



‘ UNFAIR’ MARKET RULES HURT SMALL FARMERS

BY VIVEKA NAICKER

THE GARCHIC – Friday, 23rd October 1970

More the 100 Indian farmers and market gardeners, many of them from as far as Inanda and Marianhill, stood in frustration outside the Squatters Market in Warwick Avenue on Tuesday this week after they were prevented from entering the market by Corporation officials.

At 8 a.m on Tuesday morning farmers and gardeners, many of them women, stood outside the market gates while their produce wilted in the sun. Some of them had been there since 5.30am.

Disappointed men and women told me that it was the second time that many of them had been barred from entering the market.

Trouble began on Saturday when farmers arrived with there produce and found that they were not able to enter. A new rule at the market states that farmers will not be allowed into the market after opening time. The opening time for the market is now 5.15 am.

One of the women outside the market gates, Mrs. Mahabir, said that she had waited there from 5am. She had been refused entry by market supervisors because she had arrived too late.

Mrs. Mahabir is a widow. She supports four children. On her smallholding in Sea Cow Lake, she grows flowers which she sells at the market. While I spoke to her bunchies, of flowers wilted in a basket at her feet.

She said, “Where will I find a bus to get here so early in the morning?

Yet I must come here. This is my living. I have children to look after. If they had let me enter the market, I would have sold all my flowers by 9 o’clock”.

Another widow, Mrs gyaan Munison, also stood outside the gate. She supports nine minor children by selling produce that she grows on a quarter acre plot in Sea Cow Lake.

She said that she had arrived at the market at 5.30a.m. She had also been refused admission and she had no hope of selling her produce in the street.

Senior supervisor at the market, Mr. C. R. Aspey, confirmed that more than 100 farm-

ers and gardeners had been refused admission. He showed me a notice posted on the wall outside his office. It was dated October 14 and was signed by the Director of Markets, Mr B. J. Johnson.

RIDICULAS

The notice stated that with immediate effect, farmers will not be allowed entry into the market after the opening hour, which was at 5.45 am. This was for the period from April 1 to September 1. From October 1 to March 31 the market would open at 5.15 am.

Mr M. Naidoo, a farmer at Springfield Flats, Said that the new rules were “ridiculas”. He said that the notice had been posted on the evening of October 15. Many people who had left the market early were not aware of the new regulation. When they arrived at the market on the morning of October 16, they found that they were too late to get in.

“Most bus services start to operate only at 4.30 am in the mornings. Many of these people would never make it. It’s not fair at all.”

The Director of Markets, Mr. Johnson, said by laying down the new time schedules, he was “merely exercising my rights.”



Women, most of them the wives and daughters of Indian market gardeners stand outside the gates of the Squatters’ Market in Warwick Ave.



Grey Street Casbah and Surrounding Facebook Site administrators Ishaan Blunden and Buddy Govender, now brings you THE CASBAH. We will be publishing old stories and adverts from the past. The E-Paper will be published twice a month. If you have any interesting stories or picture you can sent it to ishaanb@telkomsa.net or buddy@eastcoast.co.za



GREY STREET ANXIETY MOUNTS

Graphic , Friday, 31 July 1970

Speculation is mounting in Durban's Grey Street complex on the Group Areas Board's decision on the future of the area. Many businessmen in the complex are not too busy – the months of anxiety after the Group Areas inquiry are beginning to tell.

Although a decision on the future zoning has not yet been taken, the matter has been fully considered by the Group Areas Board. The recommendations of the Board are now being circulated to various Government departments. After their views have been collated, it would go back to the Minister of Planning who would then place it before the Cabinet.

Mr A. M. Moolla, chairman of the committee that was formed at the time of the inquiry last year to act on behalf of the Indian owners, said that it would be difficult to say whether all the official processes have been completed, and when the decision would be made public.

Mr Moola said that on the facts of the case that was presented on behalf of Indians, before the Group Areas Board, there could be only one decision – in favour of Indians.

Indians are now wondering, if they are allowed to retain the area, whether it would be declared under Section 19 of the Act, which would mean that it would have to be purely business area, or whether it would be under Section 23. This would then mean that area would remain as it is, with Government control of future expansion for residential purposes.

Many feel that the decision would not be entirely unfavourable to Indians because of the involvement of the South African Indian Council. A complete removal of Indians from the area would be a slap in the face for the S.A.I.C. which has pleaded for the area to be left in Indian hands. It would be embarrassing not only to the S.A.I.C. but also to the Government, which appointed the S.A.I.C. as the mouth-piece of the Indian people.

