

# ABERCORNUCOPIA

## A VILLAGE REVIEW

NO. 17

REGISTERED AT THE

JULY 10, 1964

G. P. O. AS A NEWSPAPER

PRICE 4d.

### £ 25,000 BANK BUILDING FOR MARSHALL AVENUE

Details are now available of some of the building plans for Abercorn announced in our issue of May 12. Decisions have been taken on three important buildings centrally sited on the south side of Marshall Avenue.

The total value of these three projects is about £45,000.

Site clearance and building work have begun on new premises for The Standard Bank Ltd. both at Abercorn and in Kasama.

The contracts, for which Messrs. Thompson and Piccioli of Kasama are the successful tenderers, are each valued at about £25,000.

This puts the Abercorn building at about three times the value of any other commercial building in the township. In fact only the Boma range of offices, the I.R.L.C.S. building and the large White Fathers headquarters exceed in value this substantial development.

The frontage between Westwood's Store and The Lake Press building will be almost completely filled by a building with Council Chamber, Committee Rooms and offices for the District Rural Council which is costed at about £7,200, and adjoining it to the west a new

administrative building costed at about £10,000 which will give the Information Department a front office on the main street and is to house also the Fisheries and Co-operative offices.

Further important construction work due to begin shortly in the township includes the White Fathers' cathedral and an extensive drainage scheme for the older portion of the Mbulu Suburb.

Further afield, £10,000 is to be spent on primary schools in the district, £750 on a market for Mpulungu and £1,000 for road improvements in that area.

### FIRE DAMAGE TO CHURCH

Just before midnight on Tuesday the Fire Brigade was called to a blaze at the U.C.C.A.R. church in the African suburb.

The thatched roof burned out and serious damage was done to building and furniture before the fire could be got under control.

Among the furniture damaged were 40 benches which were shortly to be put to use in the new church lately completed on Allan Chillemu Street.

Arising out of this fire and grass fires within the township, which have lately necessitated brigade turn-outs two and three times daily, police are investigating the possibility of arson of an ordinary rather than a political nature.

The men receive 5s. for each turn-out and 10s. for duty after working hours.

### FAMILIES STORMBOUND AT KASABA

Six Abercorn residents, with five children, had an exciting time over the "Heroes and Unity" holidays.

Mr. and Mrs. Gregor, with their three children now here on holiday from Scottish schools, and Mr. and Mrs. Farran together with Mr. and Mrs. Rushton, were storm-bound at Kasaba for two days over the long holiday. The Game Department boat "Sea Hawk, originally purchased for Abercorn but used in recent years on Lake Mweru, has now been returned here and fitted with a 110 h.p. engine. She was due for delivery to Mr. Curtis for use at Kasaba Game Camp, so the party took advantage of the delivery trip to visit the camp. This fine, powerful boat is reported to have done the 40 miles run in 1 hr. 40 mins. under perfect smooth water conditions. Another Game Department boat also made the trip with some of the Sea Hawk's crew and the party were to return in this much slower boat.

The gale which developed towards the end of the holiday, however, made it impossible to

leave Kasaba. Efforts to get out of the bay and round the point showed that conditions were far too dangerous for the trip home to be undertaken. The 'Dame des Isles' was therefore sent to rescue the stranded passengers who, perforce, returned two days late from an exciting holiday.

The other Game Department boat did, in fact, complete the journey safely under her African coxswain. Leaving Kasaba in company with the "Dames des Isles", he had been told to turn back if conditions were too bad. They were, in the opinion of Mr. Gregor and Mr. Rushton, far too bad; and whenever the coxswain was visible through the waves breaking over his boat, they tried by hand signals to send him back to Kasaba. He however, mistook all this waving for friendly encouragement and continued bashing way through the short, high seas all the way to Mpulungu which he reached (his African passenger prostrated in the bottom of the boat with fear) not long after the large vessel arrived. His only complaint was that his cigarettes got soaked.

IT IS REGRETTED THAT THE LONG JULY HOLIDAY HAS DELAYED PUBLICATION OF THIS ISSUE

### SELF HELP AT ABERCORN

The people of the Abercorn District are making important contributions to the "self help" programme referred to in our last issue.

Five classroom blocks and teachers' houses for primary schools are now under construction for the Emergency School Building Programme. They are situated at Kapoko, on the lakeshore near Kasakalabwe; at Chief Mwamba's headquarters; Chilesia (on the Tunduma Road near Old Mambwe Mission); at Nondo, and at Kalongole in Chief Chitimbwa's area.

