Dup





# RHODES NEWSLETTER

# Organ of the Old Rhodian Union RHODES UNIVERSITY GRAHAMSTOWN

VOL. 2

JULY, 1961

No. 2

# **EDITORIAL**

THINGS have continued to happen at a fast rate since the last issue of the Newsletter. The New Library building is now in full swing and has gained some notoriety for the banning of stiletto heels! A new addition to Kaif, on a site commanding an excellent view of the sports fields, is also in use, and the maintenance workshop and laundry block is a going concern. We shall shortly have to bring out a new map of Rhodes to acquaint long absentees with the new developments, though we would much rather have a visit from you and show you round personally. A large new wing for Olive Schreiner House is complete and a new sanatorium is going up behind Oriel House as a preliminary to the conversion of the old one to a women's residence. Academic buildings under consideration include an adequate Chemistry block, an Administration block and extra accommodation for Physics and Pharmacy. The latter department has continued to grow apace and is now second only to Chemistry in the number of its third year students. Add to this the inauguration of the new division of the University in Port Elizabeth, reported in this issue by the Dean of Studies there, Prof. M. N. S. Immelman, and you have an impressive record of achievement. Prof. Immelman, by the way, is no stranger to Rhodes, having lectured in Physics here during the late 1920's.

Of course, all this costs money and members of the Union, among others, will soon be hearing of the appeal for funds for development which is currently under way. So, all you Old Rhodians who are proud of your Alma Mater, remember the priceless education you received here and join with all of us in establishing the future of our university on a solid financial foundation.

J.A.G.

# **OBITUARIES**

# DR. S. W. WATSON.

OLD RHODIANS everywhere will learn with deep regret of the passing of Dr. S. W. Watson. For more than 36 years he was a member of the Physics Department staff, first as Lecturer and later as Senior Lecturer. Physics students will remember his gentle, kindly nature, his willingness to help with a difficulty and to discuss a problem, and his insistence on neatness and order in the laboratory. Those who studied under his guidance have carried these precepts far beyond the bounds of Rhodes, so that his influence lives on in the laboratories of our universities and industrial organizations. Like most pioneers, he had little opportunity for research in his homeland. He did, however, make important contributions to the study of radioactivity while working under Rutherford at the Cavendish Laboratory, Cambridge, when he was awarded an 1851 Scholarship in the early 1930's.

Dr. Watson served in the first world war and he became the Commanding Officer of the Rhodes Battery during the second, with the rank of Captain. He was for some time after the war a warden, and here he applied his energy and attention to detail no less than in the Physics laboratory. His success at golf, too, was attributed by many to his analytical, physical approach. With his passing we have lost one of the founders of South African physics. We tender our sympathy to Mrs. Watson and his daughters in their loss. His name and his teaching will live on for many years to come, whenever Rhodians talk of the old days.

J.A.G.

# MRS. HARVEY.

MAY HARVEY was born, was schooled, and spent the whole of her life, in Grahamstown. She was Miss May Thomas of the old Post Office Cafe when in 1924 Sandy Morris, Chairman of the S.R.C., approached her to ask whether she would be willing to serve teas in the Junior Common Room in the mornings and the afternoons. She readily agreed and for some years ran both the P.O. Cafe and Kaif. It is interesting to recall the prices in those early days—tea for twopence and a cake for a penny. It was a great day for Mrs. Harvey when in 1940 Kaif moved to Selwyn Castle (previously the Railway Orphanage). Though she missed the old place she was grateful for the more commodious quarters and the better facilities in the new. She retired at the end of 1952 after nearly thirty years' service to Rhodes and Rhodians. It was only on doctor's orders that she was ever away from Kaif during that period. She always felt guilty of a dereliction of duty in respect of an enforced absence for two years after the war.

