Chapter One

1 The full board consisted of P M Anderson (chairman), Major C C Frye, Dr Umberto Pomilio, Whitmore Richards, V J Ronketti and Paul Strakosch. Anderson, Richards, Ronketti and Strakosch were all on Union Corporation’s management staff.

2 The Italian operators included Vincenzo di Paolo, Vittorio Raimondo, Donato de Domenicis, Vincenzo Mariani and Armando Scipione.

3 The 16 papermakers were (from Inverkeithing) Bob Burns, Harry Gibson, Matthew Kelly, Geordie King, Jock MacDonald, George Peden, Johnny Peden, Jock Porteous and Charlie Robinson; (from Gravesend) Ted Croucher, Andy Evans, ‘Old’ Harry Smith and Fred Whitehead; (from Cardiff) ‘Young’ Harry Smith; (from Belfast) Eddie Simpson; and (from Clondalkin in Northern Ireland) Steve Foster.

4 The first papermaking machine was invented by a French engineer, Nicolas-Louis Robert, in 1798. Robert sold his interest in the invention and the plans reached two London stationers, the Fourdrinier twins, who commissioned an engineer to build a ‘Fourdrinier’ machine based on Robert’s concept.

5 Employees who joined S A Pulp in 1938 and 1939 included many who remained with the company for decades to come. Among them were George Main, Ben Coetzee, Mike Pienaar, Denis Masson, Dick Gray, Leonard Job, Fred Snyman, George Balfour, Billy Mtshali, Arnold Clark, Ben Schlaphof, Alec Greig and Frank Noble.

Chapter Two

1 Sulphate or kraft pulping involves cooking with a solution of caustic soda and sodium sulphide (obtained from sodium sulphate, hence the name) and is milder and less damaging than pulping with caustic soda alone (the soda process) because the sulphur element checks and stabilises the reaction. The pulping method was pioneered in the 1880s, but 50 years went by before researchers developed an adequate way of bleaching the pulp.

2 At the end of 1949 the board consisted of P M Anderson (chairman), Major C C Frye, Oury Hisey, Whitmore Richards, Tommy Stratten, A T Milne and J D White, of whom only Frye and White were from outside Union Corporation.
Chapter Three

1 A high proportion of Tugela’s pioneer Zulu were still there 30 years later. They included Adam Mhlapho, Bethuel Buthelezi, Emmanuel Mkwanazi, Norman Zuma, Wilfred Xulu, Henry Chili, Mbongeni Chili, Andreas Bugela and Gabriel Nhlebela.

2 Tugela’s pioneer Indians included Aroo Naicker, Moonsamy Pillay, George Laisingh, Solomon Joseph, Paul Ramsamy, Coopermy Naidoo, Puckray Pillay, Andy Manikum, Perunal Naicker, David Naidoo, Shota Cassim and Steven Samuels.


5 Pioneer Sappi foresters included Bob Scott, Alec Mackenzie, Bokkie Botha, Archie McKellar, Sven Karth, Frikkie Rousseau, Okkie Buys and Ben Buys.

6 Early players included Gabriel Nhlebela, Michael Zulu, Bheki Mhlongo, Julian Mthethwa, Gideon Shandu, Michael Msami, Nhamdemi Nzuzu, Barnabus Mthembu, Joseph Shakone, Freddie Makhoba, Amon Msane, Richard Ntanszi and Lloyd Zulu.

Chapter Four

1 Adamas’s Italians included Freddie and Charlie Zuccollo, Mario Ponzo, Bruno Toffali, Carlo Casivolone, Giancomo Fabrello, Aldo Giuliani, Giulia Butlion, Gino Canale, Guido Recchia, Anacleto and Daniela Sabbadin, Pietro Savini, Richard Kirsten, Ugo and Alda Fabbri and Giuseppe and Maria Bernelli.