The local people have in every case agreed to provide labour for the work on a "self-help" basis and brick making has been going on for some time at all five places. The people at Kapoko have dug quite a long furrow to bring water to the brick making site.

These schools are all due to open on January 1 and will bring the total number of primary schools in the district to 42. To fill the district's requirements a total of 90 such schools is necessary so that there is ample opportunity for further self-help schemes in 48 other centres of population.

In Chief Nondo's area, too, some 25 farmers have formed a co-operative to develop their land by community effort and have stumped and cleared 25 acres of land. They are also stumping their old gardens and as soon as they have a cleared area sufficient to justify tractor ploughing they intend to apply for loans to purchase the equipment.

Further "selfhelp" activities include the two thriving fish markets now operating at the lake shore and several miles of road which was needed to reach one of them.

C. B. C. SHOPS

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## MOMENTS OF TRUTH

When the full force of mass communication techniques has been used to persuade large numbers of people into a certain attitude towards world events they suffer a severe psychological shock when those events take a course quite inconsistent with the ideas implanted. The most striking case was the Nazi Communist pact at the opening of World War II. The Spanish civil war had induced a clear cut, "black—white", division between the "good" Liberals and Socialists and the "bad" Nazis and Fascists; Russia was supposed to be the idol of the one, and Germany the idol of the other. Scores of British idealists died "at the barricades". Then came the pact. I remember my Socialist colleagues in Fleet Street going about in a state of dumb misery, so utterly disillusioned were they, so shocked by this totally unforeseen aspect of reality.

Their sons are now experiencing much the same shock in the context of African affairs. The much publicised "hatred" of South Africa "universally" felt in Britain is accompanied by an unprecedented flow of British immigrants to that country; free Swaziland elections have resulted in an overwhelming endorsement of the Chief's policy of consolidating his country's economic links with South Africa and not one African nationalist candidate was returned: Moise Tshombe — built up as the villain of the whole Congo story — has returned peacefully to Leopoldville and has succeeded in establishing himself as prime minister of the Congo. Hastings Banda has been paying a highly cordial and successful official visit to Portuguese Mozambique. Asked, at a press conference a few days ago, whether these visits might not impair his "image" with other African states, Dr. Banda replied that he had no anxiety on that score. Asked why not, he replied to the visiting reporter, "I think I know my African better than you do." How right! How too, too right he is!

On the Swaziland matter a B.B.C. commentator sadly remarked that the British government must have been deceived as regards the extent of nationalist support in the territory. They have, of course, been similarly deceived in many other territories. The current effort to maintain Joshua Nkomo in the front rank of African leaders is a case in point. He just does not measure up to the image and, unlike some other leaders, he has not, in Southern Rhodesia, the active Colonial Office support which did so much to bring them to power.

"Moments of truth", in fact, are now everywhere over-taking the starry-eyed pundits of liberal paternalism. Castro's own sister has "defected" from Cuba and denounced him as a Communist thug. Soekarno continues busily in his policy of "crushing" Malaysia; Makarios has been importing Greek regular troops under the eyes of U.N. "peace-keepers" to "crush" Turkish Cypriots — and so it goes on.

Moral principle has been the main tool of all these people; but like any other tool it is slung aside when it has served its purpose. Like some costly and elaborate device for aligning the front wheels of a car, it is applied to the job, used to set the wheels and then taken away. If you bolted the thing to the front axle and then tried to drive with it you would come to immediate disaster. Yet this is what the idealists think they can do. It is the engine that drives the car; the load, the incline, the road surface provide the reality of the matter. The micrometer gauges, imposing, as it were, a "mechanical morality" on the machine have no place in its actual operation. Nothing they can do will force the vehicle to take too great a load up too steep an incline. Similarly, there is nothing moral principle can do to force a community to act contrary to the plain physical facts and in the end it is the plain physical facts which prevail.

BUT, if moral principle is quite neglected, or falsely used; if the alignment of the wheels is not under constant check; then also will disaster rapidly overtake the driver — and there is now more than one driver of an African state teetering dizzily close to the brink of the abyss.

CORNELIUS

## MPULUNGU ROAD SURVEY

A complete contour survey of the Mpulungu Road has just been completed and is being studied at Lusaka in order to determine the best possible alignment through the difficult escarpment section.

It is reported that a sum of £50,000 is available to improve the road; particularly so as to make it easier for the fuel tanker lorries. The present steep portions of the road are stated to need so much power to negotiate as seriously to increase the normal running costs of such transport, although in the case of passenger cars and lighter lorry transport the costs are not

so excessive as to be uneconomic.

