

Rhodesian COMMENTARY

Vol. 9 No. 5/6

March, 1975

Buoyancy in tourism

Year-end foreign tourist figures released by the Central Statistical Office have given rise to considerable optimism in Rhodesia's resilient tourist industry, says The Rhodesian Financial Gazette.

At almost 230 000, the 1974 total is far better than was feared earlier last year when monthly foreign tourist figures slumped.

The December tourist influx shot up to 42 101. The December figure is always inflated because of the number of relatives and friends visiting Rhodesians. Nevertheless, it is the highest monthly total for two years.

The year total for foreign visitors—transit, business, education and holiday—reached more than 272 000. The business figure for 1974 was 22 878 compared to 21 105 in 1973. The December business influx was 1 343—again up on the December, 1973, figure of 1 038.

A significant proportion of the 1974 tourist influx was clearly due to the increased marketing drive launched by local tourist operators. By and large the adverse effects of the terrorist scare have been overcome.

This can only augur well for the trend in 1975. Equally important, Rhodesia's inflation rate has remained comparatively low which means the foreign tourist can enjoy a relatively cheap holiday in Rhodesia.

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Lions International top award for Ian Smith

The Prime Minister, Mr. Ian Smith, received the highest award Lions Club International could bestow on him—because he practised the Lions motto: helping people to help themselves.

At an informal ceremony the Lion Club International Distinguished Award was presented by Mr. Johnny Bolbo, of Illinois, president of Lions International, "For distinguished services to all Rhodesians."

But the most significant fact was that the last time the medal was presented was three years ago. Until now it had not been felt anyone warranted it.

The award—the second highest that Lions Club International can make—is decided upon at the personal discretion of the president. Ranking above it is the Head of State award.

A Lions spokesman said: "The President of Lions International is influenced by nobody. In fact, we in Rhodesia knew only four days ago that Mr. Bolbo wanted to make the presentation to Mr. Smith."



Mr. Johnny Bolbo makes the presentation of the medal to Mr. Ian Smith.

The Prime Minister was obviously moved by the presentation, which was performed at his official residence, Independence.

He told Mr. Bolbo: "No matter what you hear or read about us, we are going to continue to live according to the ideals of Lions International."

Callaghan encourages extremism

The recent African tour by British Foreign Minister, Mr. James Callaghan, is criticized by Father Arthur Lewis, chairman of the Rhodesian Christian Group.

"A spirit of give and take was abroad, an understanding that the fate of millions depended on the coming together of the people on the spot," he writes in The Sunday Mail.

"This was the moment when humanity and sanity demanded that, for once, Britain keep out.

"This in the event was the moment chosen by Mr. Callaghan to insist that Britain must be in on the act and have the final say.

"Once again the British Government has encouraged black African extremism and damaged immeasurably the cause of reconciliation."

RWM

Rhodesian Light Infantry celebrates

The Rhodesian Light Infantry have a kill rate second to none in the history of terrorist operations, said the 1st Battalion's Commanding Officer, Lieut Colonel David Parker.

Speaking to his men at their Regimental Day Parade in Salisbury he said the RLI has been involved in 69 contacts with the enemy in the present operation.

During the contacts six RLI men and 211 terrorists have been killed.

The figures show that the RLI "continues to be overwhelmingly superior to a battered enemy".

"For each of our casualties the enemy has lost 45 of his number—certainly some revenge for our

fallen comrades," he said.

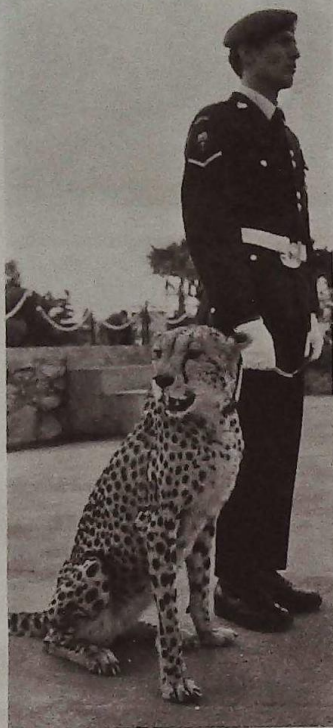
He said there were two main reasons for the low RLI casualty rate.

"The least important I'll take first and that is the element of luck.

"The second and the most overwhelming reason is that you are good operational soldiers," he said.