About three years ago the voice of Mrs. Harvey was heard by Old Rhodians all over Southern Africa in a radio programme, Portrait of a University. Nervously and with tears in her eyes, she told some of her reminiscenses. More recently she was interviewed by a reporter from The Rhodeo and many of her most cherished memories have therefore been recorded in permanent form. She told of her troubles over credit and from burglaries. She often thought of giving up in despair. One memorable night in 1934 when it seemed that owing to frequent burglaries Kaif was doomed she decided to close down. She stayed at home. Trilby Freakes and Ralph Blakeway decided that Rhodes could not exist without Mrs. Harvey and they rattled along to her house in an old Ford car. The humour of the situation was too much for her. She returned with them in triumph, sitting in the one respectable seat. That night Freakes and Blakeway slept in Kaif in the hope of catching the burglars. Their vigil was in vain but three days later the thieves were caught and Kaif entered on a new lease of life. She recalled too the war-time dances in Kaif to the music of a gramophone—tickets 6d. single, 1/- double.

Her three sons were, besides Rhodes, the pride of her life. The eldest studied medicine at U.C.T. and is now practising in Port Elizabeth. The next is in the Bechuanaland Police Force, and the youngest, Patrick, had the B.A. degree conferred on him at the 1958 graduation ceremony and is teaching in Durban. Bernard, the doctor, was on the U.C.T. S.R.C., and his mother, who knew all about S.R.C.'s, was especially proud of him. All three sons were at her funeral.

Mrs. Harvey had a much larger family than that. She regarded all Rhodians as her sons and daughters. She would hear no ill of any of them and always maintained that there was no such thing as a bad Rhodian. With the possible exceptions of Professor Bowles and Major Walker, no one has had her memory for names and faces. Rhodians treated her as a personal friend and for years after they had left used to keep her informed of their movements. It was with a real sense of personal loss that Old Rhodians heard of her passing on the third of September last year. She did not forget and she will not be forgotten.

H.H.C.

# RHODES UNIVERSITY, PORT ELIZABETH

ON February 25th this year, Sir Basil Schonland, F.R.S., Chancellor of Rhodes University, officially opened what is now known as Rhodes University, Port Elizabeth.

The provision of University facilities in Port Elizabeth thus became an established fact after many months of negotiation between the University, the City Council and various other groups and individuals in Port Elizabeth. This step is undoubtedly of tremendous importance to the city and will also benefit the University.

This new Division will be controlled by the Senate and Council of the University in Grahamstown. Its future development and expansion is therefore in the hands of the University and will depend largely on the support, financial and otherwise, which it will receive from the citizens of Port Elizabeth.

The City Council of Port Elizabeth made the initial move by inviting Rhodes to consider the possibility of providing higher educational facilities in Port Elizabeth. The University was offered land and a grant of R200,000 payable over a period of 10 years.

The University agreed, and took the necessary steps to obtain government approval for extending the University to Port Elizabeth.

To get the new venture started, the old Museum buildings in Bird Street were bought and altered to suit the requirements of the University.

There are at present 130 students enrolled for the Bachelor of Commerce degree and the Certificate in the Theory of Accountancy. A few students have also entered for the B.A. degree by selecting four subjects already offered for the B.Com. degree.

It is hoped that by 1962 it will be possible to offer a wider range of subjects and this no doubt will attract a considerable number of new students.

If and when the buildings now available become too small and inadequate, the University can make use of approximately 500 acres of land at Driftsands, granted to it by the City Council, and this will prove an ideal University site.

It is impossible to predict the future of this new extension without committing the Senate and Council of Rhodes University, but present indications are that it will be well supported by the public of Port Elizabeth, and the City Council is certainly very interested in its progress.

# OLD RHODIAN UNION BURSARIES, GRANTS AND PRIZES

THE Silver Jubilee Bursary for 1961 has been awarded to B. T. Smith, both of whose parents are Old Rhodians (Tyler Smith and Irmela Brune), and the Golden Jubilee Bursary to N. D. Schaefer, who has previously received special grants from the Union and has done very well. Special grants this year were made to P. M. Hughes, G. Newman and R. T. McGeoch. The Lilian Britten Memorial Prize was awarded to R. Southgate, who obtained first class passes in Botany III and Chemistry III last year.

# OLD RHODIAN TIE.

THE design of the Old Rhodian tie was finally settled last year, as statues of "Physical Energy" on a navy blue background, with a diagonal silver stripe (the latter distinguishing it from the Athletic Union's Honours Tie). It is available from Messrs. T. Birch and Co. and from Messrs. Hewitt and Palmer, Grahamstown. Incidentally, a new Rhodes tie, replacing the old purple and white one, has Rhodes shields on a navy blue ground.

