

Nana Wynberg

by Fatima Meer (from the funeral oration)

Nana Wynberg died recently aged 53. A Sash advice office worker and much admired Rand Daily Mail book reviewer, she was a psychiatric social worker by profession. Many years ago she was Solly Sachs' secretary in the Garment Workers Union and in 1958, pushing her first child in his pram, she joined the first Aldermaston peace march.



Nana Wynberg — 'defied the exhortations of our material civilisation to compete and achieve'

She was the best person I knew, and I know that for just about every person here, she was the best person they knew.

Intensely humble — so humble as to teeter on self-effacement, she had the gift to restore people to themselves, to live with and through their problems, to make them her own.

When our self-esteem was shaken, our image spoilt, we went to her, and returned redeemed and made whole again.

She had a surfeit of material talents and she could have chosen to revolve her life around any one of these. She chose instead to revolve her life around ours, our concerns, small things, but large in personal scale. And if I dwell a moment on one of these, personal to me, it is because it is symbolic of the wonder she wrought for so many of us here today.

The year 1948, of that fateful election which reversed the destiny of our country. Three Indian girls at Wits, in a multitude of white, so overcome by its alienative strangeness as to threaten their resolve to stay. But the 17-year-old Nana changed this when she draws us into her circle of friends, and university

becomes fun.

The silence of intervening years — marriage — family, mine, hers. I am imprisoned. We are imprisoned, and Nana is there, with every manner of comfort, material and spiritual, as she always was with those the system ravaged.

She had an innate sense of justice that I do not believe anyone taught her.

She had an understanding of suffering that came with the knowledge and contact, though not actual experience, of the suffering of the 20th century, epitomised at Belsen.

She never made great declarations. She did not have to. She lived them.

She defied the exhortations of our material civilisation to compete and achieve.

And so she reassured and worked her wonder on all those she touched.

Nana — we salute that integrity that is Nana which you bequeathed, that you have added to our heritage.

Shalom dear friend.

'An Historical Review of the supply of housing for Urban Africans in the Cape Peninsula 1900—1980' C M Elias of the Research Unit for Sociology, University of Stellenbosch

Mrs Elias's study describes, in approximate chronological order, the history of the various African settlements in the Cape Peninsula during this century. The emphasis of the study is on the socio-political factors which influenced the decisions, and the resultant legislation, which governed the lives of urban Africans, and which dictated the development of housing for them.

The history and development of each settlement or housing scheme is described and details given of the amount and type of housing available, and of the health and education facilities and public services.

This report makes clear:

- that during this century, black Africans came to be regarded as temporary sojourners in Cape Town (some Africans had been freehold property owners in Athlone, Rylands and Retreat) and when no longer useful, endorsed out: ie 700 unemployed were repatriated from Ndabeni in 1925, 9 100 from Widermere in 1958—1959.

Jenny de Tolly

- that since the beginning of this century, limiting (most) blacks to living in segregated residential areas (the first black Location came into being in 1901) and being in control of their housing has been a means of controlling the number of Africans permitted to live and work in the Peninsula.

- that 'resettlement' of blacks became institutionalised in 1901 when the Colonial Secretary was empowered to remove 'all or any aboriginal natives resident within the Cape district... to any place... duly proclaimed by the Colonial Secretary to be a native location' and that blacks have continued to be relocated in townships further and further from the 'white' areas of Cape Town.

This report is extremely useful for the detailed documentation of past and existing housing and facilities for Africans, and interesting for the historical perspective that it gives. It highlights the degree to which housing is used as a tool to control.