

# Treasure Talk

NEWSLETTER FOR SOUTH AFRICAN METAL DETECTING ENTHUSIASTS  
NUUSBRIEF VIR SUID AFRIKAANSE METAALVERKLIKKER ENTOESIASTE

Second Quarter 2003 Tweede Kwartaal



Our esteemed visitor from England, Jerry Freeman-Smith, vice President of the Friendship International Detecting Society (F.I.N.D.S.) detecting with me and my two boys at Hermanus. The photo was taken by Lukas van der Merwe.

## **In this Issue / In hierdie Uitgawe**

Letter from the Editor // Brief van die Redakteur, Letters from our Readers // Briewe van ons Lesers, Around the world with my Impulse, Anglo Boer war item found in the USA, The Present Past, Thank you South Africa, Die snaakse dinge wat ons oorkom, Tussen die duiwel en die diep blou see.

## Letter from the Editor / Brief van die redakteur

Dear reader / Beste leser

The big news this second quarter is the visit to South Africa by my friend Jerry Freeman-Smith and his wife Marion during March. Jerry is the Vice-president of the Friendship International Detecting Society (F.I.N.D.S.). Jerry and Marion stayed a few days with me and my family in Durbanville, then visit my wife's parents for a couple of days in Stellenboch. For the long weekend we went to stay at my brother's holiday home at Hermanus (see picture on front page). The second week, Jerry and Marion were on their own and went to stay at the Victoria and Albert waterfront in Cape Town.

Jerry published his visit in four episodes on the F.I.N.D.S. forum website at (<http://216.194.97.71/cgi-bin/config.pl>) It is well worth the read – here is an extract from episode 1 ...

*"Saturday night was "Braai" night, now I always thought that it as the Aussies that had the most BBQ's, not so...it is a way of life in South Africa also. Not only do they have one in the garden...everyone has a second one inside the house, for when the temperatures plummet to below 25 degrees C. (ha-ha Ed.) As the weather seemed a little unsettled, the Braai was to be held at Andy Naudes house...apparently his indoor grill is bigger! We had a wonderful evening, traditional Snoek served with salad, pumpkin, sweet potatoes, and farm bread all served up with lashings of...can you believe...fig preserve! Tasted damn good though, and all washed down with copious amounts of castle lager and superb South African wines."*



*Here we are lined up by the pool From left to right...Mariana, Andy, Pierre, Alan, Dino, Anita and Wolf. Marion and some of the other women are not on the picture.*

Enjoy this issue / Geniet hierdie uitgawe

Pierre Nortje (Editor / Redakteur)

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HI PIERRE

Thanks for all the interesting Treasure Talks I have received over the last three years. I stay in Fish hoek, and would like to tell you about my recent observations of the beach.

During the last few weeks in February and beginning of March I was only finding a few coins on fish hoek beach, then on Monday the 17th of March a large swell pushed into false bay. There was a neap tide at the time ,and I could see a movement in the sand .The next two days the beach was covered in seaweed. On Thursday the tide started to move towards a spring tide again and I was able to do sections of unseaweeded beach.

I had signals about every 400mm along one section of the beach.

Most of my finds were old 10c,20c,and some older 1940 to1953 coins.

I also found two gold rings,one gold earring, and a broken silver ring and old dishing Spoon.I could only get down to the beach on the Saturday morning ,only to find that the sand had moved back.

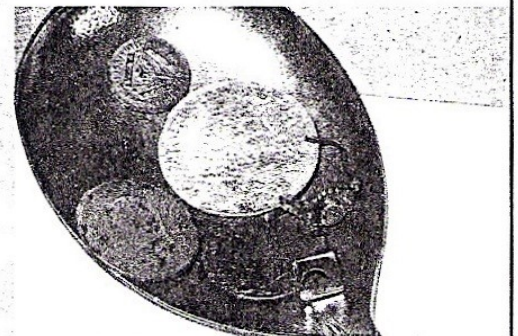
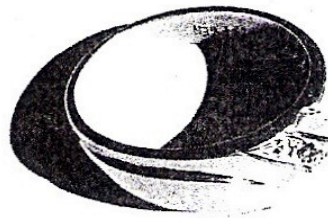
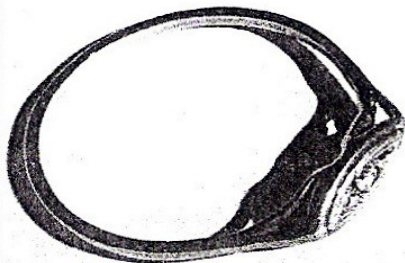
I hope to see some of you on the beaches again soon.

Regards

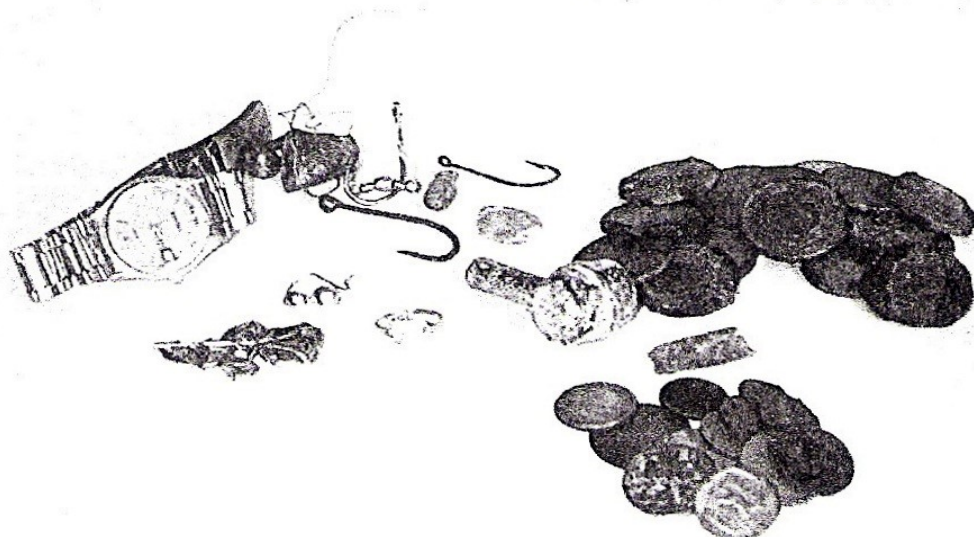
DEON

ESTERHUYSEN

P.S .PHOTO ATTACHED OF FINDS FROM TRIP TO MOZAMBIQUE LAST YEAR .