Hugh Chapman, Dean of Students at Rhodes, is anxious to have information on Rhodes blazers, ties, etc., particularly during the early days of Rhodes. He would like to know:

- (a) what blazers, ties, headdress were worn in the days when the colours were red, white and green;
- (b) what alternatives were suggested before the colours purple and white were adopted;
- (c) whether there was ever an Old Rhodian blazer. Anyone who can provide information on those or similar subjects is asked to write to the Editor or to Prof. Chapman.

# RHODES UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RESEARCH.

AN important development which will be of interest to many Old Rhodians is the establishment and growth of the Institute of Social and Economic Research.

The Institute was established by the Senate and Council of Rhodes University in November, 1954, to promote, plan, and co-ordinate research and to pool the human and material resources of a number of social science departments, especially in projects calling for the co-operation of different persons studying specialised aspects of the same problem. A further aim was to attract and train research workers of all racial groups and by giving a greater degree of continuity of employment to retain research skills.

The Institute is governed by a Board of Management, which is a committee of the University Senate, and includes representatives of the departments of African Studies, Divinity, Economics, Education, Geography, Sociology and Psychology. It is thus much more closely linked with the teaching side of the University than the Leather and Wool Research Institutes.

The only permanent staff of the Institute is a Director and two clerical assistants. Professor H. R. Burrows (formerly Principal of Fort Hare) was appointed director at the beginning of 1960. On Dr. Burrow's sudden death in October last, Mr. J. A. I. Agar-Hamilton (formerly Editor-in-Chief of the South African War Histories) was appointed to succeed him.

Although the permanent staff is so small some 17 persons have held *ad hoc* appointments as research fellows or research assistants during the past five years and 14 members of the teaching staff have also been engaged in research under the Institute.

Research activities of the Institute have been concentrated within the Eastern Cape and the adjacent Border and Transkei regions. This area for a long time was the frontier between the Europeans in the Cape Colony and the inhabitants of the Native territories, and was an area where for over a century conflict between white and black came to be modified by economic and cultural contacts. Apart from their particular interest it was felt that studies of these adjustments could usefully contribute to an understanding of current trends operating generally throughout the African subcontinent.

It is consequently a rich field for economic studies of the influence of an advanced industrial exchange economy on primitive Reserve economies. In the contrasts between wealth and poverty, between advanced and backward types of farming, and in the field of labour with its changing racial composition and migration there are many worth while studies. Some of these the Institute has already completed. In the sociological and anthropological fields there are also fruitful opportunities to study social and cultural influences and changes.

The establishment of the Institute was made possible by a generous grant of \$50,000 by the Carnegie Corporation of New York. At about the same time considerable funds were received for specific research undertakings from sources including the National Council for Social Research and the Nuffield Foundation. These various grants assured the financial stability of the Institute for its first five years, and in total exceed R150,000.

## THE BORDER REGIONAL SURVEY.

The major research project during the first five years was the Border Regional Survey.

The survey covers the geography, natural resources, and the economic and social structure of the Border area, defined for the purposes of the survey as the magisterial districts of East London and King William's Town and roughly corresponding to the historic Border region. It covers an area of some 1,500 sq. miles with a population of over 200,000, of whom approximately 29 per cent. are Europeans, 66 per cent. are Africans and 5 per cent. are Coloureds and Indians.

The findings are being published in a series of volumes. The first of these has already appeared as:

- Economic Development in a Plural Society (Studies in the Border Region of the Eastern Cape Province), ed. D. Hobart Houghton. Oxford University Press (401 pages), 1960. Price 60/- (R6).
- The book describes the economy of the Border Region of the Cape Province, which was for many years the frontier between White and Black in Southern Africa.

Four further volumes of the Border Regional Survey are in the Press and should appear soon. They are:

The Xhosa in Town, Vol. I: The Black Man's Portion, by D. H. Reader. Oxford University Press (approx. 200 pages). This volume deals with the history, demography, and living conditions in the Native locations of East London, Cape Province.