It is learned that such expenditure is normally calculated on a basis of the benefit to traffic over a period of 50 years, and the difficulty in the case of Mpulungu is that the infrequency of this heavy traffic does not permit any really large capital sum to be allocated.

The present allocation, for example, is £1,000 a year over that period and (so far as tanker traffic is concerned) is applicable to only one vehicle a day. The easing of the route for other vehicles is, however, a factor that will have been taken into consideration.

## "ONE OF THE BEST" WORLD COFFEES

The Editor,  
ABERCORNUCOPIA  
Sir,

In your June issue you mentioned the good qualities of Abercorn coffee and as usual, I am struck by the extraordinary number of times things are re-discovered in Abercorn.

I have recently looked through some of the correspondence of the old Coffee Growers' Association, predecessor of the Abercorn Co-operative Society Ltd., and I quote from a letter sent to them by Messrs. Lambert and Son, 85 Cable St. London, dated November 27, 1934. They wrote:

"Firstly we would like to say that we have been buying Northern Rhodesian coffee now since last year under various marks including 'Ballymain' and 'R.C.' Without wishing to flatter the coffee in any way, we find it one of the best liquoring coffees that we have had; both in liquor and thickness it is eminently suited for our blends..... Our advice is to produce only the finest coffee rather than a quantity of coffee and if we can obtain regular supplies of Northern Rhodesian coffees as we have been purchasing lately we can guarantee a good price."

It is clear from the above

authoritative statement that the local coffee is in the top class and that this has been well known for the past 30 years; but no doubt experts of all types will continue to spend good revenue on re-discovering these facts from time to time for the next 30 years.

Permit me to deprecate the combination of circumstances which has caused the abandonment of the farms on which this excellent coffee was produced and the continuing erosion of the population who have the wherewithal and know-how to produce these crops. Tens of thousands of pounds have been expended by our departing friends piloting and recording the facts and their work and efforts are appreciated by all thinking people.

It is understood that the Agricultural Department recently planned to cut up one of the large farms into blocks which could be irrigated and settled by people who would be assisted to grow coffee, but they have been thwarted by the illegal and indiscriminate influx of squatters. This is one of the serious problems which must be settled before orderly production can be expected.

Yours etc  
David Clark

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## VALUE OF SITUPAS

Mr. Ablam Binnes Chitala, who was formerly on the staff of Abercorn Hospital and has been visiting the Copperbelt, has sent us an interesting report of his observations. Mr. Chitala writes in English and his account has been shortened and amended to bring it into line with the more usual style but is otherwise unaltered.

He writes:-

I have been away from Abercorn since March, have visited nearly all the Copperbelt towns, have discussed current events with political leaders and have made my own observations.

The towns, locations, suburbs and villages throughout the Copperbelt were completely quiet and friendly. Party rivalry is not heard of since unanimity is general. Beerhalls are open to both sexes, Racial feelings are gradually decreasing. Christian faiths are operating normally with good attendances. There is some political feeling against the Watchtower movement but this does not seem dangerous and should come to an end soon.

Mine employers have put everyone on a monthly basis and there is much evidence of promotion with equality prevailing in the mine townships, as regards salaries, housing and opportunities for employment.

## ONE WAY TO SHOOT AN ELEPHANT

What must be this year's tallest - though true - game story comes from Lundazi on the authority of the Government news service.

Game Department Hunter Kaputula Duni was sent to deal with a herd of elephant which were destroying village gardens.

He picked out one young bull, killing it with one shot. Then he heard furious trumpeting behind him and glancing round saw an enormous elephant charging him. There was nothing he could do but run and he made off at his utmost speed

Sir Roy's account of the birth, growth and murder of the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland is a technically excellent piece of work. From the great mass of documentary material

In some mine companies people are engaged in a "gentle" manner. They are not lined up as previously but are given formal letters to fill in and are then sent to the recruitment officer.

At Nchanga Mine there was still the lining-up procedure and I was present when the recruitment officer asked everyone to show his references. One man handed in his situpa and some others attacked him, saying that he should have destroyed it. However he escaped, protected by police, and three men who had chased him were arrested but afterwards released.

I should like to urge people to keep their situpas in which all their job references are written. They must not be troubled by political thugs. A bricklayer or an experienced miner who is without his situpa may find himself employed only as a learner or not employed at all. I do not think our present government would disagree on this matter because current advertisements for staff ask for previous references.

I do not advise people to leave home and come here looking for employment. It is very difficult to find jobs here and many people are still unemployed.

I hope to write again about conditions in the maize belt and on the farms. A.B. Chitala.

with his loaded .404 rifle over his shoulder. The beast was gaining on him and in a desperate effort to frighten it he pulled the trigger without looking round.

