

813

BANTU MEN'S SOCIAL CENTRE.

P.O.Box 4767,

223, Eloff Street,

JOHANNESBURG.

JOHANNESBURG.

-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.-

1. Mr H. Britten.
2. Mr S.P. Mqubuli.

-HONORARY TREASURER-

Mr James Montague Pim.

-SECRETARY-

Mr J.R. Rathebe (on service with the Y.M.C.A.)

-ACTING SECRETARY-

Mr Julius G. Malie.

-ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY-

Mr Theodore B. Mdaniso.

-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
L.C. Koza, Mr E.W. Lowe, Mr Griffiths Motsieloa, Mr A.K. Nobanda,
Mr L.M. Povall, Mr S.G. Senoane, Mr C.N. Setlogelo, Rev. James
Dexter Taylor, Mr G. Xorile, Dr A.B. Xuma.

-TRUSTEES-

- (1) Mr Walter Webber
- (2) Rev. James Dexter Taylor, D.D.,
- (3) Professor R.F.A. Hoernle, M.A., B.Sc. (Oxon.)

-FORMER TRUSTEES-

- (1) Rev. F.B. Bridgman, D.D. (Deceased)
- (2) Mr H.M. Taberer (Deceased)
- (3) Mr Howard Pim, M.A., C.B.E. (Deceased).

-ANNUAL REPORT-

-1941-

It was under the clouds of war that we presented our last report/..

report. To-day those dark clouds are raining destruction over the world. We consider ourselves fortunate to have lived through another year of war.

In our report for the year 1940 we mentioned that a number of our members had joined the army and others were doing war work under the Y.M.C.A. At the present time there are nearly two hundred members of the Bantu Men's Social Centre in uniform. We are proud of them and wish them every success.

-THE LIGHTHOME BEQUEST-

Sometime during the year 1938 the Bantu Men's Social Centre was notified by the Attorneys of the late Mrs Lighthome that an amount of £7,200 had been left to the Institution. Much discussion has taken place as to the best possible way of spending the money. In April, 1941 the Committee decided to spend part of the fund on extensions and improvements to the building. These improvements which were undertaken at a cost of over £4,000 were completed in October, 1941. As a result, the Centre is to-day more attractive and a good deal more comfortable. The improvements include a new floor in the hall, a ceiling, a larger stage with dressing rooms fitted with hot and cold water. A new block has been added--three residential rooms, a bathroom and lavatory. In the old days the interior quadrangle was open at the top and on rainy days the place was wet. The top has now been covered with glass. The Billiards Table will shortly be placed in this quadrangle, thus making more space available for social purposes in the club room. The provision of the ceiling has considerably improved the acoustic properties of the hall. This is an improvement for which artists and audiences are equally grateful.

RE-OPENING OF BANTU MEN'S SOCIAL CENTRE HALL.

During the time that alterations were in progress, the hall was not used. It was re-opened on the 6th October, 1941 with a concert and dance, one of the most successful entertainments ever held here from the point of view of attendance and takings.

-THE B.M.S.C. AS A CENTRE OF AFRICAN CULTURAL LIFE-

By reason of its situation--in the very centre of the city--the B.M.S.C. has always been the most convenient place for holding meetings of organisations. The following held meetings and other functions during the year:-

The African Tin Workers Union, African Furniture Workers Union, African Iron and Steel Workers Union, African Metal Workers Union, African Commercial Workers Union, African Laundry Workers Union, African Trade Union Co-ordinating Committee, African Inter-denominational Ministers Association, Joint Council of Africans and Europeans, Jazz Maniacs Band, Merry Black Birds Band, Transvaal African National Congress, Transvaal Bantu Cricket Union, National Council of African Women, Daughters of Africa Association, Ohlange School Choir, Talitha Home, Transvaal African Teachers Association.