- The Xhosa in Town, Vol. II: Townsmen or Tribesmen, by P. Mayer, with contributions by I. Mayer. Oxford University Press (approx. 300 pages). This volume is a study of the process of urbanization in East London.
- The Xhosa in Town, Vol. III: The Second Generation, by B. A. Pauw. This is a study of the background and origin of the town-born Africans in East London; analysis of family structures; relations between culture, class and family structure.
- The Border Region (Natural Environment and Land Use in the Eastern Cape), by C. Board, E. D. Mountain, D. Comins and C. J. Bader. This volume is a detailed and comprehensive picture of the physical characteristics of the Border Region and in addition to the text there will be four large scale coloured maps (1: 125,000) illustrating the Land Use, Geology, Vegetation and Native Reserves, and some twenty-four smaller maps. The Land Use Map is of particular interest, being the first of its kind to be prepared for a South African area.

# FURTHER MAJOR RESEARCH PROJECTS.

With the Border Regional Survey coming to an end three new research projects have been commenced during this last year. The first of these is a study of Bantu Christians and their Churches and is under the joint supervision of the departments of African Studies and Divinity. The second is an inquiry into the Industrial Development of the Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage and East London areas conducted by the Department of Economics. The third is a study of The role of the location headman in the socio-political system of the Cape Nguni conducted by the Department of African Studies. These projects are expected to take about three years to complete.

## OTHER RESEARCH.

In addition to these major undertakings there have been a number of smaller research projects. The variety of subjects investigated is shown by the following list of publications:

- **Labour in the Farm Economy,** by Margaret Roberts, published by the S.A. Institute of Race Relations, December, 1958 (137 pages). Price 7/6 (75c).
- Economic Rent and Household Income among Cape Coloureds in Grahamstown, by James Irving. Institute of Social and Economic Research, Rhodes University, Occasional Papers: Number One (51 pages), 1958. Price 2/6 (25c).
- Economic Rent and Household Income among the African Population of Grahamstown, by James Irving. Institute of Social and Economic Research, Rhodes University, Occasional Papers: Number Two (40 pages), 1958. Price 2/6 (25c).
- Slum Clearance and the Ability of Europeans to Pay Economic Rent in a Small South African City, by James Irving. Institute of Social and Economic Research, Rhodes University, Occasional Papers: Number Three (28 pages), 1959. Price 2/6 (25c).
- Macleantown: A study of a small South African Community, by James Irving. Institute of Social and Economic Research, Rhodes University, Occasional Papers: Number Four (288 pages), 1959. Price 7/6 (75c).

Pineapples in the Eastern Cape: A study of the farm economy and marketing patterns, by C. B. Strauss. Institute of Social and Economic Research, Occasional Papers: Number Five (203 pages). Price 10/- (R1).

There are two other completed manuscripts awaiting publication:

The Bantu Worker and his Education, by Mary C. Nongauza.

The amaBhaca of Mount Frere, by W. D. Hammond-Tooke.

For a small Institute that has been in existence for only five years this record of research successfully completed is impressive. Moreover close co-operation has been established with public bodies and with organised industry and commerce in the Eastern Cape. Important government departments have been most co-operative and strong support has been received from East London, Port Elizabeth and Uitenhage, so that the Institute can reasonably hope to continue to serve the Eastern Cape by research into the social and economic problems of the area.

# D. HOBART HOUGHTON

# SPORT AT RHODES, 1960.

APART from the fact that Rhodes won the Men's Squash Intervarsity Tournament and while several of the less fancied of the University's Clubs achieved more than was expected of them, 1960 did not prove a particularly outstanding year for Rhodes sport.

The consistent degree of success attained by the Squash Club has been a striking feature of the University's sport for some years now. 1960 was no exception. The Men's team won the Basil de Sax Trophy at the Annual Intervarsity Tournament, and the Women's team narrowly failed to retain the President's Cup for the fourth successive year. Of the individual players, the respective team captains, Eric Brotherton and Ann Retief, continued to display brilliant form. In addition to reaching the final of the S.A. Universities Men's Individual Championship, Brotherton won the Border title and represented the Rest of South Africa against the Jarvis Cup winners, Transvaal. For her part, Ann Retief won both the S.A. Universities and Border Individual Championships.

The Rugby Club experienced a bewildering season and the players appeared to reserve their worst rugby for the Midlands League. By virtue of the fact that Rhodes lost four league games, two of them to Albany, the University failed to repeat last year's performance of reaching the Grand Challenge final. However, in friendly matches against leading Port Elizabeth and Border clubs, the 1st XV played considerably better football and there is now a distinct possibility that Rhodes will compete in the P.E. League next season.