After running on for some distance, he realised that the trumpeting and crashing had stopped, looked round and saw the elephant obviously wounded.

He then finished it off with one shot and found he had shot a beast with 92 lbs. and 83 lbs. tusks, the heaviest ivory collected on the Lundazi plateau for some years.

## WELENSKY'S 4,000 DAYS,

he writes a straight-forward, plain narrative in admirably direct and simple English and he has included verbatim reports of discussions, assessment of personalities and much other material of human as distinct from historical interest.

It makes a fascinating tale of the realities of top level politics and the confrontation of top-level men.

The authority of the facts is beyond challenge and they are presented with that homely dignity to which we are accustomed in his public utterances, yet the tale has all the tension and suspense of a well-written political novel—a better book, for example, than the American "Advise and Consent."

The book, it seems, has moved into the "best-seller" class in Britain and Sir Roy has been asked to sign 2,600 copies for Rhodesian personal orders alone.

The book demolishes the argument that Sir Roy should have realised from the beginning the British Government's intentions. True, he may have been somewhat trustful, but, if so, he had every right to feel at least some confidence in a Britain he had learned to love and honour—a Britain whose perfidy has seldom been so blatant even towards foreign countries as has that of the Britain which has now betrayed its own people in Africa.

For, as he relates, even Mr. Butler when he visited the Federation in 1963 must have been ignorant of his Prime Minister's intentions when on June 23 he declared that Britain would brook no violence or intimidation and on July 10 urged investors to put money into the Federation assuring them of the British Government's backing if they did so. Within six months the Federation was killed.

Re-written in Shakespearian blank verse and set in a Tower of London dungeon, the recorded talk in prison between Mr. Dingle Foot, Queen's Counsel, and Dr. Banda would make a magnificent conspiracy scene for a Tudor tragedy. It contains no trace of any lawyer-client consultation and it is not sur-

prising that the attack on Sir Roy for allegedly publishing privileged material appears to have collapsed.

Sir Roy tells in full the story of how British forces were alerted at Nairobi for action in the Federation and he has since stated that he has sound information that it was Iain McLeod who gave these orders, later countermanded by the Cabinet.

He also devotes two long chapters to the extraordinary Congo story and his involvement in it as a kind of go-between; constantly persuading Moise Tshombe to attempt some kind of understanding with the chaotic succession of Congolese authorities and United Nations puerilities.

In general it is clear that the British government, ignorant of the true situation in southern Africa and advised by people with an interest in furthering a particular world policy only doubtfully valid for that part of the world and themselves either ignorant of or blinded to reality, suddenly abandoned all its commitments to the Federation, to its interests in Africa and to the welfare and safety of its citizens there. What forced them into this position has yet to be disclosed.

In February 1962, when Mr. Duncan Sandys, Lord Alport and Mr. Julian Greenfield were lunching with Sir Roy at Muzinda, (he writes) Sir Roy said that with resolution and a firm exercise of authority it was not difficult to keep Nyasaland peacefully in the Federation.

"No, Roy," said the Commonwealth Secretary, "You see, we British have lost the will to govern."

"But we haven't," snapped back Greenfield before he could stop himself.

Sir Roy writes: "This revelation of a British Cabinet Minister's thinking affected two of us very strongly: I had a severe migraine that night, and Lord Alport (I learned long afterwards) went home and vomited".

Perhaps the final verdict on the whole nauseating business

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—WITH



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## "HAY FEVER" — A COMEDY

Noel Coward's "Hay Fever" is a severe test for both producer and cast even in places richer in dramatic talent than Abercorn; but it is test which is always cheerfully accepted by amateurs.

A middle-aged "darling of the public" type actress and a successful "popular" author—both self-centred, self-dramatising artists—are the parents of a lad and a girl reared unpruned as it were in a disorderly, emotional household where everyone does what he pleases. "temperamental" displays are frequent and formal manners absent. Each of the four invites a guest for the week-end—the mother, her latest athlete protege; the father, a commonplace young woman; the girl, a polished young diplomat; the lad, a "society" deb.

Chaos ensues

We have, therefore, not so much a comedy of manners as a comedy of the clash of manners. The four hosts live each in a world of his own; the four guests each come from highly mannered sections of society—thick headed sport, lower middle class suburb, Whitehall and Mayfair respectively. The fun lies in the constant discord between them and their "bohemian" hosts and the eventual complete switch in the allegiances of the four couples. The "culture-clash" is implicit in every line of Coward's dialogue.

