

I have it on the highest possible authority, namely that of Professor Angus Holland, that 1 August 1963 was a Thursday. It is auspicious therefore that we are celebrating the occasion also on Thursday, although by force of circumstance, not exactly 21 years after the event.

I remember the day very clearly. The previous evening there were unmistakeable signs that things were brewing, so early next morning the scene was transferred to the Marymount Hospital. By mid-afternoon, however, nothing much had transpired, and so father and four-year Margaret went on a sight-seeing tour of the Hertzog Tower. On our return at 6 p.m. we were greeted with the news that it was all over. That is so typical of Angela: everything is done low-key, and with no fuss and bother.

Angela's sunny and equitable temperament, I am convinced, had a great deal owing to her earliest contacts. For the first month she was in the firm but kindly hands of Sister Stahl, a motherly Swiss who specialised in creating order and tranquillity during the first hectic month of life. At the end of that period she was sleeping right through the night, and was well on her way to being potty-trained - or at least so it seemed to a much-relieved father, who could get on undisturbed with his computing.

After that it was the turn of our maid, Junia Marakwe, to continue where Sister Stahl had left off. There never was a lack of security and TLC, even when Junia was busy with household chores, for there was Angela tied on her back in time-honoured fashion! Junia it was who coined the name Gumba (Shorty) by which Angela was universally known by all the Sisis at Isabel Dalvymple House, (Sunnyside), where her mother was Dean.

Angela's stability was further protected by her only having two homes, Sunnyside 1963 - 75, and the Lodge from 1975 to the present. But beneath her equitable exterior there sometimes can be a bit of tension inside. I well remember when we had to leave Angela and Margaret in the Kingsmead Junior boarding establishment for a week while we had to be away. Margaret was in floods of tears, but Angela, four years her junior, was as cool as a cucumber. She put on a brave front to say goodbye, but later on she really did cry for Mama!

Such then was the platform from which Angela, in her characteristic, modest, low-profile way, has built a school and university career studded with real, solid achievement. Even in her few months at D.S.G. Junior School she was *Victrix Ludorum*. Then there has been her devotion to, and real talent on the piano, which we have all had occasion to enjoy. At D.S.G. she achieved a fine Matric result with two distinctions, including a rather exotic one in French. She won her Albany Schools hockey colours and was senior day-girl, or as her grandfather would have put it "chief day-bug."

There was never any doubting that Angela would come to Rhodes: she had been infected too strongly with the family virus! She set out methodically to find the best residence (it was bad enough being the V.C.'s daughter - without living in his home to compound the problem) and naturally lighted upon Oriel. During the ensuing 3½ years there

have been many achievements:-

- (i) representing Rhodes (as a 2nd year) at the Nedbank Budget Speech exercise
- (ii) becoming head student of Oriol House
- (iii) Residence & HSRC Scholarships
- (iv) Varigated experience; tutoring, sub-wardening at conferences, working in the Statistics and Planning Unit, the PLATO system, various Monument festivals (I was very impressed when I observed her at this)
- (v) Helping to create order out of chaos with GADRA bursary applications
- (vi) A tremendously successful AISEC drive for Club membership
- (vii) The final crowning achievement of being selected as the Rhodes Student for 1984 - 85 to be awarded the Abe Bailey Travel Fellowship.

All of what I have said about Angela adds up to quite a record, of which she can be proud, as can her friends and especially her parents, who are also today celebrating the 26th Anniversary of their wedding-day. As I said last year, and as I hope many of you will also find out in due course "The first 25 years of marriage are the toughest - the rest is all plain sailing."

Angela's solid, sensible psyche and friendly disposition, together with her accomplishments up to now add up to a firm base on which to build a meaningful and contributive adult life. Some of our friends have sometimes said "Haven't you been lucky with your daughters?" We have, but for every one part of luck there have been 10 parts of hard work, on our part as well as theirs. As Gary Player says "The more you work the luckier you get."

Angela, we salute your past achievements, and we wish you everything of the best in your majority. May God continue to bless you abundantly. We shall all be wanting to drink a toast to that, and so I give you

Angela Mary Henderson

23 August 1984