2 Ngodwana’s pioneers also included Manie van Niekerk, Charlie Charlton, Roelf Joubert, Johan van As, Peter Low, Kobus Naude, Attie Dormehl, Daan Pauw, Arthur Westerman, Ertjies Steyn, Jack Hooper, Doep du Plessis, Faan Coetzee, Sandy Paul, Nic Bruyns, Albie Verster, Jan de Clercq, Hugh Riley, Johan van Zyl, Russel Moller, Mike Estill, Les Wilson, George Main and Janie Lotter.

Chapter Five

1 Raft race pioneers included P de Swardt, T de Beer, F van Staden, R Meek, C Woods, D Berrington-Smith, Ernest Hemmings and Frikkie Scheepers. The first women to complete the course were Dawn de Swardt and Lorraine Meyer.

Chapter Seven
1 Stanger’s pioneers included Peter Parks, Maureen Leslie, Roger Philps, Don Stead, Bruce MacIntosh, Raj Naidu, Ursula Hannenberry, Errol Smith, Kleintjie Coetsee, Willie Appelkryn, Nunhall Deonarain, Dave Swanepoel, Derek Welsh, Andy Stevens, Barney Ramdaloo, Dave Moodley, Sam Ditton, Errol Kleingeld and Hennie Maartens.
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The production of this history would not have been possible without the help of a large number of past and present employees of Sappi Limited and of others who have taken special interest in Sappi’s progress. They have included the following:

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Max Cohen
Denis Crosby
Claire Dalfen
Stan de Jong
Vincenzo di Paolo
Peter Dixon
Gordon Douglas
Lyn Drake
Doep du Plessis
Gert du Toit
George Dyason
Sigi Eggers
Penny Els
Elaine Erasmus
Jerry Farrell
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Piet Fourie
Erich Fuchs
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Bruce Geddes
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Dick Gray
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Liff Hewitt
Harry Hirsch
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Kim Jakopi
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Pat Kerr
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Roy Knowles
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Ivan Pepper  Layton Slater  Tjaard van der Walt
Mike Pienaar  E J Smith  Maria van Niekerk
Marino Ponzo  Harry Smith  Bill Vaughan
Cyril Potter  Leon Smith  Clarice Verster
Alan Povall  Richard Squires  Rene Vinson
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**THE DIRECTORATE**

Sappi's original board of directors was chaired by P M Anderson and had seven members. In the years since, many others have served on the directorate, some of them Sappi executives and others representing outside interests:

**Chairmen**
- 1936–1954: P M Anderson
- 1954–1970: Tommy Stratten
- 1986–: Tom de Beer

**Deputy Chairman**
- 1978–: Basil Landau

**Managing Directors**
- 1941–1943: Whitmore Richards
- 1969–1973: Moore O'Hara
- 1973–1978: Ron Day
- 1978–: Eugene van As

**Directors**
- 1978–1981: P H Agar
- 1963–1972: Colin Anderson
- 1936–1954: P M Anderson
- 1949–1956: H Crabtree
- 1965–1967: D M Craib
- 1971–1978: Ron Day*
- 1981–: Derek Keys
- 1981–: Jan Loubser
- 1986–: Lesley Farrow
- 1986–: Ian Forbes*
- 1936–1968: Colin Frye
- 1959–1972: Fritz Fuerst
- 1972–1978: Bob Garden*
- 1972–1974: David Gevisser
- 1954–1980: John Henderson*
- 1943–1944: H R Hill
- 1948–1951: Oury Hisey*
- 1958–1972: Leonard Job*
- 1949–1967: George Johnston
- 1970–1978: Tom de Beer
- 1968–1969: D P de Villiers
- 1949–1966: Jan Kitshoff
- 1981–: Ken Lechmere-Oertel
- 1983–: Jan Loubser
- 1963–1965: Alan Macintosh
- 1979–: John McManus*
- 1940–1948: Tracy Milne
- 1954–1977: Moore O'Hara*
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Years</th>
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<tr>
<td>1936–1941</td>
<td>Umberto Pomilio</td>
<td>1974–</td>
<td>Peter Stratten*</td>
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<tr>
<td>1936–1974</td>
<td>Whitmore Richards*</td>
<td>1977–</td>
<td>Eugene van As*</td>
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<td>1963–1968</td>
<td>Paul Rörich</td>
<td>1983–</td>
<td>Andre Vlok*</td>
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<td>1940–1940</td>
<td>P Selby</td>
<td>1945–1958</td>
<td>J D White</td>
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<td>1986–</td>
<td>Bernard Smith</td>
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*denotes Sappi executive, present or past
THE FIRST PAPER made by South African Pulp and Paper Industries, Ltd, was produced in December 1938, by which time the company was exactly two years old:

1936 Dec South African Pulp and Paper Industries, Limited, registered as a company with an authorised capital of £750 000 (R1.5 million)

1937 Jan Union Corporation applies for S A Pulp share listing on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange

Jul paper machines, chemical and pulping equipment ordered from suppliers in Britain, Germany and South Africa

Aug construction of pulp and paper mill begins on Union Corporation land near Springs

1938 Aug arrival of Italian operators to work in chemical and pulp sections

Sep S A Pulp recruits 16 papermakers from Britain

Oct mill named ‘Enstra,’ short for ‘Enterprise Straw,’ after its chief raw material

Dec commissioning of No 1 paper machine, and first production of paper

1939 Feb commissioning of No 2 paper machine, though pulp section not yet operating

Jun reported that company employing 618 people, but operators finding it difficult to make pulp from straw

Sep South Africa declares war on Germany, leading to increased orders for Enstra paper

1940 Mar S A Pulp makes its first profit: £4 000 (R8 000) for the month

Jun South Africa declares war on Italy, and Italians remaining at Enstra are interned

1941 Jun fire in Enstra straw park destroys 1 450 tons of straw

1942 Mar continuing difficulties in producing pulp from straw, and mill workers operating under severe handicaps

1943 Mar board declares S A Pulp’s maiden dividend of 6d (5c) per share

Jun introduction of paper rationing, and S A Pulp selling all it can make

Dec continuing difficulties in pulping straw force the company to look for outside help

1944 Jul Prof Oury Hisey of the United States advises the company to pulp locally-grown wood rather than straw

1946 Aug suspension of paper rationing

Oct S A Pulp signs technical aid agreement with Howard Smith Paper Mills of Canada
1947 Jun Union Corporation buys two farms north of the Tugela River in Zululand with aim of establishing second paper mill; later transfers them to S A Pulp

1948 Jan S A Pulp co-operates in establishing Union Corrugated Cases, a converting operation adjoining Enstra mill
Mar last production of straw pulp, and the company switches to wood

1949 Aug announcement of plans to expand Enstra with two more paper machines
Oct authorised capital increased to £1 million (R2 million)

1950 Sep S A Pulp acquires farm in Ixopo district of Natal with aim of establishing a pioneer plantation
Nov S A Pulp and Union Corporation decide to proceed with development of second mill on the Tugela
Dec authorised capital increased to £1 750 000 (R3.5 million)

1951 May establishment of an S A Pulp head office in the Union Corporation complex, Johannesburg
Jun start made on clearing site for the Tugela mill
Aug commissioning of Enstra's No 4 machine, to be operated with help from Wiggins Teape of Britain

1952 Feb groundwood pulp produced on experimental basis, used to make newsprint
Oct start-up of Enstra's No 3 machine, increasing the mill's output to 100 tons of paper per day

1953 Apr commissioning of new electrolytic technology in Enstra's chemical section

1954 Feb reported that 1 800 ha of company land in Natal planted with pine seedlings
May completion of Tugela construction programme and installation of equipment
Jun Tugela mill produces its first reel of paper, prepares to supply packaging customers while Enstra concentrates on fine papers

