



MONTHLY MAGAZINE & DIARY

DURBAN RAMBLERS' CLUB.

DECEMBER, 1963

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FIXTURE LIST.

TUESDAY: 3rd : Executive Committee at McConnell's home
89, Quentin Smythe Road, Kloof commencing
8:00 sharp.

SUNDAY: 8th : Hike to 'Dymock's Dillema' (via Pinetown)
This is the Chairman's Hike so he is
leading: this should be good!!? No rivers
to cross. Lorry leaves Market place at
8:30 sharp.

MEMBERS: 45c
VISITORS: 50c

SATURDAY: 21st: Christmas Dinner Party at Lonsdale
Hotel, Beachfront: See page 7 for
all details.

(N.B. No Photographic Meeting in December
Next one will be third Wednesday
in January, 1964.)

'SHONGWENI FALLS.' 6/10/63

If you would like a short, short story about this hike this is it:..

"It rained. We all got wet."

But we must fill this page so here goes:
It wasn't really as bad as all that. At the Market a few stalwarts huddled in the shelter of Jimmy Green's Shop waiting for the lorry which was late. At Pinetown, we picked up a few more 'Keen' types.

PINETOWN: Up to this point, the rain had been kind to us, but as soon as the lorry deposited us at our starting point, the rain seemed to come down in earnest and very soon we had a large number of bedraggled looking female members with us, not to mention certain damp looking members of the opposite sex!

Some miles later, the rain cleared and we had a cool walk along the top of the Shongweni Valley to our lunch spot where we found the energetic Castleden tribe already encamped, which, incidentally was about 100 yards from a Main Road???

Lindy soon had a fire going and there were many shoes toasted around the fire, many a fried sole included. The shoes were soon dried out with the help of Firebug McMinimum.

Lindy's Train Watchers Society had a field day and were continually rushing to the edge with glee-ful shouts of 'train' or 'choo choo' or even 'loco-motive' depending on the educational status of the member. Hrrmmh!! And at one time they even had trains going in either direction - what fun!

The usual game started but ended very quickly. Smeda Boy won this time.

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BILHARZIA.

Much has been said and speculated on old 'Bul' as Bilharzia is commonly known. It does seem a shame that so many of our lovely rivers and pools should be infected with this 'noo-noo'.

Call it luck or good-management but to our knowledge relatively few Ramblers have contacted this infection - in fact I think we can go so far as to say that out of all the regulars only about a handful have had Bilharzia and when you sit down and think about it these same people could quite easily have contacted it outside the club activities.

Don't get the impression that we are trying to make a light thing of Bilharzia. On the contrary it is not to be taken lightly but it has come to our ears that quite a few people have fought shy of coming out with us solely on account of the dread of contacting 'Bul'.

Many of you, I am sure know that history of Bilharzia - it can only be contacted IF one bathes in a stream that is infected by carrier snails IF these snails, which incidently have to be a certain variety of snail, which in turn have 'housed' the larvae of the Bilharzia, only IF an infected person has urinated in the particular stream or pool and then again only IF the eggs of the Bilharzia have managed to float down stream at the right time to catch THE snail. So you see, basically the chances are very slim. Then again if the water is cold the larvae die within minutes of being discharged. Now as you know in winter most of the streams and pools are very low, low enough to use stepping stones or jump over and in the summer we very seldom have to wade through water without an alternate route. So you see one isn't really exposed to as much risk as it is supposed.

Think about it and if any friends express

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doubts and forebodings why not let them read this article. In any case if the fear still persists we will help to allay it by publicising in each magazine or Newsletter whether the next hikes advertised are to have any river or stream crossings. There again you can help yourself and others by sticking to the following rules and I am sure you won't have any trouble avoiding Bilharzia

RULES.

- (1) No person, and especially no untreated suspected sufferer from bilharzia should urinate in or near any stream dam or pool of water.
- (2) No bathing, wading or washing should be allowed in slow-flowing or stagnant streams or pool. If wading is inevitable, this should be done as quickly as possible and the legs at once thoroughly dried.
- (3) No water should be consumed unless boiled and all water-vegetables, such as watercress, lettuce etc., should be well rinsed in salt water before being consumed.

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NOTICE ON BOARD OF LOCAL FACTORY.

It has come to the notice of the management that employees have been found dying on the job and either refusing or neglecting to fall down.

This practice must cease forthwith, and any employees found dead in an upright position will be removed from the salary register immediately.

In future, if a department head notices that an employee has made no movement for an hour he will immediately investigate the cause, as for some employees it is almost impossible to distinguish between death and natural movement.

A careful investigation should be made by holding a salary cheque in front of the suspected corpse,

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(Songweni Falls).

We left for home early, and after a short walk through the forests, arrived back at the lorry and had a dry trip home.

NOD.

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MONTE CARLO EVENING. 12/10/63.

There is no doubt about it. The few brave people that turned up for this most enjoyable evening had a good laugh and went away a few pence the richer, what is more.

Scotty's horse 'Turnip' was a great favourite in the Vegetable Derby although it took a vast amount of encouragement before it would perform. The excitement was intense and there was many a sore throat the next day from all the shouting and laughing.