Much depends, therefore, on the lines being said so as to convey not only the meaning of the words but the whole social complex of the speaker—complexes, too, more sharply defined in 1925, when the piece was first produced, than they are now.

It was this aspect of the comedy which, as presented by A.C.T.S. on June 27, was, unavoidably, somewhat blurred and uncertain. I say "unavoidably" because such parts could not possibly all be cast from persons naturally having the required background, nor from persons so professionally skilled as to portray it with the

precision and confidence which such a writer as Coward intends.

Yet "Hay Fever", even without those finer nuances, is a most amusing piece and many of the audience spent much of the evening almost helpless with laughter.

Joan Carlin's "Judith" was undoubtedly the performance of the evening. Not only is her former professional experience ideal for this fine part, but she had the advantage of having played it before in a small London theatre. It demands the full, flaunting histrionics of the skilled actress and Joan was able to give it that precision of speech, wide ranging modulation of voice and freedom of gesture which are essential to such a part.

Pam Crosse-Upcott again played excellently in her part of a smart young thing from "town". Her scene on the settee with the author and her vitality and strength of personality when she railed at the family as hypocrites and worse both showed acting at a high amateur level. Her wardrobe, too, was well chosen and effective.

Glenda Tobin gave the part of the spoiled daughter all she had and made her a pleasing wayward creature. If the character seemed a little light-weight in personality this was a problem more of casting than of any further effort Glenda could have brought to it; though more, perhaps, might have been done with costume, hairstyle and make up to define the character; but that is a feminine province. A Coward "ingenue" is a somewhat special creature—particularly in view of 40 years of social change which has elapsed since he wrote.

Chris Roberts as the lad, though vastly amusing, was also, perhaps a bit light-weight, especially vocally, for the part. It is not that he was not well heard, but Simon, for all his casual throw away manner needed a little more pace and decision especially in the opening dialogue between the two which is so important as setting the mood and circumstance of the play. It was,

### ENTERTAINMENT

Sat. July 25 The Commodore's Ball to be

### FORTHCOMING

Wed. July 15 VANISHING PR  
Magnificent Technicolor film on

Wed. July 29 FLOWER DRUM S  
Musical in Cinemascope and Techni

### ALL SAINTS CH

Sunday — Evening Service 6.15  
19th July

Sunday — Morning Family Ser  
26th July Fuller.

Sunday — Evening Service and  
2nd August —Rev.

Sunday — Evensong 6.30 p.m.—  
9th August

SUNDAY SCHOOL will meet on Sun  
(please note change of time) with the  
July when the morning family service  
School will be part of this service.

### ST. PAUL'S AND ST. VINCENT

Holy mass every Sunday  
At St. Francis; 7.35 a.m.  
At St. Paul's 7.30 a.m. (sermon in Be  
At Catholic Welfare Hall (Abercorn  
mass with sermon in

Holy Mass daily  
At St. Francis; 6.15 a.m.  
At St. Paul's; 6.15 a.m.  
At Catholic Welfare Hall, Suburb

Meetings and Classes at Catholic Wel  
Mondays at 5 p.m. St. Vincent de  
Tuesdays at 4.30 p.m. Instruction

Meetings of the Legion of Mary:-  
Wednesdays at 4.30 p.m. Adults  
Thursdays at 4.30 p.m. Boys  
Fridays at 4.30 p.m. Girls

Confessions: everyday before Holy M  
Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament  
Sunday 6 p.m.

# TOWN AND DISTRICT

**COLD** THIS IS **CASTLE**  
THE BEER

## COMEDY OF SOCIAL DISCORD

### ENTERTAINMENT

to be held at Abercorn Club.

### FILMS

**PRAIRIE** Walt Disney's  
American wild life.

**DRAGON** An orient flavoured  
film starring Nancy Kwan.

### CHURCH

10 p.m.—Mr. A.E.A. Scott

Service 10 a.m. —Rev. R.N.

Holy Communion 6.30 p.m.  
—Rev. D.T. Woffenden.

—Mr. D'A. T.N. Payne.

Monday mornings at 9.30 a.m.  
with exception of Sunday 26th  
when it is held and the Sunday

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Location) 9.30 a.m. (High  
Mambwa or Mambwe)

6.15 a.m.

Welfare Hall  
for Paul Conference  
for catechumens

Mass

at St. Francis every Sat-

though, an easy and spontaneous performance thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.

Alec Gregor made a first appearance on any stage as the author. To a certain eccentricity of manner and gesture which well suited the part he added a trimmed beard and a pronounced Scots accent both more usual in popular authors today than 40 years ago. He is to be congratulated on a successful "first" in an important character part.

