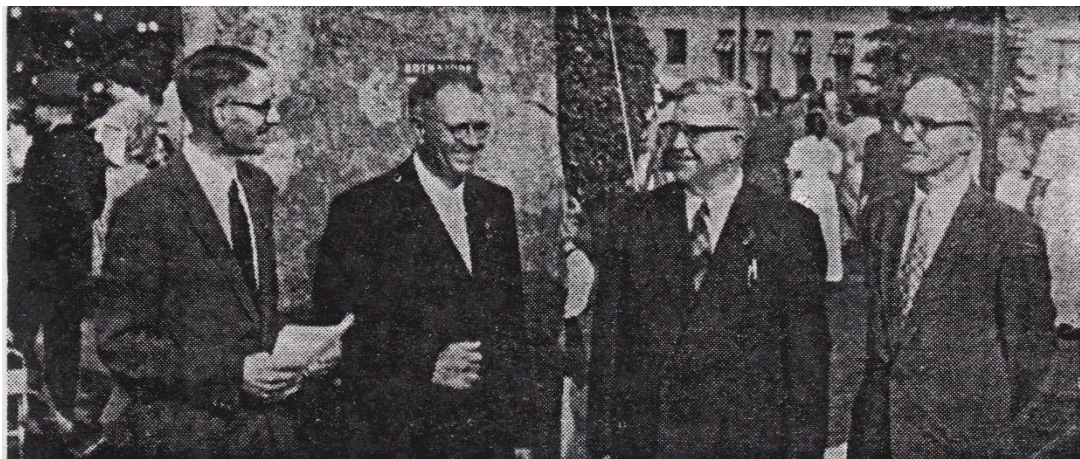


This granite slab was erected in 1961 to celebrate 50 years since the very beginning of the institution in Bulawayo in 1911. When opened on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April 1961 by

Mr T G Coetzee, the Chairman of the Board and Mr A F Louw, the Headmaster, the stone had a school badge on the front of it as can be seen overleaf, and on the back 4 other plaques besides the date plaque, "19-11-69", "BULAWAYO", "DAISYFIELD" and "BOTHASHOF. Unfortunately, all these, except for the date plaque, have been lost and it was thus decided during the course of the Historical Restoration Project in 1995, to place the present DIENS lettering in brass on it. The opening ceremony in 1961 was part of a two day program of 50 year celebrations including speeches, religious services, dramatic productions and displays of folk dancing and gymnastics.



**LEERLINGRAADSLEDE**  
met Ds. A. F. Louw en Mnr. C. J. O. Groenewald



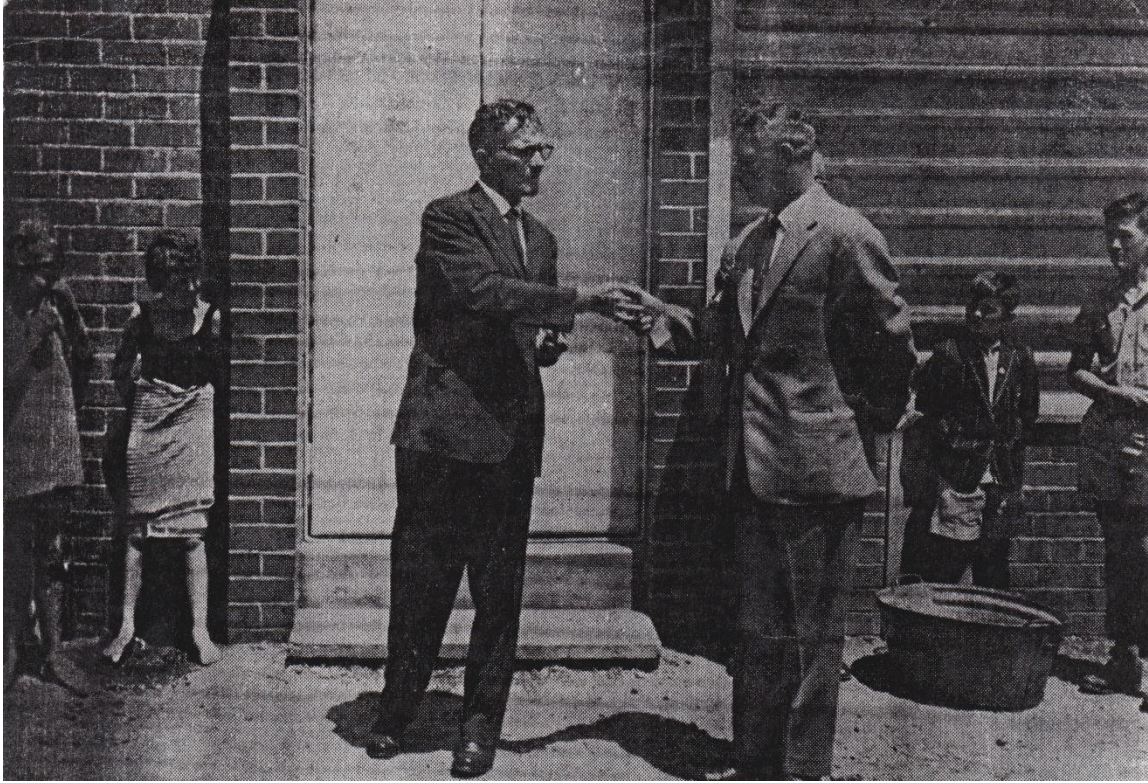
Saam voor die gedenkklip tydens die half-eeufees in 1961. Ds. A. F. Louw (huidige direkteur) wyle ds. Hennie Botha (vorige direkteur), mnre. D. H. Davel en C. J. O. Groenewald (vorige en huidige skoolhoofde).

