

Happy Living



PRESENTED WITH THE COMPLIMENTS OF THE
JOHANNESBURG CITY COUNCIL
NON-EUROPEAN AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT

A 2/4

Happy Living



In the pages that follow an attempt has been made to give a picture of life in Soweto.

A pamphlet entitled "Thousands for Houses" published in 1960 told how 50,000 homes had been built and hostel accommodation provided for 25,000 persons. The number of homes has now been increased to 64,000.

This brochure tells how services and amenities have followed in the wake of the homes.

It is a human story, too, for people from rural communities, often with primitive tribal customs, have found themselves in unfamiliar situations in City life. This has required great adaptation and I have marvelled at how well these adjustments have taken place. It is a story in which the Central Government, the Provincial Authorities and the City Council have all played a part and I believe that what has been achieved is a credit not only to the City of Johannesburg but to the South African Republic.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patrick R. B. Lewis".

*PATRICK R. B. LEWIS,
Chairman, Non-European Affairs Committee,
City of Johannesburg.*

February, 1967.



Background — to the Bantu Townships of Soweto

This is the story of a vast rehabilitation project, perhaps the greatest of its kind in the world today. During the war years a fungus growth of slums, haphazard, overcrowded and vice-ridden, began to spread in the environs of the City of Gold. Here Bantu families lived in squalid hovels on the very edge of bare existence.

As in the cities of other lands, slum landlords exacted an avaricious toll. To clear away the slums and provide instead modern housing appeared a

Herculean task; but it had to be attempted . . . and it has been done.

Today the urban Bantu enjoy comfort, health and a happy family life. They have been provided with well-built houses and hostels, with running water, electricity, sanitation, roads, clinics, schools, churches, creches, recreation centres — and shops. All this has been accomplished within a few years; it is an achievement of which the Johannesburg City Council may well be proud.



From 1953 to 1966
Bantu Population increased from 208,000 to 380,000



From 1953 to 1966
44,800 Bantu Houses have been built bringing the total number to 64,000

BANTU HOUSING COSTS :

BANTU HOUSING COSTS BUILT BY EUROPEAN ARTISANS

BUILT BY TRAINED BANTU ARTISANS



1933
4'9d.
sq. ft.

1938
9'3d.
sq. ft.

1944
11'
sq. ft.

1946
12'3d.
sq. ft.



. . . . IN SPITE OF INCREASED COST OF MATERIALS

1951
6'5d.
sq. ft.

★ **RENTS INCLUDE :**

ADDITIONAL SERVICES PROVIDED AND COVERED BY RENTS.



Water Medical

Sanitary Services

Refuse

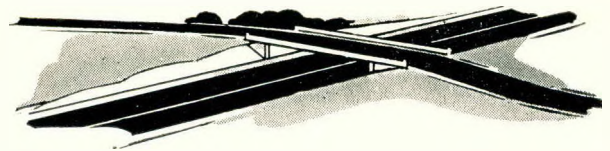
Schools

Street Lighting

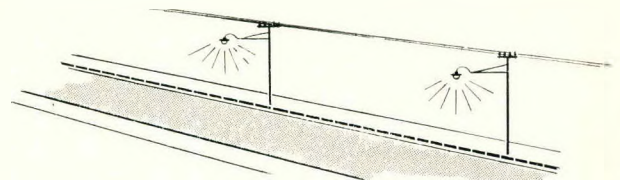
★ SEWAGE DISPOSAL WORKS.



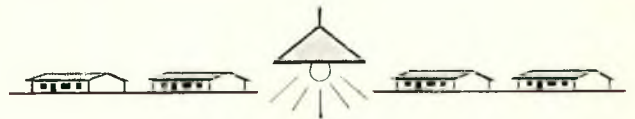
★ TARRED MAIN ROADS.



★ ROAD LIGHTING.



ELECTRICITY FOR HOUSES IS PROCEEDING APACE.

