
Kidgell Stories

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CHAPTER 1

Background

This is primarily a collection of familial memories. We traveled all over the country, lived in all the provinces [except for the Free State], and got to experience much that was not granted to other children our age.

2.1 Paddock

2.1.1 Port Shepstone High

Rugby

- Stretch's rugby jersey

2.1.2 Horses

Riding of

Attacking Geoff

2.1.3 Motor bikes

- Riding to Murchison and back
- Deidre's first bike ride
- Fixing bikes... a lot!

The Train Line

The Factory

- Fire extinguishers
- The Tower

2.1.4 House 1

- Playing the mouth-organ on the water tower
- Mowing the grass with Geoff

Catties

We would cut old tyre tubes up to make catties, and had much fun using the [still existing] windows on the factory exterior for target practice.

Playing squash at the Farmer's Hall

YP at the Farmer's Hall

Pyromania - Chris' Kentucky Fried

Oribi Gorge

2.1.5 House 2

Playing the Vox guitar on the roof

Danny Duck

2.2 Mpame

What a place! Where does one begin?

2.2.1 Places

Porpoise Gully

Clark's Point

Mncwasa

Wilson's Gully

Shelly Beach

Mbolompo

Hole in the Wall

- The long walk
- The desert area above Mbolompo

Tafalehashe

Prospect

The Sphinx

Archeology

Shooting

Fishing

The beach buggy

Mom drifting the Kombi sideways near Manzi

The 'skelm' trip down to Mpame

- 5 punctures
- The taxi driver's jack
- Mom at the border post

Flat Rocks

Boating / fishing on the Mncwasa

2.3 Chiltley

The cows

The cows were named Kitchen and ??? Geoff and Jonathan C tried to ride the calf.

Guavas

We used to pick guavas off the trees in the orchard - they were freely available and much appreciated!

The bogey

I found a bogey in the factory. It came from one of the cane trolleys, and I decided to take it back to Chiltley to use as a barbell. I figured it would be an easy task to roll it all the way home on the railroad track which ran from the factory in Paddock all the way past Chiltley at a gentle incline. I placed it on the rails at the road crossing and started pushing it. I had to keep stopping it from running ahead because of the incline, but this became tedious after a while, so I thought I might run ahead of it and catch it further down the track.

Going camping in Oribi Gorge with Peter Holmes in his short-wheel-base Landrover

Peter collected us at the C residence and drove us to the Gorge. We trekked into the Gorge and eventually found a cliff with a massive overhang which we decided to use as our camp. We built a fire as darkness was falling then picked out places to bed down and sat around cooking something to munch, then we chatted away until we fell asleep.

Living in the cottage with Geoff

Mrs. Simpson, Roy Whipp and Mary [??]

Geoff's driving escapades

Deidre, Xolo and the horse

Making butter in the scullery

2.3.1 Murchison

Andrew Cameron and the taxi driver

YP at Murchison

Mrs. Cameron and the exploding ginger bottles

2.4 East London

2.4.1 Porter Street

Watching films at the library on Thursday nights [Friday?]

The guy who tried to steal mom's bag

Gonubie

Nahoon mouth with uncle Edwin's [?] red boat.

2.4.2 Moore Street

2.4.3 The Maris Stella Convent

Go-carts

Building models

Marionettes

Reading war comics

2.4.4 The Kennaway Hotel

2.4.5 Selborne Primary

The Tuck Shop

My favourite was the sausage roll. This came in two sizes, a 6c and an 11c version. Smothered in tomato sauce! Yummy...

The School Orchestra

I played trumpet in the school orchestra which was lead by Mr. Ian Sampson. On band days I had to lug my trumpet with me on the bus to school and back. One day I left it on the bus when I got off near home and never twigged until I got on the bus the next day and the bus driver gave it back to me. Whew!

Mr. Sampson thought I might go further so set up an audition for me with the East London Youth Orchestra, but we were leaving for Johannesburg so I never got to try out.

2.4.6 Quigney Baptist Church

Mark Frame's house, his tv, his twin sister in Deidre's class

Forgetting my trumpet on the bus

Piano lessons that turned me off learning

2.5 Kimberley

2.5.1 Music

The Corps Band

- Saturday night Open Air meeting
- Carolling

2.5.2 After-school activities

The Library

Whenever I could I would go up to the local library and read until it closed. I never took books out, just read them there, placing them back in the correct place afterwards.

Piano lessons at the theatre

Rugby

The Swimming Pool

2.5.3 13 Crossman Road

2.5.4 Schooling

Kimberley Preparatory School

Kimberley Boys Junior School

Tony Block's birthday party

The funfair

2.6 Paarl

2.6.1 Muldersvlei

The Cows Come Home

Playing down at the dam

Braaing meat using paper only

Building rafts

The winery over the road

Pellet guns

Cheryl breaks a leg

Herding the cows

Rinkhals

Getting on the bus in the dark at mid-winter

2.6.2 Paarl Boys High

Rugby in the rain... with bricks!

Cape Town Corps

Double-feature movies with Chris Lovick

2.7 Benoni

The jungle-gym falling on me.

The mower-blade connecting with a bolt hidden in the grass and sending it through the one bedroom window. Some time later Geoff was running in the yard with his cowboy hat over his face and he ran slap-bang into the same window, shattering it. I don't know how he wasn't cut by the glass.

The maid and the shoes.

Dad driving over my scooter and thinking it was one of us kids.

Learning to ride a bicycle and falling into the cactus.

Having to catch the bus home, losing the 5c bus-fare and walking all the way home.

Dad making us wooden houses painted white with red roofs.

CHAPTER 3

Indices and tables

- `genindex`
- `modindex`
- `search`