FISH HOEK



MOZAMBIQUE TRIP

Dear Pierre

Many thanks for the latest issue of Treasure Talk.

The article written by Andy Naude was excellent. I am sure that after finding so many pieces of jewellery that Andy could retire quite easily and detect full time.

As for my own efforts so far this year its not been too exciting. It has been the usual Boer War "B" finds – Bullets, Buckles, Buttons and the odd badge. I did find another ID plate belonging to the Prince Albert Somerset Light Infantry. A private A. Burge. This brings to 3 that I have found and am by far the best finds to date.

However last June Carol and I visited Ramsgate on the Natal South Coast. We detected on the beach using my Beachscan P.I. detector. After some time and lots of coins later, I found a medallion (see two photos on opposite page) depicting the 3 hundred-year anniversary of the founding of Boston Common in the USA. The medallion is 68 years old, but must have been dropped quite recently considering the condition.

On returning home I asked a friend to find some information for me on the internet. This I have enclosed as a matter of interest. On the reverse of the medallion it shows what I first thought was a flag on a pole. But on closer scrutiny it is a gallows. The article confirms that hanging took place there until 1817.

*"Boston Common is the starting point of the Freedom Trail. The Boston Common is known to be one of the oldest public parks in the country. The park is almost 50 acres in size. Today, Boston Common is the anchor for the Emerald Necklace, a system of connected parks that winds through many of Boston's neighbourhoods. The "Common" has been used for many different purposes throughout its long history. Until 1830, cattle grazed the Common, and until 1817, public hangings took place here. British troops camped on Boston Common prior to the revolution and left from here to face colonial resistance at Lexington and Concord in April 1775"*

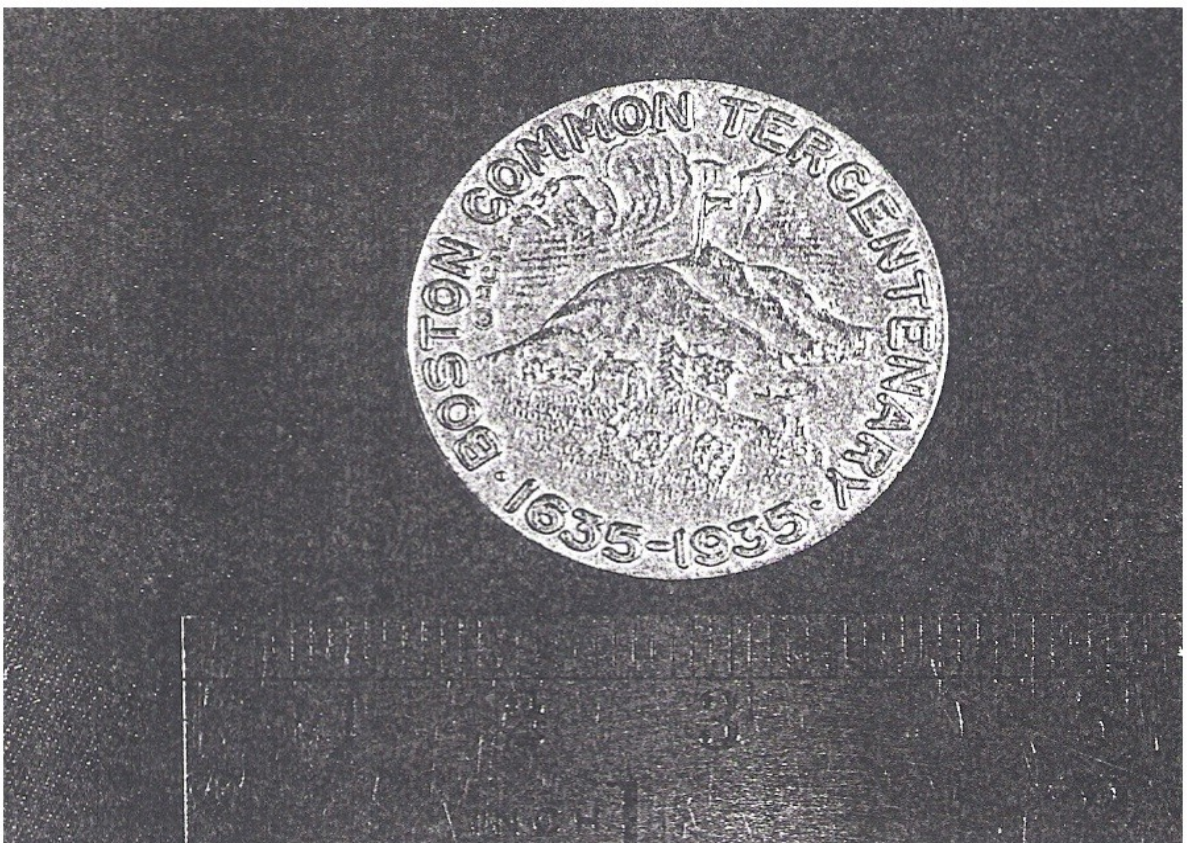
Please continue with your excellent magazine and here's wishing all your readers a happy and productive detecting in this great country of ours and of course overseas.

Best regards

Mike & Carol Bull  
Springs



Masathusets



Boston Common Tercentenary 1635 - 1935

Hi Pierre

It is always a pleasure to receive Treasure Talk and would like to do so in the future. When I receive the large envelope in the mail, I am always surprised and can hardly believe that another 3 months had gone by. This arrival tends to remind one that I am working to dam hard and need to go out and do some hunting – I have not even switched on the detector this year!

A few suggestions:

1. Is it possible to publish the names and telephones and general location of all recipients of the newsletter so as to enable contact with one another? *(I unfortunately have not got the permission from our readers for this - Ed)*
2. Is it possible for the insurance company you work for to interact with us? E.g. if someone claims to have lost a ring in their garden, Santam calls the nearest detectorist on the above list and for a small fee/reward if found, he/she goes and tries to find the ring. *(Will take this up with Santam)*
3. A really great website exists called "**losttreasure.com**" (I am sure you know of it) and they have great stories on their site. I am sure that permission to republish some would be easily obtained.
4. Part of my business is Video Duplication – I can convert American format VHS tapes (NTSC) to our local (PAL). I am willing to offer my services to any fellow detectorist who has an instruction video on a metal detector or related item and cannot view it. This I will do free of charge – the owner of the tape needs only to pay for postage and cost of a blank tape (aprox. R15.00)

I look forward to the next newsletter. Regards and great hunting

John Strickland  
011 - 4656305  
083 - 9622550

Beste Pierre

Baie dankie vir jou toewyding om Treasure Talk te produseer en dankie ook aan Santam vir hulle borgskap van die publikasie en almal wat gereeld bydraes instuur.

