

Lectures
7/28

UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND
HISTORY WORKSHOP FEBRUARY 6, 1978

SOME SIGNIFICANT DATES RELATING TO THE ADMINISTRATION
AND DEVELOPMENT OF TOWNSHIP FACILITIES FOR BLACKS IN
JOHANNESBURG.

Some of the more important events will be highlighted
in the address to be given by Dr. Patrick Lewis in
his review presented at the History Workshop on the
6 February, 1978.

- 1886 September/October proclamation of farms Driefontein, Blandsfontein, Doornfontein, Turffontein, Langlaagte, Rooipoort, Paardekraal, Vogelstruisfontein as public goldfields.
- Farm Randjeslaagte (5 square miles in area) selected as site for the village, or dorp, to house the government offices and diggers. Village, or dorp, to be called Johannesburg.
- Captain Carl von Brandis appointed Mining Commissioner.
- 8.11.86 election of Diggers' Committee.
- 1887 Sanitary Board replaced Diggers' Committee.
- 1899 October. Outbreak of war between South African Republic and Great Britain.
- 1900 31st May. Occupation of Johannesburg by British troops under Field Marshall Lord Roberts. Col. Colin Mackenzie became Military Governor, assisted by Major W.J.O'Meara of the Royal Engineers.
- 1901 First nominated Town Council of Johannesburg.
- 1902 Appointment of Commission to investigate the Insanitary area known as the Brickfields.
- Boundaries of Johannesburg increased from 5 square miles to 75½ square miles.
- 1903 Report of Johannesburg Insanitary Area Improvement Scheme Commission. This led to the expropriation of the area now known as Newtown.
- Boundaries of Johannesburg increased to 81½ square miles.
- First elected Town Council of Johannesburg.
- 1904 Outbreak of plague at Brickfields and removal of natives to ground adjacent to sewage disposal farm at Klipspruit. This area became known as Pinville in 1934.
- 1905 Native Affairs Commission criticised living conditions of natives.

- 1908 Indigency Commission criticised living conditions of natives.
- 1909 Municipal Commission urged that provision be made for proper sites for natives and other non-Europeans.
- 1910 Act of Union.
- 1917 Johannesburg Town Council hired the disused mine compound of the Salisbury Jubilee Mine. This became a hostel for 1000 native men and later became known as the Mai Mai Bazaar.
- 1918 Flu epidemic. There was a high mortality rate amongst natives.
- 1918/
1921 Establishment of Western Native Township on site which had previously been a brickfield. 227 homes built.
- 1923 Passing of Native (Urban Areas) Act which placed responsibility on local authorities for housing natives living and employed in their area.
- 1924/7 Western Native Township extended by 1000 houses.
- 1926/8 Wemmer Barracks Hostel built to accommodate 2000 native men.
- 1924/7 Eastern Native Township established and 400 houses built.
- 1927 Johannesburg Council appointed Mr. Graham Ballenden as Manager of Native Affairs. (Prior to this the housing of natives was part of the functions of the Parks Department.)
- 1928 Johannesburg Council appointed a Committee to deal with Native Affairs.
- 1930 Total houses built at Western and Eastern Townships was 2625.

In terms of amendment to Native (Urban Areas) Act additional powers granted to Local Authorities in regard to housing of natives.

Johannesburg Council acquired 1300 morgen on the Farm Klipspruit No. 8 for the purpose of providing housing for natives. This purchase was during the depression years when there were vacant houses at Western Native Township.

A competition was held for the best layout of a township to accommodate 80 000 natives. Township to be called Orlando after the then Chairman of the Native Affairs Committee, Mr. Orlando Leake.

At this time natives were living at places such as Newclare, Sophiatown, Martindale, Prospect Township, under appallingly congested conditions.

- 1933 Municipal Water installed in Newclare.
- 1934 Klipspruit Location renamed Pinville.
- 1935 27 water taps installed in Sophiatown where water sold by the bucket.
No water borne sewerage system.
Lavatory buckets collected three times per week.
Murray Thornton Commission criticised Johannesburg Public Health Department for its failure to prevent or cure the fearful squalor in such areas as Prospect Township, Malay Location, Sophiatown, Newclare and Martindale.
By 1935 3000 houses built at Orlando.
- 1939 Total number of houses for natives provided by Johannesburg City Council 8700 and number of beds in the hostels was 6912.
- 1939/
1945 World War II.
During this period influx control regulations were relaxed, and owing to the work opportunities native men and women, with their children, entered Johannesburg in large numbers. Owing to scarcity of funds only 873 new houses were built and a further 358 beds were provided in hostels. Squatter camps sprang up, and it was estimated that 60 000 people lived in such camps.
- 1944 4042 breeze block shelters were erected at Shantytown. (Between Orlando East and West).
- 1946 Moroka Emergency Camp laid out with 11000 sites of 20' x 20'. Elementary services were provided.
- 1947 Squatter camps were closed.
Baragwanath Hospital taken over for Native Hospital.
- 1948 1st May - 800 native patients moved to Baragwanath Hospital from the General Hospital.
Nationalist Party gained majority in Parliament.
The Johannesburg City Council placed contracts with European Contractors who built houses as follows :
- | | |
|----------|------------|
| 1946/8 | 1459 |
| 1949 | 1636 |
| 1950 | 3909 |
| 1951 | 509 |
| 1952 | <u>Nil</u> |
| Total... | 8513 |

Each housing scheme resulted in a loss to the Council partly as a result of the cost of installation of services.

