A Brief History of the Glendale Sugar Mill

By

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1985
TOPIC: A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE GLENDALE SUGAR MILL

This project outlines the progress of the mill from 1880 to the present day. It also discusses the history of transport at Glendale, its farmers, workers and future as a sugar industry.

WHEEL OF PROGRESS - GLENDALE SUGAR MILL

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REG. NO. 9051
HISTORY III
B. PAED. (PR. ED.) III
1985
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

My grateful acknowledgement to the following for their kind cooperation and compelling encouragement.

MR. G.D.R. WISEMAN for all his guidance and assistance.

RESIDENTS OF GLENDALE especially all those I interviewed.

THE DAILY NEWS and NATAL MERCURY LIBRARIES.

SOUTH AFRICAN SUGAR ASSOCIATION LIBRARIANS - Norwich Union House.

MRS. ESTER MARTINS for her dependable typing services.

My husband, BOBBY and son VERNON LEE for all their sacrifice to enable me to complete this project.
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A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE GLENDALE SUGAR MILL.

We are living in a century of rapid change - the scientific revolution - and backwaters such as Glendale could easily have been left far behind, but the peoples of Glendale have exerted themselves to the fullest mentally, physically and spiritually to accomplish a steady agricultural and industrial expansion in the Glendale Valley. The centre of Glendale and its activities is the Glendale Sugar Mill - situated on the banks of the Umvoti River - which is therefore the vital factor in the progress of the small community at Glendale. The history of the Glendale Sugar Mill is bound up with the earliest days of Sugar production in Natal and can be traced well back to over one hundred years.

THE EARLIEST SETTLERS AT GLENDALE.

Throughout Natal's history references will be made to Sir John Robinson, the province's first Prime Minister, who as plain John Robinson was the energetic, keenly observant and forthright editor of the Natal Mercury during the sugar industry's critical formative years. One of his more remarkable achievements was a horse back ride from end to end of the infant sugar industry in the year 1870. A series of articles describing his journey, the estates he passed and visited, the people he met, are of absorbing interest and were reproduced as a book entitled "Notes on Natal" in 1872. John Robinson refers to his visit to Glendale and the Umvoti Valley in chapter five of his book. He said "I suddenly found myself on the brink of an awful precipice, with the wildest of valleys stretching away northwards 2 000 feet below. This is the Valley of the Umvoti. The depth and breadth of this huge depression, the magnificence of the precipices that wall it in, the dark shade of the vegetation that so thickly clothe it, and the many traces of savage life one sees in the countless kraals that are dotted about give a true air of African wildness to the/.........
to the locality, nor can we be surprised that the first party of English immi-
grants when "shunted off" at the top of the precipice and told that down there
was their future home - there among the wild beasts and wilder savages - should
have taken fright, packed up their traps and made speed back again to the
Point - all which was literally the case." 1

Dr Sutherland selected the site of this village and recruited men. Some of the
first settlers arrived by the "Earl of Southesk" and took up coast grants on the
then unallotted crown land. On their way to Glendale old colonists told them
they were coming to an "uninhabited hole - known as the Frying Pan on account
of its heat - and only fit for the wild beasts and kafirs." 2

The earliest settlers were: Mr S. Knox who had a store, provided accomodation
for man and horse, and received the post; Mr Laing with 3 stalwart sons; Lieut
O'Brein; Messrs Ashwell from the Southern States of America who were attracted
to Natal by the gold reports but finding these stories to be mythical, determined
to apply themselves to digging operations of another kind. Others who came
were Capt. Douglas, Lieut Fawcett, Mr Smith and later the 'Scotch Boys' who were
four lads between 20 and 25 years who took between them a grant of 100 acres of
land, being all they were entitled to as non possessors of capital. These set-
tlers did subsistence farming and tried their hands at coffee, maize and cotton
with a limited amount of success although the valley was well adapted for coffee
and any tropical plant requiring heat and shelter. However these few settlers
that manfully remained and showed so resolute a determination to make the best
of circumstances proves that, had there been a little more preparation and
organization on the part of the authorities and less mischief making on the part
of old colonists, the unfortunate result of a few settling in this valley
would have been averted.

2. Ibid., p 38.
In his conclusion Sir John Robinson says "Evening shadows were drawing on as I looked once more over the steep verge of the valley. The hazy glow of our southern winter gave a blueness of complexion, and a vagueness of outline to the vast panorama of confused land in front. No wonder the Natives cling fondly to these location land of theirs. They are the true 'happy hunting grounds' of the savage. They are the very Paradise of barbarism. Nature seems to have walled them in as a home for the untutored savage, and to have shut them in, with her rocky barriers, from the approaches of civilization. But with sure strides the genius of progress advances. Roads are made into those bushy depths; houses are erected there; plantations, where honest labour is paid for, tempt the denizens of the kraals forth from their idleness to daily toil; stores are established in the neighbourhood where latent tastes are cultivated and new wants created; industry is fostered; avarice is excited; the greed of possession is implanted. And thus, by a merely natural process, but in fulfillment of an invariable law, the barbarian kafir ceases to be, and civilized African is born."

A. DEVELOPMENT OF THE SUGAR INDUSTRY AT GLENDALE (1880 - 1980).

The Introduction of sugar cane:

Thomas and his brother Lewis Reynold have been making sugar in Natal since 1854. In the 1870's Thomas reached down into the Glendale Valley and started planting cane there. In 1872 he planted 35 acres of cane and in 1874 another 400 acres. In June 1880 there appeared an advertisement which was significant in the history of the struggling sugar industry in Natal.

