Beaufort West Morkels Part 4.
Profiles of the Children of Samuel and Dolphina MORKEL

Memories of their uncles and aunts
by Margaret Thebus and her Sister Carol Ackerman

g3 Samuel MORKEL and Dolphina AUGUSTUS

h1 Rev. Isaac (Isak) David MORKEL *1.12.1910 †26.5.1983 x Sarah (Sally) ISAACS
h2 Gerhard (Gerald, Gert) MORKEL x Francina ##
h3 Samuel MORKEL x Vivienne LA VITA
h4 Elizabeth MORKEL x Harold EHRENREICH
h5 Hercules (Moorie) MORKEL x Isabel ROBERTSON xx Anne PIETERSE
h6 Dolphina MORKEL
h7 Daniel MORKEL x Caroline EHRENREICH
h8 Mary MORKEL x Henry PETERSEN
h9 Margaret MORKEL *15.10.1924 †12.06.2012 x 12 Jun 1943 William Charles LODEWYK *8.10.1916 †8.10.1994
h10 Henry MORKEL x Elizabeth STEENKAMP

Samuel and Dolphina Morkel

Photo: Margaret Thebus

Isak Dawid, his wife Sally and three children, Sylvia, Lionel and Augustine

He was noted as the founder of the Calvyn Protestant Church of South Africa and activist. His stance against the abuse of alcohol, the wayward dress and behaviour of women made him both respected and scorned by sections of the community.

Gerald (Gert), his wife Francina and son, Keith.
He was the first child to venture from home in the Karoo. There was no work to be found there, and rumblings of WW11 had started, so he moved to Cape Town. He mainly worked in Transportation. We remember him driving these exceptionally long trucks loaded with very large lengths of pipes. Once established there, several siblings started the migration, and he became the father figure.

Samuel, his wife Vivienne and five children, William, Lynette, Elise, Marion and Henry
When the older brothers left home, he was left to be his father's main helper. There was farming to do, brickmaking. Oupa Isak was a cabinet maker, mainly coffins, and between the bricks and the coffins, they were very busy with deliveries, which would take them away from home for weeks at a time.

He was a builder. On the job training, which gave him expertise in planning, masonry, plumbing and much else. With very little in the way of formal education, he worked from an early age to help support the family. His lack of education did not stand in the way of his learning. He had a natural talent to read building plans like a professional, could estimate costs, manage workers and meet deadlines.

He was respected in the community for his generosity and kindness to those less fortunate than himself. A man who, well into his senior years continued to work, raised his family and provided the means for them to achieve what he didn't have, a good formal education

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Elizabeth, her husband Harold Ehrenreich and three children, Carl, Gretchen and Harold
Elise, was the eldest daughter. In a family with several younger siblings she quickly became the organizer. This was honed by necessity, and became a very strong trait of her personality. Also as a caregiver, she continued taking care of the needy in care facilities, well into her retirement.

The ultimate Dressmaker. ANY piece of material would become a beautiful dress (or two!) Yes she was resourceful.

In the 1960s Elise and her family emigrated to Canada. This was a difficult decision. But, the future of her children being the most important, she sacrificed the closeness to her family in South Africa.

Hercules (Moorie), his wives, Isabel the mother of Gerald and Clifford, and Anne, mother of Frank, Peter, Samuel, Dennis, Michael, Priscilla, Charmaine and Annalise

His appearance, tall, large eyes, which seemed to look right through you, and generally stern appearance, belied his nature. In our opinion he was the gentlest and lovable of all. Without a doubt his first love was his family.

There are too many anecdotes to tell, except this one. Son Dennis was injured at birth. He grew into a man, but with serious deficiencies. At some point it was decided that he should go into a care facility. He did go, but as long as he was there, so was his father. Needless to say, that didn't last very long. He was brought home.

Hercules was basically a quiet man. Except when it came to his Christian stand. His beliefs. According to his interpretation of the scripture, Baptism, of a believer, who had made a spiritual commitment, meant being bodily lowered beneath water for a period (letting go of old nature, a cleansing) The alternative of sprinkling infants was not acceptable. We add this, because without it, his story would not be complete.