Groete

John en Erica Mulder  
Plettenbergbaai

Beste Pierre

Gedurende Oktober en November 2002 is van die paaltjies wat verhoed dat die duine hier by Hartenbos wegspoel, verwyder. Ek en Johan het ongeveer 3 kilogram munte gevind. (Die enigste goue item was 'n 18 karaat trouepand). Die res van die paaltjies word moontlik binnekort verwyder.

Die beste resultate word gedurende bogenoemde maande behaal. Aangesien dit nou baie stil is probeer ons selde op die strande soek. Ek weet van twee diamantringe wat in Desember op die hoofstrand en Diasstrand verloor is. Alle pogings om dit te vind was egter vrugtelos.

'n Vriend van my het 'n oudhedewinkel in Mosselbaai en sal dit waardeer indien een van die lesers 'n ring vir hom kan identifiseer. Hy het nie 'n metaalverklikker nie, maar koop ringe en silwermunte wat herwin is.

Die beskrywing van die ring is as volg:

Militêre silwer seëling. Sergt AP Nicelzar met sy handtekening in die middel. Die inskripsie is in speelbeeld. Die stempel (hallmark) is Birmingham 1891.

Jorrie se telefoonnommers is soos volg: 044 6907324 (werk) of 0834143325 (sel)

Groete

Steph van Rooyen  
Hartenbos

Hi Pierre

I have kept every copy of Treasure Talk on my file and also shown many people your mags. I read them from cover to cover and it is very exciting reading.

I now have 5 metal detectors and we do it as a family. I will never give up this hobby!

Thank you for all the hard work you put into the magazine.

Cornelius Nilsen  
Port Elizabeth

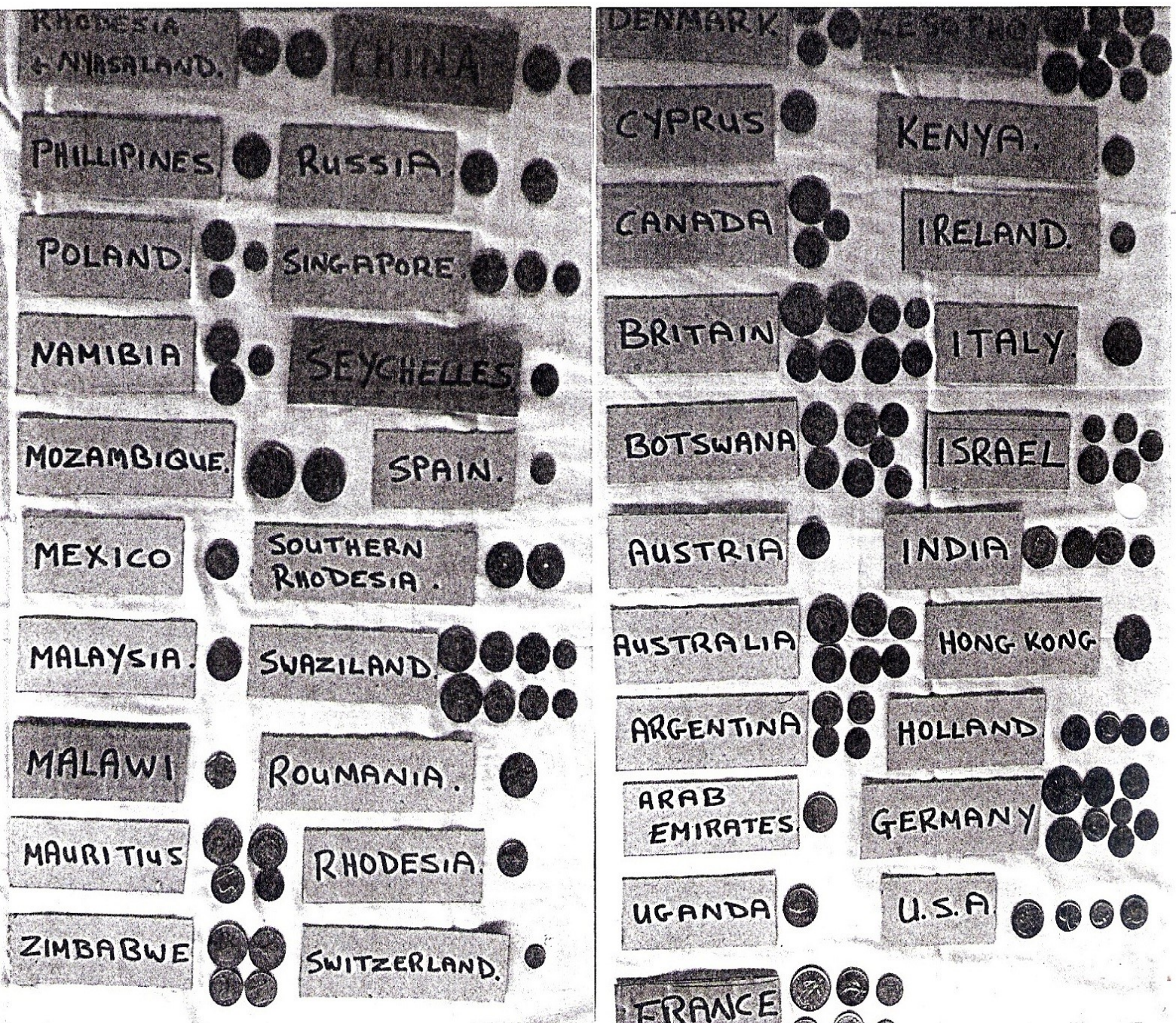
# Around the World with my "Impulse"

By Dave van Rensburg

It is always a thrill to find something unusual with my detector. To find an old coin or some relic from the past always breaks the continuous flow of coins. In the last four years on Durban's beaches the monotony of coins was broken by the discovery of foreign coins.

Every time Wendy, my wife who also detects, and myself come home after a morning or evening of detecting, we look at our finds hoping for something new. Gradually we found and collected coins from 41 different countries.

I am sure others have also discovered alien coins and would be interested to know how many different countries they have accounted for. I have literally gone round the world with the coins uncovered by my Fisher Impulse detector and is always hoping to add more countries to the collection.