"In the Mercury Thomas Reynold announced that he wanted a man who could erect machinery, after having made enquiries 2 years earlier for sugar machinery capable of crushing two and half to three tons a day. The government blue book records no sugar mill at Oaklands but a new mill at Glendale." 4

A regular contributor to the Natal Mercury Planter's Column, who went by the pen name of Argestis, tells of his personal visit to Glendale in 1886 in a series of articles entitled "Among the sugar planters and beekeepers of Glendale". He relates Mr W.B. Lyle's account of how the late Mr T. Reynold intended to open up the resources of the valley by starting a central sugar mill. Mr Lyle was the manager of the Glendale Sugar Estate and he said "Mr Reynold tried to float a company and required a capital of £ 15 000. He succeeded in raising only £ 5 000 and the proposed company fell to the ground. But nothing daunted Mr Reynolds who determined to remove his mill piece meal from Oaklands, Umlali, and place it down in Glendale. This he successfully accomplished, not withstanding the arching of the eyebrows of the wiseacres who thought he was mad and of course predicted complete failure." 5

Today as we gaze upon the immense tract of land under cane and the valuable machinery employed we feel convinced that the colony owes a deep debt of gratitude to the memory of Mr Reynolds for opening up one of the most inaccessible yet one of the most productive spots in Natal.

Second owner of the Glendale Sugar Estate.

Mr Reynolds completed the erection of a large mill in Glendale in 1880. In 1890 the whole estate was sold to Mr G. Nicholson. Life in the time of

4. R.F. Osborn: Valiant Harvest, p 182
5. Ibid., p 192.
Mr Nicholson was very tedious. Women were forced to work. Besides their normal household chores they had to work in the fields.

Mr N. Govender, a 103 year old Glendale resident said: "They had to start as early as four in the morning and were flogged if they did not do so. Some women became so frustrated when they failed to work that they chose suicide as a way out." One of the more striking developments during the time of Mr Nicholson's ownership of the mill was the construction of a small mill by Mr Ramcharan, one of the first cane growers in Glendale. The latter had a dispute with Mr Nicholson and refused to send his cane to the mill, so he set up his own mill, the remains of which could still be seen near the site. Mr Ramcharan ground maize, crushed cane, made treacle and hard brown sugar, all of which he sold to the Blacks around.

Under Indian control.

In 1920 Mr Nicholson disposed of the sugar estate in its entirety to a Company of four Moslems, headed by one named Mr. Loonat. Due to corruption and poor management, the mill had to be sold by public auction. In the Natal Mercury, dated 9 February 1924, Messrs Hugh Thompson issued a notice to the effect that the Glendale Sugar Estates would be auctioned off 'without reserve' to the highest bidder. The hammer fell at £ 30 000 to the Paruk family of Durban who were the chief creditors to the Loonats. The sale of the mill off-set a large loan taken from the Paruks. Mr P. Jeremiah who worked for 52 years in the mill recalls this incident. He said "During the negotiation period which was approximately 4 months, no wages was paid to the workers. They were only given groceries from the local shop."

Mr E.M. Paruk, who bought the mill in 1924, was a business man and industrialist, a faithful/......
a faithful friend, generous benefactor and leader of the Indian community to
the service of which he devoted his time and money. Esmail Mohamed Paruk was
born in India in 1867 and arrived in Durban in 1884 from Mauritius. He set one
of the biggest business houses in the province and then turned his interests to
industry also. He was the proprietor of the Glendale Sugar Mill and the Inanda
Tea Estate. His whole estate at Glendale covered 5 430 acres, 500 of which is
under tenancy. The factory during his ownership "manufactured good quality
white sugar for direct consumption as well as Government Grade and export sugar
through the sulphitation process." When Mr Paruk took over the mill it was
producing 200 tons of sugar a year, however, at the time of his death in 1942,
the sugar output had risen to 3 000 tons. Mr N. Govender says "He was so
humble one would not expect him to be the boss. A man of vision, he used to
pick up the little pieces of cane and throw them into the carriers."

Interestingly, females were also employed inside the mill. Previously women only
worked in the cane fields. In the mills they sewed sacks together and numbered
them so that those sacks could be used to pack and transport sugar.

In 1962 it seemed that the Paruk family was at the crossroads. Pressed by the low
price of sugar, mounting overhead expenses and consequent quota cuts within the
industry, the proprietors decided to dispose of their enterprise. Negotiations
went as far as giving an option to sell the mill and adjoining lands - the only
Indian owned mill was to be sold. Everyone in the valley was despondent and
a great struggle followed to save the mill, as it was realized that if the sale
goes through, the mill would be closed down and hundreds of people would lose
their livelihood.

1955, p 192.
The peoples of Glendale sent a memorandum to the proprietors asking that their predicament be borne in mind and also asking for time to make deputation to higher authorities.

"A deputation led by the President of the Natal Indian Cane Growers Association Mr Harry Bodasingh, consisting of Messrs D. Badul, A.M. Moola, R. Vengetsamy, R.A. Moodley, D.G. Badul and B.A. Maharaj met the Paruk family. The Department of Indian Affairs which was just established was approached and through it the Dept. of Commerce and Industry was consulted. A special Investigating Committee was appointed consisting of representatives of the Indian Affairs Dept., the Dept. of Commerce and Industry, the Board of Trade and the Milling and Cane Growers Section of the South African Sugar Association.

By the end of 1963 the Committee made its recommendation. They envisaged a complete reorganization of the enterprise, including management, field and mill. A very difficult decision faced the Paruk family. Because of their faith in South Africa, they decided to retain the Mill and go ahead with the development of Glendale along the lines recommended and approved by the Investigating Committee."7 The government also took on interest in the retention of the mill by its owners as this affected the lives of more than 1 000 Indian workers.

"The government agreed to consider ways and means of assisting the mill. The Department is most anxious to help Indians to keep their industries, and through its good offices, the Minister of Economic Affairs had been urged to intervene." 8

On the 19th of November 1965, Government and Natal Sugar Industry officials paid a visit to the multi million rand.