## THE EAGLESVALE SCHOOL POOL

1964



Officially opened on 22 October 1964, by PJ Fouche (and C J Niewoudt – the Architect) after a fund raising drive by the school to build it, the pool has since undergone many a facelift. The tiered seating was added and later the shade screens. Lighting was introduced for Speech Night and Prize giving which was held in pool area until 1991. In 1992 the aloe garden in front of the change rooms was removed and Mr Gray one of our art teachers, painted the school badge on the separating wall, complemented by the statues of the seasons of Spring and Summer which were arranged by Mrs L Smith, the High School secretary. In 1994, the pool was named in honour of our long standing Sports Master, Mr Steve Draver who was tragically killed in a car accident while travelling to Eaglesvale to officiate at a Gala. The memorial name plate was unveiled by Mr J W Bousfield (Headmaster) and Mrs H Draver at the Inter-House Gala on 13 October 1994.



**DIE INWYDING VAN ONS SWEMBAD OP  
22 OKTOBER 1964.**

**Die boonste foto toon Mnr. C. J. Nieuwoudt wat die swembad se planne vir ons opgetrek het, waar hy die sleutel van die swembad aan Mnr. P. J. Fouche, Voorster van Ouersvereniging, oorhandig.**

## THE DAISYFIELD MONUMENT

1965



The gates, built into the wall by Mr P Fouries, originate from Daisyfield where they were used in front of the new school building. The double gates were respectively the boys and girls entrances while the central gate – formed the entrance to the Head's office, Mr Davel being the Headmaster at that time.

The gates were made by Mr C P Groenewald and pupils from the metalwork section on Daisyfield. Mr Groenewald was instructor in welding at the Industrial school in Queenstown. In those days gas and electrical welding tools were not available and only rivets were used in making the gates. Thus the gates were not welded at all. The gates were used at the Daisyfield until 1948 when the institution moved to Harare. They were kept in storage at Bothashof until they were built into the wall at the beginning of 1965.

**The Four Corner Stones** : two on each side of the wall. The one on the extreme left originates from the first building of this institution in

Bulawayo and says : **“Jesus , the children’s friend.”** It was set by Rev J N Geldenhuijs, 22 October 1910.

Rev Geldenhuijs, and Rev A J Botha were the founders of the institution known today as Bothashof.

The second corner stone on the left comes from the double story Orphanage building at Daisyfield and reads : **“Suffer not the children who come to me and hinder them not”** Mark 10:14. Corner stone set on 15 August 1914 by Rev J N Geldenhuijs.

The two corner stones on the right are not so old. The one was **“Laid in the Pioneer- Centenary year to the honour of God and the advancement of our nation by Rev A H Botha on 1 November 1938. Psalm 144 verse 12.”** This stone came from the new school building at Daisyfield, erected in 1938.

The last is the Bothashof Corner Stone. On it is written **“Bothashof. To the honour of God in service of Church, Nation and Country.”** Laid by Rev H Botha. 22 April 1949.”

Rev Botha or Mr Hennie, as everyone at Daisyfield knew him – was the son of Rev A J Botha.

The praying hands were a later addition to the Daisyfield monument, created by Mr P Fourie (Vuurhoutjies Fourie as he was affectionately called) who taught on the staff of Bothashof and who also created the entrance statues now set in the Bothashof Monument. The hands symbolize The Christian Women’s Society of which Mrs Tillie Louw, our Headmaster’s wife, was chairperson for many years, the hands being the logo on their stationery.





## THE LANGENHOVEN SUN DIAL

1973



To celebrate the centenary of Langenhoven, the Shakespeare of Afrikaans Literature, a sundial conforming to the specifications he had so intricately worked out was built outside the Reception Entrance, by Mr P (Vuurhoutjies) Fourie. He was a teacher between 1951 and 1974 and created the roundabout with the help of Mr Schlebusch, hoisted the stone onto the roundabout and made the sundial. It was officially opened by Mr P Ferreira, the Headmaster, on 08 August 1973, true to Langenhoven's own wishes to have a sun dial to teach the practicalities of the earth's rotations at each High School. The following is an extract translated from Langenhoven's own words detailing the intricacies of the sun dial:

“While working on a booklet about the stars, for children, I realised the necessity to set up a sun dial at every High School. We teach children about the rotation of the earth, the tilt of its axis, the seasons, the solstices, and equinoxes, the tropics and the polar belts etc. Yet all this is only factual knowledge. When there is a sun dial they can see how the angle of the axis was established.

