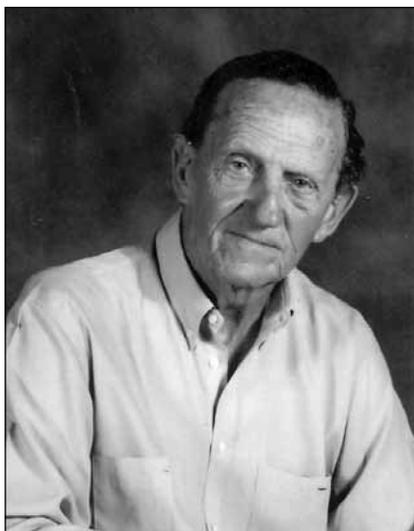


## *Obituaries*

### *Radclyffe Macbeth Cadman (1924–2011)*

**R**ADCLYFFE Macbeth Cadman was born on a small farm at Heatonville, Zululand on 13 January 1924 and he was educated at Durban High School. He served as a sub-lieutenant with the Royal Navy during the Second World War after which he completed a BA at the University of Cape Town. Awarded an Elsie Ballot scholarship to Cambridge he read law at Trinity Hall, qualifying as MA(Cantab) LL.B

While at Cambridge he formed a life-long friendship with Geoffrey (now Lord) Howe, the erstwhile British Foreign Secretary and distinguished British parliamentarian with whom he holidayed on the Norfolk Broads. Together they protested at the Labour Government's deposition of Chief Seretse Khama of Bechuanaland (now Botswana) after the chief's marriage to a white woman drew protests from the Verwoerd Government in South Africa.



*Radclyffe Cadman*

On his return to South Africa, Cadman was admitted to the Bar and began practising as an advocate in Durban. His political career commenced in 1961 when he was elected as the United Party

member for Zululand. He subsequently lost this seat in 1966 and thereafter served in the Senate and in the House of Assembly as an MP representing a Durban parliamentary constituency. Cadman was one of the formidable and widely respected parliamentary speakers of his time and his parliamentary colleagues attest to the fact that Cadman was one of the few members that Prime Minister Vorster avoided engaging in debate in the House. In Natal Cadman was elected leader of the majority party in 1972 and served in this capacity until 1977.

After the United Party was dissolved in July 1977 Cadman became leader of the New Republic Party, the successor to the UP and became leader of the Official Opposition. Prime Minister Vorster then called a snap election and the NRP was decimated, losing 31 of the 41 seats it held. Cadman lost his seat and formally retired from active party politics, returning to the Cadman Sugar Estate near Eshowe in Zululand.

However, his contribution to public life was not yet ended. In 1984 Cadman agreed to accept the post of Administrator of Natal, on condition that he was not required to join the ruling National Party.

Cadman's term of office as Administrator (1984-1989) coincided with the beginning of a period of reform in South Africa's hardline apartheid policies. During his term, the Buthelezi Commission concluded its work recommending a multiracial government for the province. This led to negotiations in the province between the Provincial Executive and the KwaZulu Government which culminated in the KwaZulu-Natal Indaba, a forum which recommended a single government for the province as a whole. This was rejected by the P.W.

Botha Government but found form in a watered-down version – the Joint Executive Authority, with equal representation from the Natal Executive (which by this time represented all three houses of the Tri-cameral Parliament) and the KwaZulu Government. While the JEA represented the first genuine attempt at multiracial provincial government, it was rejected by the political formations in exile as being too little too late and it faded away with the reforms initiated by the release of Nelson Mandela in 1990.

Cadman was a most successful Administrator. His tenure was characterised by his intellect, political impartiality and deep understanding of the politics and people of Natal. He presided over a period of profound change with the abolition of the elected Provincial Council in 1986 (a result of the Tri-cameral political dispensation), the introduction of a multiracial Executive Council (MEC) consisting of members of the White, Indian and Coloured population groups and the eventual representation of the African (Zulu) people via the Joint Executive Authority.

He led the province with distinction, sensitivity and great dignity and he and Mrs Cadman were greatly respected and admired as the first citizens of the Province. In the Cadman era, Parkside, the Administrator's official residence, hosted gracious receptions, garden and dinner parties and official functions not seen since.

On the 30 October 1987 Cadman was awarded the Order for Meritorious Service Class I: Gold by the then State President P.W. Botha. An extract from the citation reads, "Mr Cadman is one of the most respected figures to have emerged in the public life of Natal over the past 25 years. Throughout his

successful career in the legal profession, as a farmer, parliamentarian and Administrator of Natal, he has been motivated by a desire to foster better relations between Afrikaans and English speaking South Africans, to help establish an appropriate structure for the political representation of all the country's population groups and to advance the system of free enterprise."

The citation goes on to say "Mr Cadman's qualities of leadership were appreciated in other spheres as well. Amongst other things he was elected to the central committee of the Cane Growers Association and also served as chairman of the Natal Performing Arts Council. In addition to his deep interest in music and the arts, Mr Cadman also had a profound interest in the conservation of nature and the environment. He established a successful conservancy in his own farming district and served as a member of the Natal Parks Board until his appointment as Administrator of Natal in 1984. Until his death he served on the Natal Parks Board of Trustees."

The closing paragraph of the Citation reads, "Throughout his career, Mr Cadman has proven himself to be a man of absolute integrity in both his personal and public life and has been acclaimed for showing a breadth of vision and strength of leadership when these qualities were most needed in a changing society."

Somewhat reserved and cerebral, Cadman treated all with courtesy and respect irrespective of colour, sex, creed or station in life. Scrupulously honest, he understood that with public office came responsibility rather than privilege. No blue light brigade, nor entourage for him even when the in-

ternecine war between Inkatha and the ANC was setting the province ablaze.

Proud of his settler heritage, Cadman was deeply attached to Zululand, to the development of which his forebears had contributed significantly. A member of the Anglican Communion, Cadman greatly admired his grandfather, an Anglican minister and staunch supporter of Bishop Colenso. Indeed, before the new Cathedral could be built in Pietermaritzburg on the St Peter's site in the late 1970s to unite the former separate parishes of St Peter's and St Saviour's, legislation was required to reverse a statute of the colonial Natal Parliament and Radclyffe Cadman was the man who piloted it through Parliament as a non-controversial private member's motion.

In his eventual retirement Cadman was happiest on his farm Stowe, surrounded by his family, his dogs, his library and his beautiful garden. He was married to Anne (née Randles, the well known Pietermaritzburg family) a descendant of the Rorke family of Rorke's Drift fame.

Cadman leaves an admirable legacy and to quote his son Andrew from the eulogy at his funeral "*he led life with integrity, in support of family, in service of community and true to a higher purpose*".

PETER MILLER

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

1. Andrew Cadman – Funeral eulogy to R.M. Cadman
2. *The Daily Telegraph* – London
3. Order of Meritorious Service Class 1 – Gold – Citation
4. Former members of Parliament, V.A. Volker and G.N. Oldfield