If Indians have to get out, the S.A.I.C. would lose face completely. As it is the Council does not enjoy the support of a large segment of the people. The argument of those who are optimistic is that the Government would not alienate the Council from the people whom it was appointed to represent.

More Durban Indians To Lose Their Homes

The Graphic

The South African Indian Council will meet this week with officials of the Department of Community Development to discuss the Serving of notices to residents of Wills Road near Warwick Avenue.

The Notices which were served this week state that Indians residents will have to vacate their homes by February 1 next year.

Mr. A. M. Rajab, chairman of the Executive Committee of the South African Indian Council, said that his committee will see officials this week and ask them to explain why notices were served.

"We made our position very clear in the beginning when notices were served in the Warwick Avenue area, that we were opposed to the move. There is no reason why these people have to be uprooted. There might be a reason, but we will only learn this when we meet."

Last month when notices were served in the Warwick area, Mr. Rajab said that the Department of Community Development had "fallen down in its task of helping communities to develop and should admit its failure.

Mr. Rajab said that notices had been served without prior consultation with the S.A.I.C. "I cannot understand why the Department behaves in this fashion. As a result of its actions, the Department is the major problem facing Indians in

this country today", he said at the time. "Although the Minister of Indian Affairs has made it clear that the S.A.I.C. must be consulted in all matters affecting the Indian people, the Department of Community Development insists upon behaving in a highhanded fashion", he said.

A resident of Wills Road said that she received her notice on Tuesday. "I have nowhere to go to now", she said. "When they gave me the notice, I asked the man where I must move to. He said that I must buy land and build my house. I told him that land prices were very high in Indian areas and I cannot afford to move.

"Then he told me to go to Chatsworth. I told him that the houses in Chatsworth were not worth living in". She said that Coloureds in her neighborhood did not receive notices.

Mr. Rajab said that there was a serious shortage of homes in Chatsworth. Residents of Wills Road would find it very difficult to find a home there. "I am reliably informed that there 20,000 people on the waiting list for homes and not 18,554 as it has been reported," he added.

Residents of Wills Road who do not vacate their homes by February 1 next year would be liable to a fine of not more than R400, or to imprisonment for not more than two years, or both.

NEW CINEMA FOR ISIPINGO

The Graphic

The new R400,000 luxury Gemini Cinema in Isipingo Rail will open on Monday 6 July. The cinema which has seating capacity for 1000, has the most modern screen and equipment. The owners hope to screen the best English and Indian films from the leading distributors in the country. The first film to be screened on Monday will be "Operation Cross-Bow", to be followed by "Romeo and Juliet".



GREY STREET CASBAH

If you would like to receive a copy of THE CASBAH, please email us your email address, send your email to: ishaanb@telkomsa.net or buddy@eastcoast.co.za.

For other info you can call Buddy Govender on 083 560 1213 or Ishaan Blunden on 082 561 8730

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NIGHT LIFE

LINE UP FOR SARI QUEEN CONTEST

More than 30 beautiful girls will vie for the Maritzburg Sari Queen crown at the S.D.S Hall in Northdale on Saturday September 5 at 7.30p.m.

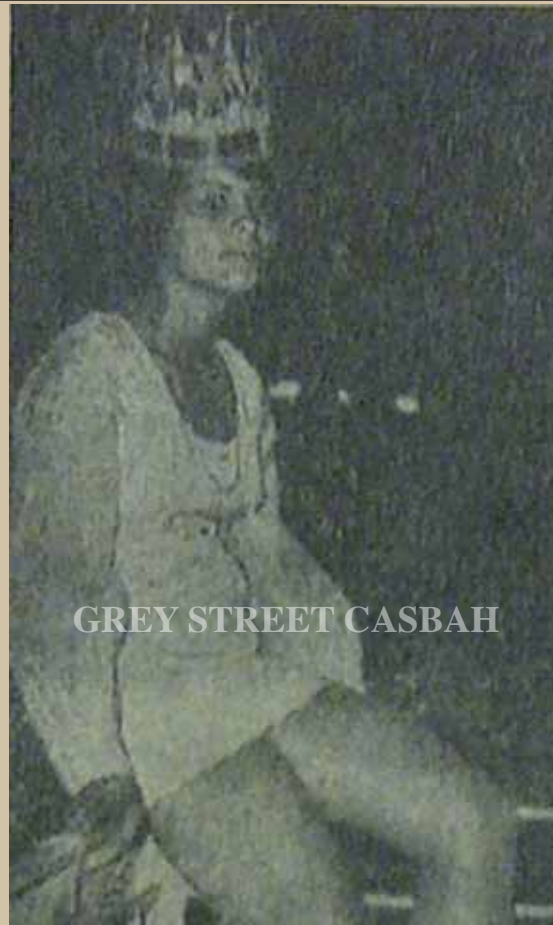
The organisers intended to make the queen contest and variety show one of the best Maritzburg has seen.