What can be said of Joan Misen's Jackie? Her dead-pan, earthy hostility to the whole incomprehensible business was absolutely defined and consistent, most entertaining and successful with the audience. To what extent it was Coward is really beside the point. It was good fun and a good performance.

Gavin Barr as the Foreign Office type had an easier task. One supposes, after all, that the F.O. is in any case something of a model for the P.A. But Gavin was the polished English society man to the life and the neat moustache was a most successful touch.

Bill North, too, as the actress's athletic protégé, was happily cast. An easy manner, a "Wodehousian" way of saying how awfully sorry he was, and a general air of dumb innocence in alarming circumstances came over very well.

Amelia Gregor as Judith's formidable maid and dresser, also made a successful first appearance in a smaller part to which she brought a strong sense of character.

Liz Rushton's production of this "clash of manners" was smooth and very well rehearsed. In a play of this sort, as I wrote earlier, much depends on familiarity with the detail of the various social complexes involved and, if the cast cannot be filled by "naturals", it is neither possible nor really necessary to drill an amateur cast in the full detail of the author's

intentions.

One matter really does need attention and that is a carefully worked out, fixed schedule of "front" arrangements. It was a pity there was this time no music. Much can be done with music to bridge the opening and interval waits, to send the audience away happy. It can help also to discipline them. One cannot delay curtain time until everyone has decided they have nothing better to do than take their seats. Conversations, drinks and the rest should be absolutely subservient to curtain time—or as nearly so as can be managed by the usual tactful theatre methods and the easily arranged theatre mechanics. I think myself that the coffee interval has got a little out of hand, largely because of the great attractiveness of the snacks provided. No one likes leaving a good trough—all inclusive in the price of admission!

J.L.C

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## 63 NEW BIRD SIGHTINGS

Sixty-three newly recorded bird species have been added to the duplicated list of bird sightings in the Abercorn area compiled and circulated to interested people by Mr. Desmond Vesey-FitzGerald and his son Michael.

In the first such list (noticed in this publication in April, 1963) 273 species of 65 families were set out and in the new list the total is 336 species. This is just over half (51 per cent) of the total of 658 species recorded for the whole territory in Benson and White's "Check List of the Birds of Northern Rhodesia."

The area covered includes the southern tip of Lake Tanganyika, Kalambo Falls and Umingi Pans and may be taken as within about 30 miles radius of Abercorn. It is doubtful whether

there is any other small area (about 2,800 square miles) in which so large a proportion of all the birds known to inhabit or visit the Territory can be seen.

This great variety arises, of course, from the presence within the area of upland grassland, bush country, patches of true forest, marsh, flood plains, high and low level water—in fact almost every type of habitat except sea coast and desert—combined with a 3,000 feet range in altitude.

The authors will always be glad to hear of sightings of the less usual varieties, especially, of those of those which may prove to be new recordings for the area.

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## TRIBUTES TO "VESEY'S" 15 YEARS WITH LOCUSTS

"He visited Abercorn in 1935 and liked the place. He paid another visit in 1947 and still liked the place. He began work here in 1949 built his own house here and has liked Abercorn ever since."

With these words Mr. J.A. Whellan, President of the Council of the International Red Locust Control Service, at the buffet supper given on June 13 at Lake View Hotel by Mr. C. du Plessis, Director of the Service, and Mrs. du Plessis, made to Mr. Desmond Vesey-FitzGerald M.B.E. the gift of a presentation pipe and fountain pen subscribed for by the staff of the Service on the occasion of his retirement from his full time appointment. Mr. Vesey-FitzGerald will, however continue his long connection with the Service on a consultative basis.

Mr. du Plessis first told the company of Mr. Vesey-FitzGerald's retirement and paid tribute to the great value of his 15 years service.

Mr. Whellan, giving details of Mr. Vesey-FitzGerald's scientific record, said that it dated from 1932 when he was an entomologist working on sugar cane pests in Trinidad. He then made important ecological studies of tropical South American grasslands and in 1936 went to the Seychelles for work on the control of coconut pests. While based there he did much field work in Tanganyika and Madagascar in ecological studies of palms. It was in the course of this work that he first visited Abercorn in 1939.

He then worked as entomologist in Malaya on ecological studies of rain forests in connection with rubber tree pests and it was here, in 1941, that Mr. Vesey-FitzGerald encountered what he calls "trouble with the Japanese". In the course of this episode he became a lieutenant in Chinese Communist forces from which,

he says, he has never been demobilized.

In 1942 he began five years work with the Desert Locust organisation, at first under military auspices, and in 1947 became Senior Assistant Game Warden in Kenya, continuing his ecological studies throughout in desert and semi-arid country.