All told Rhodes played four Intervarsity matches. They beat Natal 9-8 in an exciting curtain-raiser to the fourth All Blacks Test, drew 6-6 with Potchefstroom and lost 19-8 and 20-9 to O.F.S. and Cape Town respectively.

Although the Club began the season with virtually the same team that tied for top position in the 1959 E.P. League competition, the men's Hockey Club 1st XI failed to impress. Rhodes lost the majority of their league games and only managed to win two of their seven intervarsity fixtures. The women fared far better and all six teams were well placed in their respective leagues. Rhodes lost only one game—by a single goal to the unbeaten Potchefstroom side—at the Intervarsity Tournament.

Rhodes cricket received a fillip at the 1959 Intervarsity Cricket Week. Rhodes and Natal shared top position at the conclusion of the week and three Rhodes players, Rushmere, Bland and Hepker, were selected to represent S.A. Universities "A" against Transvaal "A". Brotherton was appointed 12th man, while Hall and Closenberg played for the Universities "B" team. Disappointing batting in the University's last game of the week, that against Wits., prevented Rhodes from winning the 1960 Tournament outright. Defeat in that game meant that Rhodes had to be content with fourth position. Once again three Rhodes players, Brotherton, Bland and Hall, were included in the S.A. Universities "A" team. All three played notable parts in helping the Universities to defeat Western Province.

The highlight of the Athletic Club's activities was a tour of Southern Rhodesia in July. The team of ten athletes competed at meetings in Salisbury, Bulawayo and Umtali. Neil MacDonald broke the Rhodesian all-comer's record for the 220 yards hurdles and Ben van der Linde clocked 9.7secs. for the 100 yards. As van der Linde was accompanied by a following wind his time was not recognized as a Rhodesian record. Rhodes won two titles at the Intervarsity Championships and the men were placed fourth in the Dalrymple Cup competition. Van der Linde, in the 100 yards, and Chapman, in the long jump, were the title winners.

Both the men's and women's teams disappointed their supporters at the Intervarsity Tennis Tournament. The men were placed fifth out of eight teams and the women fifth out of seven. Bettman was selected as reserve for the Combined Universities Men's Team and Pallister as reserve for the women's team.

The Rifle Club, now  $2\frac{1}{2}$  years old, continued to flourish. In March, Rhodes became the first University to send a team to the National Bisley. Brownwell won the South African "B" Class Championship and was included in the South African Dewar Team. Victor was placed third in the "B" class Championship. Four Rhodians, Brownwell, Victor, Walters and Reid, gained selection for Eastern Province during the course of the year.

Although badly hampered by the low water-level of Howison's Poort Dam, the Rowing Club enjoyed a fairly successful year. Four crews travelled to Vereeniging for the Intervarsity meeting, and Bothma and Yates were included in the Combined Universities Eight which rowed against Transvaal.

Rhodes golfers did well at the Intervarsity Tournament. The Rhodes "A" team were placed third behind the strong Wits. and U.C.T. sides. Border and Hobday represented S.A. Universities against Natal, while the Rhodes champion, Kelly, was unlucky to miss the side by one stroke.

The 1960 season witnessed a substantial improvement in the standard of play throughout the Soccer Club. The 1st XI finished joint first in the E.P. Second Division and application has been made for promotion to the First Division.

After being dormant, due to lack of facilities, for over two years, the Judo Club sprang back to life. A team was sent to the Intervarsity Tournament and did exceptionally well, coming third in the First Division. Pahl, the Rhodes captain, was graded a blue belt.

B. K. MURRAY.

# GOLDEN JUBILEE BURSARY FUND.

THE fund creeps slowly towards its goal of £1,000. All contributions, however small, are welcome to close the remaining gap of £200. The Hon. Treasurer is always glad to send you a receipt, and remember that each year a student profits by your generosity. Recently we received a letter from one of our bursary holders, who said that he would never have been able to complete his degree without the help that Old Rhodians had given him through the Bursary Fund. So put your hands in your pockets and send along that odd fiver (or tenner).