Col. Parker also praised the soldiers' wives, families and friends for their support.

At the end of his speech Col. Parker called on his men for "increased effort and determination to finish off the job you have started so well".



Above: The regimental mascot rests next to his handler during the parade.

Right: The commanding officer of the 1st Battalion RLI, Lt-Col. David Parker, inspects his troops.



A proud moment during the parade as the Regimental Colour is marched on.



Old soldier plan: Government is going ahead with a possible land settlement scheme for ex-servicemen, and consideration is now at the point of establishing the numbers and needs of servicemen retiring from the security forces as a basis for deciding their eligibility to take part.

Whites must play the larger role in country's administration

White Rhodesians must play the greater — not the exclusive role — in the administration of the country's affairs in the interests of all its people for the foreseeable future, said Senator Sam Whaley, addressing the Institute of Architects. "The time is now for all people of all groups to rally and say so". He stressed there must be no hand over of civilized society to the uninitiated just because "they are more numerous on the ground".

"I believe with conviction in the preservation of the civilization created here in 1890."

"The fact that there was a large measure of freedom here in Rhodesia was acknowledged to him recently by a friend of liberal persuasion and consistently and unrepentantly opposed to the Rhodesian Front Government.

"He said to me proudly that he had been invited to speak at a public function in a northern country. I said this would present him with a golden opportunity to be as critical of that Government as he was of the Rhodesian Government.

"'Oh no,' he replied, 'I can't do that. Rhodesia you see, is still for me a land of free speech'."

This and other freedoms, said Senator Whaley, are worth keeping.

"So are many other aspects of our civilization. Quality of administration by an impartial Civil Service; incorruptibility of the Civil Service; impartial administration of the rule of law; experience and capacity to manage a miniature but nevertheless sophisticated economy, including highly sophisticated money markets.

Grave doubts

"All these things," he stressed, "must not be handed over *holus bolus* and weakly to the uninitiated simply because they are more numerous on ground."

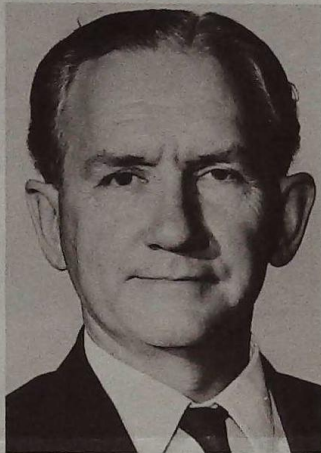
Senator Whaley said he has grave doubts about the efficacy of democracy today in any event and especially so in a multi-racial state.

"Ideally it is necessary, in my view, to devise a system of government that will vest power of government of Rhodesia in responsible and experienced hands.

"Those who administer and direct the government and civic affairs of our land must be qualified and experienced to do so, in keeping with the needs of modern civilization.

"Only the culture of the whites meets these requirements."

Earlier in his speech, Senator Whaley said he is strenuously



Senator Sam Whaley.

"We are not made of sugar candy"

In the course of his address to the Institute of Architects, Senator Whaley appealed for the same courage today as was shown in the pioneering days of Rhodesia when the "first chill winds of adversity" blew.

Quoting Sir Winston Churchill, "We have not journeyed all this way—across mountains, across deserts, across seas, and across centuries—because we are made of sugar candy", Senator Whaley said, "The same can be said, and I'm sure must be said, in public about modern Rhodesians."

opposed to "Zimbabwe" as the name for the country. "It is too closely identified with ruins. I am satisfied with 'Rhodesia' as a name and especially so because it is a link with the founder of modern civilized Rhodesia."

Tremendous task of education in all fields

The task of educating people of all races to lead fuller and happier lives was tremendous, and growing every year, Mrs. Janet Smith, the Prime Minister's wife, said at the golden jubilee lunch of the Women's Institute in Bulawayo.

"The whites have not only to teach the whites but to train black educators who in turn must disseminate the knowledge to a far wider field than is being done at present," she said.

Guidance needed

Although the Blacks' Homecraft Clubs at the W.I. had grown over the years, so had the black population. Mrs. Smith asked if these were reaching a larger proportion of women in need of guidance.

The W.I. was stressing the need for replacing felled trees 40 years ago, but only now had Rhodesia



Mrs. Janet Smith.

made a positive step towards this by declaring 1975 The Year of the Tree.