Financing of sub-economic housing schemes has been on the basis of interest at 3½%, the losses being shared two-thirds Native Housing Commission and one-third local authorities.

- 1951 In 1951 this formula was cancelled and Council's claim of R1 004 640 was settled for R469 454 and a further claim of R800 000 was finally settled for R250 000.
- 1952 National Housing Commission laid down that full economic rent be paid by natives earning more than R30:
- 1951 Bantu Building Workers Act passed.
- 1953 Bantu Services Levy Act passed.
Bantu Transport Services Levy Act passed.
Site and Service Scheme started. In Johannesburg 35 000 sites of 40' x 70' surveyed.
Mantz Committee recommended Pinville should be a white group area.
- 1954 Johannesburg created separate Housing Division under Mr. A. J. Archibald as Director.
Application submitted to Bantu Services Levy Fund for funds to build direct access road to Soweto. This application was opposed by the South African Railways Administration.
- 1955 Resettlement Board formed to undertake removal of natives from Western Areas. This was a result of Johannesburg City Council's refusal to be parties to the deprivation of the ownership of freehold property in Sophiatown.
Ethnic Grouping became government policy.
- 1956 Mining Houses, headed by Anglo-American Corporation, loaned Johannesburg City Council R6m at 4-7/8% to provide funds for houses for people living in Moroka and Shantytown. These funds were sufficient to build 14 000 houses to which the dwellers of Moroka and Shantytown were moved.
- 1957 September 15/16 - Dube riots.
- 1958 Mantz "Watch-dog" Committee appointed.
- 1960 Minister De Wet Nel agreed Pinville could remain a black area.
March - Sharpeville and Langa shootings. Appointment of Tomlinson Commission.
- 1961 South Africa became a Republic.
- 1962 European liquor became available to blacks.

- 1964 Permission granted to build direct access road on condition no public transport allowed. Application had been made 10 years previously.
Report of Tomlinson Commission published.
- 1967 Johannesburg City Council's Forward Planning Report No. 4 regarding future needs of land for black housing.
Further loan of R750 000 from Mining Houses. This time for re-housing of Pinville tenants.
- 1968 Bantu Administration Department's ruling that no further leases of 30 years must be granted.

Johannesburg Bantu Revenue Account :

Bantu Services Levy Fund

Total net collections 1.1.53
to 30.6.71 R29 119 207

Approved projects to 30.6.71

Sub-Outfall and Link Sewers.....	2 195 998
Water Mains	2 414 877
Olifantsvlei Sewage Disposal Works	2 395 570
Street Lighting.....	731 824
Widening and re-alignment of Roads	590 455
Electricity Supply.....	2 328 910
Water Towers and Reservoirs.....	889 485
Roads and Bus Routes.....	9 055 763
Survey and Layout.....	152 484
Clearing of Sites.....	23 200
Nightsoil Intake.....	6 258
Sanitation: Latrin Grants.....	
Reticulation Fittings and Instal- lation.....	2 796 637
Sundry Expenditure.....	<u>92 594</u>

R23 674 055
=====

**Bantu Transport Services Levy
paid by employers 1953/71**

R10 098 754
=====

**Deficits on Revenue Account paid
by Johannesburg City Council
1953/1971**

R10 489 500
=====

Beer Sales 1937/1971

R75 324 561
=====

Profits on sale of Beer

R31 905 093
=====

Sales of European liquor 1963/71

R27 435 767
=====

Profits on sale of liquor

R 3 138 305
=====

Number of houses built by the Housing
Division of the Johannesburg City Council:

1953/1954.....	89
1954/1955.....	1 421
1955/1956.....	3 020
1956/1957.....	2 495
1957/1958.....	11 074
1958/1959.....	7 764
1960.....	6 587
1961.....	4 696
1962.....	1 885
1963.....	1 809
1964.....	2 335
1965.....	1 995
1966.....	1 662
1967.....	395
1968.....	1 042
1969.....	877
1970.....	1 137
1971.....	860
TOTAL.....	51 143

1.7.73 West Rand Board took over control of Soweto from
Johannesburg City Council.

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