I decided to devise a sun dial that not only indicated the hours but also the seasons. If made big enough it can also indicate every day of the year. The rudiments for such a dial are as follows:

If the earth were transparent, its axis a steel rod, the sun would reflect its shadow on the opposite side, the shadow moving 15 degrees every hour. Make a half, hollow earth from pole to pole and put in the axis and mark the hours from 6 to 6 inside the equator. All that is necessary is to aim the axis to the southern cross of the stars and your half world will always remain in the same relationship to the sun as the earth on which it has been erected.

But this still only gives one the hours. How do you get the marks for the seasons? Make a knot in the centre of the axis. At the equinox the sun shines directly on the equator. At midday the shadow of the knot will then also fall on the opposite point of the equator where it will then be midnight. At one of the solstices the sun will shine directly on one of the tropics, the shadow therefore falling on the opposite tropic. And so, midnight after midnight that knot swings from tropic to tropic. 3 months between solstice and equinox, 6 months between solstice and solstice, equinox and equinox. On that meridian, opposite you, 180 degrees from yours you can mark the dates, six months up and six months down. In this way a transparent world can be used as a calendar, with the dates marked on the meridian. The semi-circles therefore dissect each other right angles. In the centre of one of these a line has been drawn to serve as our pivot. The sundial is then erected so that the pivot follows the north-south line at the same angle as the latitudinal angle of the spot where it has been erected. The semi-circle from which is suspended the pivot comes directly below the pivot and therefore is the opposite meridian. To the centre of the pivot line a knot has been fixed. At equinox, at 12 noon the shadow of this knot falls in the centre of the cross of the two semi-circles. At each solstice the shadow falls 23 and 1/2 degrees to either side of the central block.

Inside the other semi-circle, the one lying right angles to the first one I mark the hours from 6 on the one upper edge to 12 at the central cross and up to 6 on the other upper edge to 12 at the central cross and up to 6 on the other upper edge. Here I do not need the central knot since the wire's shadow draws the line at right angles over the circle."



**Die Sonnewyser tel net die sonskynure! Die matrikulante rondom die Langenhoven-sonnewyser wat op 8 Augustus 1973 deur die skoolhof, mnr. R. Ferreira, onthul is. Mag hulle ook net die sonskynure van hulle dae op Bothashof onthou.**

## THE CRICKET PAVILION



The Cricket Pavilion, situated beside the 1<sup>st</sup> VI cricket pitch -The Stokes Field – was built in .....by Mr D Erasmus to service the cricketers with catering and meeting facilities. In the style of a colonial house with a full surrounding stoep, the pavilion has become a popular venue for functions and meetings and is indeed our sporting centre, providing a braai area, kitchen, bar and lounge, as well as change rooms and toilets.

**“EAGLESVALE”**  
**The School Song**  
**1986**

With words and lyrics composed by our own music teacher Mrs Val Muller, the Eaglesvale School Song, “Eaglesvale” was introduced as our official hymn and is now a most valued piece of our tradition.

**“EAGLESVALE”**

Eaglesvale - one united School,  
Staff and pupils, come, O Lord to You,  
Where we’ve failed You,  
Where we’ve not shown Your Love.....  
Forgive us now.

We submit Lord, to Your Kingship,  
We want to glorify Your name,  
In everything we think, and say, and do,  
    our desire is the same  
May Your joy fill our hearts, may Your love our lives rule,  
Lord, we want to serve You.

Let us soar with wings like eagles,  
Rise above the cares of life,  
With You, O Lord, to lead us,  
We’ll know Your peace in strife,  
Holy Spirit will You guide us,  
And correct us through each day,  
For to Jesus we would honour bring,  
Today and every day .....

Eaglesvale - worships You Father,  
Eaglesvale - loves You Jesus,  
Eaglesvale - surrenders to You Holy Spirit,  
    We are Yours.....

## THE OTTO FRANZ RAUTENBACH SQUASH COURTS

1991



Officially opened on 6 August 1991, the Otto Rautenbach Squash courts were built by Mr O Rautenbach (Snr) to honour the memory of his son, a former Eaglesvale pupil who was tragically killed in a car accident the previous year. The squash courts provided Eaglesvale with these essential facilities which had previously been unavailable except at sports clubs.