Mal v.d. Spuy made Gary-Boy's hair turn quite white when she kept on winning at his 'Penny-in-the-Port' game.

Darts suddenly became popular when it was realised how much was pinned under the tack in the bull's eye and Ambling Claudius had a few anxious moments when customers only just missed the Bull's Eye - and some got it too.

Various other 'tables' had very good clientele one of whom was Mickie Thomas all the way from Cape Town out. Thanks Mickie for coming all the way from 'down under' to support our little evening - a better effort than some of the local members!

Coffee and biscuits rounded off the evening and everyone went home expressing a sincere wish for a repeat performance while the Committee promised to see what could be done about it - it all depends if we can get the support - so how about it, you slackers????

MOONLIGHT GAMBLER.

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McPHERSON'S CASCADES.

As usual on a rainy day, the lorry left late and proceeded out of Durban with a total of ten occupants. As we neared Pinetown where we were joined by one more, it started raining slightly but this did not dampen our spirits.

We increased our vast number to thirteen at Hill Crest and continued on to Cato Ridge. At last the sun put in an appearance and we all peeled off our raincoats as it grew hotter.

The road to the farm was very muddy but with the help of one stout member at the back, the lorry was not impeded. At last, we reached the farm and set out on our tramp across the hills and dales.

As we unloaded our baggage at the Cascades, we were told about the slide made by the water but as no one had their swimsuits, we had no volunteers to demonstrate its use.

After lunch we were filled with propaganda about Easter Camp. Of course, those, who had not been before were not very enthusiastic when they found that they had to do some work at the camp, but we were all finally persuaded that we might enjoy ourselves if we came.

On our return journey we had some mountain climbing thrown in as we all scrambled down a cliff to river level. Then, very surprisingly(???) there was a steep hill up the other side which, true to Rambler form was climbed with much heaving and panting.

When we reached the top there was the usual mad dash to the lorry for the best seats. As we left the farm we were enveloped by a thick cold mist, which continued all the way back to Durban. In spite of the mist we were all very cheerful and enjoyed immensely the repertoire of Rambler songs sung to us by the entertaining couple, Philp and Ambler.

We arrived back in Durban a cold, bedraggled windblown bunch, and all disappointed that the

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John GETTING DOWN TO BUSINESS

HAPPY

NEW YEAR!



This Hiking Jazz Works Up Quite
A Thirst!!

next hike was to be in three weeks time .

American Coffee and
Chic(ory).

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LATE NEWS AND MORE HERE AND THERE.

PHOTOGRAPHIC: The January Photographic will be held at Heather Odger's residence, 4 Beckenham Place - the house is on the corner of Beckenham Place and Cambridge Drive, with the entrance in Cambridge Drive. As one approaches the concrete bridge at Durban North, Beckenham Place is the last road to the right before the bridge, approaching from Durban; near the sign advertising the Japanese Garden.

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Better late than never congratulations to Dawn Leibrandt on her engagement to Karl Wolff. Best of luck to you Dawn and seeing Karl is a watchmaker better watch out he doesn't insist on beating time on you (Eh!eh! - that is meant as a joke in case you don't know).

Jane Richards who the older members will remember very well is arriving back from England for 2½ months holiday in her home town on the 1st December. Her address is 222 Windemere Road in case any of her friends want to contact her.

Joan and Stan Christian are also back in Durban from Nkana, N. Rhodesia where they have been living for the past 8 years.

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CLICKER'S CORNER.

The Club's October Photographic Meeting was held on the 16th. October at the Castleden's home. Seventeen attended and there was a good entry for the slide competition, the subject of which was 'Architectural and Structural'. Heather Odgers' magnificent slide of King Ludwig's Castle romped home the winner with 78%. Two of Garry Philp's slides occupied the second and third positions with 67.3% and 66%.

Subjects for the next twelve months' competitions were discussed and it was agreed to continue having alternate competition open. The following is the list of subjects:

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| January | - | Animals and Insects. |
| February | - | General. |
| March | - | Candid, Cheese & Portraiture. |
| April | - | General |
| May | - | Flowers, Parks and Gardens. |
| June | - | General |
| July | - | Camps and Hikes. |
| August | - | General. |
| September | - | Shots after Dark |
| October | - | General. |
| November | - | Unusual or Trick Photography. |

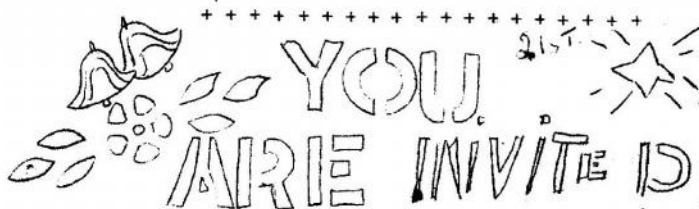
After the Competition Rob Philp transported us on a Continental spree as he took us all over Europe with his slides - what a fine record he and Denise have of the places they visited. After tea there was the usual chit-chat and good wishes to Mike Castleden for his trip overseas.