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# Anglo Boer War Item found in the USA

Terry Humphries



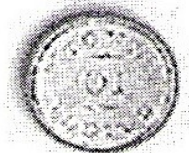
To Readers of Treasure Talk: I have attached a picture of a hat badge that was found by one of our club members here in Tulsa, Oklahoma, USA. It is a New Zealand hat badge from the Boer War. Thought you might like to see it. How it got all the way to Tulsa, I don't know. Our club is the Indian Territory Treasure Hunters Club and the below link will take you to their website: [www.itthc.com](http://www.itthc.com) . Best Wishes for 2003. Terry Humphries, Tulsa, Oklahoma, USA.

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## THE PRESENT PAST

by Owen Timmermans

At last Magwaai, my assistant arrived with the key to the gate and our trip to a possible British garrison site began. Our guide took us along the densely wooded kloof, described earlier in these articles. The farm owner's remark: 'My father was so fond of trees, he never allowed any to be cut down' rang loud in my ears, for few kloofs around Hekpoort have such a magnificent growth of trees.

After half an hour's clambering walk in the twilight of the kloof's forest, our guide, following a narrow trail, climbed up and out, leading us through a dense patch of bush. In no time we found ourselves entangled by needle sharp curved spines and no amount of caution could prevent nasty painful scratches from being inflicted on our hands, arms and legs. Swearing like a trooper is said to swear, I battled madly to extricate myself from their unwelcome embrace. To my surprise our guide had no trouble whatsoever in getting through unscathed. 'Bantu wag 'n bietjie boom' is indeed an apt name for the Cat-thorn.

"Can't understand why they don't chop them out!" I cried out bitterly.

"You would never believe it, but I assure you that those trees are very useful", my friend Mac replied. "If allowed they grow into a small tree. The wood makes a good pipe-stock. Pipes made of this timber were exhibited in London in 1923 in the Empire Exhibition.

Our narrow winding trail had climbed a hill from the shoulder of which we saw grim old rock walls, reaching up beyond the yellow-brown grass, desiccated by months of intense drought. Our guide led us toward the ruins. Thousands of rocks were once carted up there, to be piled into circular structures. There were also terraces against the slopes of the hill.

The walls we had observed from a distance made up but a small section of this ancient Bantu settlement, the larger part of which was hidden in dense bush.

Our guide had never realized that these ruins were his ancestors' handiwork, not that of the invading British columns.

All this was somewhat of a disappointment to us, but as he had mentioned three separate ruins, we decided to visit the other two as well.

The next ruin stood on top of a bare flat koppie. It consisted of only one circular rock-wall. A small cattle outstation to protect live-stock from nocturnal marauders. Near by Tierkop must have had its share of leopards, not to mention the King of the African veld, the lion.

Our guide next showed us the last ace in his hand. Another rock-walled Bantu settlement, totally hidden under a canopy of bushy trees. This structure was of far superior dimensions to the other two. One is surprised that the surrounding countryside has any rocks left at all. This kraal may well have been the seat of the great Black Chief and we decided to start our investigation right there.

Soon our metal detectors signalled the presence of buried metallic objects. Rusted artifacts made by these ancients?.

It should be mentioned here that the circular kraal consisted of two concentric walls with a wide passage between. The majority of the metallics our detectors found were grouped together along and in close proximity to the outer wall.. This north facing wall was in an excellent state of preservation.

It was quite dark and spooky, surrounded as we were by a small but dense forest and we wondered why it was that farm labourers, usually so keen on chopping down trees for firewood, seldom touch any timber growing on these ancient sites. Perhaps for fear of disturbing the peace of their ancestral spirits, yet, our guide had no idea that these ruins owe their existence to his ancestors.

Among the relics we discovered were several small assegai blades, some only half-finished, others completed by the blacksmith.. There was an iron rod roughly 280x12 mm. One end was shaped to a flat point to fit into a wooden handle. The other end was shaped to a blunt point which had worn evenly to a rounded shape. Perhaps the rod was used to rake burning charcoal in the smelting furnace.

There were also two assegai blades, both of similar size, 125 mm long, excluding the pointed rear section which fit the blade into the wooden shaft. At another location we found a smaller assegai in good state of preservation. It measured 60 mm. We also found two small hoes, and an adze.

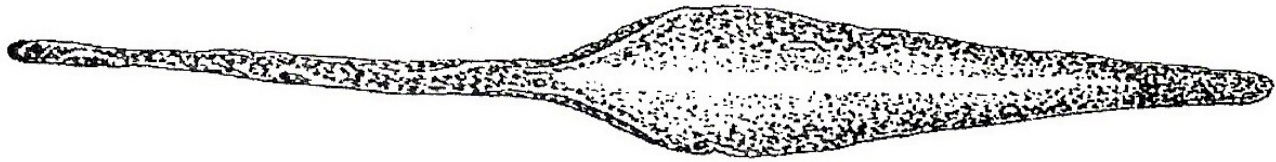
By far the most interesting find was a bent rod, coloured pitch black, 90mm long and 8mm thick. This diameter was fairly constant over its entire length. It was found among the other artifacts but proved to be different. On scratching it with a knife it felt soft and exhibited a salmon red colour. Metallic copper! Where the ancients found copper ore is a riddle for to my knowledge there aren't any outcrops of copper ore along the Magalies and Witwatersberg ranges. The rod was not shaped by casting but by forging. It may well have been part of a longer rod for one end shows a typical fractured surface.

There were also thick iron needles, at least that's what we imagined them to be, though the absence of a hole at the thick end, for threading, raised our doubts. Perhaps these were merely punches for piercing animal skins with. We also recognized primitive mattocks. There was another object which could perhaps be used for cutting away the surface of wood, a sort of primitive planer. Mac took it for an agricultural tool.

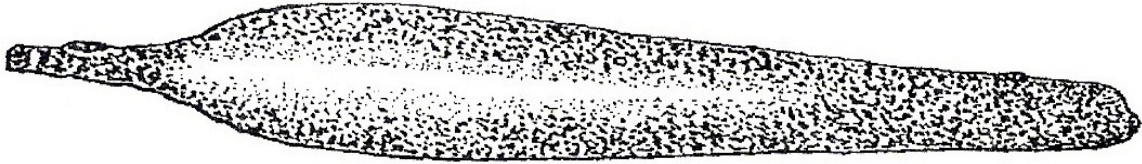
All these artifacts found so closely together would point to the smithery having occupied that spot.

