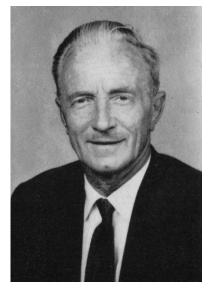
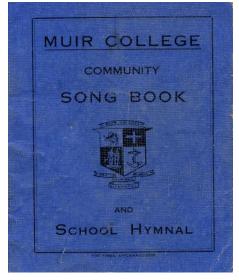
## CHAPTER 25 Resounding voices: community singing at Muir College

In his address to the school at the Founders' Day Assembly in 1995, Old Boy Tommy Hartzenberg mentioned that the boys loved the community singing half hour on Fridays which their headmaster, N C Dugmore had instituted. This practice, so passionately encouraged by Dugmore, was continued for many years after his sudden passing in 1948.

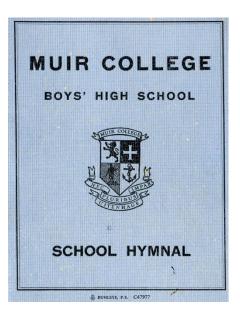


Many Muir boys of the past will remember, for example, these half-hours in the school hall with teacher Mr Frank Esselaar at the piano. Camp Town Races, Clementine, March of the Men of Harlech, and jauntily singing the chorus 'As I walked along the Bois de Boulogne with an independent air...' of The man who broke the bank at Monte Carlo. Many more would readily come to mind for past pupils of a certain era. Morale boosting songs on the eve of big rugby matches like There is a College (in our town, in our town) '...A try, a try, you chaps, a try! A try! A try!' would be rendered to the tune of There is a Tavern to the best of boys' collective ability in the panelled hall. This was enough to make the rafters ring.

Frank Esselaar



Older past pupils of Muir will remember the little blue Community Song Book and School Hymnal, printed by The Times, Uitenhage. As mentioned in chapter 4, this booklet, which first appeared in 1933, was used 'at Prayers every morning and for Community Singing on Fridays'. The index of this little publication is included here in the expectation that it will rekindle dormant



(older) memories of songs that have long since slipped out of consciousness.

This song book was later replaced by a slimmer collection containing hymns only. This suggests that community songs were no longer being sung during those special half-hour slots in the school programme and used only for assemblies.

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