1955 Mar Tugela mill increases output of pulp and paper, using wood railed from the Natal Midlands and Zululand

1956 Feb protective tariff gazetted for certain types of paper, to shelter S A Pulp from imports

1957 Mar reported that area of company land now planted with seedlings amounts to 3 860 ha
Dec S A Pulp celebrates 21st birthday with parties at Enstra and Tugela

1958 Mar commissioning of No 3 paper machine at Tugela, to make MG (machine glazed) papers
Nov S A Pulp proposes to begin making newsprint, and Newspaper Press Union undertakes to buy 22 000 tons per year

1959 Mar reported that the company's land holdings amount to 10 000 ha of which 8 000 ha are planted
Jul S A Pulp takes majority holding in Union Corrugated Cases
Sep completion of building for technical department at Enstra

1960 Jan S A Pulp acquires majority share in Cellulose Products, manufacturer of tissue wadding
Oct commissioning of chlorine dioxide bleaching plant at Enstra

1961 Apr first newsprint produced on No 6 machine at Enstra
May authorised capital raised to R9 million

1962 Mar reported that company's land holdings amount to 11 000 ha of which 9 400 ha planted with trees
Apr Newspaper Press Union instructed to increase its newsprint order to 35 000 tons per year
Oct  S A Pulp produces its one millionth ton of paper
Dec  production figures for the year: 40 000 tons of fine papers, 35 000 tons of newsprint and 70 000 tons of kraft

1963  Feb  commissioning of No 2 machine at Tugela, to specialise in kraft linerboard
Jun  start-up of Clupak sack kraft production on No 1 machine at Tugela
Aug  S A Pulp committed to produce more than 90 per cent of South Africa's requirements of newsprint
Sep  authorised capital increased to R12 million
Nov  S A Pulp disposes of its holding in Union Corrugated Cases
Nov  acquisition of two farms in Elands River Valley for proposed new mill (Ngodwana); also farmland (Elandshoogte) to establish plantations

1964  Feb  site clearance begins at Ngodwana
Mar  S A Pulp acquires S A Adamas Fibreboard and Paper Co in Port Elizabeth
Aug  authorised capital increased to R24 million
Nov  extension of Enstra's No 6 machine

1965  Feb  Escom power connected at Tugela
Mar  authorised capital increased to R28 million
Jul  Cellulose Products merged with Kimberly-Clark of South Africa

1966  Jan  start of commercial newsprint production on No 4 machine at Tugela
Aug  Ngodwana construction completed, and the new mill produces its first pulp
Oct  S A Pulp produces second millionth ton of paper

1967  Feb  Cellulose Products mill closed; staff transferred to Kimberly-Clark of South Africa, now based at Enstra
Mar  commissioning of new tissue machine at KCSA
Aug  official opening of Ngodwana mill
Dec  net profit for the year: R3 470 000

1968  May  S A Pulp applies for patents covering Sapoxal bleaching process
Jun  establishment of S A Pulp timber division with administrative office in Benoni
Sep  Adamas mill flooded out following Port Elizabeth cloudburst
Oct  S A Pulp men attend Sapoxal trials at Jössefors in Sweden
Nov  start-up of the No 4 machine at Adamas, expected to produce coated papers

1969  Jun  S A Pulp produces its third millionth ton of paper
May  trials begin on world's first commercial Sapoxal bleaching reactor at Enstra
Aug  Tugela's No 4 machine equipped with Clupak unit
Aug  portion of S A Pulp's newsprint production subcontracted by Mondi Paper
Nov  Kimberly-Clark of South Africa merges with Carlton Paper Corporation
Dec  production for the year: 408 000 tons, but sales 397 000 tons

