

Bantu Men's
Social Centre

ANNUAL
REPORT

1938



G. M. Horns (Pty.) Ltd.
1939

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Bantu Men's Social Centre

PATRON IN CHIEF :

His Excellency The Governor-General,
The Right Honourable Sir Patrick Duncan, G.C.M.G., K.C.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE :

President :

Rev. Ray E. Phillips, Ph.D.

Vice-Presidents :

Mr. W. G. Ballinger, Mr. S. P. Mqubuli, Mr. H. Britten,
Mr. D. M. Denalane.

Hon. Treasurer :

Mr. J. Montague Pim.

Secretary :

Mr. J. R. Rathebe (on furlough).

Acting Secretary :

Mr. Emmanuel E. Lithebe.

Members :

Councillor A. Immink, Mr. P. J. Bennett, Rev. S. S. Tema, Mr. S. G. Senaoane, Mr. B. W. Martin, Mr. F. J. S. Modibedi, Mr. J. C. P. Mavimbela, Senator the Hon. J. D. Rheinallt-Jones, Mr. D. R. Twala, Rev. R. Mackintosh (resigned), Mr. L. M. Povall, Dr. J. Dexter Taylor, (on furlough), Mr. Peter W. Rezant, Mr. A. Bovet, Mr. Griffiths Motsieloa.

TRUSTEES :

Rev. Dr. F. B. Bridgman, D.D. (Deceased, 1925).
Mr. H. M. Taberer (Deceased, 1932).
Mr. J. Howard Pim, M.A., C.B.E. (Deceased, 1934).
Mr. Walter Webber.
Rev. Dr. J. Dexter Taylor, D.D.
Prof. R. F. A. Hoernle, M.A., B.Sc.

Bantu Men's Social Centre.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1938.

The return of Mr. J. Richard Rathebe, our esteemed Secretary, from eighteen months' study in the United States of America, has already made itself felt. From the added knowledge which he bears upon his work among us, great improvements are expected to follow. We regret that the site on which the Bantu Men's Social Centre is situated does not make extensive additions to the building possible in order that it might serve as a better medium for the exercise of his new knowledge of social methods. In welcoming him back to sunny South Africa we feel confident that, in the spirit and letter of our motto, we will grow "Stronger in Body, Mind, Spirit and Character" even more than heretofore.

MEMBERSHIP.

There was a considerable drop in the membership during the past year as the following table shows. The Acting Secretary, Mr. Emmanuel E. Lithebe, carried on the work of the Centre single-handed after the resignation of Mr. Peter S. M. Dabula in April, 1938. We hope, however, that with better transport and the restoration of the staff to its normal strength, previous records will be surpassed in the coming year.

		<i>On Roll.</i>	<i>Active.</i>	<i>Junior.</i>
1936	...	584	468	—
1937	...	777	386	3
1938	...	507	327	4

It may be pointed out that there are four classes of membership for African men: (a) Life Membership—Fees £5; (b) Ordinary Membership—10s. per annum; (c) Country Membership—5s. per annum; and (d) Junior Membership—2s. 6d. per annum.

Country membership is open to persons who reside outside the magisterial area of Johannesburg, and Junior membership to *bona fide* scholars. Africans visiting Johannesburg may become visiting members on payment of 1s. per month.

“ B.M.S.C. FOUNDERS’ DAY.”

Our Founders’ Day, until recently called Bridgman Memorial Day, was once more an impressive occasion and afforded another opportunity to count ourselves immeasurably favoured in the lives of the men who made possible for our African people, the Bantu Men’s Social Centre.

Rev. Dr. J. DEXTER TAYLOR AND Rev. S. S. TEMA.

The Centre during the year was honoured in the election of two of the members Rev. S. S. Tema and Rev. Dr. J. Dexter Taylor to attend the World Missionary Conference in India. Dr. Taylor, a former Chairman of the B.M.S.C., goes on from that Conference to America on furlough, after an eleven years’ term. Those of us who know the amount of work the Dr. put in during this term can truly say: “ Well done thou faithful servant; enjoy a well-earned rest.” Rev. Tema returns to South Africa with new ideas and a wider horizon.

NIGHT SCHOOL.

