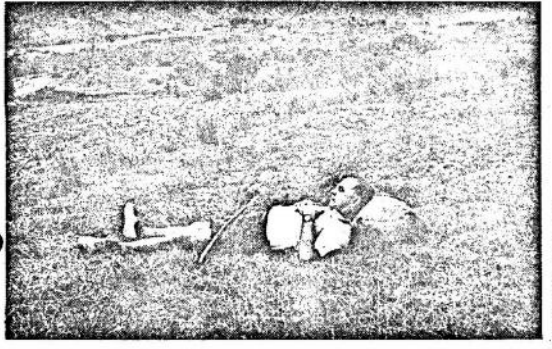


DURBAN

RAMBLERS
CLUB

NOVEMBER 1966 9 ~~TELE~~BER



"HIKE FOR HEALTH." "?"

DURBAN RAMBLERS CLUB.

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P.O. Box 1063.

NOVEMBER, 1966 - FIXTURES.

- Tuesday 8th Executive Committee Meeting at
Marlene Kobus's Flat, 12 Marble Arch,
Ridge Road, at 7.00 p.m. Bring
your bathing costumes.
- Sunday 13th Hike with Pietermaritzburg Ramblers
whom we are meeting at Church Square,
Pietermaritzburg, at 9.30 a.m. We
will be leaving the Market Place,
Durban, by car at 8.00 a.m. Car
owners please bring your cars.
- Wednesday 16th Photographic Meeting at the Castledens'
house, 7 Wedge Road, Westville, at
8 p.m. The subject is "Sunrises,
Sunsets and Shots after Dark".
- Saturday 19th Beetle Drive at 3 Kew Avenue,
Westville. See page 11.
- Sunday 27th Mwabi Summit Hike with Mike Woods
leading. The lorry leaves the Market
Place at 8.30 a.m. Members 45c,
Visitors 50c.

DECEMBER.

- Friday 9th Xmas Dinner Dance at the Rugby Hotel,
Old Main Road, Pinetown. See page 8.

(Continued on page 16.)

HIKE TO TOPP'S NEEDLE.

Sunday, 24th September, turned out to be a windy, overcast day and I was glad to be greeted by a dozen or so Ramblers at the market place. The lorry departed at 8.50 a.m., stopping on the way at Chelmsford Road for another crowd of Ramblers. At Pinetown the wind started easing up and a cheerful crowd greeted us there. On leaving the highway, we travelled along the Old Main Road through Hillcrest. There Rags cheerfully announced that an ambulance was trailing us, bearing in mind that we were to scale Topp's Needle. He, of course, knew very well that he was a non-starter for the climb up.

We arrived at Crestholme, our alighting point, as the sky cleared and the sun appeared, and thirty-one Ramblers set out in the direction of Topp's Needle. After one and a half hours' walking we came within sight of our destination. Roger and half a dozen others who wanted to go down the crack, left us and we were later to meet up with them at the Needle.

Unfortunately, our leader, Rob, proceeded to guide us along the wrong path, so after a bit of "bundu bashing" we eventually arrived for lunch. No sooner had we had our fill than Dikko was beckoning energetic Ramblers to follow him and scale Topp's Needle. Without much difficulty he gained the summit and got busy making his belay secure, which he assured us was a hundred per cent efficient. Bob appointed himself to do the enviable task of roping up the prospective volunteers for the climb up (scramble for some). To our astonishment he was able to do it amazingly well, especially when his victim belonged to the fairer sex, as if he was an old hand at it. Anyway, don't despair, Bob, we won't dig any further into your dirty (?) past!

In true Zulu fashion the males climbed first so as to get a bird's eye view of the females coming up. To

their delight this was in fact the sequence of events and the girls scrambled up all equally eager to reach the boys (in modern Western fashion). Their excuse was that they were determined to sign their names on the piece of paper in a jar cemented into the rock on the top, but the boys weren't so easily disillusioned, for they knew too well that the bottle had been broken some months previously.

Unfortunately, the day turned against the girls from every angle, even as they were struggling up, for we were to hear remarks such as "this may be Sunday but we're not in church now" - to a girl balancing precariously on her knees. (Rock climbers never use their knees).

By about two o'clock all those who attempted the climb up had reached the top, the count being ten boys and eight girls. The next problem to be faced was the descent, as by this time we were all fighting for breath and a place to stand. I wasted no time in stepping forward and enjoyed a most entertaining half-hour or so guiding everyone on the climb down. Having noted Bob's approach to this type of thing, I had no trouble in perfecting the movements, and it soon became second nature to me.

