A brief history of Bergzicht farm no. 105, Windhoek – written by Hendrik Johannes du Plessis

The farm is located approximately 22km east of Dordabis and spans 4973 hectares. It was previously owned by M.C. Coetzee.

In the Dordabis area, it was customary to issue checks for payment of piecework. The receiver of revenue often exchanged the check at the Dordabis store before coming to make purchases, which sometimes resulted in the store holding onto old, paid checks from the owner.

As a result, the store accumulated several checks from the owner, and all attempts to collect the money failed. Eventually, I drove to the owner to discuss the matter in person, where I received yet another round of promises. After a while I returned and suggested that the owner give me a few head of cattle. The owner agreed, and we took a ride around the farm.

Bergzicht was surrounded by mountains and hills to the north, northwest, and south. It was otherwise flat, but beautiful. Upon arriving at the house, I turned to my wife, Lida and my mother-in-law, who were visiting, and said, "This is the first farm I'm going to buy."

Time passed on, and Michiel, joined the military, where he sadly lost his life. He was unmarried, and therefore the farm was inherited by his brother, Carel Coetzee.

However, it was not long before Carel's neighbouring farm (from his original farm), Bildah came up for sale, and Carel decided that Bergzicht was too far away and put it on the market.

One day in 1979, I was in Windhoek on business when Carel arrived at the store in Dordabis to tell my wife that he wanted to sell Bergzicht because it was too far away for him.

Typically, I would fill up my truck with gas upon arriving from Windhoek and then unload my goods. That day I got out of the truck, and my wife had the key to the pump. I couldn't remember for sure, but I don't think she even greeted me. Then she said, "Do you want to buy a farm?" and I replied, "First give me a chance to catch my breath!"

She then told him the story, and that evening, we discussed our options. It turned out that we had to take a chance, so I called Carel and asked to meet with him.

We quickly drove over, and Carel asked R30 per hectare for the 4973 hectares, which amounted to R150,000. I knew we could get around with R80,000 without too much trouble, but I needed to come up with the rest...

So we went away to make plans because I had taken an option for 14 days. Carel needed to sell Bergzicht to buy Bildah, and time was short. I came up with a new plan almost every day until I finally said to Carel, "We'll buy it!"

After we signed the purchase agreement, I worked out the rest of the details, and when it was time to pay in 1980, I was able to do so.

That is more or less how things went down. Hannes had a place reserved for him at the University of the Free State in Bloemfontein, but when it looked like we were going to buy Bergzicht, he refused to go to Bloemfontein and said he was only going to Neudam (which is the Namibian Agricultural College). And so, it was.

handwritten in Afrikaans by Hannes' father at 87 years (2022)

So 'n relsie oor die plaas Bergzicht Nr 105 Windhoek
Die plaas is geleë ± 22 km Oos van Nordabis en is 4973 ha. grt. en het aan M.C. Coetzee behoort. Die gebruik in die Nordabis omgewing was as daar Stukwerk gedoen was, om per tjek te betaal. Die ontvanger het baie keer die tjek by Nordabis winkel kom wissel om dan iets te kon koop. Dit het meegebring dat die winkel dan met 'n onbetaalde tjek gesit het.

So het dit gebeur dat die winkel hoet verskeie tjeks van die eienaar gesit het en alle pogings om die geld te kry het misluk.

Ek het toe ten einde raad nakom beloftes te toe gery en het weer nuwe beloftes te kry. Ek het later weer gegaan en voorgestel dat hy 'n paar beeste moet gegee. Hy het ingewillig en ons het 'n draai op die plaas gery.

Bergzicht het slegs op die noorde noord westelike en na die suidekant berge en koppe gehad. Verder was dit vlakte en dit het gemaak, dat ek toe ek by die huis kom, vir Lida my eggenote en haar Ma wat by ons gekuier het gesê het: "Dit is die eerste plaas wat ek gaan koop"

So het die tyd maar aangeloop en Magiel het later by die weer nag aan geskuif, waar hy sy lewe verloor het. Hy was ongetroud en sy broer Carel het Bergzicht ge-erf.

Dit was egter nie baie lank nie, toe kom Bullah, wat aan Carel se plaas gegrens het, in die mark. So besluit hy toe, Bergzicht is te ver en wil dit verkoop.

Op 'n goeie dag in 1979, was ek Windhoek toe vir besigheid, toe Carel op Kosdabis by Lida by die winkel gekom het en vir haar sê hy wil Bergzicht verkoop dit is te ver vir hom.

My gebruik was, as ek met die vrag uit Windhoek kom, vul ek eerste die bakkie met petrol en laai daar af. Die dag toe ek uit kom was Lida by met die pompe se sleutel. Ek kannie ont-hou nie maar ek dink sy het my nog nie eers gegroet nie, toe sê sy: Wil jy 'n plaaskoop? Ek sê toe maar "Gee my kans om asem te haal".

So vertel sy my die storie. Die aand het ons koppe bymekaar gesit om te kyk hoe ons sake staan. Dit blyk toe dat ons 'n kans moet vat en so bel ek vir Carel en vra ~~hy moet my eerste opsie gee~~ of ek hom kan kom sien.

So gesê so gedaan. Ons sy toe so gou as moontlik "4973 ha en hy wil R30-00 per hektaar hê. Dis R150,000-00. Mens waar kry jy dit. Ek sal so R80,000-00 kan kry sonder moeite, maar die res.

Wel wel ek het maar gaan plan maak, want ek het 'n opsie vir 14 dae gekry, want hy wil Bullah koop, maar

moet Bergzicht eers verkoop so tyd is min.
Ek het amper elke dag met een of ander plan gekom en eindelik sus Carol gesê "Ons koop."
Toe ons die koop brief geteken het het ek verder die dinge deur gewerk en toe ek moet betaal – dit was in 1980 gewees, kon ek dit regkry
Dit is min of meer soos dinge geloop het. Hannes se plek was in Bloemfontein se Universiteit bespreek maar toe dit gelyk het asof ons Bergzicht gaan koop het hy net geweier om Bloemfontein toe te gaan en gesê hy gaan net Stoudam toe en so was dit.
Ek hoop dit help jou Caren. Sê maar as daar foute is, dan kyk ons weer.
Groetnis