7. S.R. Pather : Centenary of Indians, p 155
Government sponsored Glendale Sugar Mill. At a luncheon the secretary of Indian Affairs, Mr J.A.H. van der Merwe, appealed to leaders of the sugar industry to employ more Indians. He said "In this way the sugar industry can repay the moral debt to Indians for what they have done for the industry in Natal. Action in this direction would help raise their economic standard so that they could play their full role in the economic development of the South African Population of which they now form an integral part." 

The government started to put the Glendale Sugar Millers on its feet in 1962. At the same luncheon the secretary of Commerce and Industry, Mr H.R.P.A. Kotzenberg, said "Glendale was a typical example of government policy to raise the standards of living among communities who could not do it themselves for various reasons."

Incidentally, it is interesting to note that only Glendale has a Mill Group Board with representation by members of all races. Mr D.G. Badul has the unique distinction of being the only Indian Secretary in the entire sugar industry.

In 1969 Illovo, one of the country's major milling companies had made moves to buy the Glendale Mill and Estates. While the owners were considering the sale of the Mill, a report in the Natal Mercury on Saturday 11th January 1969, stated that the Natal Indian Cane Growers' Association had formed a Consortium to try to buy and keep the Mill in Indian hands.

The workers at Glendale also sent a memorandum to the Paruk family pleading to them to ensure that the Indian workers would not be adversely affected and also that the owners extend the time so that the Consortium could raise the R250 000 needed as deposit.

10. Ibid.
If the Consortium bought the Mill and Estate, the Mill would still be Indian owned and the area would still remain Indian under Government policy. The consortium succeeded in halting the take over bid by the Illovo Sugar Company. The Natal Mercury also records an "attempt made by Mr Guy Hullett, formerly one of the biggest names in the sugar industry, to make a fighting comeback by acquiring the Glendale concern." 11

The Mill and Estate was offered to the consortium of Indian businessmen for two and a half million rands with a deposit of R250 000 by midday on 13th January 1969. The Indian people rallied to the call and R220 000 was collected in 48 hours. Only R220 000 was collected by the deadline. Although Mr Hullett offered the owner R176 000 more, the Paruks decided in favour of the Association. This appeared to be mainly due to the feelings of loyalty towards his own community and a willingness to ensure that the mill was retained for the benefit of the 1 000 employees. Folks at Glendale recall their sighs of relief when they heard that the mill was saved. Even special thanksgiving services were held. Indians throughout the country pledged to help pay the balance within 12 months. Indians at Glendale "have pledged to live on porridge to help pay off the R 2½ million." 12

The agreement was to be signed for the take over on Saturday 15 February 1969. The consortium pleaded for extension of time because the counsel and attorneys were scanning the contents of the very involved schedules of the proposed agreement. But on the appointed day the Indian consortium could not go through with the deal.

It was said that "the economic factors and the problems of taking over the long term liabilities were more difficult than they seemed at the starting point of negotiations." The Mill was now open for purchase by one of the two previously interested parties, Illovo Sugar Company and Guy Hullett. When no agreement was reached a new bid was made.

**Overseas British Takeover - Sugar Headquarters at Zimbabwe.**

"The London-based Lonrho group, which has interests in Swaziland, Malawi and Mauritius is making a bid to come into the Natal sugar Estate and Mill."*

"The British Lonrho group has interests in most countries, and being interested in sugar, they saw the purchase of the Glendale Mill as a loophole to get into the sugar business in South Africa. The South African Sugar Association is also one of the most stable in the world."*

So after 45 years of the Mill being in Indian hands, it fell to an overseas concern that owns the mill to this day.

**B. HISTORY OF TRANSPORT AT THE GLENDALE SUGAR MILL.**

Sugar cane had to be hauled from the fields to the Sugar Mill. One of the oldest means of transport was the ox wagon.

An interesting and in some ways unique feature of the fields transport system, was "a tramway system of a total length of one mile and a guage of 27 inches (that) handled the cane from the heights, assisted by five wagons and six carts, the latter requiring the maintenance of 100 head of oxen." 16

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15. Mr G.D.R. Wiseman: - Interview.
In the early days sugar had to be taken to Shakaskraal station as the only road open to Durban then was via Shakaskraal. The journey took four days on a return trip. In 1920 the road to Stanger was opened and sugar was transported by ox wagon to the Kearsney Railway Siding. This took two days return trip.

For the first time sugar was transported by motor lorry in 1934. "Mr R. Ramraj, son of Ramcharan of Glendale and Gonda of U.P India initially began a carting merchandize between Stanger and Glendale. He developed this service into passenger and goods transport business." 17

Up until 1976 the Glendale Sugar Millers managed their own transport. However when the millers found it difficult and costly to run their own transport, the Natal United Transport moved in to this area that was traditionally handled by growers and millers. This new transport company signed a contract with the Glendale Sugar Millers (G.S.M.) and also took on the 'old' drivers. The Sugar Mill Garage is now used to maintain only company vehicles. Mr J.B. Bullock the General Manager of GSM said: "The contract with NUT has helped us improve overall efficiency of the mill as well as relieving the estate of the burden of large capital expenditure on workshops and vehicles. Transport efficiency is vital to the milling operations where stoppages caused by the shortage of cane are a costly nightmare for the sugar estates." 18

C. THE FARMERS.

1) Early Farmers:
The Reynold Brothers were the first farmers to introduce sugar cane to the Glendale/......

Glendale Valley. The first Indian cane grower was Mr Ramcharan who broke off from the transport business to take up farming and eventually became one of the most successful farmers in the Glendale area. Later others like Messrs Badul, N.W. Pillay and K.A. Moodley took up farming.

2) Lease Farming:

While the Paruk family owned the Glendale Mill and Estates much land was given under tenancy to sugar cane farmers. Land was given free of charge for cash cropping but could be taken back whenever it was needed. The Paruks leased out land to tenant farmers for indefinite periods and with verbal agreements. In 1964 the tenants had to enter into written agreements with the Paruks. Some refused and gave up their farms. Others signed but were asked to move to drought stricken areas. As a consequence some ceased farming. In Appendix 4 one can read an interesting account of a farmer who sent a World SOS to help him resolve his six year old dispute with the Glendale Sugar Estates.