-OUR CONTRIBUTION TO THE WAR EFFORT.-

The first contribution to the war effort by the B.M.S.C. was to release for Y.M.C.A. work the services of the Secretary, Mr J.R. Rathebe. Mr Rathebe is Associate Director of Y.M.C.A. Non-European War Services. Many of our members have followed Mr Rathebe as Y.M.C.A. workers, whilst others "joined up". Many of these fine men are "Up North" and not a few have, from time to time, appeared on the Roll of Honour. We are proud of them.

On the Home Front we are doing all we can to entertain
African/...

African soldiers who are off for their week-ends. Some time during the year, the Y.M.C.A. applied to the Executive Committee of the Centre for permission to use the building as a Soldiers Club on Saturday nights. This was agreed to. At first the response was poor; but lately the numbers have increased, the attendance varying from fifty to one hundred and fifty. On these occasions a bioscope show is provided free of charge. The assistance of African Clergymen from the African Inter-denominational Ministers Association in holding a Sunday morning service is much appreciated.

-GAMES-

The activities of the B.M.S.C. are largely confined to games. There are a large variety of these, and members find them engrossing. The unabated interest which they show leads us to believe that we are succeeding in our task to help divert the thoughts and energies of the men from unhealthy pursuits. Occasional competitions have been held during the year in all games and the standard has been very high.

BILLIARDS:

Of all indoor games at the Centre the game of Billiards claims a larger number of players than any other. Many members have acquired considerable skill. New champions are always appearing on the Billiards horizon.

BASKET BALL:

The revival on interest in Basket Ball which had ceased to be a B.M.S.C. activity was brought about by the students of the Jan H. Hofmeyr School of Social Work. A few challenge matches were played between the Centre and the school.

BOXING AND PHYSICAL CULTURE CLASSES:

Boxing and Physical Culture Classes have continued with notable success, under the direction of our Physical Director. Nearly every night of the week these classes are held. The attendance has been satisfactory. At first it was the junior members who took particular interest in these classes; but lately a few of the adult members have taken part. It is to be regretted that no Boxing Tournaments could be arranged for the boys who have so painstakingly kept up their training.. On Guest Nights, whenever possible, some of the boys have given demonstrations. As a further means to keep the interest of the boys lessons were given by some of the students of the Hofmeyr School of Social Work in modelling aeroplanes.

CHESS:

The numbers of accomplished Chess players have risen. Because there are only a few players no organised matches were played during the year.

DRAUGHTS:

There has been a great deal of Draughts playing this year. The Witwatersrand Bantu Draughts Association, with headquarters at the Centre has organised a number of tournaments. Entrants have come from all over the Reef, particularly from the mines. The standard of play has never failed to impress and the keenness shown is remarkable.

The first tournament was played at the B.M.S.C. on August 10th. There were thirty-six entrants and the tournament lasted for two days. The winner was Mr D. Gosani with Mr W. Ximiya as runner-up. Another competition was for the second division, the winner of which was Mr Siyama. In the tournament for the first Division played on November, 15th Mr V. Ntshingila of Pimville won. Mr Ximiya was again runner-up. Two trophies were offered by the Johannesburg Y.M.C.A. for these tournaments. One need hardly say how much of an encouragement these trophies were.

VOLLEY BALL:

Ever since its first appearance on the sports programme of the Centre, Volley Ball has been the game of old and young. At Guest Nights demonstrations have been held.

TENNIS:

Due to alterations at the Centre it was not possible to make use of our tennis courts for three or four months. The Centre accepted two challenges; one from the Free State Lawn Tennis Association and another from the Rand African Students Association. The tennis courts were then used for the first time on Boxing Day. The results showed that even with four months lack of practice our members could still play a good game of tennis. Both the Free Staters and the students were beaten. The Free State club was the guest of the Centre for two days. During this visit the E.M.S.C. was a hive of activity. Many people came to watch the matches. A farewell supper was given in honour of the visitors, at which Dr Moroka, Mr Crutse and the Acting Secretary of the E.M.S.C. spoke. Notable was the appeal which speakers made for more regular inter-provincial and inter-club visits which, they said, would give the different clubs an opportunity of learning from each other.