In that year he was seconded to Lusaka for assessment of the locust situation in Northern Rhodesia and surrounding territories and identified the Malagarasi as a likely outbreak area.

In 1949 "Vesey" was finally seconded to the Red Locust Service at Abercorn where he has been occupied ever since with the study of everything pertaining to the insect and animal life of the tropical grasslands, in particular as the habitat of the Red Locust.

He is the author of no fewer than 52 ecological and biological publications.

Telling one or two stories of his association with Vesey, Mr. Whellan said that after one very exhausting journey to Chiengi, on Lake Mweru, in the course of which they had to rebuild a collapsed bridge, Vesey's first interest on arrival was a very small and rare tropical bat which he spotted in the ruins of the rest-house there. Despite the tiring day, he did not rest for a second until he had this specimen safe and sound. On this present visit, while Mr. Whellan was walking bare foot on the margin of Lake Chila, Vesey had introduced him to a snake which he strongly suspected was an old friend.

Vesey, he said, was undoubtedly the finest field naturalist in southern Africa.

In his reply Mr. Vesey-FitzGerald paid special tributes to his two African assistants who were among the guests.

## The ills of Audrey

Most Abercorn residents of more than a year or two's standing will know of Dr. Trant's large pet monkey, Audrey. She is usually in the car, tethered to a tree near where the doctor may be working or at home with her mistress. Although friendly to men Audrey has a poor reputation among women for she seems to have some resentment against humans of her own sex except, of course, in the case of her mistress to whom she is devoted.

Audrey is a Sykes monkey now 23 years old acquired by Dr. Trant at Mombasa over 20 years ago. She is a handsome, active creature apparently in perfect condition. Her shining black coat has russet strands on the body, cream collar and shirt front, tufts of cream hair at the ears with black limbs and tail.

The detailed medical history of this monkey was recently the subject of a paper read by Mr. Alec Gregor, Provincial Veterinary Officer, to a veterinary conference where it created great interest.

With regard to her age, there are references to monkeys living 25 years in zoos and a record of a rhesus monkey in Florida which died at the age of 33. It is clear that Audrey could never have lived to anything like her present age if the same troubles had attacked her in the wild.

She has survived serious laceration in fights, smallpox, a bite from a rabid dog, serious haemorrhage from an internal condition cured by major surgery diabetes violent reaction from bee stings and has had pyorrhoea.

After one of her fights with other monkeys (at one time Dr. Trant had eight) her skin was so badly torn in several places that it took the doctor and an assistant over an hour to stitch the wounds.

Audrey takes injections well but will not take drugs by mouth. She has the greatest curiosity about drugs and has often rifled a medical bag and filled her mouth with tablets, but invariably spits them out and has come to no harm. In 1962 Audrey and a small baboon broke into the doctor's room and

found a box of Daraprin—the anti malarial drug. A lot of tablets were later found which had been spat out, but the baboon was less sensible and was found dead in his box next morning.

It was not known that monkeys could contract smallpox so Audrey was never vaccinated. In 1956 Audrey contracted the disease. In 10 or 12 days, however she recovered. She ate nothing for several days but drank water copiously, the first food she would take being some blackberries from a garden.

During a rabies outbreak in the Mwenzo area, when all dogs not tethered were being shot, the doctor was walking with her dog on a leash and Audrey running free behind. A savage-looking black bitch suddenly charged the dog and Audrey went for the bitch which bit her on the nose. As this dog seemed certainly rabid and the face wound was especially dangerous, Audrey was given 21 injections and suffered no ill effects.

Audrey never mated although she was introduced to a handsome male Sykes monkey and has had Vervets and others as playmates. She has, however often adopted young monkeys provided they could drink from a saucer. She has carried them around for as long as a year groomed them, comforted them and fondled them but would not let them share her food. If there was no small monkey to cuddle she would make do with a woolly rabbit or similar toy.

When she was about 14 she had such serious haemorrhage that it was feared her life must be terminated or a surgeon found who would perform the major operation of hysterectomy. She and her mistress were then near Mwanza on Lake Victoria and a skilled woman gynaecologist at a hospital 25 miles away agreed to operate and found the monkey was suffering severely from fibroid tumours which were removed. Audrey did not come round from the anaesthetic for 24 hours, and all the doctors in Mwanza helped with the case.

Finally, the following morning, Audrey responded at the moment when her mistress, at the bedside,

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## ABERCORN EARNS THE BUNNY

The annual golf match during the July holiday between Abercorn and Kasama for the Murray Quaich was played this year at Kasama with—so far as scoring is concerned—disastrous results for Abercorn. Kasama won by 13½ matches to 4½.

