

HOW NUWERUS GOT ITS NAME

In these earlier days the post and merchandise were transported by ox wagons and horse and carriage. In the case of the Northwest the post was taken from Cape Town to Gouda. From there one postcar took it to Piketberg area and another on route to Citrusdal, Clanwilliam, Vanrhynsdorp and further north. 'Greys Pass', now called Piekenierskloofpas, did not exist those days.

Originally the trip from Vanrhynsdorp to Garies was approximately 100 km; one shift which has been done with one set of horses. These shifts soon proved to be too much for the horses and also because of the rocky ground. This caused the horses to develop feet problems and they could not continue with the trip. For this reason they decided to make a halway station between Vanrhynsdorp and Garies. On this place there would always be fresh horses available to continue the trip on the same day to Garies. Such a place was Erdvarkgat (now Nuwerus) where stables were erected where the horses could rest after their trip from Vanrhynsdorp. Not only for the horses, but also for the riders this place was 'a new resting place'.



Photo taken 1952 – the last trip.

A name translating into 'Ant Eater's Hole' was not acceptable and the stopover was renamed Nieuwe Rust. The spelling of Nieuwe Rust was used until 1940 whereafter the new spelling of Nuwerus was used. The farm Erdvarkgat originally belonged to Mr B Schreuder.

As the post coaches stopped at Nuwerus on a regular basis, it seemed fit to open up a post office locally. Now the farm became a place of public concern