It was in the Damhoek area and in Zandfontein that we came across iron smelting slags. These consist of granular, porous lumps, inters paced by an abundance of metallic iron prills and specks, embedded in sintered gangue minerals. The iron ore used by these ancients was probably limonite and goethite, both occurring as surface nodules along the Witwatersberg range.

East of the smithery, inside the outer wall, we discovered a number of assegai blades. Perhaps these were lost in the last battle the tribe ever fought. We know that the great Mzilikazi's favourite hobby was to sack and burn villages, to mutilate and torture members of tribes that inhabited these lands along the Magaliesmountain range.



5 CM



Assegai Blades



It was next to the stone-wall of this ancient Bantu settlement that we discovered several iron articles.

The other two sites examined by us were entirely barren of metallic objects

While on top of the hillock with its single small kraal, Mac sighted a low rock wall on a koppie to the west. We couldn't ask our guide about it for he had left to attend to his cattle. It was still quite early, so we decided to investigate. Imagine our surprise when on reaching it we found the ruins of a British blockhouse. A surprise because of its site on that particular hill, surrounded by so many loftier hills. An explanation was soon forthcoming though. The site controls the road which descends down into the Hekpoort valley.

Lee-Enfield casings littered the ground though there was a concentration on that side of the stronghold that afforded a clear view of said road. Closer examination of the surroundings yielded some Mauser casings too. We came to the same old conclusion, namely that the hill had changed hands a number of times before finally being occupied by the British.

Rusted food tins were as always much in evidence.

It was while investigating these ruins that, as happened so often before, we imagined ourselves regressed in time to the turn of the century. But this time we weren't the only ones day-dreaming. Across the valley of the Hekpoortspruit which separated us from the Witwatersberg range, we clearly saw 16 pounder field guns, the very guns which had wrought death and destruction with its shells, of which we had found so many. There were also ox-wagons and men, dressed in the uniform of the old British army. Even horses were represented.

Mac pinched himself to make sure he wasn't dreaming.

The SABC Television Unit was in the act of screening a film about the Anglo-Boer War. In a picturesque spot, near a kloof, a Boer farmhouse had been erected. It would, true to history, be set alight by the bad Tommies. That's exactly what once happened to the old house in the warm valley, the house with its violet bougainvillea and Monkey Puzzle tree, only a kilometre to the east.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **THANK YOU SOUTH AFRICA!**

**Jerry Freeman-Smith (Vice President of the Friendship  
International Detecting Society)**

*I would just like to add my thanks to Pierre, Mariana, Nina, Pierre-Henri and Ian Nortje for their unrivalled hospitality and helpfulness. For Pierres generosity in the first place for arranging such a wonderful holiday for us. I would also like to thank Andy, Alan, Peter, Wolf and their wives for showing us such a great time. I would like to thank Lukas and Daleen for travelling from Johannesburg to meet with us and for sharing Marions birthday. I would like to thank Willem and Marietje Laubscher (Mariana's parents) for welcoming us into their home in Stellenboch, and making our stay memorable. I also would like to thank Pierres parents, Henri and Mikey, for welcoming us into their home for lunch.*

*Finally I would like to thank all involved with F.I.N.D.S for making such a great club, without which this trip of a lifetime would not have been possible. We have here the epitome of Detecting Clubs..and one which all others on the Internet should be envious of.*

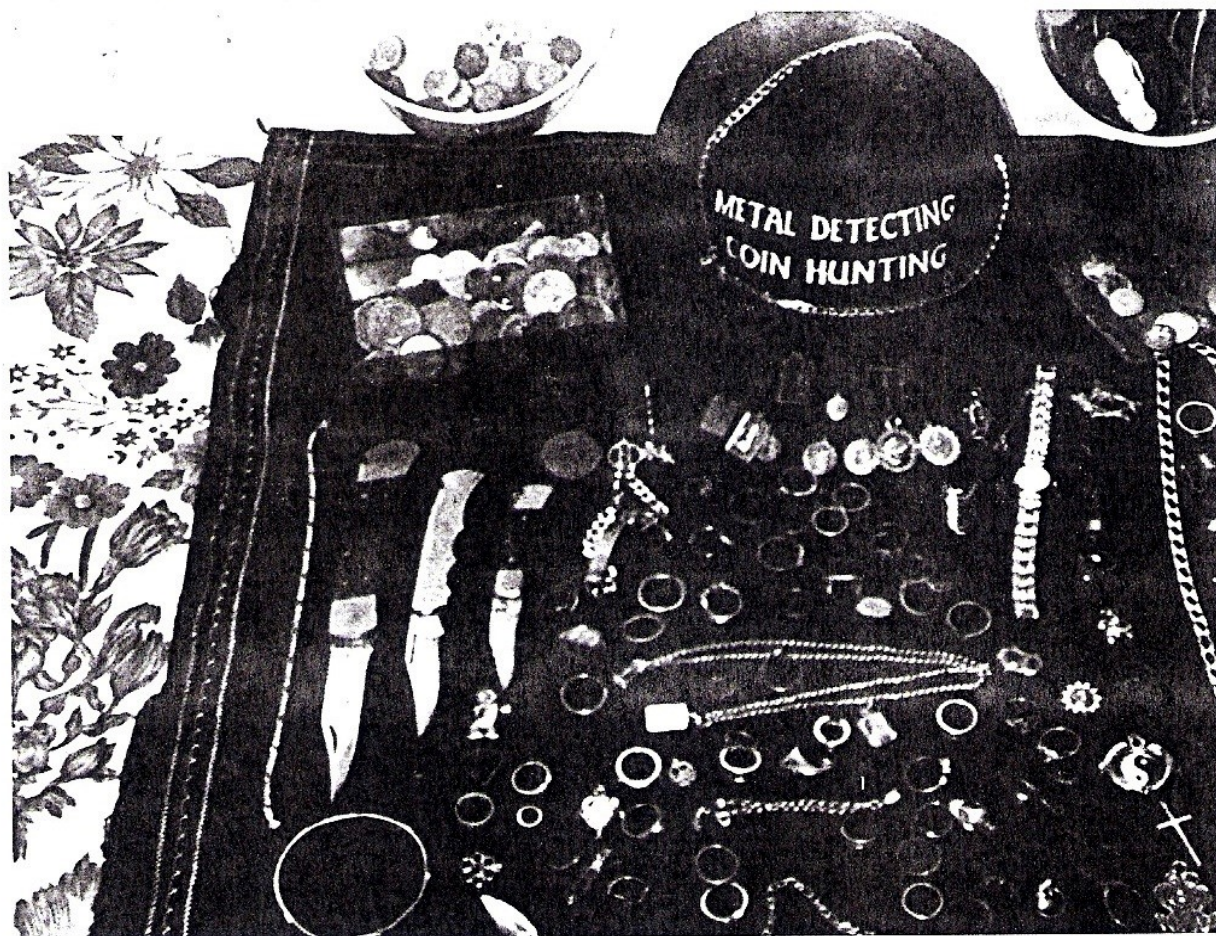
# Die Snaakse Dinge wat ons Oorkom!