Apart from the Witwatersrand Technical College classes for the Royal Sanitary Inspectors’ Diploma, no night school work has been carried on at the Club since the last quarter of 1938. The removal of the Standard IV, V and VI classes from the Centre followed upon the head teacher’s (Mr. D. Samuel Kekane) complaint and the strictures of the Education Department Inspectors that the present accommodation was inadequate and that the Club premises were noisy and did not permit of uninterrupted conduct of classes. These are now housed at the Albert Street Methodist School.

Dr. A. B. XUMA.

Dr. A. B. Xuma, Vice-Chairman of the Centre for many years, returned in October after a year’s study at the University of London, where he successfully completed the requirements for the degree of D.P.H. (Doctor of Public Health). Dr. Xuma is the first African doctor to thus qualify. Since returning he

has been appointed Medical Officer of Health for Alexander Township again. We of the Centre have good reason to be proud of him.

St. JOHN AMBULANCE BRIGADE (1st BANTU).

The 1st Bantu Division of the St. John Ambulance Brigade has met once a week in the Bantu Men's Social Centre Hall. There has been an increase in membership for the year bringing the total to 30. During the year the members attended 577 cases. Their duties took them to almost every Bantu football field in the City and townships, and to the Central and Mayfair Fire Stations at week-ends and holidays.

The annual inspection was held on the 11th of December on the Wemmer grounds. In spite of the cold weather there was a turnout of just over 200.

The Johannesburg Municipality has realised the value of first aid work and have made it a condition of employment in the City Engineering Department.

CARNEGIE LENDING LIBRARY.

The books supplied by the Carnegie Lending Library are reaching an eager circle of readers, which would probably expand but for the limited number of books available. Present conditions in the Library Room—our lounge—hardly make for concentrative reading. The lounge contains also the billiards and ping-pong tables, so that the opportunity for digesting and assimilating what is read is reduced by the noise inevitably associated with these games. If one of the rooms upstairs, formerly used for night classes could be suitably furnished for library purposes, there is every reason to believe that such facilities would be greatly appreciated by our members.

GAMMA SIGMA CLUB.

Renewed activity and new life have been infused into the Gamma Sigma Club movement. Rev. Ray E. Phillips, Ph.D., our Chairman, is the moving spirit behind the interesting and educative programmes which were put across this year. It is especially noteworthy that more people have been enthused with the ideas of practical service which the Gamma Sigma Club offers.

BOXING.

The Transvaal Non-European Amateur Boxing Association has had a very successful year. A number of tournaments were staged. To the credit of the Social Centre and of Mr. Khutlang, who has been acting as trainer, most of the laurels went to Club members. We are also indebted to Mr. J. Bullard and his associates through whose efforts the Boxing Association has been put back on "our map."

TRANSVAAL AFRICAN EISTEDDFOD.

Mr. Mark S. Radebe, Organising Secretary, and his Committee are to be congratulated on the success which attended the Transvaal African Eisteddfod this year. This year's competitions were keenly contested in all sections.

TRANSVAAL AFRICAN TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION MUSIC COMPETITIONS.

The Transvaal African Teachers' Association (Rand Branch) Musical competitions were again well patronised.

THE TRANSVAAL ASSOCIATION OF BOYS' CLUBS. (African Voluntary Leaders Circle.)

We have again to record a good year of progress by this group which has met each Monday evening under the efficient leadership of Mr. Fred Thabede.

A well known visitor from England said at a recent display, that he had never seen a fitter nor better trained team of leaders.

We must record our gratification at the return of Mr. J. R. Rathebe, the ever-popular Chairman of the A.V.L.C., from his study tour of England and America. Mr. Rathebe knows full well that the standards of Boys' Club work overseas still set the pace for the younger movement in South Africa. With a realisation of the possibilities of such work, Mr. Rathebe was prompt to congratulate Mr. Fred Thabede upon his appointment as a full-time Bantu Assistant for Bantu Affairs to Mr. John Bullard, the Organiser of the S.A.A.B.C.

BANTU DRAMATIC SOCIETY.

During the course of this year an interesting development took place. The members of the Bantu Dramatic Society re-organised themselves into an African Dramatic League, whose primary object is to encourage indigenous African drama

by playing plays written and produced by Africans themselves. It is the aim of the Society to launch a scheme for the establishment of an African National Theatre in which African art may be developed and where African dramatic, musical and operative talent may be developed and encouraged. The members have decided to produce the play "Moshoeshoe," rehearsals to begin in January, 1939.

TENNIS.