The Lonrho group still continues the practice of farm leasing.

3) Kwa Zulu Development by Glendale.

"Zulu farming in the rugged scenic Glendale valley, 15 kms inland of Stanger, dates back to the 1950's although it is highly probable the 'domesticated few' downed their tools of war for the hoe and farmed alongside their white immigrant counterparts as far back as 1880, when the boldest of the early settlers established farms in the area at Glendale Heights."
However records show that it is only in the early 50's that the Zulu farmer began to extract some of the wealth from the red banks that cradle the snaking Umvoti River through the 9 km long valley. Today the cane lined Glendale hills contribute a more meaningful way of life to the many Black families that have improved their way of life considerably through the (Financial Aid) Fund.  

The Financial Aid Fund was established in 1973 by the sugar industry to stimulate rural development of sugar cane growing by Zulu, Indian and Coloured small cane farmers. The Zulu farmers have benefitted much from this fund. Mr Gavin Wiseman said that the Black grower's contribution has risen from 30 000 tons in 1975 to 133 000 tons in 1984 which provided a net profit for the local Black growers of about R2,2 million.

The size of the plots at Glendale average about two hectares and they are determined and allocated by the tribal chiefs. However two hectares only produce between 50 - 75 tons of cane per hectare every two years. The plot sizes are insufficient to generate a full time wage, so it's a more discretionary income, but it does provide a useful injection to their incomes.

Most of the owners are migrant city workers who leave the running and care of the plots to their families and wives and return to 'farm' at weekends.

Growers at Glendale are classified into dry areas, which are dependent on natural rainfall in the higher altitude areas, and wet areas which are irrigated from the Umvoti River.

The topography of certain areas precluded a gravity fed irrigation channel scheme and the only suitable irrigation would be through a sprinkle system which was very expensive. Mr Wiseman talks about the Mbonsimini irrigation scheme. He relates this as follows "The scheme was an entirely self-initiated project by the villages, who paid the development costs and are responsible for the repayment of the loan which was put up by the Zulu Fund and the Kwa Zulu Development Corporation. The Project required tremendous support and co-operation from the local chiefs, the Kwa Zulu Department of Agriculture and Forestry and the locals; and it is a testament to their co-operation that it has become a reality."

Much of the inspiration and motivation for the project came from Mrs Cecilia Khuzwayo, a great grandmother in her 70's who had also been the prime mover in galvanizing her fellow villages into digging rudimentary roads in the early 50's to allow the first vehicles into the area. She is a real leader and motivates people by the sheer strength of her personality. She also controls the thinking of the community in a most positive way and not in a dictatorial fashion.

Mrs Khuzwayo is indeed a legend. As she stands proudly surveying the new pumping station on the banks of the Umvoti which feeds the Mbonsimini scheme sprinkler system. She smilingly recounts some of the bitter opposition to the scheme and how, after completion, the most eager detractors were won over.

4) Problems of the Farmers.

A major problem from the earliest days was labour. In the late 19th century the Black inhabitants showed little disposition to work for their white neighbours.
They also showed undoubted jealousy at the intrusion of Europeans but when they saw their lands were not being unduly encroached upon, and that the settlers would not interfere with them, they were tempted from idleness to daily toil. Small farmers could not afford a stable labour force because they could not provide adequate accommodation and they consequently rely upon casual workers whom they hire on a daily basis.

Glendale’s climate also poses a lot of problems for the farmers. Drought, floods and sometimes frost affect the crops. During heavy rains and floods the fields become ‘waterlogged’ and impassable for days. One of the farmer’s greatest enemies is drought, the severest of which were during the 1980/81 and 1983/84 seasons. During the 1980/81 season Glendale and Zululand were the hardest hit. Many farmers left to seek alternate employment. One newspaper wrote: Sugar cane farmers of Natal are facing an estimated R25 million loss a year for the next seven years and now an exodus has started with thousands of people out of jobs moving into the cities because of the drought. One farmer said: “The level of the river is so low and the drought has already taken a heavy toll. We don’t have much chance because payments have to be made on bonds, capital expenditure and equipment, only the government can help us with financial support.”

Government Land Bank Loans and the Financial Aid Funds of the sugar industry have helped farmers get back on their feet.

During 1984 the farmers were “reeling under the financial strain of the drought and the recent Cyclone Demoina which aggravated the situation and they were therefore unable to repay the land loans.”

Disease and pests also contribute to the farmer’s problem.

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21. Ibid.
The most common are borer infestation and eldana. In 1980 many industries and workers were severely hit as the twin crisis of drought and borer infestation hampered Natal's R1200 million industry. At one stage locusts were a pest. Mr Maniram Ramraj, a former farmer at Glendale recalls as a little boy how they had to spray the fields and also make loud drumming sounds on tins to get rid of the swarms of locusts.

In recent years the most pressing problem is the low price of sugar. The export price is so low that it is difficult for the mills to cope with their overhead and in fact it is crippling most of the mills financially. Mr A. Joshua a retired worker said "Previous to 1948 all farmers were paid a flat rate of about 50c at ton in the early 1900's. In 1948 the Sugar Industry Central Board (SICB) was started at Glendale Sugar Mill. The SICB tests the cane and farmers are now paid according to the sucrose level of their cane. They saw to it that the millers did not do their farmers in. A levy was paid by the farmers to meet the expenses of the SICB." 23

D. THE WORKERS.

Workers at Glendale are generally happy and comfortable here in the Valley. Many of the present workers were born and bred in Glendale. Conditions have improved tremendously for the workers. The mill workers at Glendale have many privileges. Housing is generally provided close to the Mill and others are given land to build self help houses as they need them. The Black workers live in the reserve, some live in cottages and a compound near the Mill and others in allotted state land.