Deur Dawie Berg

Hier by die suidkus van Natal is ons so drie tot vier mense wat pal met metaalverklikkers loop. Dit is van Tweni tot Ramsgate – so 40 kilometer se strande. (Tweni, St Michaels, Uvongo, Manada, Margate en Ramsgate). In Port Edward woon daar 'n persoon wat ook 'n verklikker het. Hy loop weer op Port Edward, T.O Strand en Marina en ons was al so vier keer op hierdie strande - maar verniet.

Ten eerste is daar nie juis kafees nie – so die mense neem nie juis geld strand toe nie. Ten tweede, alles wat daar is maak hy leeg. Net soos ek is hy versot om met 'n metaalverklikker te loop. Hy is ook 'n pensionaris en het die wêreld se tyd om te loop – elke dag vir 'n paar uur, of hy nou iets kry of nie. Soos die dae en weke verby gaan maak hy ook maar leeg soos hy kan.

Dan is daar ook nog die vakansiegangers wat jaar na jaar met hul verklikkers hierheen kom. Sjoel, party van hulle loop hulle gedaan. Drie jaar gelede was daar saam met my 13 persone wat geloop het. Hoe weet ek dit? Op die 1ste Januarie, vroeg die oggend kom ek op Margate aan en sien hulle almal daar. Ek het



'n Paar van my vonste van die Natalse strande

gewet van hulle want ek het hulle ontmoet op Uvongo strand, St Michaels en Ramsgate, maar die betrokke oggend het hulle amal besluit om Ramsgate te



doen – ek was so spyt dat ek nie 'n kamera gehad het nie. Dit was net die een keer, nog nooit het ek weer so baie entoesiaste bymekaar gesien nie.

Baie mense koop metaalverklikkers en dink dan dat hulle ryk gaan word – dit is moontlik maar nie maklik nie. Vir my is dit 'n wonderlike stokperdjie en natuurlik is dit lekker om goed uit te haal en nog lekkerder as so 'n goue ring vir jou lag wanneer jy hom onder die sand uithaal. Daai geel blink somer ekstra - wat 'n lekker bonus!

Sal ek dit nog doen as ek die Lotto wen? Maar natuurlik! Dan sal ek daar onder in die Kaap begin, en elke strand besoek tot bo in Natal. So met 'n kamera sal ons, ons eerste boek met fotos van al die strande kan publiseer! Gepraat van die Kapenaars – wil julle nie vir ons 'n artikel skryf oor julle strande nie? Hoeveel julle doen en ook hoe ver is die strande uitmekaar? Waar is die beste plek om te woon sodat jy in die middel is en nie nodig het om (as julle soos ek gereeld strande besoek) jou gedane te ry nie?

Neem 'n plek soos Margate – hier kom nogal baie mense hierheen maar as jy hom met 'n verklikker loop so 3 tot 4 dae agtermekaar, is hy leeg. Dan kan jy hom net een keer 'n week doen en miskien net so 15 munte uithaal todat daar weer 'n skoolvakansie is. En intussen het jy ook Uvongo en Ramsgate leeg gemaak.

Dit is nie baie wat ek al vanaf Shelly Beach waar ek woon, meer as 40km ry om by 'n strand te kom nie, maar verlede week skakel 'n lewensredder my van Margate. 'n Man het sy motorsleutels verloor en vra of ek nie sal kom help soek nie. Dit is nie lank nie of ek is by hom op die strand en vra hom waar (by benadering) hy die sleutels verloor het. Hy vertel my dat hy sy sleutels by sy handdoek verloor het. Hulle het lekker geswem en toe kom die gety op. Ander mense sien 'n groot golf wat tot by die handdoek kom en gryp dit en plaas dit hoër op waar die golwe nie kom nie. Wel toe hy klaar geswem het, vertel die mense hom dat hulle die handdoek hoër op verskuif het. Hulle grou en grou en soek die sleutels, maar kry niks nie.

Wel, ek begin toe in die omtrek soek. Loop soos wat mens gras sny, so op en af. Ek sien so uit die hoek van my oog dat die man my heeldyd dop hou. Ek haal 'n paar doppies uit. Na so twee “pull tabs” kry ek weer 'n sein van yster en 'n ander sein wat veroorsaak dat my masjien se meter so spring van die een teken na die ander (baie van die nuwe 5 sente het hierdie effek op die meter). Dit is toe al die tyd die sleutels wat ek in die nat sand vind – so in my “scoop”. Maar dadelik sien ek in die “scoop” ook 'n dik rol note... Toe weet ek hoekom die man my so dop gehou het... Ja, hy was baie bly, maar vir my was dit baie snaaks – ek kan nie glo die snaakse dinge wat mense doen nie.

Die geld, so 'n duisend of meer rand, was nie eers in 'n banksakkie of iets nie. Hy het my darem 'n mooi fooi gegee!

---

# Sing a Song of Seven Sixpences

By Dave van Rensburg

The Umhlanga beach had washed down and with the spring tide, there were many signals. Wendy (my wife) and I had been busy digging for over an hour. There were some good coins to be found but many old and rusty coins, old keys, a nail clipper and lots of wire and junk.

As far as signals were concerned there was no end to them but not too much viable money. I started a circular pattern closer to the surf and started finding deep signals with my impulse. As I reached the end of my sweep I suddenly heard a loud signal. I dug into the spot, sifted the sand and out popped a 1955 sixpence. "Not bad" I thought to myself.

I did a second circuit on my pattern. A few rusty coins came to light. As I approached the spot where the sixpence came to light I thought to myself "I wonder if there are any more silver coins to be found?" I had no sooner thought this when, about two feet from the mark where the sixpence came to light, I received another hard signal; I dug and out came a 1938 sixpence.