We wasted no time in packing up our bags and left Topp's Needle around three o'clock for the walk back to our lorry. This time the party had split into two, one half taking the route up the crack and the other half climbing up the chimney. When all were present and correct at the lorry, we departed for Durban where we arrived around six o'clock, all feeling better after our interesting hike to Topp's Needle.

"Sitrep"

MOUNTAIN WALK IN THE DRakensBERG.

LONG WEEKEND IN DECEMBER.

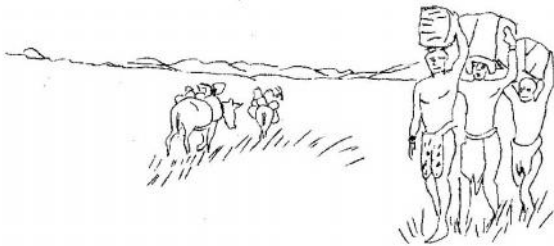
PLACE: CATHEDRAL PEAK AREA.
Hikers will be required to carry rations and equipment for three days in the Little Berg, at an altitude of approximately 7,000 feet.

DEPART: from Durban at 4.30 a.m. on Friday, 16th December, 1966.

RETURN: to Durban on Sunday night, 18th December, 1966.

COST: will be R4.00. This covers rations and transport.

For further information please telephone Mac Rand : Home - 48925.



SPRINGTIME HOP : 1966.

At somewhere around eight bells the chick and I arrive on the scene at the D.H.S.C.B. Club and after straightening ye olde bow neck strap we pull into this cavern where the jazz is blowing somewhat cool. And what a ball we had. It's like some nights you can't go wrong and everything is like the cream on trifle. Well, this wasn't one of them. Or that's how it started. You know those prizes some of you won, well guess who left the wrapping paper at home. So I'm popular to start with. But the old ingenuity soon sorted that out. So then I could enjoy myself. Waiter, another double vodka please.

And the kids that were there. Well I had a rather beautiful doll with me, if I say so myself, but she was just one of half a hundred. But of course I only have eyes for you honey, these damn blinkers make sure of that.

When I step into the hall it's like I've been hit bash across the head with a rainbow. Lights and colours everywhere. Beach umbrellas. Flowers. Travel posters. Little posters in French all over the walls. It's like I'm back in Paris again on the left bank of the Seine hearing Edith Piaf giving forth with Milord. Except of course that the music was supplied by Philip Norman. Well, what's in a name.

And apart from the chicks in their long dresses there were also these neat looking penguins floating round all trying to look like Charlie Chaplin in Lime-light or something. And succeeding pretty well too.

After a few more doubles these penguins start to swing somewhat, and so does the party, and so do I. And we do the old soft shoe shuffle, and some naughty naughty waltzes, and some twist and other old time

dances. People start arguing whether we should switch the lights out or leave them on. And they go on and off several times in such rapid succession that I immediately vow to lay off, and if there were any pledges handy I would have signed half a dozen, but luckily there were none available so I compromise by starting to drink singles-straight.

After a while some dad down at the end gets up and starts making a speech, which I have no doubt would have been a very good one only by this time the singles (still straight) are beginning to affect my hearing. But anyway I clap when everyone else claps, so we are all happy except for the doll sitting opposite me, for it appears that I clap one of my singles (straight of course) right into her lap. And of course I don't improve matters by trying to take her dress off to dry it. In fact after that I am blind in one eye from the sock she donates to me (all because of the singles-straight).

By this time I am somewhat disillusioned with singles-straight so I go back to doubles (straight). It appears that all the clapping is for a bloke called Ferns who is busy dishing out certificates and cups to all and sundry, so clutching my double (still straight of course) in one hand I join the queue and pick up one as well.

And then the dancing starts again. For some that is. I am still sticking with the doubles and my bird has wandered off with some other lad, so I sit and console myself.

Some time later I am roused by the sudden departure of everyone from the room. It appears that this nut Vriend (he hasn't been drinking at all) is proposing a conducted tour of the club grounds, and all and sundry tag along just for kicks. I wave my glass at the departing mob and carry on.

RAMBLERS
CHRISTMAS
DINNER
DANCE

RUGBY HOTEL

FRIDAY 9th DECEMBER

£3.50 per couple.
FORMAL: ie LOUNGE SUITS AT LEAST.