1971  Jul  commissioning of tall oil plant at Tugela
Dec  profit for year nosedives to R676 000 from R3 876 000 in 1970

1972  Mar  reported that company's land holdings amount to 65 000 ha of which 50 000 ha under trees
Mar  S A Pulp reorganised into three 'line' and three 'staff' departments, former being marketing, production and timber divisions
Apr  board announces no final dividend to be paid for 1971
Nov  start-up of NSSC pulping at Tugela

1973  Apr  company re-registered as 'Sappi Limited'
Dec  record turnover for the year of R83 977 000 and taxed earnings of R5 867 000
1974 Oct
launch of marketing ‘Operation Streamline’ to rationalise paper production

Nov
Sapoxal team awarded the gold medal of the Associated Scientific and Technical Societies of South Africa

1975 Mar
company’s land holdings amount to 83 500 ha of which 53 800 ha under trees

May
fire at Adamas destroys R2 million worth of imported pulp and waste paper

Aug
start of pulping and bleaching expansion at Enstra

Oct
scarcity of orders forces Sappi to put three paper machines on short time

1976 Oct
Sappi becomes Union Corporation subsidiary, through an exchange of shares, and Carlton Paper becomes a Sappi subsidiary

Dec
Sappi’s 40th birthday celebrations, with special emphasis on long service awards

1977 May
formation of three operating subsidiaries — Sappi Fine Papers, Sappi Kraft and Sappi Forests, each with its own board of directors

1978 Aug
commissioning of Copeland fluid bed reactor, key to Enstra’s pulp expansion programme

Nov
commissioning of drum debarker at Tugela, the first in South Africa

1979 Mar
after causing many problems, Copeland reactor at Enstra performing satisfactorily

Jun
Sappi acquires Stanger Pulp and Paper from the Reed group

Jul
start-up of 750 ton-per-day continuous digester at Tugela

1980 Feb
Sappi head office moves to Rennie House in Braamfontein, together with its operating subsidiaries

Aug
Union Corporation and General Mining merge as General Mining Union Corporation or Gencor

Sep
formation of a new division, Sappi Timber Products, specialising in sawmilling

1981 Jan
Sappi Timber Products takes over Elandschoek sawmill near Ngodwana

Mar
company reports land holdings of 110 000 ha of which 70 000 ha are under trees

Mar
acquisition of Venus Timbers with plantations in the Eastern Transvaal and Zululand

Jul
Cape Kraft, a new waste-based mill in Cape Town, produces its first paper

Jul
Sappi’s board gives go-ahead to a major expansion at Ngodwana and Enstra

Aug
beginning of site clearance for Ngodwana expansion

Nov
official opening of Cape Kraft

1982 Jan
Sappi acquires Novobord

Mar
errection of first steel structure at Ngodwana

May
Tugela’s No 4 machine enhanced with Flakt dryer

1983 Sep
commissioning of newsprint machine at Ngodwana

Dec
acquisition of Timberboard, soon linked with Novobord

1984 Mar
amendments in Income Tax Act have adverse effect on financing of Ngodwana commissioning

May
launch of ‘Let’s Do It Right Now’ campaign

Jul
launch of ‘Excellence in Achievement Awards’

Aug
testing of Kamyr continuous digester at Ngodwana

Sep
move to new head office building in Ameshoff Street, Braamfontein

Nov
move to new head office building; first unbleached pulp produced at Ngodwana’s new pulping plant

1985 Feb
first saleable tonnages of bleached pulp produced at Ngodwana

Mar
commissioning of kraft linerboard machine at Ngodwana
Apr  explosion in recovery boiler at Tugela, necessitating extensive rebuild
Jul  Sappi sawmills merge with Barberton Sawmills
Oct Sappi sells interest in Carlton Paper to Union Corporation

1986  Jan  creation of Sappi International to handle export marketing of all Sappi products
      Jun  commercial production of liquid packaging board at Ngodwana
      Jul  commissioning of pass-out turbine generator at Ngodwana
      Aug announcement of greatly improved results; announcement of fresh rights issue
      Dec Sappi’s 50th anniversary
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