

19.29.1

TRANSVAAL NEWS SHEET

NO. 1

APRIL, 1953

South African Headquarters in Cape Town has started a monthly news sheet and the Transvaal has decided to do the same. We hope this will keep you informed about what is going on in the Transvaal and also in other parts of South Africa and the world.

Here are some news items taken from the Headquarters Bulletin:-

(1) AFRICAN H.Q. COUNCIL

This H.Q. Council held its Annual meeting at Maseru, Basutoland, on January 7th. The African section acquitted itself in all things in such a way that they deserve the congratulations of the rest of us, and they set a standard hard to beat. There were twenty delegates present, and they came from nine of the ten Divisions. Those present were an ideal representation, there being ten Africans and ten Europeans.

The Resident Commissioner did us the honour of attending and opening the proceedings. The Education authorities very kindly lent their Board room and other facilities. To the people of Maseru go our very sincere appreciation and thanks. Maseru is a small place, and an influx of twenty visitors put no mean strain on its hospitality. That hospitality, however, left nothing to be desired, and certainly the African H.Q. Council will look forward to its next visit.

There was a full agenda which was dealt with efficiently and speedily, and in a spirit which made one proud to be a scout. The Divisional reports too reflected advances against often heavy odds. Nothing could be more heartening than the courage, patience and energy of our African friends, and the true scout spirit reflected in those reports. We know the many handicaps under which they work and what a severe test 1952 was; yet their total census of 15,974 was an increase of 1856 on the previous year.

(2) CENSUS

The International Bureau charges us a registration fee based on our annual census and are now waiting for our figures. WE CANNOT GIVE THEM BECAUSE WE ARE WAITING FOR SOME DIVISIONS FOUR MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE CENSUS. If the census in divisions was taken on the correct date - 30th September, 1952 - it has been available all the time since then but never sent. If it was taken later, it will be an incorrect and inadmissible one. We hope defaulters will take heed. The matter is VERY URGENT INDEED.

Meanwhile we must congratulate our African Divisions. The complete African census was available at the HQ Council meeting at Maseru on 7th January. It is now nearly a month later and no other section - Coloured, European or Indian - has a complete census. The Africans lead the field by many lengths.

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NEWS FROM THE DISTRICTS

PRETORIA

A Patrol Leaders Course was held at Irene from 6th March to 8th March inclusive. This was the happiest and most successful Patrol Leaders Course ever held in the Pretoria district. 96 boys attended who were formed into 12 patrols of eight boys each. Training was given on Saturday and Sunday morning. Many people helped to make this camp a success. There was a helpful spirit of co-operation among all ranks. District Commissioner Masiuana and District Secretary Leeuw did really good work. Mr. Marwate was in charge.

RUSTENBURG

The following letter appeared in the Rustenburg Herald on the 27th February:

The Editor,

Sir, A lorry heavily laden with drums of petrol caught alight in Burger Street, during decanting operations outside a garage. In no time the bowser and lorry were enveloped in flame.

Disregarding all possible risks to himself, Piet Maseka, on his own initiative, jumped into the blazing lorry and drove it at full speed to the outskirts of the town, leaving a long trail of flame behind him. Besides being overcome by fumes, he was fortunately none the worse for this hair-raising experience. Had the lorry not been moved, I fear that the danger to both life and property would have been disastrous.

Piet Maseka is no ordinary individual. For many years he has been the Troop Leader of the Rustenburg Native Boy Scouts. During the war he served with the Second Division Signals in Abyssinia and the Western Desert. He was taken Prisoner of War and spent many years behind a barbed wire fence.

What is perhaps even more remarkable is the fact that he has no driver's licence and the last time he drove a vehicle was during the war some 10 years ago.

Rustenburg owes a debt of gratitude to Piet Maseka, and I trust that his exemplary bravery will in due course be recognised by the authorities concerned.

Yours faithfully,

C.W. WULFSOHN.