The entire proceeds from the show will go to the Pietermaritzburg Indian Funeral Society which provides free burial and cremation services for destitute families.

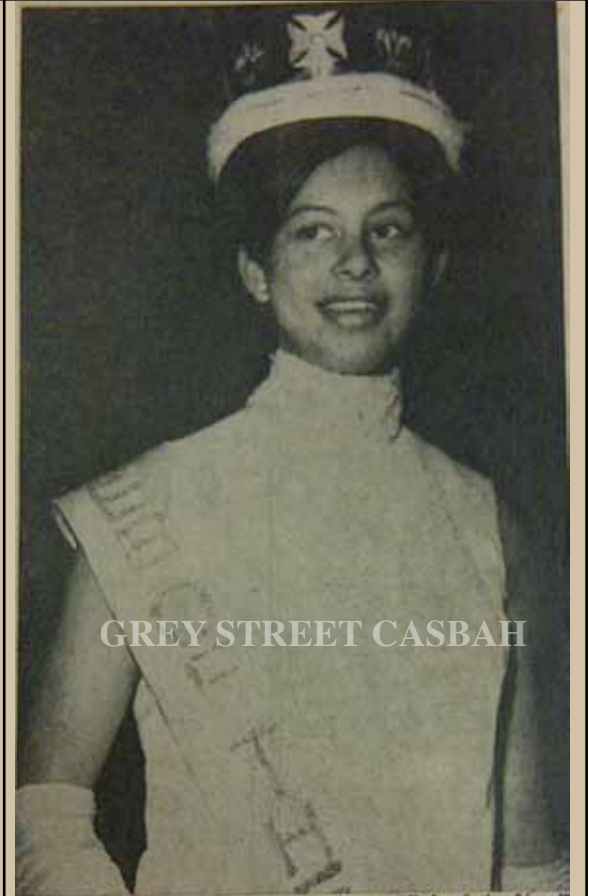
One of the highlights of the show will be the appearance of Prof. Maduran, a leading magician, who won the first prize in the finals of the National Convention of Magicians.



Miss Lillian Murray was chosen "Miss Durban" at a contest at the Durban City Hall last Saturday night. Her attendants were Miss Naomi Fataar (left) and Miss Marlene Pugin.



Valerie Martin, of Durban, who was chosen "Miss Austerville" at a contest held in Clairwood on Saturday.



Miss Cheryl Harvester, who was chosen "Deb of the Year" at a debutantes' ball held by the St. Augustine's School last week. The girls were presented to the Most Rev. Denis Hurley, Archbishop of Durban, Who was the guest of honour.



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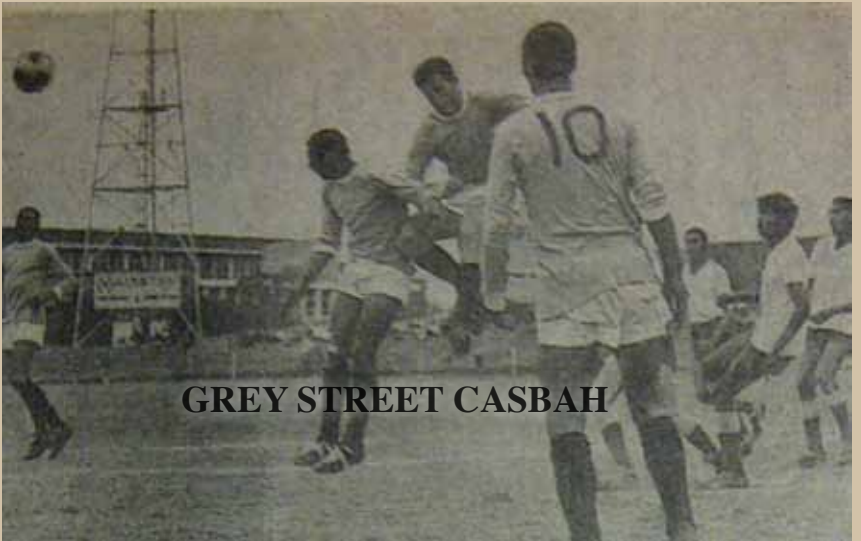


GREY STREET CASBAH GREY STREET CASBAH GREY STREET CASBAH GREY STREET CASBAH

F. M. Paul

ACES' HIGH COURAGER WAS JUST NOT ENOUGH

The Graphic: Friday 2nd October 1970



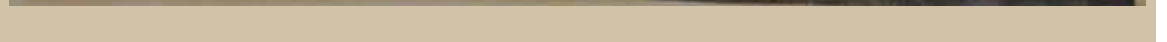
GREY STREET CASBAH

Two Cape Spur' players have an airborne duel for the ball in the league game on Sunday.