Philip Norman's Band again.

RAVENS RIDGE : 16TH OCTOBER, 1966.

A gorgeous, sunny day after a week of uncertain weather - yet a complement of only twenty-three Ramblers, which included a fair number of visitors, partook of this hike. Why? Don't ask me, I'm only the reporter. Perhaps the word "Ridge" had something to do with it, and served as an anti-stimulus. But I didn't find any ridge to walk along up or down; nor did I see any ravens. So please, Mr. Leader, am I correct in assuming we went on the wrong hike?

Rightly or wrongly, it was a grand hike, although I was rather loath to eat my lunch at 11.30 a.m. And it would have been a bit earlier had a certain nameless member not got lost. So while two Don Juans sought our maiden in distress, the remainder sat and waited. After an exchange of bird-like whistles, the missing link was found. Some sneaky individual discovered, while we were waiting, that three of our visitors were wearing identical sneakers and an immediate investigation was carried out by our legal department. Did they buy them wholesale? No. They worked for a shoe manufacturer? No. Then as there was a possibility that we might lose potential members, we changed the conversation. But I did see tissues being used as a protection against blisters.

After an early lunch over which there was a large call on the comic sections of the Sunday papers, various groups dispersed in different directions. This is a beautiful area - a large gum plantation owned by the monks of Mariannahill. It gave me a complete sense of freedom to watch the tops of the eucalyptus trees being blown in the wind. Some energetic types took off in the direction of, and reached, MacIntosh cascades.

A second round of coffee and tea, and at 3 o'clock we packed our gear and headed southwards. The one

joy of this walk is that there is no steep incline to ascend after lunch. Out of the plantation, across the open veld and the monastery was soon in sight. Passing an aquaduct, we crossed the river over a noisy and novel bridge, and alongside the road soon found the lorry. All aboard and back to Durban, home and a hot bath.

As a postscript, I would like to conclude by saying how nice it was to see Marge and Dymock again after their overseas trip - Dymock couldn't stop raving about the Dalmatian coast - and also to see Terry and Claude, both of whom we were unable to persuade to join us.



We love you yeah yeah yeah
We want you there yeah yeah
With a drive like this
You know you just can't miss!

RAMBLERS

How about
beetling along to the
BEATLE DRIVE

Saturday 19th November 8pm.
at Roger's Lodge

3 Kew Ave



Transport problems?
Phone Marlene
881357

CLICKERS' CORNER.SEPTEMBER.

The first meeting of the Photographic Section, following the Annual Show at the Shell Theatre, was held at Heather Odgers' home at Durban North on Wednesday, September 21st, and was attended by thirty-two Ramblers and friends.

At this meeting Donald Seaton (one of the "outside judges" of the 1965/66 competition slides) and his wife, Jean, were our guests. During the evening those slides which had been submitted to Don and his colleagues for their consideration and selection of "The Best Slide of the Year" were projected and commented upon by Don. His comments were both interesting and instructive and all present should certainly have benefited from listening to Don.

It was suggested that the Club should contact various photographic firms in Durban to enquire whether any would be prepared to give members a discount on photographic goods. Members were told that they were able to get a cash discount on films from Claude Ambler at the Gumtree Pharmacy, 199 Berea Road, Durban. (See also, October Photographic Meeting report).

Margaret suggested that the judges for the monthly competitions should be elected at the September Meeting annually (i.e. at the start of the new "photographic year") instead of in February, as had previously been the practice. This would ensure that the same panel would operate throughout the "photographic year". It was also suggested that five instead of three judges should be elected and that instead of only three officiating at each meeting all the judges present should act. If there were less than three official judges at any meeting, substitute judges would be elected from the members present to

make up the number to three. These suggestions were approved, and the following five judges were elected for the current photographic year: Fred Clark, Bob Ferns, Mary Gatenby, Charles Smeda and Harry Tripe. All five judged the September competition slides. The subject was "Water" and 49 slides were entered, the results being:-

1. Charles Smeda : Paddy Fields in
Tananarivo, 68.25%
2. Mike Castleden : Lake Scene at Gmuden,
Austria, 62.40%
3. Mike Castleden : Boats at Sunset in
Greece, 61.60%

Don Seaton concluded the meeting by showing his set of "Durban Harbour" slides, which were accompanied by his taped commentary. The amount of research which Don had done in this connection was truly amazing and embodied all conceivable aspects and functions of Durban's busy harbour - a very fine effort indeed.