NORTHERN RHODESIA

A Central African Jamboree was held at Nkana, Northern Rhodesia. Unfortunately, only a few could attend from the Union of South Africa. The jamboree was a great success according to accounts received. It had its own badge which can be seen in our shop. One bright thought which occurred during the jamboree under the heading "Tenderfoot Howlers" was as follows: "A reef knot is a knot used on the Johannesburg Reef".

So now we know!

SAFETY HINTS FOR PEDAL CYCLISTS

The following hints are given by the National Road Safety Organization of South Africa.

Read them carefully. Only three are given this month, so that you can clearly remember them. More hints will be given in succeeding numbers:-

1. Keep to the Left

Always ride well to the left of the road, or the street, thus allowing heavy traffic to overtake you.

2. At Stop Streets .... Halt!

Many cyclists are killed riding past "Stop" signs without stopping. Come to a dead stop if you want to remain alive.

3. Overtake on the right, on the Straight

When overtaking a vehicle never pass it on the left, unless the driver has signalled that he is going to turn right. If you disobey this rule you may knock someone down, or yourself be forced off the road. If there are trams in your town you must find out the local regulations for overtaking trams.

Overtake on the straight: remember always that it is extremely dangerous to overtake at street intersections, crossroads, bends, blind corners and blind rises.

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CORRESPONDENCE

To: B.S.A., Johannesburg.

Astra's Valley,  
P.O. Hlobane,  
Natal.

8th January, 1953.

Dear Sirs,

I am writing to you about a special way of washing hands for your scouts. Take an old jam tin and make a hole in the bottom of it, about  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch diameter. Nail the tin to a tree. Pour water into the tin and water will flow through the hole. Place another tin at bottom of tree to stop from wetting ground. The advantage is washing in one pint of water for camping.

Yours truly,

H.N.S. JACKSON

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## YOUR NEWSLETTER

At the Meeting of your Council in February it was unanimously decided to issue a monthly Newsletter in place of your Gazette.

This decision was made because it had been found in the past that panel contributors were unable, for one reason or another, to send in their contributions regularly so as to enable your editors to publish a Gazette worthy of the Division.

It was also felt that as the Movement was extending its interests throughout the Transvaal and daily becoming more active, a regular monthly Newsletter was necessary to record this new progress, as well as programmes set for you by your organisers.

A further consideration, and of equal importance was, of course, the desirability of becoming better acquainted with our brother scouts in other parts of the Union, and of keeping them informed of what we are doing and what we aspire to in the future.

South African Headquarters in Capetown has already given us a lead in this direction by publishing their own Newsletter from which we shall be able to extract, news and views of special interest to African Scouts.

Your Newsletter will also serve the very important purpose of keeping you in touch with your own Headquarters. We hope you will not hesitate to send in items of news or any comments you feel would be of interest to your fellow members ; for this is essentially your publication and you are invited to make the fullest possible use of it ; and to this end your organisers will from time to time solicit contributions from troops in all parts of the Transvaal. In particular we want to hear /those stationed /from in out-of-the-way-places sothat we can give them more assistance and advice than has been possible in the past.

Due to the fact that this first number is being published at the conclusion of our Annual "Bob-a-Job" week, we have not had the time or the opportunity of including as many contributions as we would have wished ; but since the contents of the Newsletter will not be restricted in any way in the future we should be able, over a period of time, to publish everything of interest to our Movement including serials on subjects of which every scout should have a proper and thorough knowledge.

Your Newsletter will, no doubt, take a more definite form as issue succeeds issue ; but for the time being we shall publish a selection of whatever matter reaches us each month and thus maintain continuity and a closer contact with our troops in the Division.

Our only regret is that, in publishing this Newsletter, we have to say a reluctant goodbye to the old Gazette which has served us so well in the past. We shall miss especially the fine etchings of Mr. Sol. N. Maqambalala which lent such form and dignity to the old publication. However, we have been fortunate in retaining the services of both Mr. Sol. N. Maqambalala and Mr. D.C. Mogotsi and in subsequent issues we shall have the benefit of their combined talents ; and we hope it will also be possible to include occasional sketches in subsequent issues. On behalf of all members of the Movement we wish to express our grateful thanks to both of them for the Gazette of the past and to welcome them to the Editorial Board of this our new venture.

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