


Bantu Men's
Social Centre

ANNUAL
REPORT

1939




G. M. Horne (Pty.) Ltd.
1940

Bantu Men's Social Centre

PATRON IN CHIEF :

His Excellency The Governor-General of the Union of South Africa,
The Right Honourable Sir Patrick Duncan, G.C.M.G., K.C.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE :

President :

Rev. Ray E. Phillips, Ph.D.

Vice-Presidents :

Mr. H. Britten,

Dr. A. B. Xuma, M.D., D.P.H.

Hon. Treasurer :

Mr. J. Montague Pim.

Secretary :

Mr. J. R. Rathebe.

Assistant Secretary :

Mr. J. G. Malie.

Physical Director :

Mr. A. P. Khutlang.

Members :

Mr. W. G. Ballinger, Mr. P. J. Bennett, Mr. A. Bovet, Mr. D. M. Denalane, Councillor A. Immink, Senator the Hon. J. D. Rheinallt Jones, Mr. G. R. Kuzwayo, Mr. B. W. Martin, Mr. F. J. S. Modibedi, Mr. Griffiths Motsieloa, Mr. S. P. Mqubuli, Mr. L. M. Povall, Mr. P. W. Rezant, Mr. S. G. Senoane, Rev. Dr. J. Dexter Taylor, Mr. D. R. Twala.

TRUSTEES :

Rev. F. B. Bridgman, D.D. (Deceased, 1925).

Mr. H. M. Taberer (Deceased, 1932).

Mr. Howard Pim, M.A., C.B.E. (Deceased, 1934).

Mr. Walter Webber.

Rev. Dexter Taylor, D.D.

Prof. R. F. A. Hoernlé, B.Sc., M.A.

Bantu Men's Social Centre.

ANNUAL REPORT.

The year under review has been a year of real usefulness to Bantu men in the City of Johannesburg. There is no other organisation which serves the African people in the same manner and to the same extent as does the Bantu Men's Social Centre. It is, in a real sense, the hub and centre for Interdenominational, Civic, Educational, Cultural, Fraternal and Recreational activities among Africans. The steps of the buildings are worn from the tread of men and boys of every educational group, and of no education. Within its walls interracial meetings and conferences are held. Those who have invested in the building can rest assured that their investment has justified itself in service to the thousands of men and boys who here receive cordial good fellowship and enjoy the many facilities provided.

MEMBERSHIP.

We are glad to be able to report an improvement in the membership in the Centre. The following figures reflect the progress made during the year:—

<i>Year.</i>	<i>On Roll.</i>	<i>Active.</i>	<i>Juniors.</i>
1938	507	327	4
1939	530	435	14

This shows an increase of 108 over last year's Active Membership. One pleasing feature is the increase in Junior Membership, which, it is hoped, will continue to grow.

As in previous years we wish, for the sake of those wishing to take out memberships for themselves, or their servants, to publish the following classes of memberships for African men: (a) Life Membership—Fee £5; (b) Ordinary Membership—Fee 10s. per annum; (c) Country Membership—(those men and boys living outside the Magisterial District of Johannesburg)—Fee 5s; (d) Junior Membership (*bona fide* Scholars attending an approved school or college)—Fee

2s. 6d. per annum. African men or boys visiting Johannesburg for short periods become Visiting Members on payment of 1s., which entitles them to a month's membership.

DEATH.

Death, during the year, removed from our midst two of our members in the persons of the late Mr. Ben Motsoeneng and the late Mr. Max "Lucky" Tale. Mr. Motsoeneng, an old resident of Johannesburg, was among the most highly respected of our African manhood, and we are indeed sorry to lose so valuable a member. Then, more recently, we had the misfortune of losing Mr. Tale, who was also very highly respected by the young fellows, among whom he worked. Mr. Tale was a keen sportsman. We herewith offer to their respective families our sincerest sympathy with them in their bereavement.

RESIGNATION.

During the year the Centre lost the services of Mr. Emmanuel E. Lithebe, who had been acting in the capacity of Assistant Secretary for nearly four years, and, during the absence of the Secretary overseas, as Acting Secretary. The members of the Centre extend to Mr. Lithebe their wishes for success in another sphere of usefulness.

Rev. J. DEXTER TAYLOR.

We were glad to welcome back the Rev. James Dexter Taylor from America. During his absence from Johannesburg he had attended the World Missionary Conference in India. We wish him many more years of active service in Johannesburg.

Mr. A. P. KHUTLANG.

On the return of Mr. J. R. Rathebe, our Secretary, from overseas, with new inspiration and fresh plans for the work, it was felt that re-organisation of the work of the building should be undertaken. It was decided that a full-time Physical Director should be employed to supervise and direct the work in the gymnasium and on the tennis courts. After due advertising for applicants, the choice fell upon Mr. A. P. Khutlang, who has served the Centre in various capacities in the past. He has been cordially welcomed by the members, and already the physical work of the Centre has shown new life under his direction.