At the organization's first congress in 1927, the unsuitability of films shown to children was discussed.

"I wonder if the terrorism and violence so prevalent in the world today could be attributed to the publicity, glamorization and recognition given to mere murderous thugs and thieves," said Mrs. Smith.

Budgets

"Budgeting successfully is essential to everyone's happiness. Even if it is not possible for the W.I. to reach young people it should instil in parents the need to train their young to budget correctly."

The high divorce rate in Rhodesia may stem partly from lack of education in this field, she suggested.

Venue for live theatre of which country can be proud

Rhodesia's newest and biggest theatre, the Rainbow 7Arts, was officially opened by the Prime Minister, Mr. Ian Smith, and heralds a new era for live theatre here.

Built at a cost of nearly R.\$1 million in Avondale, Salisbury, the theatre is capable of accommodating any size or type of production staged elsewhere on the African continent. Seating over 800 people in luxurious comfort, expense has not been spared to ensure the best possible facilities for both patrons and performers.

In 1969, Mr. Jimmy Pereira, managing director of the Rainbow organization, decided to investigate the possibility of adding a live theatre to the chain of cinemas run by his company.

After studying the needs of Rhodesian entertainment he engaged an architect and structural and acoustic engineers to travel abroad and study the requirements for a truly top-class theatre.



Plans were duly drawn up and construction began in 1973. Through close co-operation and careful planning construction was completed in a remarkably short period and the end result is something which every Rhodesian can take pride in because everything in the theatre has been made locally.

Considering the requirements of a modern theatre, this is no mean feat. Even the lighting equipment has been locally designed and manufactured to exacting specifica-

tions. Decor, finish and fittings are of a quality equal to that found in any other theatre in the world today.

Artistic Director Geoffrey Atkins believes that this theatre must rank as second only to the Nico Malan complex in Cape Town in the continent.

It is his task to ensure a continuous flow of top-class entertainment of every type and size. The 7Arts is capable of accommodating any size or type of production

including ice-shows, drama, ballet and variety spectacles.

The stage is very large, measuring over 12 m square with a height of 6 m and wings of half that size on each side.

The orchestra pit will accommodate up to 40 musicians and 30 fly lines make allowance for the most complicated sets.

A revolving stage permits even greater use to be made of the already more than adequate performing area.

A chance to live and work without fear

Tiros Gomwe paused in his work of hoeing between the rows of his healthy tobacco plants in a protected village in Rhodesia's Chiweshe Tribal Trust Land and grinned broadly.

"We have had good rains and my crops are doing well," he said. Tiros has good reason to be pleased with life in Chiweshe. He has eight acres of land planted with maize, cotton and tobacco. Last year he collected 40 bags of maize an acre.

Like most of the other tribesmen, Tiros is still cultivating his original land. But now he and his fellow villagers are safe from the terrorists' threats of murder, maiming, rape, robbery and subversion.

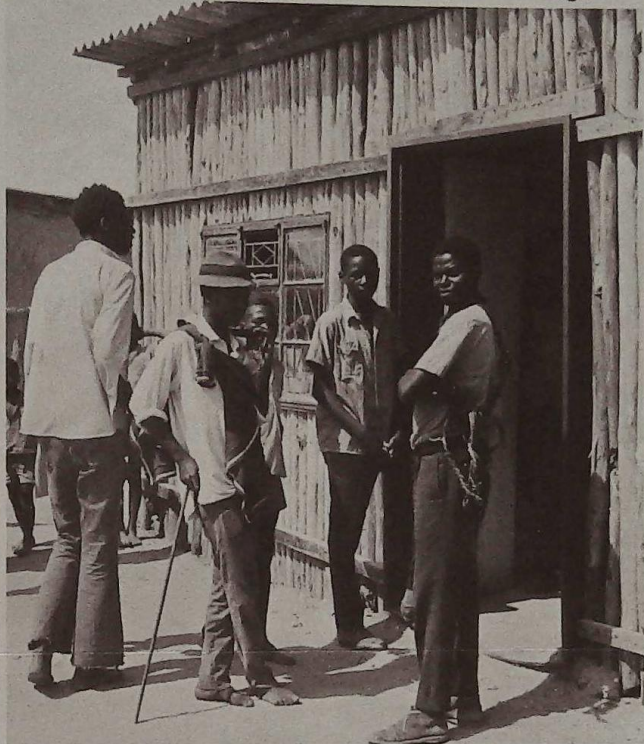
Not the only ones

And the farmers are not the only ones in Chiweshe to make progress. It is four-and-a-half months since the protected villages were started, and business is getting well under way, with co-operatives, stores and the modern facilities needed in large population centres.