Now I was really intrigued. Two sixpences next to each other, not bad. I now started a grid search in line with the marks of the two sixpences. In an area of five metres by two metres another four sixpences (1936, 1942, 1948, 1952) and one silver new metrication five cents piece came out. This coin, stamped

like a sixpence on one side and a van Riebeeck head on the other, was the first five-cent pieces when metrication came in and was dated 1962.

I could not believe that in amongst all those signals there lay a pocket of seven sixpences. Were they washed down? Had they been deposited many years ago and now suddenly exposed by the sea? I believe that coins such as these are sorted by the sea and deposited according to size and weight. There they may lie for a long time until the sea washes sand off them so a detector may then pick up a signal on them.

I say this because I once found 300 old nickel 5c pieces in an area of about 5 x 8 meters. This can only mean the sea sorted and deposited them and concealed them with sand until the next big wash.

Anyhow, to get back to the sixpences, we detected another hour or so and then packed up and left. I was well satisfied at my discovery of those sixpences and this only goes to show "Don't give up. There may be a nice surprise if you persist" Who knows where, when or what. Good luck to all you detectorists – keep swinging!

## F.I.N.D.S

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## TUSSEN DIE DUIWEL EN DIE DIEP BLOU SEE van Plettenbergbaai

Wanneer jy na nuwe weivelde soek dan wonder jy soms of jy nie eerder by die huis moes gebly het want soms bevind jy jou letterlik tussen die duiwel en die diep blou see.

Hier in Plettenbergbaai het die strande so uitgewerk geraak dat ons soms meer as 100km na ander strande gery het vir nuwe weivelde, maar met verloop van tyd het die spreekwoordelike "daaglikse brood" daar ook maar in krummels verander.

So het dit dan gebeur dat onder die invloed van die duiker van die Kaap d.i. nou Andy, wat soos die duikboot "moet gaan onder" en dan grootpraat stories daaroor skryf asof dit kinderspeletjies is, dat ek ook die duiwel in die diep blou see gaan soek het.

Aanvanklik het ek net by die laagwatermerk en tot by my knieë in die water gesoek, maar toe vra 'n mooi jong bruid my eendag om haar diamantring in die branders te soek en vir 'n tyd lank was dit die naaste wat ek dit aan die dieptes gewaag het.

Toe op 30 Januarie 2002 kom vra 'n ander mooi jong bruid met trane in haar oë ek moet asseblief tog haar diamantring agter die branders gaan soek. Nou ja, wie kan dan nou nee sê vir so 'n versoek.

Soos 'n ware Sherlock Holmes het ek haar toe uitgevra na die tyd en omstandighede van die verlies en daarvolgens bepaal dat dit agter die branders was in water wat soms dieper as kophoogte was - want sê sy, wanneer die swelle verbygekom het moes sy opgaan om kop bo water te hou. So bevind ek my dan by die duiwel met my Fischer Impulse en Wolfgang se Scoop aan die end van 'n 1,5m besemstok - in die spreekwoordelike "whole new ball game."

Hier is nie tyd om af en toe rondom jou te kyk na die polka dot bikinis of ander mooi goed op die strand wat 'n man tot val kan bring, want as 'n onverwagte duining of brander jou sou tref kan jy ook "onder gaan", jou bril verloor of iets erger kan gebeur soos jou metaalverklikker verloor. Behalwe hierdie gevare is daar nog vele ander komplikasies:-

- Die sandbodem is ongelyk soos 'n geploegde land en jy verloor maklik jou balans.
- Wolfgang se Scoop as dit vol sand is, is so swaar jy kan dit beswaarlik met een hand oplig.
- Die Fischer Impulse se flottasie is geneig om jou te laat dryf en met die beweging van die water wat jou rondstoot verloor jy maklik die sein in die sand.
- Met al hierdie probleme terwyl jy seine soek voel jy meeste van die tyd soos 'n sirkus nar (juggler) wat vier of vyf balle in die lug probeer hou.

Uiteindelik na meer as 'n uur het ek niks gekry, slegs 'n paar seine wat te diep was of wat ek met al die gesukkel en die beweging van die water, verloor het.

Toe ek later die dag weer see toe wou gaan, ontdek ek ook dat daar water ingesypel het by die Impulse se batterykompartement, en 'n groot gemors veroorsaak het. Die kontakte in die batteryhouer sowel as die proppe se punte is deur die elektriese stroom weggevreet. Gelukkig kon ek dieselfde dag die nodige herstelwerk aanbring.

Dit bring my weer eens tot die besef dinge is nie so maklik as wat jy dink en die gras is nie noodwendig groener aan die anderkant van die branders nie. - - - - - JOHN MULDER

NS. Die bietjie goeie nuus van die afgelope seisoen was darem 4 horlosies, o.a. 'n dames Lanco en Swatch Scuba 200m in perfekte toestand. Ook 'n Nokia wat 'n weeklank in die reën onder die sand gelê het en na 'n goeie skoonmaak steeds in perfekte werkende toestand is.