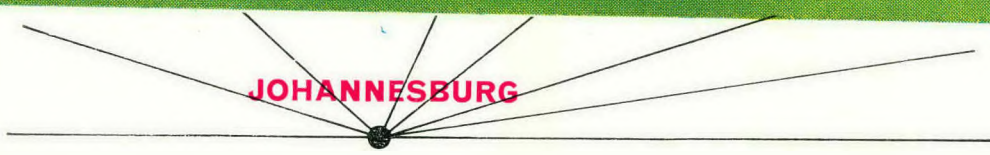
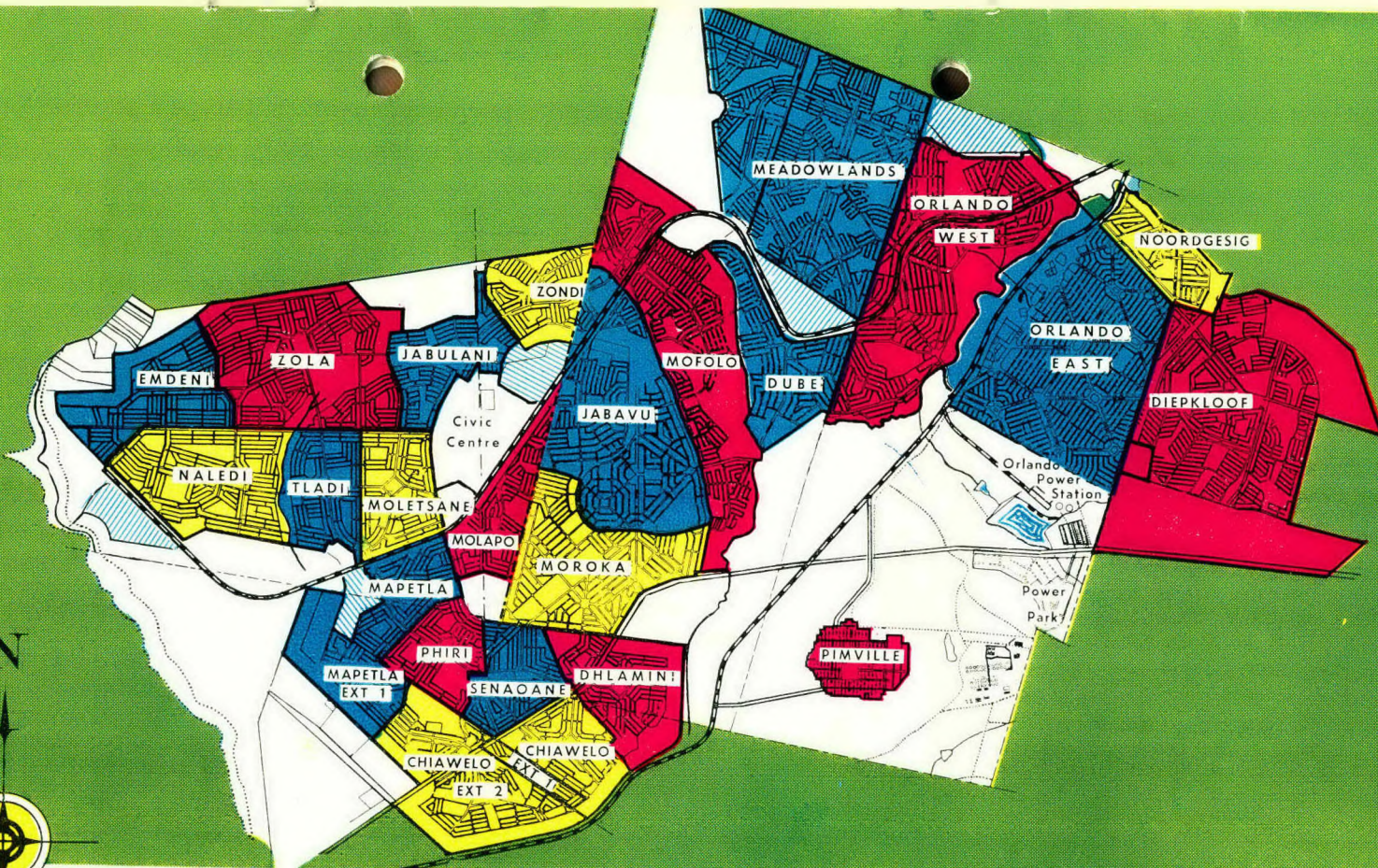


MODERN HOSTELS ARE PROVIDED FOR SINGLE BANTU MALES.