## THE EAGLESVALE SCHOOL FLAG

1993



Raised on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> September 1993 by the Headboys of the Secondary and Preparatory Schools, Douglas Trivella and Bryan Marx respectively (above) the school flag displays our badge consisting of an ox wagon and an open bible, representing our background through the Afrikaans Pioneers and our willingness to serve Christ. Beneath the badge is word “DIENS” meaning “SERVICE”, all on a background of 3 equal panels, two maroon and one white, representing the maroon colours blazers for excellence in sporting, cultural and academic fields. The flag is flown at the administration block when school is in session and at the Pavilion when one of the first teams is playing.



Speeches were given by Mr J W Bousfield, the Senior School Head, and Mr P G Marx, the Senior School Head, followed by the raising of the school flag by the Headboys accompanied by the school song sung by Catherine Rheeder and Marina Kuhn, the Headgirls of the Secondary and Preparatory schools respectively.



**MRS SAUNDERS OFFICIALLY OPENING THE TENNIS PAVILION**

## THE TENNIS PAVILION

1994/95



Built between 1994 and 1995, the Tennis Pavilion, near the gymnasium was desperately needed to provide to tennis section with a catering and central meeting area for matches. Sponsored mostly by the High School Parent Teacher's Association and fund-raising from the various tennis teams, the pavilion was officially opened with the unveiling of the plaque by Mr J W Bousfield (The Headmaster), and Mrs Saunders (Wife of the 1994 P T A Chairman) in February in 1995. The Pavilion, with its Cape Dutch Gables reminiscent of our background, provides full catering facilities for the tennis courts, the squash courts and the gym.

## THE BOTHASHOF MONUMENT

1995



**'The Bothashof Monument'** was built to commemorate the days between 1948 and 1985 when the school operated as an Afrikaans medium school under the auspices of the Dutch Reformed Church. The Cape Dutch Gable shape was chosen to mirror this background and indeed the original administrative buildings at Daisyfield School. The monument, built on the occasion of the first decade of **"Eaglesvale,"** comprises the original metal-cast school badge in original colour which once hung outside the school reception and the four statues, a father and his son and a mother and her daughter, which once were the entrance statues at the school gates, made by Mr P Fourie in 1969 to celebrate the 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary of our school during his teaching time at Bothashof. Affectionately known as Vuurhoutjies Fourie, he believed that the mother was responsible for the spiritual guidance and the father for physical and mental guidance. The statues were held in storage at Eaglesvale after they were removed from the entrance to prevent damage and allow a wider berth for our growing fleet of buses. Mr Fourie was also responsible for the praying hands on **"The Daisyfield Monument."**

The monument, part of a large Historical Restoration Project in 1995, was funded by donations from parents, pupils, staff and friends of Eaglesvale and the Interact Society.

The monument plaque was unveiled by Kyle Roux, an Eaglesvale Prefect and the co-ordinator of the Historical Restoration Project on 02 August 1995.

---

**ADDRESS GIVEN BY THE HEADMASTER ON THE OCCASION OF THE  
UNVEILING OF “THE BOTHASHOF MONUMENT” ON 2<sup>ND</sup> AUGUST  
1995**

---



Members of the Board of Governors, and both PTA's Mr Marx, Staff of the Secondary and Preparatory School, Invited guests and former pupils from Daisyfield, Bothashof and Eaglesvale, and Pupils from both the Schools.

It was Henry Ford, the inventor of the motor car, who said “History is bunk!” I am sure many of you pupils who are seated here today will empathize with Ford and will be wondering just why we are making such a fuss about something which appears to have so little relevance to the operations of both our Schools. Yet how wrong can you be. Would any sane person consider building a house without a strong foundation or drive a car that had no wheels? I believe a School that has no history or tradition cannot be strong. I wonder how many of you realise that this school has plenty of History and tradition and the ceremony which you are about to witness today will hopefully make you proud to be a member of one of the older schools in the country. Our school is 84 years old yet it has not always been called Eaglesvale, nor has it always been here. It was first established in Bulawayo as an orphanage in 1912 under the direction of Mr T Haniball and Miss Steyn and had the simple name of Bulawayo School. On 04 December 1913 it was decided to move the school to Daisyfield, close to Shangani on the Bulawayo to Gweru Road. A farm of 2000 morgen was bought and building started in 1914. It was opened in 1915 with Mr Vermaak as Headmaster and in the first year enrolled 65 pupils. Practical subjects such as boot making and woodwork were introduced. By 1947 the decision to move had been made again. One of the reasons for this move was to make it easier for Afrikaans children from the Chipinge area to attend the school. Another farm was bought to the South of Harare and four main buildings erected – a double storey School, a hostel for boys, a hostel for girls and between them a dining room and kitchen. The school opened in 1948 with the founders of Bothashof being Rev Geldenhuis and Rev A J Botha. We haven’t moved again but our name has changed in 1985 to the familiar one of Eaglesvale and I hope for as long as this school exists, it won’t change again.