# FOURTH LIST OF DONATIONS.

Cash Donations:					
E. H. Wilson	11		5	5	0
Mrs. L. Fletcher	110		5	0	0
B. H. P. Farrer			1	1	0
Mrs. T. Townshend	. Gods		5	0	0
L. Hilson			3	3	0
Miss D. Ovenstone			2	2	0
Stop Orders:					
I. R. Ferguson			5	0	0
H. O. Skillikorn			4	0	0
Prof. and Mrs. J. A. C	Gledhill		4	4	0
I. J. Lewis	Linchy	Q.,	2	2	0
R. Baxter-Brown		-	5	5	0
Sir Basil Schonland	orb .	<u></u>	1	0	0
J. C. Whitehorn			1	0	0
R. M. Travers			1	0	0
Miss S. M. Griffin			1	0	0
Dr. E. H. St. C. Flack			1	0	0
J. F. Bennett		1	1	0	0
G. N. Cross	. in step		n# 1	0	0
C. W. Bennie	-9997		moil 1	0	0
Prof. E. H. Wild			1	0	0
J. C. Traill	3816.5		1	0	0
Total to 27th Febru	uary, 1	961	£52	2	0
Previously acknowle	dged	i sve	£750	0	9
TOTAL at 27/2/6	51		£802	2	9
despites for home is	i.e.		R1,604	.27	899

# NEWS OF OLD RHODIANS.

CONGRATULATIONS to Sir Basil Schonland, Chancellor of Rhodes and honorary life-member of the Union, on his knighthood. He conferred degrees at two graduation ceremonies this year, one for Rhodes students and one for those Fort Hare students who had studied for Rhodes degrees under the old arrangement between the two institutions. At the latter ceremony honorary doctorates were conferred upon Dr. A. Kerr and Prof. Z. K. Matthews.

Lady Schonland, in opening the new University Library in April, recalled her days a student when she took a U.E.D. at Rhodes.

- Most news this time comes from Miss J. E. G. Wright, who was recently married to Mr. A. Graham-Ochse, of Johannesburg.
- Frank Allison is at the Standard Vacuum Refinery in Durban.
- Netta (Anderson) Archer and family live in Bulawayo.
- Jean (Bain) Ashfield and her husband live in Ndola.
- I. Baris is a director of Chassay Bros. (S.A.) (Pty.) Ltd., Johannesburg.
- Henry Blagden represents the Oxford University Press in Johannesburg.
- Gerhard de Jager is lecturing in the Faculty of Agriculture at U.O.F.S., Bloemfontein.
- Laura (Dennis) Donald and her family live in Salisbury.
- P. K. Faure is now on the staff of the S.A. Wool Textile Research Institute.
- "Goon" Festenstein is at the Rothamsted Agricultural Research Station, Harpenden, in England.
- Shirley (Laver) and Rupert Gettliffe live in Johannesburg.
- Ken Graham and Dante Cloete have both been acting as Judges of the Supreme Court in Grahamstown.
- Penelope Grant is with the Ministry of Agriculture in Salisbury.
- Brenda (Wright) Humphrey has two children and lives in Umtali, where she teaches at the Girls' High School.

- Eric Jarvis, Attorney-General of Southern Rhodesia, has been made a Companion of St. Michael and St. George.
- Esme (Scott) Johnson and her family live in Salisbury.
- William Lane is following a legal career in Johannesburg.
- Meg Laver is teaching at Durban Girls' High School.
- Maureen (Saunders) Mercer and her family are in Salisbury.
- Jean (Grunow) and Dickie Moore are at Eagle School, near Umtali, and have two children.
- Merle (Webb) Moxham and her husband and two sons live in Umtali.
- **Graham Poole** is doing research on radio astronomy at Sheffield.
- R. W. Rein is the new Attorney-General for the Transvaal.
- Bill Shuter is a co-author of several papers on radio astronomy, using the 250ft. 'dish' at Jodrell Bank, Cheshire, where the team also includes Pat Wild and "Vis" Verschuur.
- John Speedy is at Tellurometer Ltd., Plumstead, and his brother, Bob Speedy, is at U.C.T. in the Physics Department.
- Ruth (Wallace) Wilson lives in Pretoria with her husband and two sons.
- Marge (Widdicombe) Hoernle has a daughter. Her home is in Johannesburg.