-GAMMA SIGMA CLUBS-

The Gamma Sigma Club organisation continued its activities during the year and the inter-club debating contests for the Umteteli Debating Trophy were as keen as in the previous year. The subject chosen for debate for the year was the much discussed question of lobola. It was "Resolved that Lobola be Limited by Legislation to ten Head of Cattle, or £50". The Central Gamma Sigma Club took part in the debate. In all the contests leading up to the finals, the Central Gamma Sigma Club won, beating, in the process, the Germiston Gamma Sigma Club, the Van Ryn Deep Club, the Nigel Club, the E.R.P.M. Club and, in the finals, the Wolhuter Y.M.C.A. Thus the Central Club became the winner of the trophy for the year 1941. Mr P.J.Bennett of the Chamber of Mines, in presenting the trophy to the winners commented on the excellence of the debaters on both sides, and expressed the desire that these annual contests would continue to take place. Debaters for the Central Gamma Sigma Club were Mr Congress Mbata, Mr J.G.Malie, Miss V.Dzivane and Mr S.Msimang. They did a fine piece of work and we congratulate them.

In addition to these debating contests, the club kept up its regular programme. There were lectures and debates with groups other than the Gamma Sigma Clubs. On the 28th May Lt/Col. R.F.A.Hoernle lectured on "The African and the Present War." Other speakers were Mr W.G.Ballinger who spoke on "The World in Travail." A debate was held against the Theological students of the St. Peter's School, Rosettenville, when the subject for debate was; "Resolved that the time has come when all matters affecting Africans should be managed by Africans."

-LIBRARY-

Now in its second year, the Municipal Non-European Library, Bantu Men's Social Centre, at the end of 1941 had a total active membership of 367. Of these the majority were Africans.

MEMBERSHIP OF RACIAL GROUPS.

	<u>AFRICANS</u>	<u>COLOUREDS</u>	<u>INDIANS</u>	<u>CHINESE</u>
Males	213	17	8	1
Females	25	1		
Boys	16	43	32	1
Girls	9	1		

The library is free to all Non-Europeans and is gradually becoming a study centre for all

Students of the Hofmeyr School of Social Work use the library reading in sociology, economics, psychology etc. Recently, the University of the Witwatersrand put this library on its mailing list.

In our last report we expressed the hope that the Municipality would extend the library services to the locations. Since then we are glad to say, a new library has been put up at the Western Native Township in memory of the late Miss Winifred Holtby.

-THE JAN H. HOFMEYR SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK-

The first year of the existence of the Jan H. Hofmeyr School of Social Work has passed with gratifying results. The school enters into its second year still meeting under the roof of the Bantu Men's Social Centre. It gives us a great deal of pleasure to have the school in our building because its presence has strengthened the educational side of our work. The students have rendered a great deal of assistance to the Centre, taking an active interest in social sporting, social and other activities. All the male students of the school are members of the Centre. The students have their mid-day meal at the Centre. There is not the least doubt that when the students have completed their course which is very extensive, they will find occupations where they will be very much needed. Municipalities are clamouring for trained social workers.

-MEMBERSHIP-

We have already stated that many of our members have joined the army. For that reason we could not expect as many renewals as usual. We are glad to say however, that we had more members in 1941 than we had in the previous year. The figures given below will serve to show the fluctuation of membership in the last two years.

YEAR	OR ROLL	ACTIVE	JUNIOR	LIFE
1940	542	321	35	3
1941	709	389	28	4

The number of junior members has decreased; but we are expecting an improvement during the coming year.

TYPES OF MEMBERSHIP:

The B.M.S.C. offers four types of membership

They are:-

- (a) Life Membership £5
- (b) Ordinary Membership 10/- (those living within (the Magisterial (district of Johannes- (burg.
- (c) Country Membership 5/- (those living out- (side the Magisterial (district of Johannes- (burg.
- (d) Junior Membership (Scholars attending (recognised schools (and colleges.

In addition to the above, people visiting Johannesburg for short periods may become members for one month on payment of 1/- During the year under review, there were many of these.