When I was first appointed Headmaster of this school in January 1989, as successor to Mr Peter Stokes, I walked around the school noticing many interesting objects yet few people who were here knew much

about them. Being a historian by training I began delving into the history of this school and would like to explain the significance of some of these structures to recapture something of the ethos, the character and spirit of the place and its inhabitants so that next time you walk them they will mean something to you. Here I must pause and pay tribute to Mr Piet “Vuurhoutjies” Fourie of Bloemfontein, Miss Marie De Bruijn of the Preparatory School, Mr Graham Bowerman of the High School and Kyle Roux from Upper 6 who have been a tremendous help in researching the History of this school. Let me turn now to describe some of the Historical objects in this school.

In the middle of The Eaglesvale Green between the two Lad Chancellor trees or as they are called botanically “fiddlewood trees” can be seen a concrete square. For the first couple of years I was here it was a simply referred to as the horses grave!! Only recently have we found its true significance. The Voortrekker Monument in Pretoria was opened on the 16 December 1949. To commemorate the event all Dutch Reformed Churches throughout Southern Africa were asked to send messages of goodwill and congratulations. A committee made up of Rev D Joubert, Mr C J O Groenewald, Mr Andries Mentz, the main building contractor of Bothashof School and Hostels, along with a couple of other members received these messages at the School. At about noon on the 7 November 1949 the cement for the slab was poured and allowed to dry for a few hours. Then two horse riders, one of whom was Mr Andries Mentz rode over the slab leaving behind two sets of hoof prints before setting off for Pretoria with their messages.

Four people then left their footprints on the wet cement. They were Mr C J O Groenewald, the Rev Joubert, Mr Andries Mentz and Mr J S Schlebusch, the Bothashof groundsman who laid the slab. Unfortunately only Groenwalds footprint remains. The slab ‘also contains reference to a biblical passage. Psalm 121 vs 8 which reads “The Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and



forevermore.” The messages reached Pretoria for the official opening and are still kept at the Voortrekker Monument.

In 1965 the ornamental wall which stands in front of the praying hands was designed and built by Mr Piet (Vuurhoutjies) Fourie, a teacher at Bothashof from 1951 until 1974.

The hands held in prayer were cast to pay homage to the RHODESIESE CHRISTELIKE VROUE VERENIGING or the Rhodesian Christian Womans Society and were used as their logo on their stationery. Mrs Tilly Louw, wife of the Director of Bothashof, A F Louw was the National Chairperson. The wall contains a number of interesting articles from Daisyfield School and also four foundation stones. If you stop and take time to examine this wall you will see, built into it, three sets of gates. These gates were used at Daisyfield School. The two sets of double gates were the entrances to the boys and girls hostels, while the single gate in the middle used to form the entrance to Mr Davel’s office who was the Head of Daisyfield School at that time. Take note of the burning torch which was the sign of the Voortrekkers of the equivalent to our boy scouts. The gates were constructed by Mr C P Groenewald and pupils of the metal work section. Take an even closer look at these gates and you will notice that they are held together by rivets: that was because in those early days there was no gas or electrical welding tools available. Now let us take a closer look at the four foundation stones.

The oldest and one closest to the school or extreme left originates from the first building of this school in Bulawayo and says “Jesus the friend of children”. The stone was laid by Rev J N Geldenhuijs one of the founders of our school on the 22 October 1910. The second corner stone on the left comes from the double storey orphanage building at Daisyfield and reads “Suffer the children who come to me and hinder them not”. Mark 10 vs 14. This stone was also laid by Rev J N Geldenhuijs on the 15 August 1914. The two stones on the right are not so old. The third stone from the left came from the new school building which was erected at Daisyfield in 1938 and laid by Rev A J Botha on the 11 November of that year. On it is written “Laid in

the century after the pioneers to the honour of God and the advancement of our nation in Rhodesia". Psalm 144 vs 12 which reads "Then our sons in their youth will be like well nurtured plants and our daughters will be like pillars carved to adorn a palace." The last stone is known as the Bothashof stone and was laid on the 22 April 1949 by Rev H Botha or Mr 'Hennie as everyone at Daisyfield knew him. Hennie was the son of A J Botha who has laid the third stone. The inscription on this stone reads "Bothashof – to the honour of God in service of Church, Nation and Country.

I would now like to focus on the tall granite stone opposite to where I am standing.

This stone was placed in position by Vuurhoutjies Fourie and members of his Young Farmers Club to commemorate the 21<sup>st</sup> birthday of Bothashof at this site. The stone was unveiled in 1969 by the then chairman of the Board Mr Theuns Coetzee. On the front where we have placed our motto DIENS was a large Bothashof school badge and on the back were three plaques : - Bulawayo 1911, Daisyfield 1914 and Bothashof 1948. These articles have been incorporated in the new Bothashof Monument.