In the southern area, terrorist leader Solomon Hokoko was killed by security forces on October 3. There have been no known terrorist incursions in the area since.

A psychological victory against terrorism was also won. Hokoko had been giving away goods to the tribesmen as "presents" from the

Work can wait for a while as these Africans have a chat outside a store in a protected village.



terrorists — proceeds of terrorist crimes of violence.

Now District Commissioner Bill Johnstone has to try to convince the tribesmen it was wrong to accept that stolen property.

"Tomorrow they would still accept it, but in a few years' time they won't," he says. "I have to prove to these people that my ideas are better than those of the terrorists."

And their new way of life really is better. The concentration of these 43 000 people into the protected villages — the biggest has a 5 300 population, and the smallest 1 300 — has created conditions which will accelerate the progress of the tribesmen.

Security of tenure

With steady progress Bill Johnstone expects the protected villages to form the basis of a new way of life for blacks throughout rural Rhodesia. It is hoped to declare some of the villages townships, to give the tribesmen security of tenure, probably for 30 or 40 years.



Tiros Gomwe and his family tend their fine tobacco crop.



Fashion designers abroad are interested

In the picture on the right Mrs. Janet Smith, wife of the Prime Minister, is seen (second from the left) with, on her left, Mrs. Helen Lindsey of the United States during a visit to the Harari Weaving Centre where black women make hand-woven and hand-printed dresses and fabrics which are attracting the attention of fashion designers abroad.

In the picture above a mannequin parade is in progress.

Mrs. Lindsey and Mrs. Smith admired the intricately woven materials which each worker at the centre makes under the guidance of Mrs. Janet Carson, head of the voluntary enterprise.

Mrs. Lindsey of Kansas City, Missouri, said she is very interested in African handiwork and what she had seen in Salisbury was "superb".

She came to Rhodesia with her husband, Mr. E. T. Lindsey who is president of the largest co-operative in America, Farmland Industries,



which is also said to be the biggest organization of its kind in the world.

Mr. Lindsey was the guest speaker at a national field day at Gwebi College of Agriculture under the aegis of the Cotton Co-op.

Aim is to make speedway racing more international

The controllers of speedway and stock car racing in Bulawayo and Salisbury, Allied Speedway (Pvt.) Ltd., has sold its Rhodesian interests for an undisclosed amount to a Bulawayo-based group.

The men behind the take-over are former Bulawayo racing driver and city car dealer Colin Underwood, British speedway rider Malcolm Brown, who rode in Rhodesia in the 1971-72 season, and Ian Hos-

kins, a speedway and stock car promoter in Britain since 1946.

Mr. Underwood, who holds 51 per cent. of the shares in the take-over, said yesterday that the first meeting under the new management would be held at the Showgrounds, Bulawayo, on March 22.

The new promoters plan to make speedway racing more international than in recent years.

Air rally popular

The dates for the 1975 Round-Rhodesia Air Rally have been brought forward one day to start on June 11.

The change was necessary to provide hotel rooms for an unexpected rush of entrants for the three-day rally.

The Clerk of the Course said so far he had received 150 replies from interested pilots, including many from South Africa.

The rally will start from Bulawayo on June 11 and cover 700 nautical miles, taking in some of the country's top tourist resorts.

New generation must save resources

The present generation were perhaps too old to learn about the protection of all types of resources and the Government would have to concentrate on the new generation, said the Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, Mr. Mark Partidge, speaking on the Parks and Wild Life Bill.

The Minister said he accepted that the public by and large was uneducated, as shown by the state of land in the tribal areas.

The Bill includes provisions to stop the destruction of royal game and specially protected indigenous plants.

70% of settlers from U.K.

Seven out of 10 of people who emigrated to Rhodesia last year on assisted passages came from Britain, said the Minister of Information, Immigration and Tourism, Mr. Wickus de Kock.

Of this total 1 716 came from the U.K. and Eire.

From Australia came 4 per cent., Greece 3 per cent., Belgium, New Zealand, Italy, the United States and Portugal 2 per cent. each and from other countries 13 per cent.