THANKS

A word of thanks goes to our Hon. Treasurer, Mr James Montague Pim for his untiring assistance to the Centre in spite of many demands on his time due to the depletion of the staff of Messrs Howard Pim and Hardy.

BANTU MEN'S SOCIAL CENTRE.

1941.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS.

African Consolidated Films, Ltd.	226. 5. 0.	
Less Handed over to Bantu Sports Club and Pathfinders	<u>17.10. 0.</u>	8.15. 0.
African Explosives and Industries, Ltd.		25. 0. 0.
African Guarantee and Indemnity Co. Ltd.		1. 1. 0.
African Metal Trade Union		10. 0. 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, Limited, Norman		2. 2. 0.
Barrow (Pty) Limited, John		1. 1. 0.
Brick and Potteries Company, Ltd.		2. 2. 0.
Britten, H.		1. 1. 0.
Castle Wine and Brandy Company, Ltd.		1. 1. 0.
Central Mining - Rand Mines Group		50. 0. 0.
Central News Agency, Ltd.		5. 0. 0.
Cleghorn's		1. 1. 0.
Connolly Limited, T. & F.		1. 1. 0.
Denver Machinery Company, Ltd.		1. 1. 0.
Dunlop South Africa, Ltd.		1. 1. 0.
Evans & Company, Herbert		2. 2. 0.
Fraser & Chalmers (S.A.) Ltd.		2. 3. 0.
General Mining and Finance Corporation, Ltd.		15. 0. 0.
Green and Morison, Ltd., E.K.		1. 1. 0.
Griffin, T.F.		1. 1. 0.
Hayman, Godfrey and Sanderson		1. 1. 0.
Henwood, Son, Soutter and Co., P.		2. 2. 0.
Hillman Bros., Ltd.		1. 1. 0.
Hunt, Lauchars and Hepburn, Ltd.		5. 5. 0.
Johannesburg, City Council of		75. 0. 0.
Johannesburg Consolidated Investment Co. Ltd. (Barnato) Group of Mines		50. 0. 0.
Jooste and Bryant, Ltd.		2. 2. 0.
Letimela, I.		1. 0. 0.
Liddle (Pty) Ltd., Joseph		1. 1. 0.
Machine Tools (Pty) Ltd.		1. 1. 0.
Mackenzie, Geo.		1. 1. 0.
New Consolidated Goldfields, Ltd.		20. 0. 0.
Phoenix Assurance Company, Ltd.		4.12.11.
Prices (S.A.) Limited		1. 1. 0.
Pim & Hardy, Howard - Clerical Assistance		44. 1. 3.
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.
Sabie, Maurice		5. 0. 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		5. 3. 0.
South British Insurance Co. Ltd.		2. 2. 0.
Star, The		5. 5. 0.
Stewarts and Lloyds of South Africa, Ltd.		2. 2. 0.
Stuttaford and Company, Ltd.		2. 2. 0.
Sunday Times Syndicate, Ltd.		5. 0. 0.
Tabata, I.B.		2. 6. 0.
Thompson (Pty) Ltd., James		1. 1. 0.
Thrupp and Company		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 Company, Ltd.		<u>15. 0. 0.</u>

£438.19. 8.

