



FOUNDED 1932

DURBAN RAMBLERS CLUB

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DURBAN.

FIXTURES FOR JANUARY 1957:

MONDAY 7TH:

PHOTOGRAPHIC LECTURE by Mr. Peter Fronse, a German Professional Photographer, on Portraiture, with practical demonstration; to be held in Kings Hall, Aliwal Street, Durban, at 8 p.m. You are requested to be seated by 7.45 p.m.

TUESDAY 8TH:

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING in the Shakespeare Room, Royal Hotel, Durban, at 8 p.m.

SUNDAY 13TH:

The first hike of the year being traditionally the Chairman's Hike, Frank will to-day lead us astray to LEOPARD'S LAGOON. The lorries will travel via Pinetown. COST: 4/-.

WEDNESDAY 23RD:

CAMERA SECTION MEETING at Meri Vaughan's residence, 25 Hoyslake Drive, Durban North, at 7.45 p.m., subject being "Flowers, Parks and Gardens".

SUNDAY 27TH:

It's years since the Club visited INGOGOLWENI so this should be a new hike to most of our present members. Lindie will be leading, and the lorries will travel via the North Coast. COST: MEMBERS 5/-.
VISITORS 7/6.

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ATTENTION PLEASE!!

SILVER ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION:

Please note that on Friday, 15th February, 1957, the Club will be celebrating its Silver Anniversary with a Dinner/Dance which will in all probability be held at the Eden Roc Hotel. Further details in this connection will be sent to members in January, but you are requested to make a note of the date now, and decide whether or not you intend going. Only single tickets will be issued (priced @1.1.0. each) and you will in due course be notified when and from whom these may be obtained.

NOTE: Unless otherwise stated, all outings will start from the City Market Warwick Avenue, at 8.30 a.m.

A HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR TO ALL RAMBLERS EVERYWHERE.

THE DURBAN RAMBLER.

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EDITOR: HARRY THORSEN.
PHONE: 20843 (Day).

EDITORIAL:

Our hike to Umlaas Falls was the last of an eventful rambling year. Many friends with whom our Christmas and New Year fun will be shared, we have met through the Ramblers' Club - on hikes, at camps, or on the dance floor. Our Club is growing rapidly, and we should have an even larger membership towards the end of 1957.

In the meantime, a Merry Christmas to you all, and happy hiking the New Year.

HIKE TO HOPE VALLEY.

Sunday, 24th November, 1956.

Old-timers look forward to the Hope Valley hike because something always happens. In 1954 Marge left the straight and narrow, taking a horde of Ramblers with her - probably to make up for the ducking she got in the stream. Last year, on a combined ramble with the Maritzburg Ramblers, our lorry had a puncture miles away in the bundu. This year - it rained.

And I mean rained - it was hard enough to make the keenest hikers think twice. At 8 a.m. Durban was a sodden mess. Still, about 50 keen types, including several visitors, left warm blankets and dragged themselves to the Market Place, only to find that no lorry had arrived. Apparently Manaram had decided that nobody could possibly hike in that weather.

We finally got away at 9.45 a.m., a new record. Then someone dropped his sunglasses and delayed us further. Our Chairman joined us on the road after a record-breaking dash from Durban North, and we were at last on our way.

We left the main road at Isipingo and squelched over muddy back-roads. Men stood by for pushing duty, but the only stop was a routine pause at the sugar cane. Midday saw us disembarking in a fairly heavy drizzle at the Walker's farm at Eston.

The scenery in this area is beautiful. Nothing spectacular, but green and pleasant. Slacks and takkies were soon soaked in the long grass.

Arthur Bowman, the chief photographer of "The Natal Mercury", and two young newshounds, accompanied us. Arthur's camera clicked away as the hikers posed in "spontaneous" groups.

After crossing a couple of swollen streams we arrived at our picnic spot - a rocky area, partially sheltered by a huge tree. Nobody envied our tea orderlies their job, as dry firewood was as hard to find as dry socks. But somehow they raised a blaze and tea was laid on.

The Press squelched homewards after lunch and left the Ramblers to it. They missed the highlight of the day - Scotty's hypnotism of a visitor by the name of Daphne.