All persons resident abroad, with certain exceptions related to territories in southern Africa or adjacent to Rhodesia, could apply for assistance towards their passage costs.

Conditions

The conditions for applications were a permanent residence permit, acceptable skills or other attributes, and a capability of being placed in employment or making a worthwhile contribution to the national wealth.

Generally, the scheme did not apply to people emigrating from South Africa, Zambia, Malawi Botswana, the former High Commission Territories in southern Africa and Mozambique.

There was no means test as such, or as related to a new settler's possible earnings or the capital to be imported.

On merits

"However, all applications are examined on their merits and in relation to the skills and contributions to be offered to Rhodesia."

Returning residents who had been absent from Rhodesia for more than seven years could apply for assisted passages.

Mr. de Kock said he was examining a reduction of the absence provision.

If the attendant administrative difficulties could be overcome, he would consider introducing it.

He said: "Even if a change is decided upon in due course, I consider it would be unreasonable to bring the period of absence below three years, and strict conditions would have to be applied."

Domicile status

Native Rhodesians had the right to return to Rhodesia at any time and required no residence permits.

(Continued in next column)



Churchill award winner

The Minister of Finance, Sen. John Wrathall, congratulating Shirley Cole, of Queen Elizabeth School, on being awarded the Sir Winston Churchill Memorial Scholarship. Looking on are two applicants, Elizabeth van der Valk and Robert Goldin.

The Sir Winston Churchill Memorial Scholarship is awarded each year at the discretion of the trustees.

It is valued at R.\$1 200 a year for a minimum of three years and is tenable at university.

Any Rhodesian citizen between 17 and 21 years and with two A-levels may apply.

This year 141 applications were made.

Girl mariner: Seventeen-year-old Fiona Millar, of Salisbury, has become the first woman to be accepted as a navigation officer by the British merchant marine. Much of her school life was spent at Ripon Grammar School in England until in 1969 she came to Rhodesia to join her parents.

(Continued from previous column)

Returning residents could lose their domicile status if they departed with the intention to establish domicile in another country, or if they were absent from Rhodesia for a continuous period of seven years.

Fresh applications for immigrant status would be then required.

Mr. de Kock said an immigrant was deemed to have earned domicile status after a continuous period of two years' lawful residence.

Record farm sales

Rhodesian agriculture achieved a record rate of growth last year with sales of principal crops and livestock jumping 34.5 per cent, to a record R.\$284.4m.

Year-end economic indicators published by the Central Statistical Office show that the value of farm sales has more than doubled since 1969. The value of sales by whites rose 32.1 per cent. last year to R.\$257.8m. and of production by blacks more than 64 per cent. to R.\$26.6m.

Major role of insurance

Insurance in Rhodesia is operated by 69 direct insurers, seven reinsurers and 25 brokers, and assets at the end of 1973 stood at R.\$286 700 000.

On this basis, the insurance industry ranks with the commercial banks (assets R.\$400 700 000) accepting houses (assets R.\$206 300 000), building societies (assets R.\$300 800 000) and is way ahead of the Post Office Savings Bank (assets R.\$108 million).

FROM THE SCRIPTURES

He that walketh uprightly walketh surely. (Proverbs 10 v 9.)

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Need never be a world without timber

Rhodesia plants three new pine trees for each one chopped down, said Mr. David Pilborough, manager of the Timber Promotion Council.

The more softwood Rhodesia sells, the more money there will be to plant new forests to ensure that there would be sufficient supplies of softwoods in the year 2000.

"Each tree planted now will not be utilized until the end of the century.

"Wood is a renewable resource and can be regenerated over and over again. The best way to get money for this regeneration is from

the timber industry itself," he said.

To protect the indigenous hardwood forests from being used for fuel and building by the Africans in the Tribal Trust Lands, eucalyptus trees were being planted.

The Timber Promotion Council gave a service to the public by advising people on the best uses of timber and promoting the industry.

The city of Bulawayo has one of the country's most beautiful parks and here in this picture rustic bridge, stream, a variety of trees, shrubs and sward blend in lovely harmony.

"We hope to spread information and increase the efficiency with which timber is used.

"Properly managed, there need never be a world without timber."

Published by the Rhodesian Ministry of Information, Immigration and Tourism, P.O. Box 8232, Causeway, Salisbury, Rhodesia, for distribution at home and abroad. Printed by the Government Printer, P.O. Box 8062, Causeway, Salisbury.

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