23. A. Joshua : Interview.
Previously migrant labourers were recruited from Transkei. However with the high cost, local labourers are used.

In 1870 when John Robinson came to Glendale he recorded this: "The Barracks housed 150 natives and coolies." Now only Indians are housed in the barracks. Conditions for the Indians have improved tremendously. Houses now have private bathrooms and toilets, purified water and electrical lights whereas, in the past the Indians had to use common community bathrooms, toilets and taps, with no electricity. Higher grade workers are given separate cottages. Religious buildings and play fields are also provided.

The White workers live in a separate residential area which is well kept. A country club with swimming pool and courts are also provided.

The Mill workers also receive medical benefits where the company pays a certain percentage of the medical fee. A surgery and clinic is maintained by the millers. Medical Aid Schemes are not available to all workers. All workers are put onto a Pension Scheme.

Another privilege offered by the Glendale Sugar Mill is the opportunity to qualify at the job one does. During the ownership of the Paruks, Glendale had a training scheme for Indian artisans. Presently people of all races could apply for an apprenticeship, provided they have matriculated. Until recently many workers have been promoted on the basis of experience. Indian workers made up the majority of skilled workers. The Sunday Tribune dated 19th January 1969 reports that "Electricians, plumbers, mechanics and engineers are being trained at the Glendale Mill to form the nucleus of further industrial development in the area." To improve workmanship maintenance and artisan one is sent

to the Training Centre at Mount Edgecombe to update new methods. Apprentices complete their courses at the Technikon and also the Training Centre at Mount Edgecombe.

The general attitude and relationship between workers and management is good. Many workers when asked if they'd like to trade places with other mills or areas said that they are quite happy in this valley. Older residents do not recall any unpleasant events at Glendale between workers and management except the murder of an engineer, Mr Booyson by some workers (However details are not available) and a strike. Mr H. Persad, a retired worker said there was only one strike in the history of Glendale. This was a one day strike in 1945 when Black workers stopped the Mill to put forth their complaints. They complained of poor working conditions. When they worked from dawn to dusk they had nothing to eat. The magistrate from Stanger was called to preside over the meeting and a local pastor represented the workers. The owners of the mill decided that rations would be given and from that day forward field workers were also supplied with bread and sugar daily. Nowadays casual workers are given a nutritious drink they call 'mahewu' and bread. Workers in the compound are supplied with cooked meals.

The Glendale Sugar Millers have an advisory body called the Workers' Committee that also presides over problems and disputes between the workers themselves or between employers and employees. There is also a Local Affairs Committee that is in charge of resolving any domestic disputes should the need arise.

The sugar mill workers have not joined any unions up until 1981. However an attempt was made in 1945 but no further attempts were made. Mr. H. Persad explains why. He said: "16 workers had decided
to join a union and they wrote a petition to the union giving in their complaints as well as asking if they could join their union. A representative was sent to submit this to the union but instead he gave this to the owners of the mill at that time. The Paruku immediately dismissed these workers. These 16 families suffered a great deal with no place to live in. Eventually Mr. A.R. Moodley, a shopkeeper and farmer, opened up his disused shop to these families. People would sneak in at night to supply these people with food. However later on a few people did return to the sugar mill." A lot of the older residents do verify this story.

In 1981, the workers with their spokesman, Mr. M.C. Nthembu, a fitter at the mill, decided to join the National Sugar and Refinery Allied Industry Employees' Union. Although they have no problems at the present time, they did so should they encounter any problems in the future. Not all departments in the mill allowed their workers to join the union. Some workers see no reason to join because any privileges granted to the union workers, as far as any benefits and wages are concerned, would also apply to them. Those who did not join only foresee difficulties if they have personal problems with their employers. Interestingly, workers at Glendale are not always paid the union rate of salary. Most of them earn above it because the management grants their workers increases in wage or salary according to the workers' experience and capabilities.
CONCLUSION

Mr. Gavin Wiseman said in his speech on the history of the Glendale Sugar Mill that from the modest 35 acres of cane planted in 1872 the Valley now supports 2125 hectares of estate fields alone, the planting, growing, reaping and milling of which employs almost 8000 people.

Since 1880 the Glendale Sugar Mill and Estates have made tremendous advancements. The mill has been extended several times over since its erection; and the hectares of cane planted have multiplied almost 60 times over since 1872.

Although the sugar industry looks bleak at the moment, but according to Mr. P. Juglal, the mill group board secretary for Glendale, the prospects for the sugar industry after 1989 looks rosy. His reasons are that the A and B pool system of payment for cane will end in 1989. The A and B pool system is where a certain percentage of cane would be paid at the A level and the rest at B level. Also the future for Glendale looks promising because those farmers on the borders of Glendale who have their quota of cane sent to other mills (e.g., Krantz Kloof cane goes to the Shakaskraal siding, and Doringkop sends its cane to C.G. Smith, Gledhow or Darnall) will then have to divert their cane to the nearest mill, which is Glendale.

The Glendale Sugar Mill is the smallest in South Africa, but it has a relatively stable future because it is the only independent sugar mill which is also overseas owned.
APPENDIX I: NOTIFICATION OF AUCTION
This appeared in the NATAL MERCURY dated 9 February 1924 when the Loonats decided to sell the mill. The Paruk family who were the chief creditors to the Loonats.

HUGH M. THOMPSON
& CO.'S
LAND SALE

Messrs. HUGH M. THOMPSON & CO., duly instructed by the Bondholder, in the matter of
THE GLENDALE ESTATE Co.,
will sell by Public Auction, at their Union Mart, 303 Smith Street, Durban, on

Saturday, 9th February,
AT 11:30 A.M.

WITHOUT RESERVE
GLENDALE SUGAR ESTATE
WITH
MILL
AND
EQUIPMENT COMPLETE
AS A GOING CONCERN.

LAND.—The Property is known as the "Glenvale Estate," is in extent 3,357 and 2-3rd Acres, situate in the Glenvale Valley, about 16 miles from Stanger, 9 miles from Kearney Railway Station, and 60 miles by road from Durban.