Our tennis section has been very busy again this year. Local tournaments and inter-club matches were played with the usual keenness and enthusiasm. The committee sponsored a trip to Bloemfontein, where the section played against the Bantu Social Institute. The Tennis Section Committee this year is as follows: Mr. Daniel M. Denalane (Chairman), Mr. S. H. Msweli (Captain); Mr. Daniel Makoe (Vice-Captain); Messrs. Hoosen Jajbhay, James Albert Mosala, Isaac Makoe (Committee Members).

Our thanks are due to the Transvaal Chamber of Mines for the floating trophies which they have undertaken to provide. Again this year we congratulate Mr. Hoosen Jajbhay for winning outright the "Jajbhay Bros. Men's Singles Trophy," and also Mr. Jajbhay and Mr. Cecil du Preez for winning the Men's Doubles Trophy. Members of the B.M.S.C. Tennis Section namely, Messrs. Hoosen Jajbhay, Cecil du Preez, Raphael Molefe and Good B. Xorile, played at the South African Open Championships. The first two named were winners of the trophy for the Men's Doubles and Messrs. Raphael Molefe and Sikakani were the runners-up in the Men's Doubles. Messrs. Good B. Xorile and Hoosen Jajbhay were the finalists of the singles.

INDOOR GAMES.

Billiards, ping-pong, draughts, badminton and chess have received their full share of our members' time and attention. Billiards and ping-pong continue, however, to dominate the daily indoor programme. Interest in chess and "4, 5, 6 Pick-Up-Sticks"—a Continental game—has been growing from day to day, and we believe will eventually eclipse the older established indoor games.

GUEST NIGHT.

With Dr. Ray E. Phillips again taking charge Guest Nights have once more come to be looked forward to with real interest by both our members and their friends. We are sure that Mr. Rathebe will make these Guest Nights more interesting than they have ever been before. Interesting programmes which included community singing, talkies, games and demonstrations have been arranged.

GENERAL.

The Centre has had a busy year. As in previous years the need for decent lodging accommodation for educated African men was seriously felt, but lack of suitable buildings has made it impossible to meet the need. The Centre is being increasingly utilised for wedding receptions. It is the venue of many important gatherings, amongst which were the following: The Johannesburg Bakgatla Association; The Transvaal Interdenominational Ministers' Association; The All-African Convention (Executive Committee); The Transvaal African Teachers' Association; The South African Students Association; The St. Matthews Old Students Union; The Wilberforce Alumnus Club; The Johannesburg Joint Council of Europeans and Africans; The Paladins; The Cricket Board; The St. John Ambulance Brigade 5th Division (1st Bantu); The African Mine Clerks Association; The Sons of Basutoland; the South African Association of Boys' Clubs; The Bakgatla Band; The Merry Black Birds Orchestra Band; The Jazz Maniacs Band; and other organisations. The visitors' book shows nearly three hundred signatures.

THANKS.

To our European and non-European friends who have made it possible for us to carry on our work successfully for the past year we wish to extend our sincere thanks. We would mention especially Messrs. Howard Pim & Hardy, who, through Mr. J. Montague Pim our esteemed Hon. Treasurer, have given the Centre most valuable assistance in the care of the Centre's finances.

RAY E. PHILLIPS, *President.*

EMMANUEL E. LETHEBE, *Acting Secretary.*

GUEST NIGHT.

With Dr. Ray E. Phillips again taking charge Guest Nights have once more come to be looked forward to with real interest by both our members and their friends. We are sure that Mr. Rathbone will make these Guest Nights more interesting than they have ever been before. Interesting programmes which included community singing, films, games and demonstrations have been arranged.

Bantu Men's

GENERAL

Dr. EXPENDITURE AND REVENUE ACCOUNT

To Salaries and Wages		£521 6 9
„ Water, Light and Sanitary Fees ...		149 12 9
„ Games		72 8 10
„ Insurance		34 0 2
„ Clerical Assistance		53 18 1
„ Postage, Stationery, Telephones, Bank Charges and Sundry Ex- penses		466 4 6
„ Loss on Kitchen and Catering— Expenditure	£850 12 9	
Less Revenue	806 6 11	
		44 5 10
„ Depreciation of Furniture and Equipment		78 13 9
		£1,420 10 8

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RAY E. PHILLIPS, *President.*

EMMANUEL E. LETHÈRE, *Acting Secretary.*

Social Centre.

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1938.

Cr.