BANTU MEN'S SOCIAL CENTRE

<u>DR.</u>	<u>EXPENDITURE AND REVENUE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 1941.</u>	<u>CR.</u>
To Salaries and Wages	1055.16. 0.	
<u>Less</u> Contribution by Y.M.C.A. - Too H. War Work Fund towards Salary of J.R. Rathebe (On Active Service)	<u>180. 0. 0.</u> 875.16. 0.	
" Water, Light and Sanitary Fees	174. 8.11.	
" Games	87. 7. 9.	
" Insurance	35.13. 4.	
" Clerical Assistance	44. 1. 3.	
" Postage, Stationery, Telephones, Bank Charges and Sundry Expenses	372.12. 5.	
" Travelling Expenses re Membership	3. 1.10.	
" Loss on Function - Founders Day	9. 0.	
" Depreciation of Furniture and Equipment	109. 0. 1.	
	<u>£1702.10. 7.</u>	
		By Membership Fees
		181. 2. 6.
		" Subscriptions and Donations
		438.19. 8.
		" Native Recruiting Corporation Limited
		300. 0. 0.
		" Board of Control - Deferred Pay Interest Fund - Grant
		50. 0. 0.
		" Sundry Revenue:
		Hire of Hall
		113. 8. 3.
		Sports Fund
		<u>40. 0. 0.</u>
		153. 8. 3.
		" Interest Received
		3. 2.
		Interest Received per Lighthouse Bequest
		<u>143. 6. 7.</u>
		143. 9. 9.
		" Profit on Kitchen and Catering:
		Revenue
		990.18. 1.
		<u>Less Expenditure</u>
		<u>912. 2. 5.</u>
		78.15. 8.
		" Balance - Excess of Expenditure over Revenue for the year transferred to Accumulated Funds
		<u>356.14. 9.</u>
		<u>£1702.10. 7.</u>

BANTU MEN'S SOCIAL CENTRE

BALANCE SHEET - 31ST DECEMBER 1941.

CREDITORS

Sundry 227.12. 0.
Contractor and Architect 1287.10. 0. 1515. 2. 0.

LIBRARY DEPOSITS 2.13. 6.

SPORTS FUND 89. 6. 2.

LEGACY - Estate of the late
M.C. Lighthome.

Balance as at 31st
December 1940 7291.17.11.
Add Interest Received 286.13. 2.
7578.11. 1.

Less Expenditure on Buildings
and Equipment during 1941,
transferred to Accumula-
ted Funds 4736.16. 8.
One half Interest received
(1941) transferred to
Revenue 143. 6. 7.
4880. 3. 3. 2698. 7.10.

ACCUMULATED FUNDS

Balance as at 31st December
1940 7810. 0. 1.
Add Transferred from Legacy -
M.C. Lighthome 4736.16. 8.
12546.16. 9.
Less Balance of Expenditure
and Revenue Account 356.14. 9. 12190. 2. 0.

£16495.11. 6.

BUILDINGS

Balance as at 31st December 1940 7125.19.10.
Additions during 1941 4633. 6. 2. 11759. 6. 0.

FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT

Balance as at 31st December 1940 420. 0. 0.
Additions during 1941 126. 0. 1.
546. 0. 1.
Less Depreciation 109. 0. 1. 437. 0. 0.

MUNICIPAL DEPOSITS 29. 0. 0.

INVESTMENTS RE LEGACY - at par

£125 Municipality of Johannesburg
5% Local Registered Stock
1945/55 125. 0. 0.
£625 Town Council of Johannesburg
5% Local Inscribed Stock 1948/58 625. 0. 0.
30 5% Paid up Permanent Shares of
£50 each of the Alliance
Building Society 1500. 0. 0. 2250. 0. 0.

DEBTORS AND KITCHEN STOCK 52. 0.11.

CASH

Standard Bank of South Africa Ltd. 1793. 6. 2.
St. Andrew's Building Society -
Current Account 166.10.10.
On Hand 8. 7. 7. 1968. 4. 7.

£16495.11. 6.

Certified Correct.

Johannesburg.

10th March, 1942.

J. Montague Pim.

Hon. Treasurer.

FORM OF BEQUEST.

I do hereby bequeath by way of legacy to the BANTU MEN'S SOCIAL CENTRE, Johannesburg, the sum of £....., which amount I direct shall be paid to such Institution

or

"for such purpose or purposes as the Executive Committee thereof may in its discretion decide."

Signature.....

Date.....

As Witnesses:-

1.....

2.....

FORM OF BEQUEST.

I do hereby bequeath by way of legacy to the BANTU MEN'S SOCIAL CENTRE, Johannesburg, the sum of £....., which amount I direct shall be paid to such Institution

or

"for such purpose or purposes as the Executive Committee thereof may in its discretion decide."

Signature.....

Date.....

As Witnesses:-

1.....

2.....

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.