The homeward hike was even more enjoyable as the rain had ceased at last. Many mushy words have been written about the smell of wet earth, but still it has a fascinating quality, probably appealing to the jungle-dweller in us. Dymock and Miles collected armfuls of enormous white lilies. Our route led through clusters of beautiful silver-leaved ferns, no relation to our Treasurer or his brother.

We reached the lorries at last with nobody getting lost. I forgot to count the bodies under Henry's blanket, but am sure that another record was broken. The lorry slithered ominously on the clay roads, but Manaram's tyres stood up to it this time. On to Camperdown, and the tyres sang on the tarmac, and the hikers crooned into their anoraks. Miraculously we had remained fairly dry, and the cold winds did no harm.

Another record - we covered 130 miles by lorry that day - our longest ride of the year.

UNCLE RAE'S COLUMN:

Dear Uncle Rae,

I've heard that a silver wedding is a 25th Anniversary, a Diamond Wedding is celebrated after 60 years, and so on, but when is a Wooden wedding?

Yours, etc.
"Quizzy"

.....

Dear Quizzy,

It's when two Foles get married.

Yours, etc.
Uncle Rae.

FUN AT THE AIR-FORCE CLUB.
Saturday, 8th December, 1956.

Uncle Rae reports that he dropped his collar stud at the Christmas Social and before he could pick it up somebody had spread a cloth over it and seated four.

The Entertainments Committee had certainly aimed high in organising this event - the 13th floor, in fact, high above West Street.

It was quite difficult to recognise the Ramblerettes in their nylon and taffeta, with stoles and halter-necks and straplesses. I wish I could write French to describe the charming effects.

And who was the genius who designed the paper hats? Most charming, everybody must agree, was Terry Ogle's shepherdess creation. At the other end of the scale Rob Philp wore a fantastic towering effort. He was so attached to it that he wore it on the hike the next day - or else was it that he absent-mindedly wore it to bed?

I heard the Club Doorman remark that he had never seen the place so crowded, but then he had probably never seen the Ramblers before. The floor was so packed that everybody was check-to-check, all over, and a Night-club shuffle would have been dangerous at times. Still, Meg and Don, our jive champions, still found room to give it a bash.

It was an excellent party, but somehow the "Christmassy" atmosphere was lacking. At midnight the Band packed up, and Rob was seen running around with his hat on fire.

Many thanks to the Entertainments Committee for a rip-roaring good time.

MY LAST HIKE
by Mitt Bagg.

Yes, to-day was my last hike. I am making way for a big brother for the next Ramble. Meanwhile I would like to tell you about the hike to Umlaas Falls.

I was bulging with a varied assortment of food and junk when I arrived at the Market Place. There were many strange faces, but it turned out that the Mountain Club was going out to-day as well.

The lorries moved off and travelled along the Main Road to Pinetown where the Ramblers made their usual raid on "Naidoo's" and I was stuffed with more edibles. They set off once more, eventually turning off at Cato Ridge and continuing along a dirt road. Disembarking at Georgedale the Ramblers began their hike.

It was not very long before they left the road and hiked over the typically beautiful Natal countryside. Down the hill they went until they reached the edge of the river, with me thumping against my owner's back with every second step. The character carrying me proceeded to drop me onto the ground in a most unceremonious way, and then took away my pal "Bluey" Blanket and made himself and his girl friend comfortable.

I don't know the silly chap who decided to go swimming with his clothes on but I believe they call him "Garry", although I have heard him being referred to by various other less complimentary names. Some went swimming, and others just let themselves get burnt to a frazzle. That zany "clothes-on-swimmer" will be feeling it tomorrow, I'll bet. There were some with some brains, however, who stayed in the shade. A few of these odd specimens of the human race decided to play dice. ("For shame on the chairman of vice for encouraging young Allan to gamble")

Hello! Who's this nosey-parker butting in? Oh, it's my old man. Just too bad about the visitor who wouldn't give Dennis Rachmann back his spoon and fork and so earned herself a "ticklish" afternoon from those "horrors" in the Ramblers' Club.