CANE.—There are approximately 515 Acres under Cane, of which about 300 acres will be ready for cutting in 1924. Most of the Cane Lands are under irrigation, and should give 5 tons an acre. A further 1,300 acres could be put under Cane or is most suitable land for Cotton.

TRAMWAY PLANT.—A tramway system of approximately 4 to 5 miles feeds the Mill.

MILL and BUILDINGS.—There are several Buildings in good condition, comprising,—Four Wood and Iron Dwelling Houses, Store, Mill Offices (fully furnished), Indian and Labour Barracks, Stables, Dipping, Tank, and Engineers Workshop, (in which is contained a modern Lathes) and—

A substantial Sugar Mill, fully equipped and capable of crushing 96 tons per 8-hour day.

An Irrigation Plant has been installed.

LIVE STOCK.—There are 61 Head of Cattle, 15 Mules and 1 Riding Horse, which are all well trained and healthy.

IMPLEMENTS, etc., consist of 4 Wagons and Gear, a Traction Engine, in perfect working order, with Tractors, another Traction Engine which can be put in working order, various Ploppers, Cultivators, Scallers, Hoes, etc., sufficient for the immediate requirements of the Estate.
We, the undersigned employees, do hereby most respectfully make the
following submissions for your earnest consideration.

1. That it has come to our knowledge as a matter of great surprise and
shock that it is your intention to dispose of your entire holdings at Glendale.

2. That is the event of this being done we wish most humbly to state that
disposal of your very extensive cane lands and the large sugar factory, were
of us are employed by you and live together with our dependents will cast a
dooms day blow. Many of us have been born and brought up in the Estate humbly
wishing its interests loyal and faithfully.

3. That in view of the intended disposal, the lifetime services rendered
all of us will not only be abruptly severed but that by reason of the displace-
ments there will be a large number of unemployed and this will cause hardship
acute suffering to us.

4. That further we have relied entirely on the industry to maintain our
livelihood but in view of what is now intended we are likely to suffer irreparable
harm.

5. Having been employed in this industry for many decades and as a result
progress made we have now become acutely conscious of the "boiling house recovery"
factor, which in the past, due to lack of proper understanding on the part of
employees, was not taken into serious account. In the result losses have been
eased losses and efficiency and economy assured.

6. That we have with unswerving devotion rendered services, as we regarded
as essential to the growth of the industry and are conscious of our respon-
sibility and offer to continue to co-operate with greater zeal and energy at our
need to meet the situation which has now unfortunately arisen.
of patience and endurance and it would be a grave pity that the industry which is unique in character and one of its kind in this country, in that it is owned by one Indian family were practically the majority of Indians are employed, should be disposed of.

8.

The running of the industry with the energy and wisdom with which it as been handled is commendable and the character and standing of the proprietors are beyond reproach and unique.

9.

The traditional character built by the late Haji E. M. Paruk in taking care and preserving this industry over many years should remain as a living monument to his great efforts. His philanthropy and humanity shown in the welfare of the employees in the face of grave hardships that had to be endured when the industry was being built inspired a scene of hope and confidence in the minds of the employees. It is therefore humbly urged that every effort should be made to retain something which is of great sentimental value to the member of the Paruk family and invaluable to the interests to the Indian community.

10.

We are not unmindful and are appreciative of the fact that members of the Paruk family have contributed generously towards buildings of schools, religious institutions and recreational facilities in Glendale and their contributions towards the building of the Technical College, Stanger, all for the welfare of the Indian community, more especially, the employees.

11.

THAT it is a matter of pride and joy to us that members of the Paruk family are studying and qualifying as chemists, engineers, agriculturists and in cognate fields of study all prompted by the desire to serve the industry.

12.

It is a matter of serious regret and cause for grave concern and sorrow that should the proposed sale see the light of day the fulfilment of the high ideals envisaged would be destroyed and would close the door for facilities for which there will thereby be no other opening.

13.

We respectfully urge that any decision regarding the disposal of the
industry be deferred pending representations to be made by us to the Honourable
Minister concerned for the grant of adequate relief in the matter.

14.

We trust and hope that you will accede to this humble request as we are aware
of the fact that you have at all times been solicitous of our welfare.

15.

We pray that God may guide you in your decision and you may be assured that
we will make supreme efforts to make our representations heard as soon as possible.

We remain,

Yours most obediently,

Glendale — 16/11/62.
MEMORANDUM

Appendix 3: Memorandum sent when the Panius decided to sell the mill for the second time in 1969.

The Proprietors,
Glendale Sugar Millers,
329 Pine Street,
DURBAN.

Sirs,

We, the undersigned, on behalf of the Employees, do hereby humbly and respectfully make the following submissions for your earnest and sympathetic consideration:

1. We appeal to you and the Members of your family to reconsider your decision to sell the mill and estate should the circumstances change at this stage for the better after all the deliberation and negotiations that are taking place.

2. Should you all persist in your intention to dispose of the Mill and Estate, we appeal to you to arrange to sell to persons or organisations that would continue with the running of the Mill. From press reports we gather that the Illovo Sugar Millers have offered to buy and that it is their intention to close the Mill and only maintain the Estate. This situation you would agree will present great hardships for our people as many would face unemployment. We beg you to consider the sad plight that many of us will be placed in should the Illovo Sugar Millers be successful in their bid.

3. We have noticed from press reports also, especially the report in the Natal Mercury on Saturday, 11th January 1969, that the Natal Indian Cane Growers Association has formed a Consortium and that it has been given the option of raising R250,000 by noon on Monday, 13th January 1969 should it be interested to purchase the Mill and Estate. We appeal to you to be as sympathetic as possible and extend the time should it be necessary to permit the aforesaid Consortium to raise the stipulated amount as we are of the firm conviction and belief that the Consortium's intention would be to retain the Mill and Estate and our people would not be deprived of their livelihood.