DOMESTIC WATER SUPPLY FOR 64,000 HOUSES — APPROXIMATELY 4,000,000 GALLONS PER DAY.

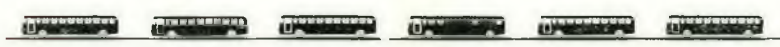




Soweto

SOWETO is composed of 21 townships; it has the dimensions and population of a widespread city. It covers 21 square miles. The townships (similar to suburbs) have picturesque and typically euphonious Bantu names.

RAILWAY TRANSPORTATION. Two railway lines provide transport for nearly 186,000 daily commuters. Monthly tickets cost between R1.72 and R2.50. During peak periods trains run every 4 minutes.



BUS SERVICES. Internal feeder bus services operate within Soweto and between Soweto and Baragwanath Hospital (the Bantu hospital on the Southern fringe of Soweto).



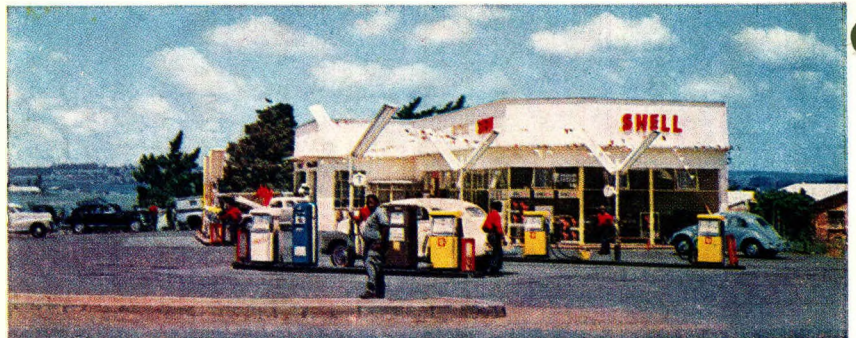
Smart suburban shops are suitably placed to serve the community.



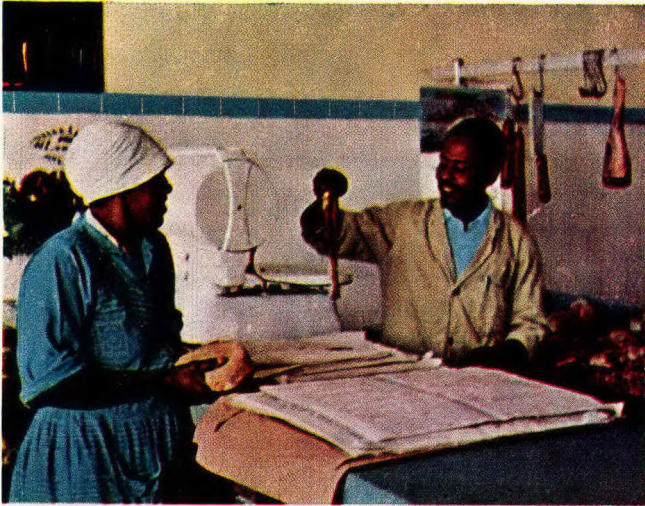
Shops, Schools and Churches

To ensure healthy trading conditions, the Johannesburg Non-European Affairs Department, in collaboration with the Joint Advisory Board and the Medical Officer of Health, has evolved a formula to limit the number of traders in each of the various categories in any one area to a fixed ratio.

To prevent exploitation and to keep profits where they belong, all trading is reserved for Bantu enterprises.



1,800 shops are owned and run by members of the Bantu community.



Bantu traders often show considerable enterprise, far more than one usually finds in other parts of Africa. Their businesses are usually well conducted and produce a good return.



