Bergvliet Meadowridge Ratepayers Association
BMRA
for the good of the community

Bergvliet Meadowridge Ratepayers' Association

Celebrating 75 Years of Service to Our Suburbs

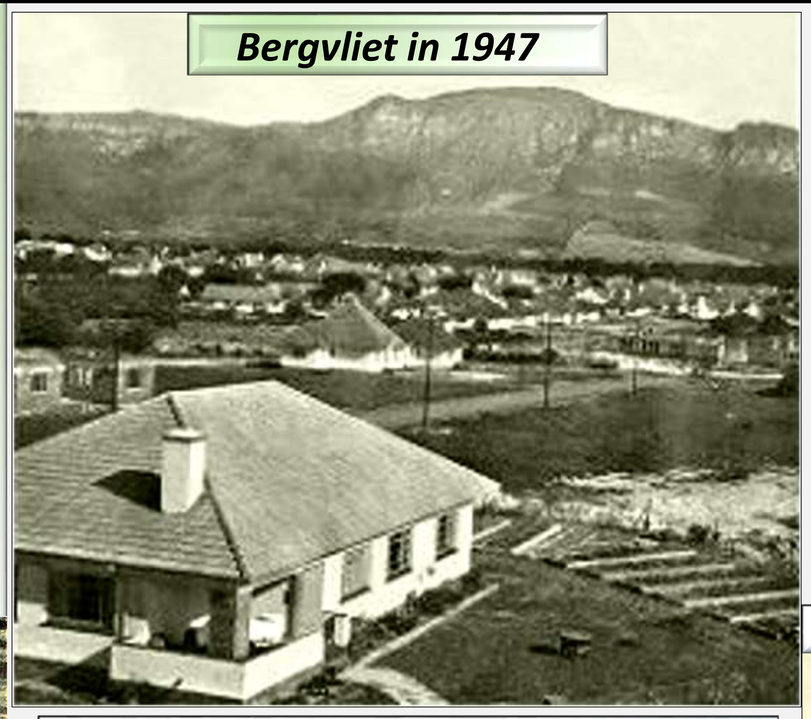
Development of Bergvliet after World War II

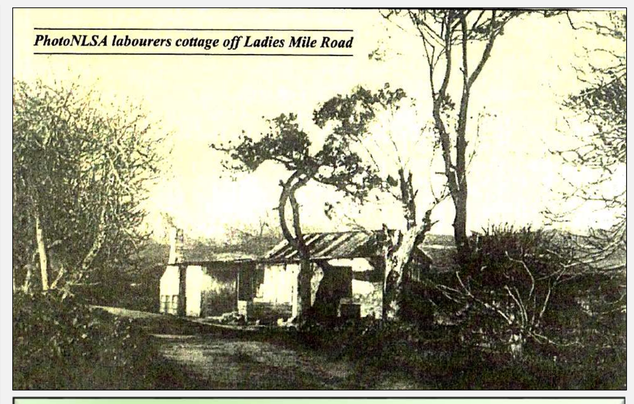
Suburban housing development on what was previously Bergvliet Farm began just after World War II

Housing for soldiers returning from WW II

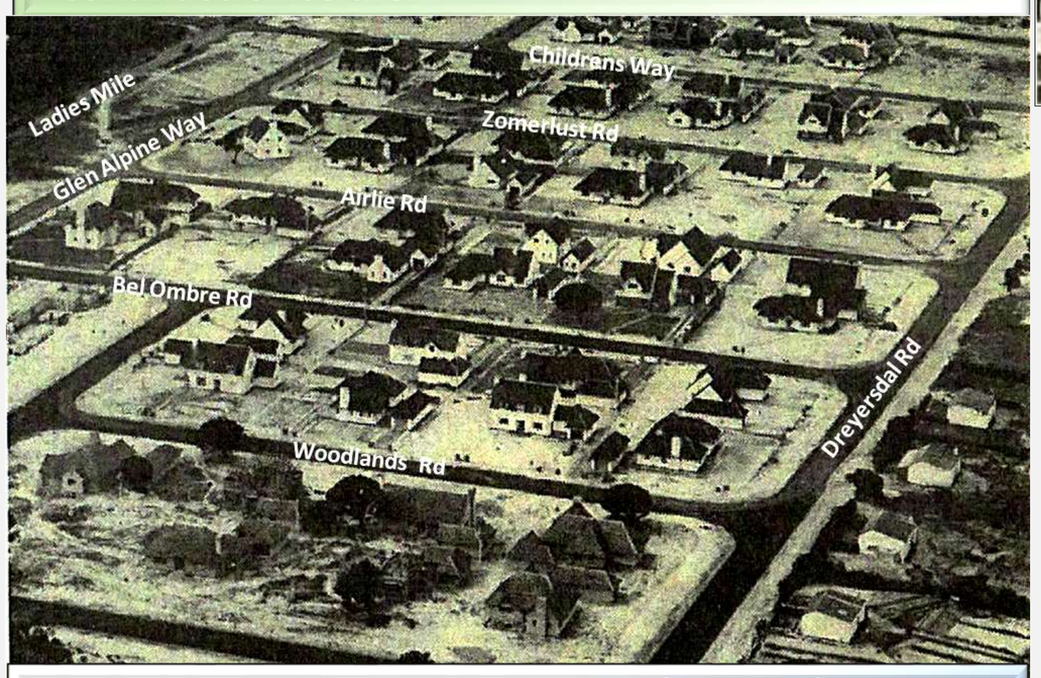
In 1945 the Divisional Council of the Cape purchased Bergvliet for the purpose of providing a housing estate for ex-servicemen in accordance with the wishes of the Reverend W Jeffcoat who was acting as steward of this section of Bergvliet Farm . Also in the 1940's, the Sonnenhof Farm, just north of the Bergvliet Manor House, was subdivided off from Bergvliet and residential subdivisions, with large buffer gardens, were sold individually. The subdivision process has continued since then.

