*(This was sent to me from George Cx in an email on January 15th, 2002. It was an article in a magazine called “Scope”, on Jan 22nd, 1971.)*

**Life is easy in Haarlem.**

Many Coloureds own their own plots of land. Many bought from the Lutheran Church, others obtained it from white people who had to move out when Haarlem was proclaimed a Group Area five years ago. Others rent their land at about R20 a year. For many years the accepted community leader in Haarlem has been 82-year old Mr David Cairncross. Despite his age, he is still “in the chair." His grandfather was a Scotsman, and David Cairncross probably inherited much of his shrewd Scottish business mind from his forebear. He owns about 21 hectares (25 morgen) in Haarlem, exports about 5,000 cases of apples to Britain annually, and produces 4,000 more for South African markets. He also owns a grocery store, and is “rich" by Langkloof standards. Some of his old friends told me that David Cairncross is worth more than R60,000. A thorough gentleman, Cairncross recalls the days when whites and Coloureds were next-door neighbours in Haarlem. "We were more than that”, he said nostalgically, "we were friends. In the old days, we went to church and school together: played together. Oubaas Mark was one of my dearest friends. "We were a more solid community when the white people lived amongst us. There was none of this monkey business of drunkenness and assaults when they were around. We valued their sincerity, and together we served on the Village Management Board. I cannot remember one instance where tempers flared up as a result of our racial differences. Difference of opinion, yes. But we always found a solution and came to an agreement ... "I speak for every Haarlemite - and 1 have been here all my life - in saying that we were extremely sorry to see the whites go. Very sorry people of different breed and colour can live and work in complete harmony together if both parties are sincere and have faith in each other's integrity through many decades we proved this here at Haarlem." Less flamboyant perhaps than his old friend is 92-year old Mr Andries Dry, possibly the oldest inhabitant in Haarlem, whose great sorrow is that his old age prevents him from going to church on Sundays. Said Mr Dry, “The first pastors of the Lutheran Church came from abroad. They brought with them fellow countrymen either Scottish or German who worked as common labourers on neighbouring farms around here." Practically all of them, according to Mr Dry, eventually took Coloured women as their wives.

Haarlem itself is home to about 2,000 Coloureds; about one-fifth of the total Coloured community in the Langkloof. And although their Identity Cards label them as "Coloured," many - with quiet pride showed me their birth certificates classing them as - Mixed."Two other notable clans the MacLunes and MacCock - are to be found in Haarlem. Retired teacher Mr Charles Abrahamse, lives in his own 80-year-old house - like so many buildings in Haarlem, his home, too, has history draped all around it. To him as to practically every senior Haarlemite I've met, his great pride lies in that he owns something that can be tied to rugby's Oubaas Mark.

Part of Abrahamse's house was once a shop, belonging to the man who grew up in remote Haarlem and found rugby fame 644 km (400 miles) away. It was from him that I was given the frankest definition of the Langkloof Coloured. "It is true," he said, "that the Haarlemite is a proud and sincere Coloured. We are happy here, and we try to live a good life. "For many decades we tried to set an example to the rest of the Coloured community lower down in the Langkloof. It hurts to see the decay in a man who has left here with the intent to shred himself of all the good he was taught here by his parents, the church and school alike.

"It is a tragedy indeed, but so very true, that - bar a few exceptions - the further a Coloured moves eastwards the more he degrades himself." (The term he used was "verhotnot.") Perhaps the Government is well aware of this. Perhaps it is with this intent that Haarlem, cradle of the Coloured people of the Langkloof, has been singled out to be the very place where the Coloured can find pride in himself once more.