Mr. J. G. MALIE.

A further change was made in the employing of Mr. J. G. Malie to the position of Assistant Secretary. He has already demonstrated his ability to handle the work of the office, and, after a six months' probation has been made a permanent member of the staff.

EDUCATIONAL CLASSES.

In collaboration with the Methodist African Men's Institute Night School under the principalship of Mr. D. S. Kekane, we are happy to announce the continuation of the following educational classes: At the Methodist Men's Institute for beginners up to standard six (inclusive); at the Bantu Men's Social Centre, J.C. and Matriculation classes. Both schools are conducted by a staff of qualified teachers, and members wishing to take advantage of these classes are requested to communicate with either Mr. D. S. Kekane at the African Men's Institute, 2 Village Road, or with the Secretaries at the Centre.

St. JOHN AMBULANCE BRIGADE (1st BANTU).

The above Brigade, which started its activities at the Bantu Men's Social Centre, and was very largely responsible for the very keen interest taken in First Aid work among Africans in Johannesburg has found it necessary to change its Headquarters from the Centre to more commodious rooms at the offices of the Municipal Native Affairs Department. We wish the Brigade continued success.

THE MUNICIPAL LIBRARY.

For nearly eight years the Centre has been one of the branches of the Carnegie Non-European Library, receiving supplies of books from the distributing centre at Germiston, which reaches some ninety centres in the Transvaal. Since the middle of December, 1939, however, the first Non-European library to be initiated and staffed by the Johannesburg Municipal Public Library has been offering a free service to members and non-members from its well-stocked shelves at the Centre. Some two hundred readers have already availed themselves of the opportunity to loan books from the library, and to consult the many newspapers, and periodicals on file. We would express our gratitude to Mr. R. F. Kennedy, the City Librarian and the City Council, for providing this fine service.

THE GAMMA SIGMA CLUB.

The work of the Gamma Sigma Clubs has grown extensively and now twenty Clubs are active on the Witwatersrand.

During the year our Club was addressed by the following : Mr. C. Opper (Director of Education and Recreation, Northern Rhodesia), Mr. A. Lynn Saffery (Secretary, S.A. Institute of Race Relations) and Rev. Ray E. Phillips (Organiser, Gamma Sigma Clubs). The Club also debated with the following : Orlando Gamma Sigma Club, Nigel Gamma Sigma Club, Randfontein Gamma Sigma Club, The Indian Cultural Society, and the Witwatersrand University Bantu Studies Circle. Members of the Club addressed the students of St. John's College and the Executive Committee of the Rosebank Branch of Toc H.

We here have to thank our Chairman, the Rev. S. S. Tema and Mr. A. T. Habedi, B.A. (Secretary) for the deep interest they have shown in the Club.

The first initiation ceremony of members of the Club was inaugurated at a "Pow-wow" held at the Centre in December, 1939, giving all Gamma Sigma members that sense of belonging which seemed the one thing needed to consolidate the membership.

In this connection mention should be made of the fillip to debating on the Reef provided by the presentation to the Gamma Sigma Clubs of a fine floating trophy by the *Umteteli wa Bantu*. The Gamma Sigma Clubs are looking forward with interest to annual competitions for possession of this symbol of excellence in the debating field.

BOXING.

The Transvaal Non-European Amateur Boxing Association held several Boxing Tournaments during the year at which our boys gave a very good account of themselves. At the Transvaal Championships held in September, 1939, two of our boys, Messrs. A. and D. Symons, captured the light and welter-weight championships of the Transvaal, respectively.

We would remind members that we owe a debt of gratitude to Mr. John Bullard, Chairman of the Non-European Amateur Boxing Association, for his help in organising that body and extending its work along the Reef and to Witbank and Pretoria. Unfortunately Mr. Bullard and his wife have had to return to England. We wish them every success in their new field of work.

THE EISTEDDFOD AND MUSICAL COMPETITIONS.

Again this year, as last, these two competitions, the Transvaal African Eisteddfod, organised by Mr. Mark S. Radebe, and the Transvaal African Teachers' Association Musical Competition, organised by the Teachers' Association, held their competitions at the Bantu Men's Social Centre. They drew thousands of competitors and spectators from all the Reef towns and from Witbank and Pretoria. The competitions were keen and the organisers are to be congratulated on their fine work.

THE BANTU DRAMATIC AND OPERATIC SOCIETY.

The Bantu Dramatic and Operatic Society was active during the year, producing the plays "Moshoeshe" and "Ruby and Frank." Both these plays were written and produced by Mr. H. I. E. Dhloho. The Centre once more placed a room at the disposal of the Society for the preparation of these plays.

