

Two Rotary Presidents Welcome David Vann Warmly To S. Africa

Local Boys Meets High Commissioner To London Who Remembers Irem Mosque

Grahamstown, my final destination, is about 600 miles from Johannesburg. I had no idea when I left the States, as to my mode of travel once I reached Johannesburg. After going through Customs, and finding that as an alien I would have to register with the South African railroad which provides transportation directly to Grahamstown, and I found that I would have to stay in Johannesburg for two days before the next train would leave. Since Rotary International was kind enough to grant me this Fellowship, I decided to call the local Rotary

president to introduce myself, and to say "hello."

Rotary President Greets Me

My Rotary index of clubs and their presidents only showed a Post Office box number for the president, and after thoroughly confusing myself trying to figure out the South African phone directory, which is somewhat different from our own, I had the good fortune of being assisted in making the call by a Pan-American airlines official. When you speak over the South African phone, it's like speaking over a walkie talkie. There is a great deal of static, and it is quite evident that the system has not yet been perfected. Nevertheless, my call was finally placed, and Mr. Hector Falconer, the president of the Rotary Club insisted that I stay at his home over the weekend.

Chevrolet Equals Cadillac

He picked me up in a 1955 Chevrolet, which by the way is the luxury car of South Africa, quite comparable to the Cadillac at home, and after cleaning up at his home, we spent an extremely interesting afternoon at the Brynston Country Club in Johannesburg. This is a beautiful club, somewhat similar to Irem Temple Club in Dallas. There is quite a spacious swimming pool, and the golfing area was every bit as large and as beautiful as that at Irem Temple. There are also tennis courts, and courts where they play a British game called Bowls. My host indulged in this pastime, while I wandered about taking pictures of everything in sight. I couldn't

help but laugh to myself as I was taking these pictures, for I was thinking that most of the people back home would probably be picturing me fending off lions, and really living in the rough, and instead I was living in the lap of luxury, visiting a country club that to me, with its beautiful waving palm trees, and its fabulous gardens, lent an air of enchantment that I would never be able to find at home.

Remembers Wilkes-Barre

I was extremely fortunate in that my host was playing Bowls with a Dr. Holloway, South Africa's former High Commissioner to London (which post is comparable to our ambassador), and also former minister of finance. He is generally regarded as one of the country's foremost economists, and is a very well-liked individual. We had an interesting conversation during tea-time, an English tradition which is an institution in South Africa. He had visited Wilkes-Barre during the second World War, and was under the impression that the Irem Temple in Wilkes-Barre was a very impressive Moslem Mosque.

That evening, my host and I talked extensively about the differences and the similarities that existed between South Africa, and the U.S. He had visited the U.S. also, and was very well impressed by it. In fact he represented several American companies in South Africa.

I skipped Church on Sunday morning because my host wanted me to go to Pretoria with him. Pretoria is about 35 miles from Johannesburg, and is the executive capital of the Union. Actually, there are three Capitals, the fore-mentioned, Bloemfontein, which is the Judicial Capital, and Capetown which is the Executive Capital. The cost of running the government is quite high because of this.

Warm Welcome

We met the president of the Pretoria Rotary Club, and had lunch at his home. He then took us to the University of Pretoria where we were supposed to meet a girl from Holland who was studying at the University under the same Rotary Fellowship program. Unfortunately, she was not in, but we did see a little of the University, one of the newer buildings of which looked every bit as beautiful and as modern as the new science building at Wilkes. We also visited the Union buildings which are magnificent structures with beautiful sweeping gardens in front of them. The flowers were all in bloom, and their contrasting colors spread in a gorgeous panorama before me. We also saw the Governor-General's home and some of the homes of the other executive officers.

On the way back to Johannesburg, we visited the Voortrekker monument, which commemorates the feats of the early pioneers of

South Africa. The wall surrounding the monument was cut in the shapes of oxen-drawn covered wagons, and the names of the Voortrekkers, or early pioneers were engraved on them.

That evening we went to the Jan Smuts airport to welcome to South Africa another Rotary Foundation Fellow who was going to study at the Witwatersrand University. He was a divinity student from Harrisonburg, Virginia, and it was quite a surprise for us to meet each other since neither knew the other was coming.

Parker Dickinson the other American student, and I spent the next morning looking over the Witwatersrand U. campus, which is extremely lovely, and in visiting the Johannesburg Library-Museum. He also spent a few days with a Johannesburg Rotary member who was kind enough to lend us his Chrysler and his native Chauffeur as a sort of guide.

That afternoon I caught my train to Grahamstown. I was extremely surprised at the South African Railway, which is a government controlled organization. They still use steam engines here, and narrow gauge tracks. These engines are fantastically slow, and extremely filthy. The ride to Grahamstown took approximately 27 hours, and whenever we went through the tunnels, there was a mad scramble to close all the windows to keep from suffocating from the odors and the smoke.

Nevertheless, I enjoyed the ride, even though there were six of us crowded into a little compartment with all of our luggage. The compartment was slightly smaller than the average bathroom in America, so you can imagine what it was like. The other five passengers were also students and were going to Rhodes. In fact, about three quarters of the passengers on the train were headed there.

These students were very nice, and extremely helpful, and very impressed with what they had heard about America. They plied me with endless questions on every topic from American football to my crewcut which is quite unique in South Africa. I later found that I could be easily recognized as the American student at Rhodes, simply by dint of the fact that I wore a crewcut.

They were more than amazed at the fact that I had chosen to study at Rhodes, and in Africa. In this, they were quite similar to all my friends at home who were equally amazed.