4. We are of the opinion also that if an Indian Concern were allowed or given first preference to buy, the area would remain Indian in terms of Government policy and it would be a safeguard for our people and generations to come. We humbly request you to keep this in mind when you make your decision.

In conclusion we appeal to you once again to give careful consideration and take into account the plight of our people when you make your decision. We are deeply indebted to you and your family for past considerations and we are confident that you will make concessions to the Consortium should it be necessary and make it possible for it to be successful in its bid, as we realise that our fate is tied up with it.

Yours faithfully,

[Signatures]

1...............................
2...............................
3...............................
By BOBBY HARRYPERSADH

Mr. Gugraj said he refused to enter into such an agreement. He was prepared to enter into a written agreement of lease on reasonable terms and conditions.

Among these were a written lease for 15 years. The terms were not disclosed, but it was agreed that the lease would come to an end in my time, in accordance with law, and in order to protect the interest of my children and secure a position for a definite period.

"I also asked compensation for my sugar cane quota, compensation for rooms and crops and improvements on the termination of the lease, and acceptance of irrigation facilities on condition that they were a payable proposition."

Quotas

"When I took over the farm from Estate Desai, no sugar cane quota was registered for the farm. I worked hard and established a quota."

"The initial quota was 89 short tons sucrose, equivalent to 532 tons of sugar cane. I increased it to 94 long tons sucrose by about 1975, which is equivalent to 732 tons of sugar cane a year."

"The dispute was continuing between the Paraks and myself, the Lomrho Group purchased the farm and the farms in 1963. The manager, Mr. W. G. McGregor, became the managing director, and the secretary, Mr. N. V. Sinclair, became the secretary of the company."

"When I took over the farm, I was paying a rent of R4 an acre each year. The rent was deducted from the proceeds of the sugar cane supplied to the mill."

"In 1961, the Paraks deducted R6 an acre a year without my discussion with me. I protested. No need was paid to my protest. The new owners (Lomrho) continued this practice despite my protests against such a rental for a peasant farmer like myself."

"The Paraks, and subsequently the Lomrho Group, offered me an alternative written agreement of lease. But again I considered this to be unreasonable and I refused to sign, because there was no security in respect of the period of tenancy."

"In 1972, the company started an action in the Stanger Magistrate's Court for my ejectment. The company did not succeed. It withdrew the action and undertook to pay costs."

"In 1975, the company again started ejectment proceedings against Mr. Gugraj in the Durban Supreme Court and on April 30, 1976, judgment was given against him with costs. He was ordered to vacate the farm by May 31, 1976."

Mr. Gugraj then noted an appeal against the judgment to the Natal Supreme Court which was due to be heard a few months ago, but he didn't have enough money to proceed with it, and therefore he had to default and the decision went against him.

"I have spent a substantial amount in legal costs over the years, and now that I have lost the appeal, I am completely ruined," he said.
This took place around 1934. However, the cane was first loaded onto the vehicles by hand. Later cranes and side loaders were used for infield loading.

The conversion has been particularly well received by the cane cutters, whose average output has immediately and significantly risen by over one ton per unit per day.

The photograph shows tramline tracks being removed, with road transport units at a transhipment site in the background.
AGRICULTURAL INFORMATION

Land
The total area of the estate's land is 2125 hectares, of which approximately 181 hectares are leased out to private growers. The remaining land is farmed by the estate. 1220 hectares being at present registered caneland.

Land preparation
Old cane is destroyed by ripping, followed by Rome ploughing and harrowing.

Fertilizer
The level of fertilization is determined by the South African Sugar Association Fertilizer Advisory Service.

Irrigation
A total of 705 hectares is under spray irrigation with a system capacity of 44mm per application, every 21 days.

Harvesting and transportation
The company operates tandem masse-cane trailers to deliver cane to infield gantries, where it is trans-shipped by crane to mechanical horses and hilo-type trailers for transport to the mill.

Yields

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Area hectares</th>
<th>Metric tons</th>
<th>Tons cane per hectare per month</th>
<th>Irrigated Dry land</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1974/75</td>
<td>685,300</td>
<td>56,162</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1975/76</td>
<td>702,300</td>
<td>59,908</td>
<td>5.2</td>
<td>3.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1976/77</td>
<td>803,600</td>
<td>68,653</td>
<td>5.3</td>
<td>5.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1977/78</td>
<td>828,700</td>
<td>66,553</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1978/79</td>
<td>843,800</td>
<td>66,458</td>
<td>5.8</td>
<td>4.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1979/80</td>
<td>1,075,000</td>
<td>78,765</td>
<td>5.3</td>
<td>4.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980/81</td>
<td>1,080,000</td>
<td>38,089</td>
<td>5.3</td>
<td>4.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981/82</td>
<td>1,090,000</td>
<td>80,914</td>
<td>6.7</td>
<td>5.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1982/83</td>
<td>943,000</td>
<td>65,869</td>
<td>6.4</td>
<td>6.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1983/84</td>
<td>876,000</td>
<td>48,760</td>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>4.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

KWA ZULU INFORMATION

Since 1976 the Company has been actively engaged in Kwa Zulu assisting the development of land to sugar cane growing for Zulu farmers. Financial assistance has been provided by the Financial Aid Fund of the South African Sugar Association, by the Corporation for Economic Development and by the KwaZulu Development Corporation.