TENNIS

It is gratifying here again to report progress in this section of the Centre's activities. The Centre played several teams from outside and proved themselves as invincible as ever. On several occasions our members were called upon to play Exhibition Matches when Non-European Tennis Courts were opened. On a few occasions our men were called upon to show their form against local European Champions and gave a good account of themselves. For all this we owe a debt of gratitude to this year's Tennis Committee: Messrs. S. H. Msweli, *Captain*; Mr. Daniel Makoe, *Vice-Captain*; Matthew Kambule, *Secretary*; Messrs. Hoosen Jajbhay, G. B. Xorile, Albert J. Mosala, Mr. A. P. Khutlang, *Physical Director*—(*Committee members*).

We congratulate Mr. Hoosen Jajbhay for winning the Men's Singles Trophy and Mr. Jajbhay and Mr. C. Du Preez for winning the Men's Doubles Trophy.

BILLIARDS.

The Bantu Men's Social Centre Social Room is equipped with a full-size billiard table. Billiards is played all the year round. The men always participate in this recreational feature when they have from fifteen minutes to an hour at their disposal. They enjoy the fine fellowship and excellent contact in the social room of the B.M.S.C. Chess, Draughts and Dominoes, provide mental development as well as recreation.

VOLLEY BALL.

Volley Ball has proved a very popular physical activity for our men. This activity brings together daily about twenty men. Other indoor games played are Badminton, Hand Ball, Basket Ball and Ping-pong.

Two tournaments were held during the year in these various games in which there were a good number of entries in each section. We are glad here to congratulate the following on winning championships: Messrs. Hoosen Jajbhay (ping-pong), S. H. Msweli (billiards), David Mashupe (chess), Z. Mzila (draughts) and Messrs. J. R. Mofokeng and S. R. Makhutso (badminton doubles).

GUEST NIGHTS.

Guest nights at the centre have, as usual, proved a popular feature. The Secretaries get inquiries from members weeks ahead, and members wishing to acquaint visitors with the social life of the Africans in the City invite them to Guest Night. At these functions Secretaries have always tried to cater to the tastes of the entire membership. The programme is generally a varied one consisting of community singing, indoor sports games, cinema exhibitions and lectures. These nights could never have been the success they were without the co-operation of such orchestras as "The Merry Blackbirds," "The Jazz Maniacs," "The Rhythm Hot Shots"; such singing companies as "The Darktown Orpheums," the "Swing Time Trotters" and "The Ink Spots," and last, but not least, the Rev. Ray E. Phillips for ever ready help, and the African Consolidated Films, Ltd., and Transvaal Chamber of Mines for providing the films and operators. To all these the Centre is most grateful.

THE LIGHTHOME BEQUEST.

During the year the Bantu Men's Social Centre received a substantial gift in the form of a bequest from the estate of the late Mrs. M. C. Lighthome of Johannesburg. This bequest was inspired by the faithful service of an African servant over a period of forty years. It is intended for increasing the effectiveness of the plant now in use and for extension work into communities as yet not provided with activities of a type provided by the Centre. The Executive Committee has now under consideration several schemes for utilising this fund for the greatest good of the African community.

FINANCIAL.

The attention of members and friends of the Bantu Men's Social Centre is drawn to the Balance Sheet and Statement of Accounts at the end of this Report. It will be seen that there is a considerable loss on the year's activities due to employment of additional staff and the extension of programme. Membership fees are increasing at a commendable rate, but subscriptions and donations have fallen off slightly. It is hoped that friends of the institution will continue their loyal support and enlist the support of others as well, so that the work of this unique and valuable social organisation shall not be hampered through lack of funds.

GENERAL.

As in past years, and more so this year, the Centre has been looked upon as the place where gatherings of various kinds for Africans are most popularly held. During the year the following organisations held meetings at the Centre: The Transvaal African Teachers' Association (Rand Branch), The Transvaal Inter-Denominational African Ministers' Association, Regional Meetings of the African Representative Council, the Bakgatla Association, the Bakgatla Band, Tiger Kloof Old Students' Association, Rand African Students' League, Continuation Committee on African Juvenile Delinquency, Joint Council of Europeans and Africans, the Wilberforce Alumni Association, the Sons of Basutoland, the "Jazz Maniacs," "The Merry Blackbirds," the Transvaal Society for the Care of Non-European Blind (sub-Committee), the African Laundry Workers' Union, the Tin Workers' Union, the Dairy Workers' Union and many others. The Centre throughout the year had a constant stream

of men passing in and out of it. The mid-day meals have proved a boon to the men, and over twelve thousand meals were served during the year. The Visitors' Book as usual shows hundreds of signatures.

THANKS.