Others in the picture are Stan Mini (left), Basil Medal (No.10) and three Aces' players (extreme right)

Although the Young Aces side did not lack in gallantry, they went down 2-1 to the redoubtable Cape Spurs in their Mainstay League game at Curries fountain on Sunday.

This win gives Spurs, who have three matches in hand, a tally of 24 points to make them virtual winners of the league trophy.



Picture and comments from our Facebook group Grey Street Casbah and Surroundings

Do you remember this place? Natal Blind Society - Lorne Street



Nadine Hudson: Most definitely! The blind people were so talented, they made the most beautiful cane baskets by hand. My late Mom always supported them by buying their picnic baskets, shopping baskets and those grocery baskets with wheels. They also had shows there. Loved to watch them sing.

Pillay Aubrey: Yes - very talented blind people - also remember saturday morning. Street collectIon - had to hand in your collection tin box by 1pm. At this offices

Nadine Hudson: Yes, I remember that. My Mom would do the street collection for them as well.

Cheryl Bissessor: Bhana Remember this place real well. Used to love going inside and watch the blind making baskets!

Ishaan Blunden: I lived in Victor Lane, directly behind and used the passage way on the side of the house as a shortcut to Lorne street.

Dani Pather: The Blind Society is still doing a great community service. They still provide mobility instructors to train the visually impaired especially the elderly to cross roads, do shopping and generally to access the environment safely. Took my 87 yrs old father-in law there recently.

Sam Prakash: This is where I met Zak for the first time. Thanks for the memories Ishaan.

Charmaine Snyman: Oh I remember this I love the lattice work around the house

Nadira Thiris: I spent my early yrs in Carlisle St, used to go with my darling granny to do the street collections for this gr8 society.

Zubeida Barmania: Opposite our family home at 20 Lorne street as it then was, the street was very dynamic and lots of life just echoed through, peopled by such a diversity of different faiths. Was amazing to have grown up there and shared family values and good neighbour interaction

Sarita Shirley: Jaichand Lovely memories

Charmaine Minnie: They also made the most beautiful baskets and wicker cane furniture

Vigie Carim: I used to buy my baskets from them...amazing talent.

Sally Taylor: I used to cut thru victor lane and go and watch them making baskets. What memories Ishaan, such a long time ago.

Beverley Munian: WOW my uncle Madhan Ramtahal used to run it , we used to wait there School to come home somestimes .

Jerry Moodley: I did my prac teaching here. Great experience.

Millie Haller: Yes I remember the Blind Society, used to visit there sometimes to look at the wonderful weaving of baskets etc that was done by the blind community, does the building still exist?

Pat Pillay: my parents and family lived 2 doors away.. fabulous memories

Mo Naidoo: Wonderful place! such creativity - remember buying a beautiful wicker baby crib for my daughter 22 years ago and I still have it!

Rafs Mayet: The Blind society is in Umbilo Road now, near Davenport road. They still have the workshops and a shop with all the goodies they make on display.

Suneal Singh: Wow memories come flooding back

Veetha Sewkuran: Many happy childhood memories spent there . My dad has been involved in the societies work for 42 years now , he is presently the president

Linda Martignone: Pat Pillay and Zubeida Barmania, in the mid 60s there was a nursery school Uncle Joe and his wife?? Does anyone remember them? In Lorne St.

Linda Martignone: That building may have been the nursery school.

Reg Sookayee: yes we lived on the corner of Beatrice St and Grey street for many years ...Remember MAdressa Manzil and Grey Court around the corner.

Reg Sookayee: Petty still in Grey Street in Grey court.

Raman Puckaree: is it still there? i remember the schools asking students to go out to collect donations with those tins.

Reg Sookayee: apologies , we first lived in Lorne Street- big block of flats for many years , and my Aunt worked at teh blind society-- we then moved to beatrice street....then to Grey street....and still have family there.... now thats HISTORY!!

Reg Sookayee: Ishaan, remember Fountain lane... les and Clive Timothy and family lived there too if you lived there, and then you definitely know Noel and Michael Chetty...from Grey Street.