The table below shows the progress made. The 1980/81, and the 1983/84 figures were materially affected by severe droughts. The totals of cane harvested include some areas planted by Zulu growers themselves.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Hectares planted by the company</th>
<th>Tons cane from Kwa Zulu growers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1976/7</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>24,850</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1977/8</td>
<td>561</td>
<td>26,564</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1978/9</td>
<td>698</td>
<td>40,658</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1979/80</td>
<td>594</td>
<td>65,849</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980/81</td>
<td>716</td>
<td>52,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981/82</td>
<td>698</td>
<td>84,155</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1982/83</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>127,586</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1983/84</td>
<td>256</td>
<td>113,360</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FACTORY INFORMATION

Knives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Speed</th>
<th>Drive</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>485 r.p.m.</td>
<td>187kw electric motor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>480 r.p.m.</td>
<td>150kw electric motor</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Centrifugal:

4 BMA P650 centrifugal for A Massecuie.
2 Hein Lehmann continuous centrifugal for B Massecuie — 762mm dia — 1,200 r.p.m. and 1 Western States 850mm at 2,000 r.p.m. (B Massecuie).
2 Western States continuous centrifugal for C Massecuie, running at 2,200 r.p.m.

Sugar Handling
1 — Rotary drier. Only raw V.d.P. sugar is manufactured.

Molasses
One 1,045m3 storage tank.

The South African Sugar Year Book 1983-84
Entumeni Sugar Milling Co. (Pty) Ltd.

Board of Directors

Secretaries and registered office

Auditors
Alex, Aiken and Carter

Staff
Managing Director: R. Pole
General Manager: J.H. Martindale
Chief Engineer, A.J. Martin
Process Manager: M. Lee
Administration Manager: N.B. Egan
Transport Manager: M. Britz

Capital
R200 000 in fully paid up R2 shares

HISTORICAL NOTE
The company was formed in 1929 and the first cane was milled in August, 1930.
The mill has been expanded over the years from its initial maximum capacity of 15 tons cane per hour to a nominal capacity of 75 tons cane per hour.

FACTORY INFORMATION
Capacity 75 tonnes cane per hour

Cane handling
1 - 6.5 tonne gantry crane
1 - 4.5 tonne tower crane

Cane Preparation
1 - Levelling knives 112Kw
1 - Primary knives 186Kw
1 - Secondary knives 112Kw
1 - Gruesdler shredder 150Kw
All electrically driven.

Extraction plant
First Mill 1 371mm x 711mm driven by a 224Kw variable speed Lawrence Scott AC Motor. De Smet Diffuser 2.5m x 35m

Dewatering mills
1 - 1 371mm x 711mm. Driven by a 130Kw variable speed Lawrence Scott AC Motor
1 - 1 575mm x 864mm. Driven by a 283Kw Asea D.C. thyristor.

Boilers
1 - C.E. MCR 23 000Kg steam per hour at 1 700Kpa
1 - J.T. MCR 21 400Kg steam per hour at 2 480Kpa
3 - B & W w.t.i.f. type water tube boilers total H.S. 835 square metres. Pressure 1 020Kpa.

Power station
1 - 2 500Kw Allan Turbo-alternator
1 - 1 000Kw Be&t & Morcom Turbo-alternator
1 - 150Kw Cummins diesel alternator set
1 - 100Kw Cummins diesel alternator set
1 - 75Kw G.M. Diesel alternator set
1 - 150Kw GEC turbo-alternator

Clarification
Defecation process
1 - Juice heater 139m² HS on Vapour 2
1 - Juice heater 139m² HS on Vapour 3
2 - Juice heaters 112m² HS each on Vapour 1
1 - 6,1m Rapid-Dorr Clarifier (Modified)
1 - 4,8m Oliver Rotary Vacuum Filter
1 - 3,6m Eimco Rotary Vacuum Filter

Evaporators
1 - 93m² HS Clear Juice heater
1 - 750m² HS Semi Kefftier
1 - 697m² HS Pre-evaporator
1 - 1 486m² Total H.S. Quadr.

Vacuum pass
A Massesitive
1 - 25,5m³
1 - 22,7m³
1 - 25,5m³
1 - 8,5m³
B
1 - 25,5m³
1 - 12,8m³
C
1 - 45m³

Refining pan
1 - 14,2m³
1 - 15,3m³

Crystallizers
A
2 - 15,6m³
1 - 25,5m³
1 - Water cooled crystallizer 8,4m x 2,4m with 32 elements. Cooling surface 250m²
B
2 - 25,5m³
5 - 8,5m³ all in series
C
5 - 4,2m³
2 - 25,5m³ water cooled. All in series

Centrifugals
Ref 2 - 1,07 x 0,76 Broadbent
A 3 - 1,07 x 0,76 Broadbent
B 1 - 1100 x 30" Western States Continuous
C 2 - 864mm x 34" Western States Continuous
2 - 940mm x 30" Western States Continuous

Refinery
Talolbo process

Sugar drying and handling
1 - Rotary drier for refined sugar
1 - Fluidised bed drier for refined sugar
2 - Rotary dryers for V.H.P. and G.B. sugar
Refined and golden brown sugar bags bagged in 12,5Kg and 25Kg paper pockets
Sugar store capacity 5 000 tonnes bagged sugar.
Export sugar 15000 tonnes.

Molasses storage
1 360 tonnes

Glendale Sugar Millers (Pty) Ltd.

Directors
***British **Mauritian

Registered office
P.O. Glennhill, via Stanger, 4452. Telephone: Stanger 03: 21113/4/5/6
Telex: 2-0070 S.A.

Bankers
Barclays National Bank Ltd., Durban and Stanger

Auditors
David Strachan and Taylor, Durban

Capital
Authorised: R500 000. Issued: R401 000. Fully paid shares R1 each.

Staff
General Manager: J.B. Bullcock, Dip. Ag. (Ced)
Milk Manager: F. Fokkens, Cert. Eng.
Business Manager: A.D. Smith

The South African Sugar Year Book 1983-84
SOURCE LIST

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Messrs. Nagappa Govender (103)
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Joshua, A
Juglal, P
Persad, H
Wiseman, G.D.R.

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Daily News: 20 November, 1965
15 February, 1969
3 April, 1969
31 July, 1969

Natal Mercury: 22 January, 1963
14 January, 1969
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19 January, 1969
12 February, 1984

(3) BOOKS