I managed to visit the beautiful fountain at Bloemfontein, when my train stopped there for an hour. I also saw the statue of the first president of the Orange Free State. However, that was all the time I had to spend there.

The scenery between Johannesburg and Grahamstown is rather bleak. There are literally hundreds of miles of sparse vegetation covering the hillsides that surround the railroads. The hills are quite high, and once in a while you come upon a stream, but these are few and far between. You see farms that show a marked contrast to the high yielding farms in the United States. Here the yield per acre is extremely small, and the crops are quite puny. Here and there you see sheep and cattle, these too small and puny according to our standards. Quite often you see goats, and now and then an ostrich can be viewed in the distance.

The vegetation is extremely scarce, and completely different

This Little Pup Must Have A Home Somewhere

A small blonde pup, with suggestions of beagle about his ears, has wagged himself into the affections of a family in New Goss Manor, but the family boxer uses him for a football, and the arrangement cannot be permanent.

James Shoop saw the shivering little pup standing in the middle of Dallas-Demunds Road near The Maples Friday afternoon, narrowly missed by a passing car which splattered him with melting snow. Two little boys, passing by, said, "That's the pup that followed us from the Acme parking lot."

At three months, the pup is housebroken, loves children, and is eager to please. But mostly, he wants to get home again where there are no large boxers.

Has Eye Operation

Richard Huey, Cliffside, Trucks-ville, has returned to his home from the Veterans' Hospital where he submitted recently to an operation for cataracts.

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from any that I had seen in the States. Native shacks can be seen near the tracks, which are either made of mud with one door, no windows and no floors, or of pieces of tin that the railroad has provided. Many of these natives living near the railroads work for the railroads, and the average pay of all the natives seems to be between one and nine cents per hour. This pay figure does not take into consideration the thousands of natives who are completely unemployed, and is only an approximate guess on my part, based on articles that I have read in the newspapers.

The natives living along the tracks wear what must have once been European clothing, but is usually so tattered that one cannot really tell. They supplement this clothing with their blankets which are worn, slept in, and used to carry their babies.

Finally the train arrived at Grahamstown, and I had reached my destination.

Next week, Grahamstown, Rhodes University, and East London.



Know Your Extension Agents

E. V. Chadwick, county agent, a native of Bradford County, and his wife, Jean, from Lancaster County, plus two children, Diane and Kevin. They are residents of Shavertown and members of Shavertown Methodist Church.

"Cy," as he is better known, is adviser to the Clover Leaf 4-H Club in the Back Mountain area, in addition to his many other duties.

"Man's Best Friend" is a neat little booklet describing 24 breeds of dogs 4-H members might like. Inquire at your local Esso Station. Another is the Purina Farm Dog Book; inquire about this one at Huson's Feed Service, your local Purina dealer.

Plans are under way for a 4-H Light Horse and Pony Club for youngsters in the Dallas area. Four stages of membership are available: Novice, Tenderfoot, Junior Horseman, Senior Horseman. Contact our office at 5 Water Street, Wilkes-Barre, for further details.

The following Back Mountain 4-H Dairy Club members have selected their animals for this year's work: Harriet Sands, Richard Sutton, Jessie Conyngnam, Will Conyngnam and Edward Keller.

Parakeet Still Chatters About His Operation

Mrs. William H. Davis's green parakeet is still talking about his operation, the flow of chatter not at all diminished by a vanishing memory of a tidy little incision closed by six sutures, when Dr. Post corrected a bird-size hernia last July.

Landscape Specialist To Address Garden Club

Raymond P. Korbobo, extension specialist in ornamental horticulture at Rutgers University, will present a lecture demonstration on landscape gardening at the meeting of the Wyoming Valley Garden Club in the Osterhout Library auditorium next Thursday night.

Mr. Korbobo has lectured to more than 700 groups from New England to Texas, has written feature stories for newspapers and magazines, entered various prize winning exhibits at the International Flower Show in New York City, was featured on several television and radio programs.

As a specialist, Mr. Korbobo devotes most of his time to adult education in the field of improving the home grounds landscape by setting up demonstration plantings.

Nurserymen, gardeners and home owners are cordially invited to attend.

Vassar Club To Entertain High School Girls At Y

Wyoming Vassar Club will lunch Saturday at noon at the Westmoreland Club, and at 3 will entertain freshman and sophomore high school girls who may be interested in attending Vassar, at an informal coke party at the YWCA.

Miss Mary Meeker, assistant alumnae secretary, a 1958 graduate, will speak at the luncheon and also at the YWCA, where she will show slides, and answer questions about entrance requirements and scholarships.

Dallas Junior High School Schedules Two Concerts

Dallas Junior High School is scheduling two spring concerts under direction of Alfred Milliner-Camp. The first, April 17, is for choral groups. The second, May 1, is the band.

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Haddle Returns From Western Pacific Area

Long Beach, Calif. (PHTNC)—James W. Haddle, quartermaster seaman, USN, son of Mr. and Mrs. James W. Haddle of R. D. 1, Dallas, returned to Long Beach, Calif., March 27, aboard the destroyer leader USS Wilkinson after a five month tour of duty in the Western Pacific.

During the cruise the Wilkinson participated in air defense and submarine exercises as a unit of the U. S. Seventh Fleet.

Ports visited included Hawaii, Midway Island, Formosa, Hong Kong, Okinawa, the Philippine Islands and the cities of Yokosuka and Kure, Japan.

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