Dolphina, never married

The eccentric. She would try the newest fashions, then add her own touch, be it ribbons or bows, or the angle of her hat, or the variety of colours. Surprisingly enough, this she passed on to several nieces and even grand-nieces who had never met her! She never married, but treated nieces and nephews as her own, and always made them feel special. When her parents moved to Cape Town in the 1950s she lived with them, and was their caregiver and provider.

Babs or Baby as she was originally called, allegedly because she was going to be the last child of Samuel and Dolphina, was a travelling salesperson. She plied her wares (which she carried in a suitcase) from suburb to suburb, rain or shine on a pushbike. She mainly sold her wares, material and other sewing needs to housewives. It would be her mode of transport that would ultimately claim her life in middle age. Riding the pushbike caused injury to her body which developed into cancer.

Daniel, his wife Caroline and one child, Joan

Danny Boy as he was affectionately called found his niche in life as a Confectioner, baker and pastry cook. He was a true gentleman who lost his wife through illness when their daughter Joan was in her early teens. While she attended school and mainly stayed with relatives, he worked in Outshoorn for many years before he moved to Cape Town in the 60's.

Mary, her husband Henry Petersen and 3 children, Hilton, Albert and Wesley

As a young child Mary was struck down by Rheumatic and Scarlet fever. She spent 6 months in a sterile room in isolation. In adulthood, and possibly because of her childhood illness and the conditions she was forced to live in during that time, she chose a profession in Radiography. A rewarding career where she could help others who were ill. In her home she was meticulously clean and tidy. Again, maybe as a side effect of her childhood illness.

She carried excess weight but she was never dowdy like so many large women tend to be. She dressed stylishly and every item of clothing was colour co-ordinated. And who can forget her love of beaded necklaces. If anything, you could say she was artsy. She loved photography, and had a Brownie camera, which was ahead of its time (in the 60s). She would let some of us use it for special events, carefully showing us the settings, and when we were done, she would take the films to be processed at Movie Snaps.

As a high school student, during the Sharpeville riots, and resulting unemployment, I remember that it was her who supplied me with text books and supplies so I could continue my education. She was very special.

Margaret, her husband William Lodewyk and 2 children, Carol and Margaret

Margaret, our Mum, and as many of the nephews and nieces will tell you, their favourite Aunt. And there were many of them. She was always of slim build. It must have been all the energy she had. She was the original "energiser bunny" In many ways her daughter, Carol is like her, kind, compassionate, giving and certainly the "energiser bunny No2"

She was vibrant, energetic, had a great sense of humour and was the champion of the Morkel family's younger generation. She kept their secrets and hid their little misbehaviours from their parents, and she found ways during tough financial times to entertain then, even if it meant selling a few chickens so that the kids had money to go to the movies. Many of the parents of the older generation would tell their kids to go outside and pick a "lat" (stick) from a tree so that the parent could give them a few supposedly well deserved smacks. Margaret did not chastise the nephews and nieces who sought her counsel, instead she would say *nou pluk jy a lat vir jou stert.* In other words, think about what you are doing……

An overview of her life is covered under a separate heading.

Henry, his wife Elizabeth and six children, Isaac, Jeanette, Nicolas, Maryanne, William and Peter

The baby. *Ouma se droeë pruim.* What a loving man. Did I say this before? Fun loving, always ready for mischief. However, Henry like his eldest brother Isak, was a minister in the Calvyn Protestant Church. He was also a teacher. In the 1960s he emigrated to Canada with his wife and 4 eldest children. William and Peter were born in Canada.

He continued as a teacher, and completed a University degree and other special courses, which qualified him to teach students with special needs. Mainly with emotional and learning disabilities. Although he did not continue as a minister, he was very active as a lay person in his church, and continued to reach out to people, "ONE PERSON AT A TIME"

Samuel & Dolphina and 8 of 10 Children

Isaac, Dolphina, Elizabeth, Henry, Margaret, Samuel (father), Hercules, Dolphina (mother), Gert, Mary

Photo: Margaret Thebus

Family at Samuel's Funeral 1957

Standing: Hercules, Margaret, Daniel, Elizabeth, Henry, Mary, Samuel, Dolphina
Sitting: Gerald, Mother Dolphina, Isaac (Rev. I.D.)

Photo: Margaret Thebus