After Lindie, watched by some of the local residents, had brewed another "cuppa char", I was packed up again and the crowd set off back to the lorries, some of them first going round to the top of the Falls. The hike back was quite uneventful and at the end they found a trading store open and the worthy people there did a roaring trade in cold drinks. I was thrown over the side of the lorry and then we began our homeward journey.

What a headache I had from the noise this mob made, and they called it singing. Was that Spike who was ticked off by a Policeman for going too slow and holding up the traffic? I wonder what the Cop thought of this crowd when they gave him three hearty cheers! Anyway we were back in Durban all too soon and I have seen just about the last of all my old friends.

CLICKERS' CORNER:
by Avalon Gough-Jones.

TRY BLACK-AND-WHITE PRINTS FROM COLOUR:

The question often arises among colour enthusiasts nowadays, as to how one can make successful black-and-white prints from colour transparencies with as little expense as possible. I was therefore more than interested to read an article recently of a method whereby this can be done, and quote verbatim the article.

"If you don't like spending a fortune for colour prints and if the idea of dragging out a projector every time you want to see your colour pictures does not appeal to you, try making black-and-white enlargements from your colour slides. They are easy to make, economical, and you can use them to fill all the requests for copies of that beautiful shot you took while on a recent vacation.

All you need in the way of equipment is a roll of fine-grain 35 - mm film (Adox LB - 14 or Panatomic-X), two pieces of glass 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 10 inches for a printing holder, a roll of masking tape, and a roll of cellulose tape. The whole bill, film included, should not be more than 15/-.

The method involves making black-and-white negatives from your transparencies by contact printing, then using these negatives in the regular way to make enlargements. First, bind the glass plates together along the long edge, forming a book. Next, remove the slides from their mounts and place them end to end in the holder, emulsion side up. Hold the slides in place with a strip of cellulose tape, taking care to place only about 1/8 inch on the film. Cut the leader from the roll of film and secure the straight edge to one end of the lower half of the glass holder with tape. The film should be placed emulsion side down so that it faces the slides emulsion to emulsion. Remember to work in total darkness once the film is taped into place since the fine-grain film is panchromatic and sensitive to all light.

Pull out enough film from the cartridge to cover all the colour frames, using the tape as a guide to keep the film straight. After sufficient film, about ten inches, has been unrolled, cut the film, close the holder, and turn it over so that the colour frames are on top of the film.

Excellent results can be obtained by using your enlarger as a light source. Place the lamphouse high enough so that the whole length of the holder is evenly illuminated. To determine exposure, place a transparency of average density in the negative holder. From the baseboard take a reading with your exposure

meter (using the tungsten rating of your film) of the light passing through the enlarger. Remove the transparency from the negative carrier before making the actual exposure. I have found that with my Valoy enlarger, a four-second exposure at f.8 on KB-14 film gives satisfactory results, but you will have to experiment a bit."

Well, there you are, colour enthusiasts, try this method out for yourselves. Perhaps after experimenting and obtaining successful results you might care to bring them along to a Club Meeting and show the boys and girls what can be done. I am sure we would all be interested to see your efforts. Who knows, this may be the answer to our problem, as to how to increase the entries in the monochrome section.

NEW MEMBERS:

A hearty welcome is extended to the following New Members:

Barrie du Bernard. Shirley Hartley. Howard Toole.
Carl Tischendorf. Wilfred Tischendorf.

SOCIAL NEWS:

We hope that our trusty Chairman has quite recovered from his recent operation, and that he will soon be in our midst again.

Congratulations and sincere wishes are extended to Lil and George Wapson who recently celebrated their Silver Wedding, and to Garry Rabie on the occasion of his 21st birthday. Pat, Lil and George's daughter, very nearly presented her parents with a grandchild on their wedding anniversary, but unfortunately the stork was delayed so young Darroll only arrived ten days later.

We were all very sorry to learn that Ulaas Falls was Jose Dodd's last hike with the Club. She sailed for England on December 13th aboard the "Carnarvon Castle" - we hope that this will be a case of "Au Revoir" and not "Goodbye", Jose.

Both Ian (i.e. Jack) Epton and Jo Hutchinson will be leaving for the Cape shortly. We hope they won't forget to look us up again should they return to Natal.