Every township plan makes provision for church sites at convenient points. These sites are leased to recognised churches at a nominal rent of R2 (£1) per annum. The churches then erect their own buildings. At present 143 church sites are leased — to 70 different recognised denominations.



At present there are 114 schools, with 83,000 children on the registers. Of these 69 are Lower Primary, 28 Higher Primary, 12 Lower/Higher Primary and 5 High Schools. All teachers are Bantu.



Trees, lawns and flower beds already provide a shady approach to residential areas.

Horticulture

60,000 fruit trees have already been planted by the Department in the front gardens of Soweto homes. The streets are bordered with shade trees and so far more than 30,000 have been planted. In the parks and playgrounds, innumerable lawns and flower gardens are maintained.

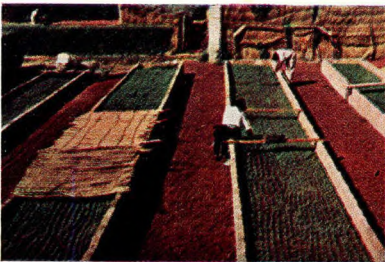
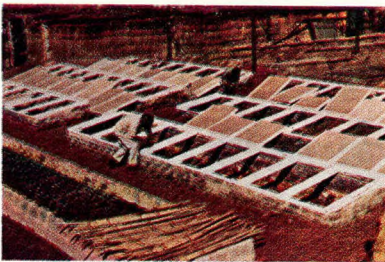
In addition to this, a number of bold schemes have been initiated to provide "breathing spaces" — open-air community centres where people may foregather in their leisure hours — a favourite custom of the Bantu. One of these landscaped parks has already been completed and is known as Mofolo Park. A stage has been erected in the foreground. Here Brass Bands entertain the crowds on Sundays and holidays.

Another scheme is in the Moroka Valley, where a section has been flooded to provide a sizeable lake of about 8 acres. Picturesque street lights have been placed at regular intervals alongside the road which skirts the southern boundary. Around the lake six acres of ground are being laid out with trees, grass, rockeries and gardens. This project is in skilled hands of the Horticultural Section.

The local residents themselves are encouraged to take an interest in their gardens and a great many have, apart from their flower gardens, vegetable beds and numbers of fruit trees. For these garden lovers the Horticultural Section provides trees, plants and invaluable advice.



What was desolate veld a few years ago, now blooms like the rose.



Extensive nurseries maintain a steady output of young plants.

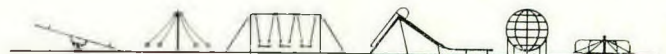
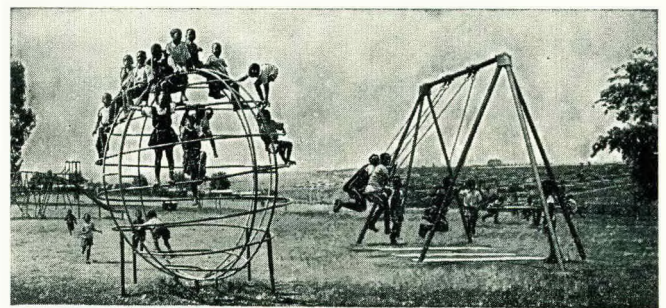
Recreation

Over 140 trained personnel and 400 labourers are employed by the Recreation and Community Services Branch of the Non-European Affairs Department.



82 sports fields, 3 sports stadia, 71 basketball courts, 42 tennis courts, 2 magnificent swimming baths, 39 children's playgrounds (24 with small halls are used as clubs), a bowling green and a golf course — these are some of the facilities provided.

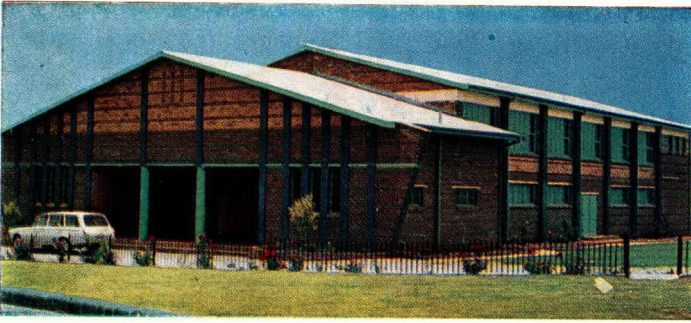
In all the 21 square miles of Soweto, there is no house further than half a mile from at least one children's playground, football field or basketball court. These amenities are available for more than 1,150 football teams (over 300 of them school teams) 300 basketball teams and thousands of athletes.