By Membership Fees	£157 2 6
„ Subscriptions and Donations	453 15 0
„ Native Recruiting Corporation Ltd.	300 0 0
„ Board of Control—Deferred Pay	
Interest Fund—Grant	75 0 0
„ Sundry Revenue	117 10 8
Hire of Hall	£116 18 2
Locker Rents	0 12 6
„ Interest Received	50 5 10
„ Balance —Excess of Expenditure over Revenue, transferred to Accumulated Funds	266 16 8
	<u>£1,420 10 8</u>

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SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS.

African Consolidated Films, Ltd.	£26	5	0
<i>Less</i> —Handed over to Bantu Sports Club and Pathfinders	17	10	0
			£8 15 0
African Explosives and Industries, Ltd.	25	0	0
African Guarantee and Indemnity Co., Ltd.	1	1	0
Aiken and Carter, Alex.	10	0	0
Anglo-American Corporation of South Africa, Ltd. ...	10	10	0
Anglo-Transvaal Consolidated Investment Co., Ltd. ...	5	5	0
Anstey and Co., Norman	2	2	0
Barker, A. E.	1	1	0
Barnato Group of Mines	25	0	0
Barrow (Pty.), Ltd., John	1	1	0
Bilbrough, S. B.	2	2	0
British Insulated Cables (S.A.), Ltd.	2	2	0
Brick and Potteries Co., Ltd.	2	2	0
Castle Wine and Brandy Co., Ltd.	1	1	0
Central Mining—Rand Mines Group	50	0	0
Central News Agency, Ltd.	5	0	0
Cleghorn's	1	1	0
Cotts and Co. (S.A.), Ltd., Mitchell	1	1	0
Currie, Ltd., Richard R.	1	1	0
Denver Machinery Co., Ltd.	1	1	0
Dunlop Rubber Co. (S.A.), Ltd.	1	1	0

Evans & Co., Herbert	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	0
Fraser and Chalmers (S.A.), Ltd.	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	0
Gemmill, W.	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	0
General Mining and Finance Corporation, Ltd.	...	...	...	...	...	15	0	0
Green and Morrison, Ltd., E. K.	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	0
Griffin, T. F.	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	0
Hayman, Godfrey and Sanderson	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	0
Henwood, Son, Soutter and Co.	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	0
Hillman Bros., Ltd.	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	0
Hunt, Leuchars and Hepburn, Ltd.	...	...	...	...	...	5	5	0
Johannesburg, City Council of	...	...	...	...	...	25	0	0
Johannesburg Bantu Football Association	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	0
Johannesburg Consolidated Investment Co., Ltd.	...	...	...	...	...	25	0	0
Jooste and Bryant, Ltd.	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	0
Karp, Estate late Charles	...	...	...	...	...	25	0	0
Machine Tools (Pty.), Ltd.	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	0
Mackenzie, Geo.	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	0
McGregor and Co., Helen	...	...	...	...	...	0	10	0
New Consolidated Goldfields, Ltd.	...	...	...	...	...	20	0	0
Phoenix Assurance Co., Ltd.	...	...	...	...	...	11	17	11
Prices (S.A.), Ltd.	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	0
Pim and Hardy, Howard, Clerical Assistance	...	...	...	...	...	53	18	1
Ramsbottom, Mr. Justice W. H.	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	0
Rand Daily Mails, Ltd.	...	...	...	...	...	5	0	0
Rand Provident Building Society	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	0
Randles, Bro. and Hudson, Ltd.	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	0
Shell Company of South Africa, Ltd.	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	0

Sive Bros. and Karnovsky, Ltd.	1	1	0
Smith, James	5	0	0
Solomon, Mr. Justice Saul	3	3	0
South African and General Investment and Trust Co., Ltd.	1	1	0
South British Insurance Co., Ltd.	2	2	0
"Star," The	5	5	0
Stewarts and Lloyds of South Africa, Ltd.	2	2	0
Stevenson, J. H.	4	4	0
Stokes, F. A.	2	2	0
Stock Exchange, Members of	7	7	0
Stuttaford and Co., Ltd.	2	2	0
"Sunday Times" Syndicate, Ltd.	5	0	0
Thompson (Pty.), Ltd., James	1	1	0
Thrupp and Co.	1	1	0
Troughton, J. J.	1	1	0
Union Corporation, Ltd.	25	0	0
Union Flour Mills, Ltd.	1	1	0
Victoria Falls and Transvaal Power Co., Ltd.	15	0	0

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