Perhaps the most striking of the displays is the Sun Dial at the front of the school. Designed by the well-known C J Langenhoven who also composed the South African national anthem 'Die Stem', this sundial is unique in that it is round like the earth and not only tells us the time fairly accurately – stop and look next time you pass to confirm this – but also records the seasons of the year, particularly the 2 equinoxes

and 2 solstices. Constructed by Vuurhoutjies Fourie it was unveiled in 1973 on the hundredth anniversary of the birth of Langenhoven, by the Headmaster at the time, Mr Ferreira. On this occasion he said. "The sun dial indicates only the sun shine hours. May the pupils remember only the sunshine hours of their stay at Bothashof." Look at the brick platform outside the protective fence and you will see written in different coloured bricks the years 1873-1973 to commemorate a hundred years since he was born.

The last structure I wish to speak about is the whole reason for us being here today. Behind me stands what I hope will be known as "The Bothashof Monument". Designed by Mr Danie Smith, himself an old boy of Bothashof and commissioned by Kyle Roux, one of our prefects and upper sixth formers of Eaglesvale, from funds raised by staff, parents and pupils. It is significant in that it reflects our Afrikaans background by using a Cape Dutch gable, while at the same time reminds us of the importance of education and the part played in it by our staff, parents and pupils depicted by the figurines cast by Vuurhoutjies Fourie and which originally stood at the entrance to our School. The male is leading the boy to education while the female teachers the girl the importance of religion – two vital corner stones of a successful life. We are reminded by the four signs that surround this structure that this school has been in existence, albeit under many different names – for 84 proud years. The school badge with its motto 'DIENS' serves to indicate the service we all owe to our community.

As we prepare to unveil this monument let us remember all the people who have passed through this school. Let us be proud of our achievements and eager to rise to even greater heights.

I would like to pay homage to the memory of the Rev A J Botha who started the orphanage in Bulawayo, to his son, the Rev Hennie Botha who succeeded him at Daisyfield, to the Rev A F Louw, Director of

Bothashof, to Mr D H Davel, Headmaster at Daisyfield and Bothashof, to Mr C Groenwald, second Headmaster of Bothashof, to Mr Theuns Coetzee, for many years Chairman of the Board of Bothshof, and to Schalk and Henk Viljoen who still have connections with the Board and the School.

Finally it was a wise man who once said that it is a noble thing to take out of the Past that which is good and build thereon your future.

**J W BOUSFIELD**  
**HEADMASTER - 02 AUG 1995**



## THE HISTORICAL DISPLAY

1995



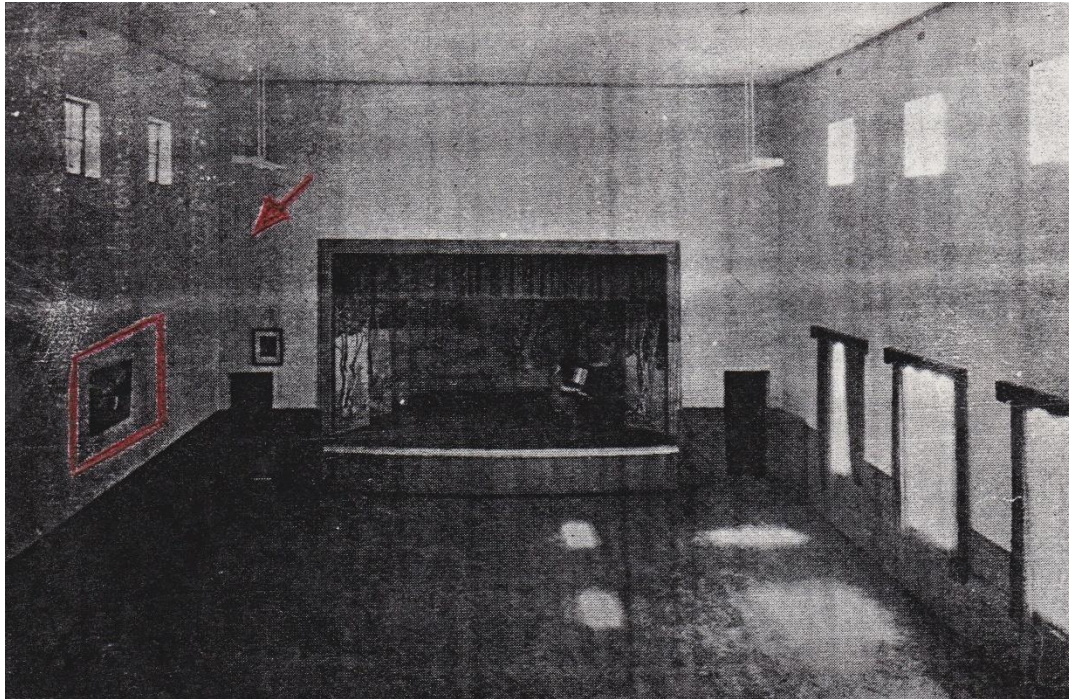
Officially dedicated on 2<sup>nd</sup> August 1995, The Historical Display in the Beit Hall foyer comprised memorabilia of our past, including furniture, crockery, photographs and other important objects. In order to provide our school with an accessible display of our background, the main objective of the Historical Restoration Project of 1995, the foyer display was put together by Kyle Roux, an Eaglesvale Prefect and co-ordinator of the project.