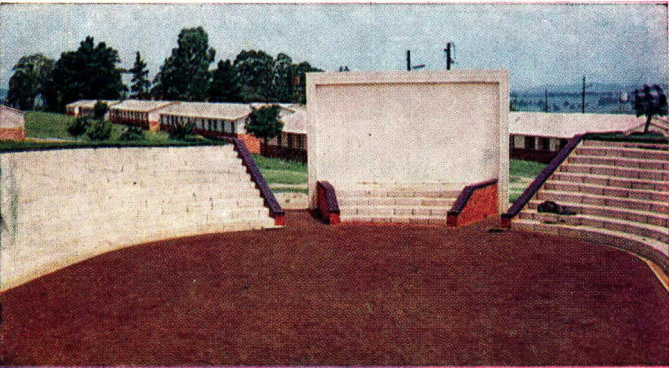
PLAYGROUNDS. Children have ample space and are well provided with playground equipment.



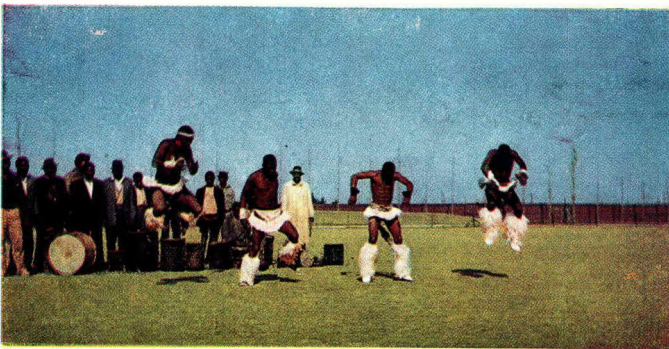
SPORTSFIELDS. The younger generation are devotees of sport and the 82 fields afford an outlet for their enthusiasm.



Community Centre.



Open air cinema and tribal dance arena.



Tribal dancing.



The popular Olympic length pool in Orlando.

Recreation

CONTINUED

The organisation of adult sport is left largely in the hands of Associations; the Recreation Section merely provides facilities and technical advice.

The schools, on the other hand, are not only provided with all their sports requirements by the Recreation Section, but are also assisted in organising their Inter-School competitions. Over and above this, there are facilities for rugby, cricket, hockey, softball and other popular games. Special provisions are made for indigenous activities.

In the area there are three large hostels, in each of which about 5,000 males are accommodated. The Recreation Section has a permanent full-time organiser attached to each hostel to organise leisure-time activities for the occupants. These activities include concerts, choir singing, boxing, weight-lifting, physical culture, skittles and cinema shows.

Cinema shows are provided free of charge, every night except at weekends, at 25 different venues throughout the townships. Matinees are given twice a week.

A hurdler in action.



Health



Child Welfare.

The medical services operate from seven general clinics, with additional tuberculosis and child health clinics. The staff of 450 deal with over one million attendances per year.

The general clinics offer a 24-hour service which includes a midwifery service attending over 12,000 confinements per year on district as well as casualty and out-patient facilities operate as an integrated system under radio control with a base hospital at Baragwanath.