Beverley Munian: @Reg ! Noel eas in school with me and clives brother brian is married to my cousin

Rafs Mayet: Malcolm, Nobs and Dice Cumberbatch lived in the flats at one end of Fountain Lane (the Grey street side) whilst Bruce 'Buzzy' Moyce stayed in a house at the other end. I think the Bredenamps also stayed there. And Big and Baby Bear too. We were all in St Raphael's scouts together

Reg Sookayee: you right Beverley... i remember now

Tribute to Aziz Hassim



Founding team of the Grey Street Casbah Facebook page. Ishaan Blunden and Buddy Govender with their mentor, Uncle Aziz Hassim.



Back Row L-R : Shirish Soni, Ishaan Blunden, ??, Edries Fredericks, Steve Fataar, ???

Front Row L-R : Carguard, Uncle Aziz Hassim, Connie Nagma, Salma Fredericks, Nanda Sooben, Shakira Sheik, Eric Appelgren

Aziz Hassim the Casbah King



“Tales of the hunt will never be complete unless you also hear from the lion’.....these are words that Uncle Aziz often mentioned to me in our many conversations over the years. Being a man that lived by what he stood for, he would always remind himself of that saying when he wrote as he made every attempt to told the complete story!

The passing of Uncle Aziz has left a HUGE vacuum in our lives that is going to be extremely hard to fill. He had relations with so many people on all different levels and scales but more importantly he made each one feel as if it was only him and them – took a special man to do this in the way only he could. I had the wonderful privilege of having Uncle Aziz and his beautiful wife Auntie Zohra, in my life from the day I was born... and I literally mean from the day I was born! Although not related to in blood, both he and Auntie Zohra were an integral part of our extended family. As I grew into a young man I could sense an interest in this man but little did I know how our lives would intertwine later on – and all thanks to the Almighty for that!

When he decided to put into words and print what was living in his head and soul, he would occasionally ask me to research the historical occupancy of buildings that would feature in a certain story-line within his award-winning his book, The Lotus People. For some reason, I have a vivid memory of historical and old buildings, people and events within the Grey Street Casbah area and he encouraged me to bring that forward. We would have hours of conversations, laughs and sometimes shed a tear or two about days gone by. He just knew so much and was just so passionate to share what was in his soul – all of it!

When God, being the majestic ‘manipulator’ of the game called life, brought my boyhood friend Ishaan Blunden into the play, He created a vibrant, enthusiastic and hungry combination of AMATUER historians and researchers! Whilst we do not possess any academic qualifications in history or research, we have lived most of our lives thus far right in the heart of the Casbah and, that I am sure supersedes any lack of formalities. Uncle Aziz identified with that and immediately endorsed our efforts and work – for us

that is all the ‘qualification’ we need!! He would tell us about people, places, things, events, why it happened and how it happened....we got the lions part of the story. He guided us, mentored us, laughed with us and at times felt sad with us....Uncle Aziz was with us in so many ways. He would call me up some evenings or early mornings just to tell me things that just came to his mind and would end our conversation saying ‘..... just in case I forget’. I am forever indebted to God for having this privilege and miss those calls from him – we miss him terribly!

When he spoke we listened and now we listen with our heart ‘cause we know he is still guiding, prompting, nudging and pushing us. Whenever, we would meet we would hug each other and linger in the hug for a while – I could feel love and good wishes permeate from him and did my best to ensure that he felt the same and much more from me. I love this man so much it is heart wrenching to say the least. Rest in Peace Uncle Aziz.... cannot wait to see you again, to hold you again and get our signed copy of your latest book about the Casbah in Heaven..... Thank you Sir.....Thank you God....



Ishaan and Uncle Aziz walking down Madressa Arcade during our Casbah walk....

Nirode Bramdaw – former Managing Editor of The Leader

The efforts of Ishaan Blunden and Buddy Govender in restoring the often forgotten, yet very rich legacy of the Grey Street Casbah is laudable.

Products of that heritage themselves, they painstakingly unearth interesting stories and memorabilia and share it with a broader audience, simply for the love of the area and an era that will never be forgotten by the rest of who also had the privilege to share in those halcyon days.

It is said that one is only as tall as the roots they plant, and the duo must be thanked for making us all that much taller in the work that they do! Nirode Bramdaw – former Managing Editor of The Leader which published from 1940 to 2004 and was the longest standing Indian-owned newspaper of our times.

Classified ads and company adverts will be placed on this page. Please contact us via email on grey-streetcasbah@gmail.com for more details.....

If you have a family photo's, memorabilia etc, etc that you would like to share on 'The Casbah', please contact Ishaan (082 561 8730) or Buddy (083 560 1213) and we will arrange to collect, scan and return to you once done! Note that if you keep your family's treasure hidden away, your history will disappear but if you allow us to share it with the world, it will live forever!

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