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At the November Meeting at the Philp's home Heather Odgers again gained first place in the General Competition, together with Margaret Moore with 71.6%. Mick McConnell (and not an aeroplane in sight) gained second place with 65% and Rob Philp 3rd with 63.3%. After Denise's very excellent tea Rob showed us some more of his slides taken in England, and the Meeting closed on the usual chatter.

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as this is considered to be a reliable test.

There have however, been cases where natural instinct has been so strong that the hand of the corpse has made spasmodic clutches even after Rigor Mortis has set in.

The most successful test is to whisper 'Sick Leave'. This has been known to revive a body which has been motionless for over a week. This test should not, however, be applied to Departmental Heads, from whom movement of any kind is rarely expected.



TO: A GRAND CHRISTMAS DINNER PARTY.

AT: THE LONSDALE HOTEL, WEST STREET.

TIME: 7:30 in lounge for cocktails for Dinner at 8:00

For only 75c per person a really grand Xmas Dinner in the Private Banqueting Hall. Come with or without partners - it doesn't matter - we will all be sitting together. Admittance will be by Menue only obtainable from Rob Philp (Ph:836034). For those that feel really gay there will be dancing after dinner - all inclusive.

BOOK EARLY: ONLY 40
MENUES AVAILABLE!!

REMEMBER: SATURDAY, 21st DECEMBER.

Hello Ramblers,

I had resolved to make this magazine a real Christmas bumper number - all full of good cheer and shedding goodness and light to all men, but all I can think of is a packet of moans. Terrible isn't it?

Where were you all at the Monte Carlo Evening? Such a waste of effort on the part of the Entertainments Committee. All you had to do was turn up and walk in and enjoy yourself. You didn't even have to pay. And the times I have heard members say that the Club is not active enough!!!

And thank you so much for all those wonderful articles for the magazine??? The Leaders at every hike have I believe approached specific members requesting them to just write up a few lines so that I can write up a little story on each one and after agreeing to do it these people have also let us down. Come on you people, let's have a little more enthusiasm and a little less sitting back waiting for everything to be done for you.

Owing to Christmas and New Year holidays there will be quite a long interval between hikes. The last hike being on the 8th. December and then not again until about the first week in January (date to be advised).

Next year's Photographic Meetings should be very interesting as we have been offered a demonstration of developing, exposures etc so all those interested should remember this and also tell any friends outside the Club who are perhaps interested to come. We will let you know the exact dates of these lectures as well.

Well, that was some 'Editorial' wasn't it? Sorry about the moans etc but these things have to be said if we want the Club to go on improving. What do you think?

GMcC.

A N N U A L G E N E R A L M E E T I N G .

This day is almost upon us again and although it is a bit early I don't think it is too early to start preparing for it as it is a very important day in any Club's year.

Have you thought how any club could run without it's Committee? Quite impossible you will agree. Well now let us presume that you all joined this Club voluntarily and with the hope and expectation of getting a lot of enjoyment from the hikes and various other functions - not to mention meeting lots of new and interesting people. Most of us I'm sure often feel that when we have enjoyed a thing or received a lot of satisfaction from anything we would like to either improve that enjoyment or repay the source. There is a very old saying that tells us 'There is no greater joy than that of giving' and you must admit that to give our time to something worth while - no matter how small the contribution - is a very satisfying feeling. Why is it then, that when we come to our Annual General Meeting and people are called upon to volunteer for the Committee the response is as if the Club were asking for volunteers to go to Siberia? Is it modesty? Well just forget about being modest; this is no time to hide behind false impressions of ourselves. If you feel you can put forward any ideas or rather spare a few hours ONCE a month on ONE evening then please come forward and give your name to any of the present Committee or attend the A.G.M. in FEBRUARY (date to be given in January Newsletter).

I know many of you will say you've perhaps never been on any Committee and wouldn't know what to do or say. Well how do you know if you don't try? We all had to have a 'first time' and I'm sure we agree that we have gained by it.

So come on and be a sport; especially you new members. I would like to stress PARTICULARLY new members - we very badly need new blood on our Committee.

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SOCIAL PAGE.

NEW MEMBERS.

We would like to welcome the following new members to the Club and hope we will see them around lots and lots and that they will enjoy being with us:

Barbara Hayne; Tom Browne, Barbara McKenzie; Gibson Brown; Elizabeth Williams.

RESIGNATIONS.

It is with regret that we accept Jill Launder's resignation (most of you will remember as Jill Craig a former Secretary and staunch supporter of our Club). Being married does keep one rather busy and besides that she has decided to join the 'New Waistline Brigade' (Ed's Note: this waistline must be very catchy: it's mowing the female members down like nine (month) pins : Eh!eh!sh!)

An old member we haven't seen out for ages is Peter Wallace and he has decided to resign too.

CONGRATULATIONS.

Congratulations madly to Trevor 'Pull-over-to-the-Left' Culverwell and Pat on their engagement. Well done, Pat you see that you pin a nice big ticket on Trevor now.

Heather Odgers and hubby our best wishes on the birth of their second son.

HERE AND THERE.

Mike Hooper did a 'quickie' overseas within the last month and has come back with a decided twinkle in his eye. Just ask him how Paris was!!

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