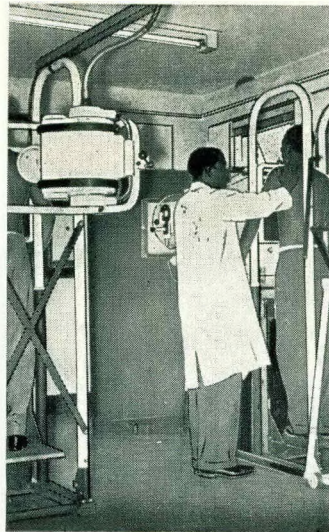
The midwifery services provide ante-natal facilities, confinement on district and post-natal nursing. An overall charge of R1.50 is made for the full service which is increased to R3.00 if delivery or surgical intervention in hospital becomes necessary. A charge of 25c is made for each out-patient attendance but treatment is never withheld on grounds of inability to pay. A domiciliary service is also operated for patients to be visited in their homes by doctors and nurses. The Family Health Service which offers advice on all problems of the health of the family as a whole, devotes considerable attention to promotion of child health. Routine visits are paid by qualified visitors to homes of every newborn child and the mothers are encouraged to bring their infants to the child health clinics where they are medically examined and advised on rearing and feeding problems, free of charge.

Milk powder is supplied to the mothers at the nominal charge of 1c per pound. The Bantu infantile mortality rate has dropped from 145.41 to 78.83 per thousand during the past decade.

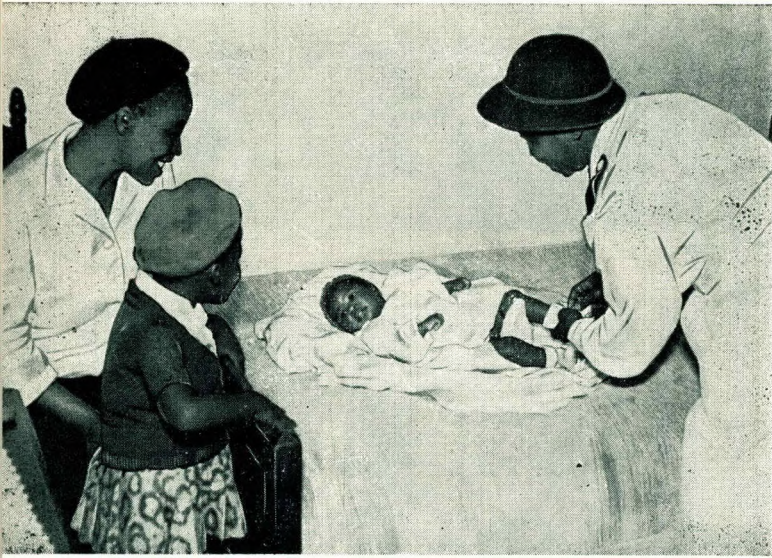
Immunisation against diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, poliomyelitis, smallpox and tuberculosis is vigorously pursued and following intensive mass campaigns the level of immunity is maintained by administering over a half a million immunisations per year. These procedures have significantly lowered the incidence of infectious disease.



Ante-natal examination.



A workseeker being X-rayed.



Home visiting.

Health

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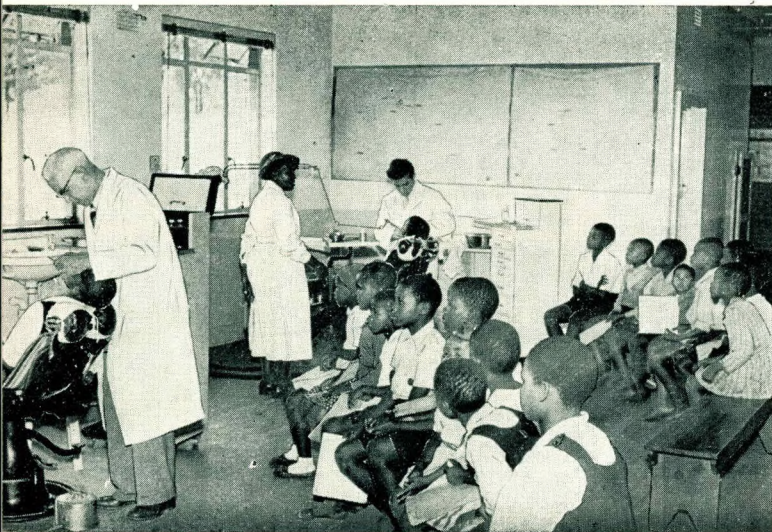
Approximately 50 nursery schools are conducted mainly by voluntary organisations and these are visited and supervised by the family health section to ensure that the highest possible standards are maintained. Health education of the public is regularly undertaken and modern techniques adapted to the cultural needs of the population.