Bergvliet in 1947





Farm Worker's Cottage on Ladies Mile
(date of photo unknown, but this type of cottage was in existence during the early development of Bergvliet)



Third extension of Bergvliet (circa 1951)
This was the first housing project in the Dreyersdal area

Potential home buyers were interviewed (1947)

The Divisional Council of the Cape

6 DORP STREET,
CAPE TOWN. 6th December, 1947.

TELEPHONE 2-9571,
with extensions to all Branches
P.O. Box 1073.

TB/DB Ref. No:
When telephoning on this matter, please ask for Mr.C.V.Emms.

BERGVLIET TOWNSHIP : APPLICATION FOR A HOUSE.

Dear Sir,

With reference to your interview with this Council's Housing Clerk on the 5th instant I shall be glad if you will arrange to interview me at this office.

I would suggest that you first telephone me to arrange a convenient time.

I am, Dear Sir,
Yours faithfully,

for SECRETARY.

Mr. B.S.D.T.Tyrrell-Glynn,
"Amsterdam",
Stewart Road,
RONDEBOSCH.

High demand for the first houses (1948)

The Divisional Council of the Cape

6 DORP STREET,
CAPE TOWN. 17th February, 1948.

TELEPHONE 2-9571,
with extensions to all Branches
P.O. Box 1073.

Ref. No: CVE/LR.
When telephoning on this matter, please ask for Mr. Emms.

BERGVLIET TOWNSHIP.

Dear Sir,

I acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 7th instant further with regard to your application for a house at the above Township.

The further details given by you have been attached to your application, and as indicated previously your name is being kept on priority for consideration should any person to whom a house has been allocated cancel his allotment.

Yours faithfully,

for SECRETARY.

Mr. B. S. D. T. Tyrrell-Glynn,
c/o Wilton House Residential Hotel,
Union Street,
Gardens,
CAPE TOWN.

Mrs Joyce Young and her husband Bill moved into No 43 Bergvliet Road in 1948; one of the first 13 new houses built for ex-servicemen in Bergvliet.

The bond repayment was fixed at the equivalent of R13 per month, and the Holy Redeemer Catholic Church was already there in Bergvliet Road. Meadowridge was just Port Jackson bushes and a huge pine tree forest. There were no supermarkets, and produce was bought from a store on the Main road. Fresh meat arrived on the train at Heathfield Station once a week. A loud kelp horn announced the arrival of the fresh-fish cart every Thursday morning, and milk was delivered in glass bottles via the local milk cart. Vegetables and fruit followed in similar fashion.

Mr and Mrs Young lived at 43 Bergvliet Road for 52 years. Their house was easily recognized as Mr Young had built a scaled replica of Canterbury Cathedral that became their postbox. The Medway Community Church in Plumstead started in the lounge of their home in Bergvliet Road, then moved to the Civic Hut before being relocated to their present premises in Plumstead.

THE DIVISIONAL COUNCIL OF THE CAPE.

P.O. Box 1073. 6, Dorp Street,
Telephone 2-9571. CAPE TOWN.
CVE/AS. 12/6/48.

BERGVLIET TOWNSHIP : SUPPLY OF STOVES.

Dear Sir/Madam,

With reference to your request for one of the "DEFY" three-plate stoves, which the Council has on hand to be allocated to you, I have to state that it has been found possible to agree to your request and arrangements have been made to have a stove installed at your house when it is taken over by you.

