



Devereux Avenue was named after a former mayor of Cambridge - which at the time was a municipality on its own - Mr W Devereux in 1920-1921. In December of 1966 Devereux Avenue was in the first phase of the City Council's ambitious arterial roads programmed, which was supposed to be completed by 25<sup>th</sup> of May 1967, and the second phase by November of that year.

After the engineers found silty soil and clay where the road meets Surrey Road, they were forced to dig an additional five feet before they found rock solid enough to support the road structure – this delayed the traffic from using the road. Other reasons for the delay were that water pipes, electricity cables and Post Offices cables had to be established and avoided.

## 79 Devereux Avenue

The property was purchased by a MR ERNEST HAPELT in about 1929 and he had the house and outbuildings constructed in approximately 1931. The property stretched as far as the valley in those days and he used to even run a few head of cattle on it. It is interesting that his brother, Bob Hapelt had the house in Pearce Street built at about the same time. It will be noticed that both are very similar in design. This house is now owned by Mr Robbie De Lange Jnr.

Ernest Hapelt lived in this house with his first wife, former Miss Esther Hagemann, my late father Pilip Hagemann's sister, who died giving birth to a daughter, Rona Hapelt. Rona is still alive and living in Port Elizabeth.

After the death of his first wife, he married my late mother's sister, Rebecca Bergmann, who, together with him raised Rona while continuing to reside in the same place of abode, i.e. 79 Devereux Avenue. (He was thus an uncle twice to me, having first married my father's sister and then my mother's sister).

Mr Ernest Hapelt was, in his young days, a successful trader, owning trading stations in East London's North End, which seemed to be the main business area in those days. He retired at the age of thirty, but was already residing at the house in question. He lived a retired life for about thirty year, and passed away in September 1969. During this time, he was a keen huntsman, spending an annual holiday with his relation in the then

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'Rhodesia'. The passage of the dwelling was lined on either side with the mounts of the trophies that he had procured on his expeditions and a full mount of a leopard would greet you as you stepped into the lounge, which was the first door on the right as you entered at the main entrance. He was also a keen fisherman and the one wall of the workshop, which formed part of the outbuildings, was adorned with the jaws of the silver and black steenbras caught by him. There must have been about one hundred and fifty jaws in total.

After my uncle's death in 1969, my aunt asked if I could stay with her, as I was due to start at Selborne College and was booked in at the Hostel as my parents resided in a farming community in the Mooiplaas district. I thus spent the five years of my high school life at "79" after my father had cancelled the Hostel booking and a further couple of months after my compulsory military training. My aunt passed away in January 1977 and I left directly after that, in fact on the night of the funeral. Rona Jardine had arrived to take over the business side and I later heard that the property was sold in April 1979 for the princely sum of R32 000.00

In conclusion, I spent about six years at "79", a house full of the most beautiful antique furniture. The information that I have supplied above, is what I have heard from my parents and I have no definite facts regarding dates etc. I have, through my elder brother, made contact with Rona.

Lastly, it is wonderful for me, who is a romantic by nature, to see the once elegant and beautiful home restored to the beauty and magnificence that it most rightly deserves.

**BARRY HAGEMANN**

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