### THE DAISYFIELD EMBLEM

Dating from between 1925 and 1935, this is the original wooden badge from Daisyfield. It was discovered in the workshops and cleaned revealing the colours. The Latin motto **“DEO DUCE,”** means **“God Leads,”** the original school slogan.

## **FELT VOORTREKKER COLLAGE**

Signed “terblanche” this collage once hung in the school hall (as can be seen below) and was created in 1949. Discovered in the workshops and cleaned by the Primary School, the collage shows a voortrekker husband and wife with their ox-wagon.



## **CANE-BACKED ARMCHAIRS**

The mukwa occasional chairs were found in the library and the Boys Hostel in a sorry state of disrepair. The Eaglesvale Interact Society funded their restoration to their current conditions. They are original fabric and have been re-caned in reclaimed cane so as not to detract from their general impression. The chairs have been dated, as with all furniture by Mr and Mrs B Webb, as CIRCA 1950.

## **SPINDLE BACK CHAIR**

American in origin, this colonial style chair is made of oak and has been recovered in red draylon. Restored by Eaglesvale Primary School, the chair was found in the workshops at Eaglesvale. Its original placing the school is unknown. The chair has been dated at CIRCA 1900.

### **CHEST OF DRAWERS**

English in origin, the Burmese Teak chest of drawers was found in the Girls Hostel reception area. It dates from 1920 when the carving on the back lip was popular and it displays all the qualities of a fine piece of quality English furniture of that era.

### **BELGIAN CARPET**

Found in the Boys Hostel, this machine-made Belgian carpet, dating from CIRCA 1950, was originally in the Tannie's Room until it was removed to the Junior School wing where it was discovered.

### **BRONZE SCULPTURE**

This beautiful sculpture in bronze, in fantastic condition is one of Eaglesvale's heirlooms. Signed "**Hennie**" **1945**, the sculpture depicts a voortrekker woman in traditional dress.

### **THE BOTHASHOF BIBLE**

In Afrikaans, this 1953 edition of the Bible is covered in hand-tooled leather, engraved in gold "**Bothashof.**"

### **BOTHASHOF CRESTED CROCKERY**

Discovered in the kitchens, these few items of crockery are the only remaining from a full set that once serviced the Dining Room. Made by the English firm of John Maddock & Sons Ltd. they date to CIRCA 1950.

### **DAISYFIELD CRESTED CROCKERY**

The glazed pottery dishes and plates bearing the Daisyfield crest date to CIRCA 1920 and, although in poor condition, have well survived their journeys from Daisyfield School.

### **THE 21<sup>ST</sup> ANNIVERSARY CARVING**

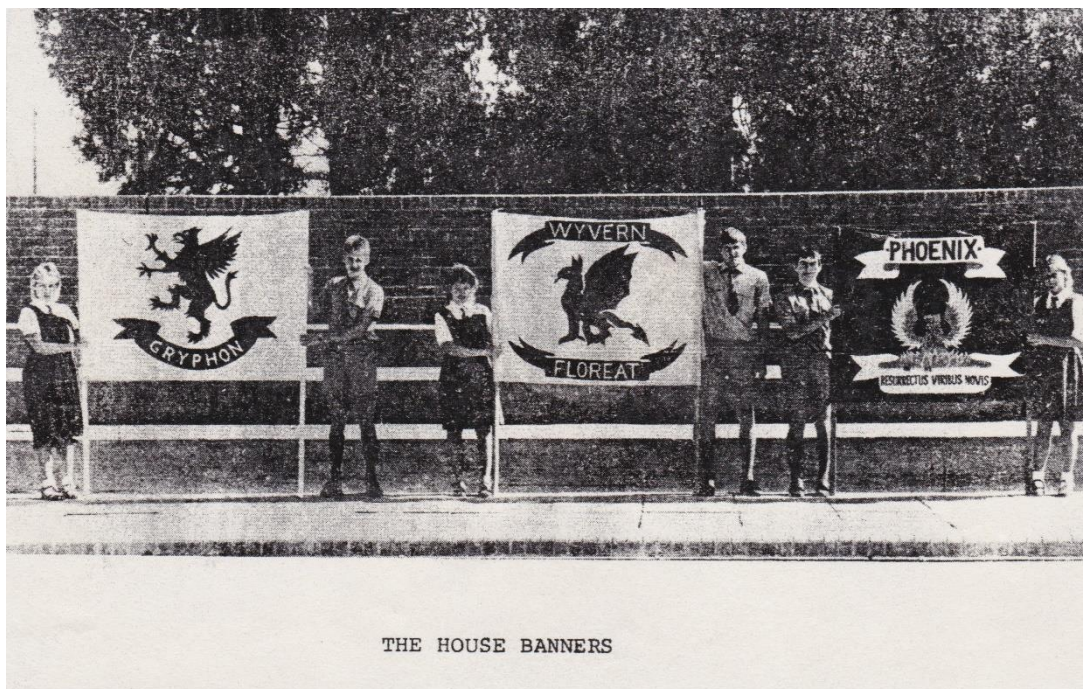
Comprising a miniature copy of an ox-wagon wheel, topped by a 21<sup>st</sup> key, the carving was presented to Bothashof in 1969 by its maker, Theuns Naude on the occasion of the 21<sup>st</sup> Anniversary celebrations, commemorating 21 years on the present property under the name of Bothashof. (1948-1969).