Tuberculosis services are provided free of charge and extend widely to cover diagnosis, treatment in hospital and at home, supplementary feeding and follow-up of the patient and his family.

Fixed and mobile X-ray units are used for case contract and suspect examination and regular visits are paid to factories and other places of work for routine examinations.

All men placed in employment by the Municipal Labour Bureau have a routine medical examination and X-ray for tuberculosis.

Patients under treatment receive food rations regularly and are assisted by the tuberculosis social workers obtaining financial relief in cases of hardship. A dental clinic is established in one suburb with subsidiary clinics at three others. Routine examination and prophylactic care and treatment are given to all school children. Environmental health is controlled by a division by qualified health inspectors. Food and water supplies are regularly tested and attention given to the cleanliness of domestic and business premises. A fifty square mile rodent-free belt is maintained around the area.



Dental clinic.



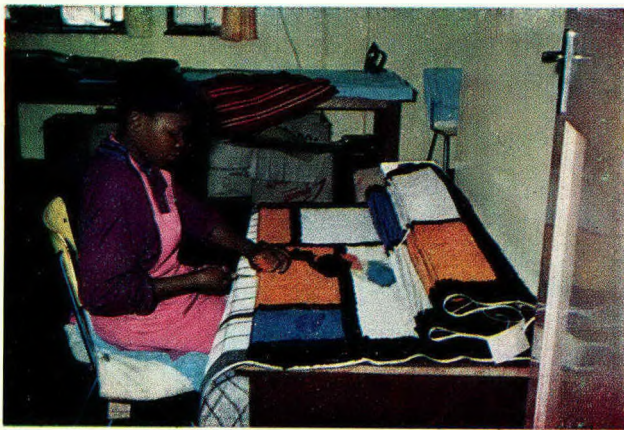
The medical services operate from 7 general clinics.



By learning a trade within their capacity, disabled people are able to live a useful life.



These girls do an essential job and at the same time receive a training which will always be useful to them.



Bantu handicrafts are famous and inmates excel at this type of work.

Welfare

The Welfare Section provides a wide range of services to assist the unfortunates among the Bantu community. Among other things, it undertakes rehabilitation work at a Sheltered Employment Workshop for disabled persons. Here 80 totally and permanently disabled Bantu are constructively occupied with weaving, sewing, knitting and cane-work. They are paid on a piece-work basis. In this Section there are also a number of T.B. Social Workers who deal specifically with people who are suffering hardships as a result of having contracted tuberculosis. These social workers institute measures to ensure that the families of those receiving treatment are provided for while they are in hospital; and that they are re-employed after they have been cured.

Patients under treatment are assisted by means of food rations, rent remission, cash grants and are helped to obtain financial assistance from employers, old age pensions, invalidity and maintenance grants.

Disabled women constructively occupied.





**Skilled
advice . . .**

**official
guidance . . .**

practical aid



Remitting Rent

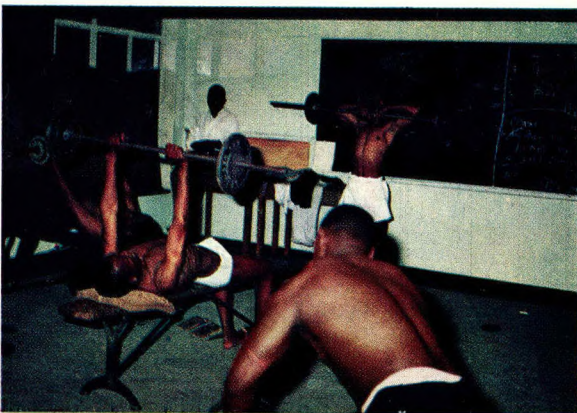


Food Supplies



Cash Grants

Every day hundreds of people bring their problems to the officials in the townships. Perhaps the breadwinner has lost his job; perhaps there has been illness and arrears of rent have accumulated. Whatever the problem, they are sympathetically received and given a patient hearing. The officials have wide experience in this field and are able to take appropriate action. Workseekers are introduced to prospective employers; rents may sometimes be remitted where tenants are in difficulties; cash grants or food parcels are given to the needy. Pension difficulties are investigated and guidance is given. House ownership or legal questions are sorted out. The endless stream of personal troubles is dealt with expeditiously and with understanding.