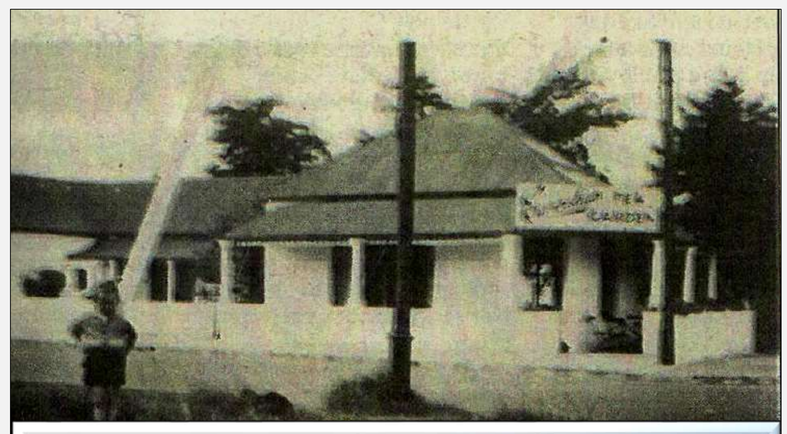
Yours faithfully,

Mr. B.S.D.T.Tyrrell-Glynn,
P.O. Box 13,
Cape Town.

for SECRETARY.

Divisional Council assistance with a stove (1948)

Joyce Young celebrated her 100th birthday in November 2018 and sadly passed away peacefully in January 2019.



Caversham Tea Garden
At the site where the Bergvliet Post Office used to be

Pioneers – Major Guy Watson

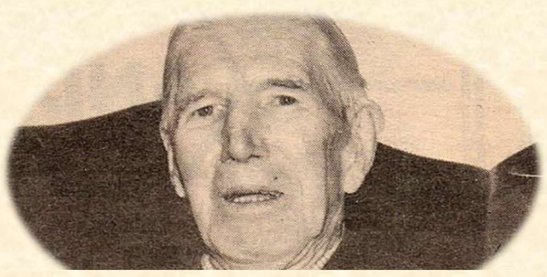
In 1986 Major Guy Watson was Bergvliet's most senior resident. He moved in to his home in Heerengracht Rd on 1 October 1946. He was one of the first of six ex-servicemen to take occupancy.

The first six houses were built on properties that were not adjoining, but were spaced out between Ladies Mile, Poplar Avenue, Heerengracht and Fountain Roads.

Major Watson was considerably older than many of the other returning ex-servicemen when he moved into Bergvliet with his wife and grown-up son. "We were living in a two-roomed flat, when we were offered the chance of coming here", he says. "We were very appreciative of the initiative shown by the Divisional Council in developing this scheme to alleviate the acute housing shortage at the time".

The Major had spent all his working life in Government service, firstly with. Mines and Industries and later, as a Divisional Inspector in the Labour Department. For recreation, he enjoyed fishing mountaineering and gardening. He had been a member of the MOTHS for many years and looked forward to the monthly meetings organised by this group for ex-servicemen.

53 Heerengracht was one of the first 6 houses to be occupied in Bergvliet in 1946



Major Guy Watson, one of the first six occupants in Bergvliet Extracted from Constantia Bulletin August 1986

Memories of Early Life in Bergvliet

Memories about Early Life in Bergvliet

By Daphne Korpershoek

Bergvliet in the 50's was a wonderful community.

Being fairly recently established as a village for ex-servicemen, the homes and gardens displayed the enthusiasm of those who were owning their first real home with a garden. It was a quiet suburb with a bus service which plied Jeffcoat Avenue regularly, travelling to Diep River and Wynberg, and was most convenient for many of us who did not have the luxury of a car.

Milk and coal were delivered to the door every afternoon around 4 O'clock. The milk cart, drawn by two horses, would turn up at our house and then head back to the farm for a well-earned rest.

Often the mournful cry of the fish vendor's horn would be heard as he plied his trade through the suburban streets.

On Thursday afternoons the grocer would call in person, notebook in hand, to discuss the grocery order for the week, record it in his book, and deliver it the next day.

The fruit and vegetable cart came once a week, and much bargaining, looking and choosing went on. How did he manage to transport it all and still charge a reasonable price?

The MOTH Hall was there, and on the opposite side was a civic hut. Both these buildings performed wonderful services for the community. Pantomimes were performed at the MOTH Hall at Christmas. One New-Year there was a dinner dance at the Moth Hall and a buffet supper at the civic hut.

Our front door always remained open when the weather was good, and we felt safe because crime was rare. Cars were left unlocked and children often walked the street.

Extracted from Constantia Bulletin August 1986