We would here like to express our gratitude individually to our many European and African friends for the ready help they have given us during the year ; but space does not permit. We are, however, bound to say a special "Thank you" to the firm of Messrs. Howard Pim and Hardy, which, through Mr. J. Montague Pim, our Honorary Treasurer, have given the Centre many hours of unstinted service in looking after its finances.

RAY E. PHILLIPS, *Chairman.*

J. RICHARD RATHEBE, *Secretary.*

Bantu Men's

Dr. EXPENDITURE AND REVENUE ACCOUNT

To Salaries and Wages	... ..	£654 8 0
„ Water, Light and Sanitary Fees	... ..	181 17 2
„ Games	... ..	118 8 1
„ Insurance	... ..	33 19 9
„ Clerical Assistance	... ..	59 1 3
„ Postage, Stationery, Telephones, Bank Charges and Sundry Expenses	... ..	347 18 2
„ Depreciation of Furniture and Equipment	... ..	122 2 10

£1,517 15 3

Social Centre.

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1939.

Cr.

By	Membership Fees	...	...	£186	0	6
„	Subscriptions and Donations	...	...	447	10	2
„	Native Recruiting Corporation Ltd.			300	0	0
„	Board of Control—Deferred Pay					
	Interest Fund—Grant	...	...	50	0	0
„	Sundry Revenue	...	...	167	3	6
	Hire of Hall	...	...	£165	18	6
	Locker Rents	...	...	1	5	0
„	Profits on Kitchen and Catering—					
	Revenue	...	...	806	12	11
	Less Expenditure	...	...	791	7	8
					15	5
„	Interest Received	...	...		5	6
„	Balance —Excess of Expenditure					
	over Revenue, transferred to					
	Accumulated Funds	...	...	304	10	4
				<u>£1,517</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>3</u>

Bantu Men's

Registered under Charitable

Dr.

BALANCE SHEET

To Creditors		£113 8 8
„ Library Deposits		2 13 6
„ Legacy —Estate of the Late M. C. Lighthome (see Annual Report)	7,057 15 8	
Add Interest received	75 0 0	
		7,132 15 8
„ Accumulated Funds —		
Balance 31st December, 1938	7,770 16 5	
Add Transfer from Building Fund	134 13 4	
		7,905 9 9
Deduct Balance of Expenditure and Revenue Account ...	304 10 4	
		7,600 19 5
„ Building Fund —		
Balance as at 31st December, 1938	850 0 0	
Deduct Cost of Stage Curtains and of Furniture and Equipment for Library	134 13 4	
		715 6 8
		£15,565 3 11

Johannesburg,
24th January, 1940.

Social Centre.

Institutions (Control) Ordinance, 1926.

31st DECEMBER, 1939.

Cr.

By Buildings				£7,125	19	10
„ Furniture and Equipment—						
Balance 31st December, 1938	310	0	0			
Add Additions during year ...	292	2	10			
	602	2	10			
Less Depreciation	122	2	10			
				480	0	0
„ Municipal Deposits				29	0	0
„ Investments re Legacy— at par—						
£125 Municipality of Johannes-						
burg 5 per cent. Local Regis-						
tered Stock, 1945/55 ...	125	0	0			
60 5% Paid-up Permanent						
Shares of £50 each of the						
Alliance Building Society ...	3,000	0	0			
				3,125	0	0
„ Building Fund Investment—						
at par—						
£625 Town Council of Johannes-						
burg 5 per cent. Local In-						
scribed Stock, 1948/58 ...				625	0	0
„ Debtors and Kitchen Stock ...				55	2	5
„ Cash—						
At Bank	305	10	1			
St. Andrew's Building Society—						
Current Account	3,819	9	6			
On Hand	0	2	1			
				4,125	1	8
				£15,565	3	11

Certified Correct.

J. MONTAGUE PIM,
Hon. Treasurer.

Collection Number: A1058

Collection Name: Bantu Men's Social Centre, Records, 1923-1975

PUBLISHER:

Publisher: Historical Papers Research Archive, University of the Witwatersrand

Location: Johannesburg

©2017

LEGAL NOTICES:

Copyright Notice:

All materials on the Historical Papers website are protected by South African copyright law and may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, displayed, or otherwise published in any format, without the prior written permission of the copyright owner.

Disclaimer and Terms of Use:

Provided that you maintain all copyright and other notices contained therein, you may download material (one machine readable copy and one print copy per page) for your personal and/or educational non-commercial use only.

People using these records relating to the archives of the Historical Papers Research Archive, at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, are reminded that such records sometimes contain material which is uncorroborated, inaccurate, distorted or untrue. While these digital records are true facsimiles of paper documents and the information contained herein is obtained from sources believed to be accurate and reliable, Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand has not independently verified their content. Consequently, the University is not responsible for any errors or omissions and excludes any and all liability for any errors in or omissions from the information on the website or any related information on third party websites accessible from this website.