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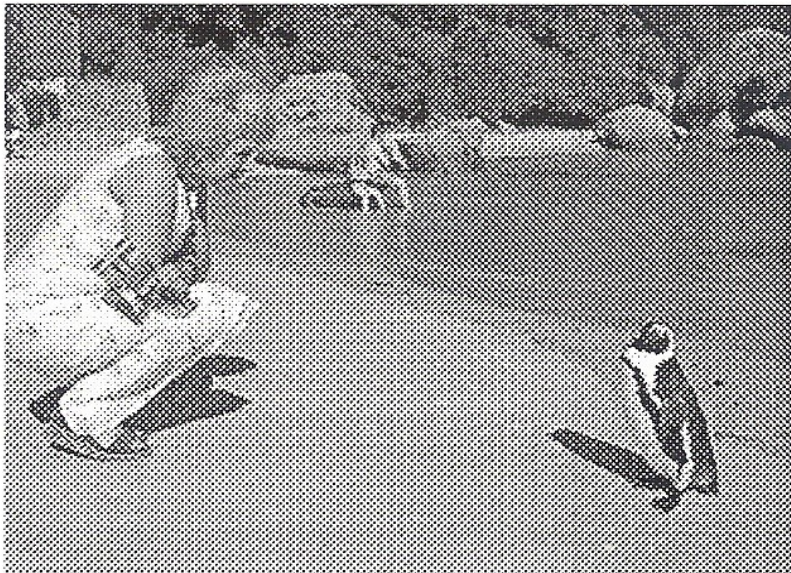
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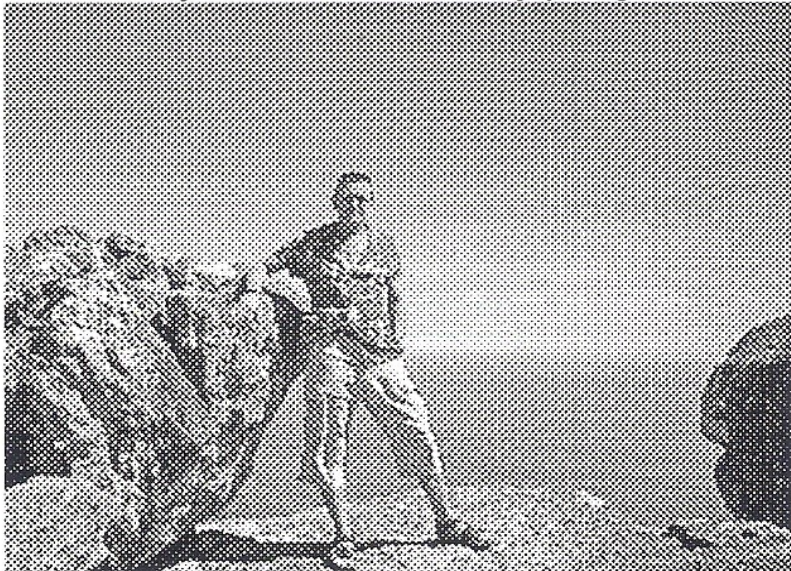
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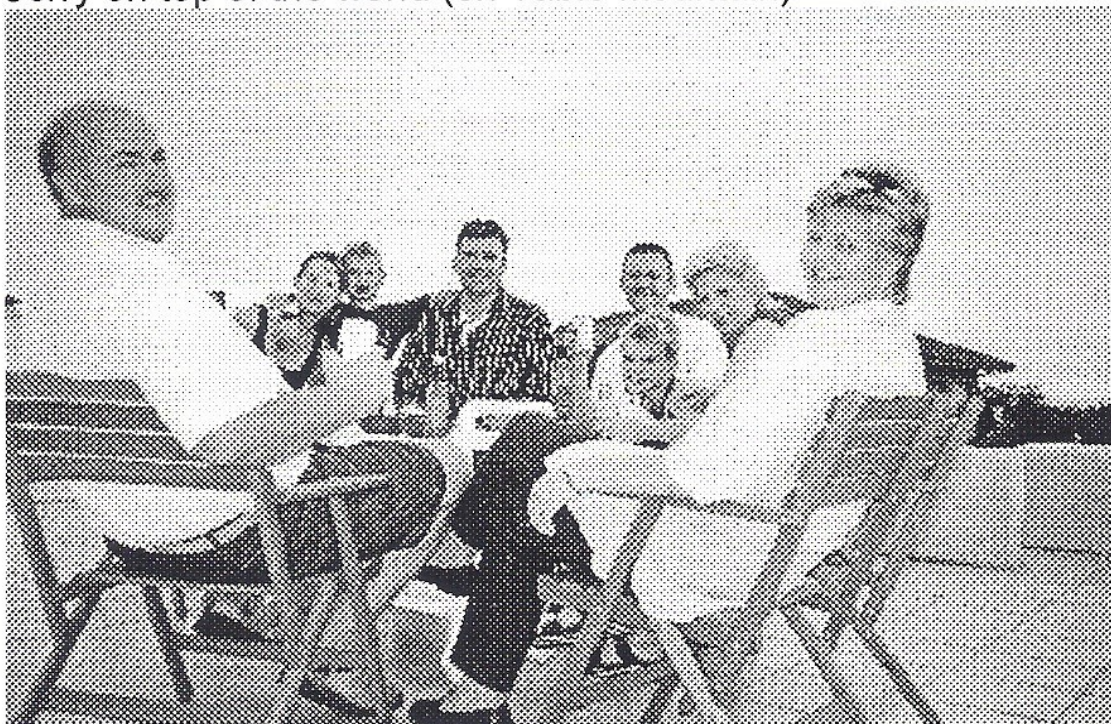
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Marion say "hello" to a friendly penguin at the Bolders near Simonstown



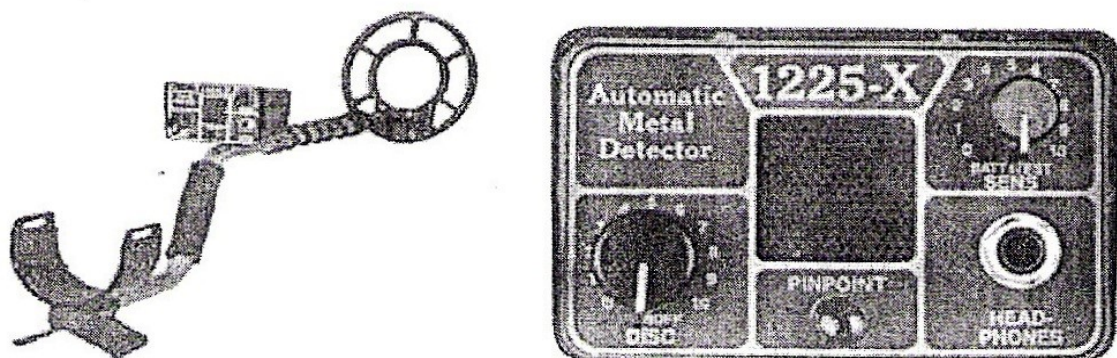
Jerry on top of the world (on Table mountain)



With Lukas and Daleen and my family at Hermanus

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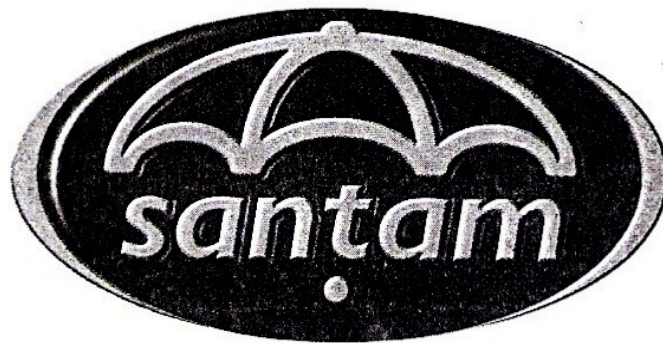
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