## THE HOUSE BANNERS

The **GRYPHON** House Banner was sewn by Mrs J Scott and is held up by L Smith and G Spalding.

The **WYVERN** House Banner was sewn by Mrs du Toit and held up by H Vass and F Viviers.

The **PHOENIX** House Banner was sewn by Miss C Bosesenkook and held up by A Johnson and N Gardiner.





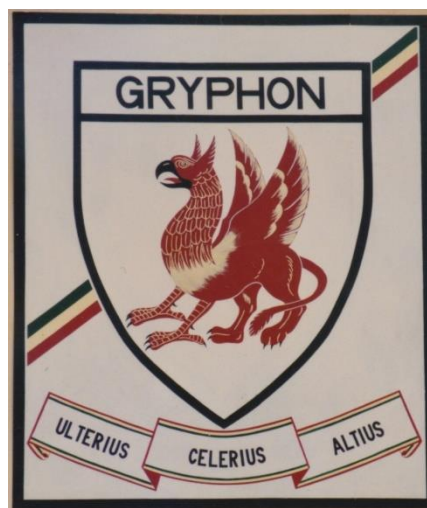
## THE SPORTS HOUSES

The earliest memories of sports houses are those of Eland and Kudu, believed to be the first. Following this, the houses were changed at Bothashof to Trojan and Sparta and took their current names when increasing numbers of pupils required another competitive house. Thus we now have Wyvern, Gryphon and Phoenix. SIGNS in quad. The Preparatory School have their own three houses, Lions, Cheetahs and Eagles, Eagles the blue house, a further addition once increased numbers also meant the need for another house.

oooOOooo

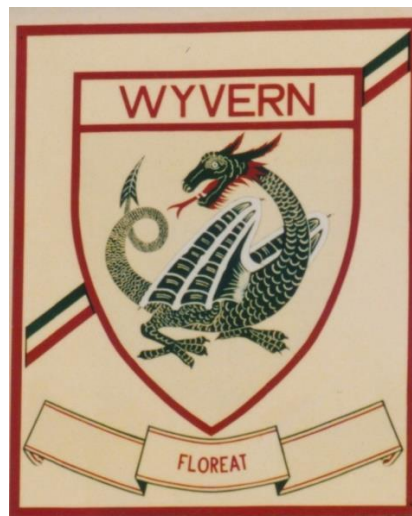
### GRYPHON

More commonly spelt Griffin, this mythical beast has the fore-half of an eagle but with the rear half and ears of a lion. Gryphon is symbolised by the colour white in our school houses.



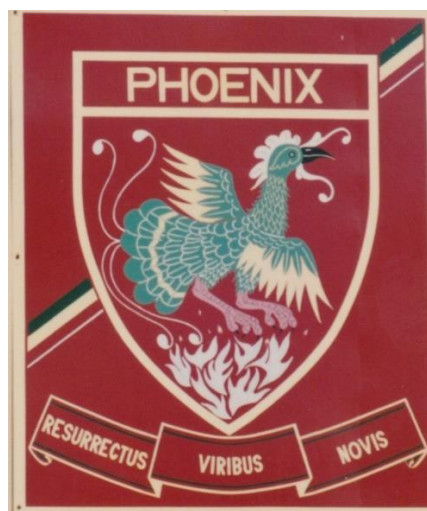
## PHOENIX

An extremely beautiful bird, the size of an eagle, its plumage of royal purple, which after several builds a nest, sets it alight, fanning the flames and singing a dirge until it is consumed by the fire only to rise again from the ashes to relive a life cycle. Once reserved for borders only, the purple house became a mixed house in 1994 due to lack of sufficient athletes in many age-groups.



## WYVERN

Taken from the mythical beast common in English Heraldry, the Wyvern has a griffin's head and an eagle's body, wings and feet, the tail being like that of a serpent. It is signified by the colour yellow in our sports houses.



**COMPILED BY**

**KYLE ROUX**

**With thanks to**

**Mr J W Bousfield**

**Mrs L C Smith**

**Miss M De Bruijn**

**Mr G Bowerman**

**Mr E Sungayi**

**Mrs S Roux**

**Mr P Fourie**

**Mrs P Evans**

**FILES AND LEAFS**

**Eaglesvale Interact Society**