Clubs provide a congenial atmosphere for mental and physical development.



Sound advice helped this family to buy their own house and furniture on the most favourable terms.

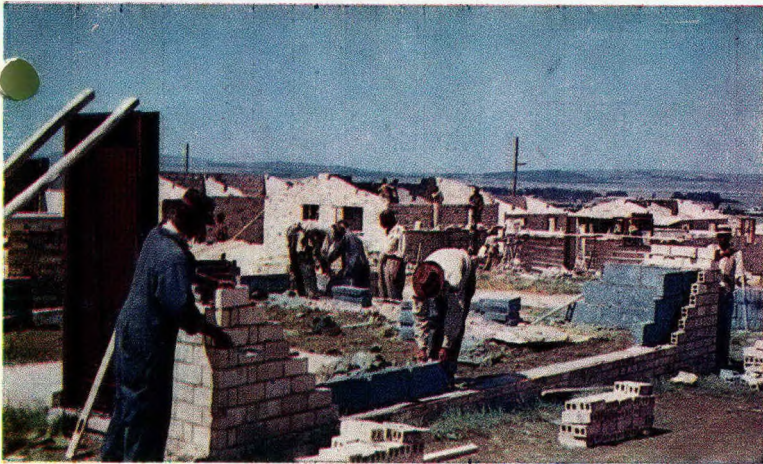


Holidays at the sea—part of a developing programme.



Open-air playgrounds provide outlets for youthful energy.

Youth and Rehabilitation



Here the boys develop a pride in craftsmanship.



Vocational training teaches a trade while it promotes good health.

Bantu youth are catered for in over 24 youth clubs, which have a weekly attendance of over 1,500. The Department also administers play centres where 400 children of pre-school age are cared for while their mothers are at work. There are also 14 women's clubs where instruction is given in sewing, cooking and other domestic crafts.

The Juvenile Employment Section was established with a view to combating juvenile delinquency and has been an unqualified success. Youths are encouraged to register with this Section: they are then given aptitude tests and advised to report to the Youth Centre in Dube. Here they are kept occupied with sport, cinema shows and lectures until employment suitable to the qualifications and aptitudes of each individual is found. The Vocational Training Centre at Dube is the only institution of its kind run by a local authority. It offers training in the basic building trades — bricklaying and plastering, carpentry and joinery, plumbing and drainlaying, and electric house wiring.

This is open to the number of boys that can be absorbed into the building teams of the Council's Housing Division.



24 Youth Clubs and 14 Womens Clubs.



An annual Bantu Music Festival is arranged along Eisteddfod lines and the adjudication is done by top professionals.



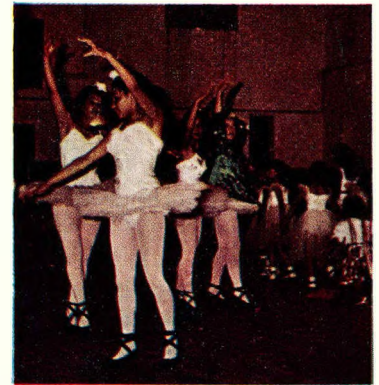
The off-beat rhythms of the modern dance present no difficulties to Bantu teenagers.

Ballroom dancing is becoming increasingly popular. Such functions are keenly anticipated and go with a swing.



Culture

"Man shall not live by bread alone". An interest in the arts is given every encouragement and unusual talent is helped to develop.



To the Bantu the ballet is a new form of art but with their innate talents for music and sense of the dance great developments are possible.

Many outlets are provided for the unique musical talents of the Bantu and there have been many impressive performances.



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