OCTOBER.

Nineteen members attended the October Photographic Meeting at Chris and Adele Schorn's home at Durban North, on Wednesday, October 19th.

For those members who wish to avail themselves of a 10% cash discount on films and photographic equipment, irrespective of quantity, John Castleden has very kindly arranged this with the Medical Centre Pharmacy at 33, Field Street, Durban. One requirement, however, is that the Pharmacy be furnished with a list of signatures of members who may wish to avail themselves of this privilege, and in this respect such members are asked to call in at Margaret's office at 827, West Walk, Smith Street, Durban before November 17th, in order to sign the

list. Letters of introduction in regard to photographic equipment can also be given by the Medical Centre Pharmacy to the suppliers, L. Saul & Co. (Pty.) Ltd., of Congella Road, Durban, but in such a case it would be necessary for the particular member to make a personal arrangement with either Mrs. M.R. Monk, the Managing Director, or with John Castleden. PLEASE NOTE THAT THE DISCOUNT IS BEING OFFERED TO CLUB MEMBERS ONLY, and it is hoped that no-one will abuse this privilege in any way.

As usual, there will not be a photographic meeting in December.

It was necessary to draw up a further list of competition subjects, and these were arranged as follows:-

<u>January</u>	Action.
<u>February</u>	General.
<u>March</u>	Animals, Birds, Goggas, Noonoos, etc.
<u>April</u>	Durban.
<u>May</u>	People.
<u>June</u>	General.
<u>July</u>	Camp Life and Hikes.
<u>August</u>	(No competition as Annual Show is held instead of monthly meeting).
<u>September</u>	Flashlight.
<u>October</u>	General.

Under "General", 32 slides were entered in the evening's competition. The judges were Mary Gatenby, Charles Smeda and Harry Tripe, and the results were:-

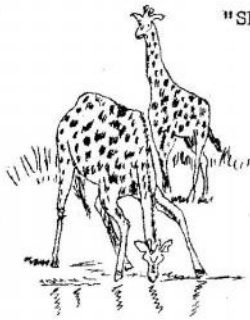
1. Mary Gatenby : Kalk Bay, Cape Town, 64%
2. Dick Usher : Bougainvillaea, 59%
3. (Marge Parr : A peaceful country scene
(in the Dolomites area,
(58.33%
(Frank Stacey : Scene in the Du Toit's
Kloof Pass, Cape, 58.33%.

For the first time for many years we had a competition in the "Black and White" Photographic Section. Mary Gatenby and Dick Usher entered four apiece and these were judged by Charles Smeda and Harry Tripe, the results being:-

1. Mary Gatenby : Boats, 66.50%
2. Dick Usher : Rock climbing, 60.50%
3. Dick Usher : "Striving" statues
in Pretoria, 59%.

The evening wound up with Charles Smeda showing the slides he had taken on his recent trip to Malagasy. These held everyone's interest, that part of the world being comparatively unknown, photographically, to most of us.

The November Meeting of the Photographic Section will be held at the Castleden's home at 7, Wedge Road, Westville, on Wednesday, November 16th, and the competition subject will be "Sunrises, Sunsets and Shots after Dark". See you there!



"SHUTTERBUG"

(Continued from page 1.)

Sunday 11th Hippo Pool Hike with Mike Wigley leading. The lorry leaves the Market Place at 8.00 a.m. This is an earlier start than usual and a late return. Members 50c, Visitors 75c.

Tuesday 13th Executive Committee Meeting at Joan Smith's flat, 3 Harlestone, Riley Road, at 8 p.m.

Weekend 16th to 18th Berg trip. See page 4.

EDITORIAL.

Myrtle Ryan is the winner of a free hike for her very interesting article last month on her trip to South America.

It is with regret that we have to record the death of Brian Chapman's mother, and we extend our deepest sympathy to him.

For those who are interested, details of the Wild Life Protection Society's programme for the rest of this year are given below:-

November 20: Sunday outing to Hlogwane Forest, Tugela Mouth. Bring picnic lunches and meet at the second turn-off to Tugela Mouth - South Side, at 9.30 a.m. About 60 miles north of Durban.

December 2: Film Show at Little Theatre, Acutt Street, Durban, at 8 p.m.