The winners for Abercorn were: In the singles, Johnny Eysell, Jimmy Fraser and Taffy Martin; in the foursomes, Jim Ennis and Fanie Smit, a win; and Taffy Martin and Bill Morony, a half.

The golf, however, was considerably better than these scores indicate as play was pretty close in most games.

Kasama has so many golfers that a subsidiary "Abercorn" team was drawn from Kasama players. This team won 4 matches to "Kasama's" one; but this score, naturally, had no bearing on the result of the match.

The Murray Quaich was twice filled with the traditional three double whiskies—to be drunk neat in one go—and both captains, Ken Dubber for Kasama and Mark Lloyd for Abercorn, acquitted themselves admirably in this exercise.

Once again Abercorn is responsible for putting a rabbit on the now famous flag. Counting up the rabbits (which are understandably getting smaller and smaller) this 1964 win for Kasama makes the series all square over the years.

It was a most enjoyable two days' golf and Kasama thoroughly deserved their win. At present they certainly have more and better golfers; but next year things may have changed and it will be Abercorn's turn to play on the home course.

The Monthly Medal Golf Competition was played on June 27 and the winners proved to be:

Senior: Jim Ennis with a nett 70, runner up Mark Lloyd.

Junior: Oattie Olivier with a nett 74, runner up Bill Morony.

Golfers will be pleased to note that the scores show improvement over those returned for the championships.

J.M.C.

# STORM—TOSSED GRADUATES

(CONTRIBUTED)

The Abercorn Club Yacht Section found itself up against strong competition at the N.R. National Championships held at Mulungushi over the Heroes and Unity long week-end.

The section took down their four Graduate Class dinghies, skippered by Gavin Barr, the Commodore, with Caroline Barr as crew; Alan Bowmaker, with Tom Williamson crewing; Glenda Tobin, with her brother George Smith crewing for her, and Colin Carlin skippering the fourth boat with variety of crew including Maureen Williamson and Jennifer Bowmaker.

The four boats were all sailing on the dam by Friday when each was compared with the other three to determine the best sailing rig ready for the warming-up race held on Saturday afternoon.

In the prevailing light winds Abercorn helmsmen could make no impression on the Copperbelt crews and finished well down.

On Sunday again, contrary to all expectations, what wind there was was even lighter than the day before and for much of the afternoon there was no wind at all. Eventually the Graduate course was shortened and soon afterwards a light wind sprang up but too late and half the championship races were over without an Abercorn boat getting a first or a second place. During the day, however, Gavin Barr and Colin Carlin both gained a third.

Monday morning dawned russet red and, with some trepidation, Abercorn emerged from their tents to be met by a chilling blast that, by the time of the first race, was a strong wind gusting up to Force 5; but in a hectic start with a fair swell running the Abercorn boats got well away.

Glenda Tobin fell victim to a gale-force gust and capsized—losing in the process her bailer (which was actually the camp coffee pot). Alan Bowmaker, however, shielded from the waves by the solid bulk of Tom Williamson, sailed brilliantly to come home first.

In the second race of the day Colin Carlin's mast went but Gavin Barr sailed into second place.

Tuesday brought what can only be described as a howling gale and many boats were planing from the start. The race was a general handicap with a massed start and some of the large 505's were reaching 20 m.p.h. on a plane.

Conditions were the worst seen at Mulungushi for some time and Alan Bowmaker had to retire with a soaked and frozen Jennifer physically incapable of any more crewing. Gavin Barr's mast snapped and Colin Carlin was the only Abercorn boat to finish in this race but too far behind to get a place.

However, the information available shows Gavin Barr third in the Graduate Class with Colin Carlin an estimated fourth. On a preliminary showing the Club came second in the Broken Hill Trophy, awarded as a team prize the winners of which were—appropriately enough—Broken Hill.

In general the Abercorn contingent felt that the trip had been well worth while and a lot of valuable experience was gained particularly the technique of starts in high winds. Paddy Tobin, who was Abercorn's representative in the judge's box, is to be congratulated on being asked to act as a

judge in the forthcoming Central African Regatta.

The Abercorn party wishes to thank the organisers—and in particular the Broken Hill Commodore, Doug Maxwell most sincerely for the efficiency with which the event was organised and especially for the generous and enjoyable hospitality which they received and are pleased that they were able to give some return for their welcome with Gavin Barr's guitar playing, which brightened the mariners' leisure moments on more than one occasion.

Broken Hill yachtsmen at any rate, would be delighted to bring their boats down to Abercorn for a regatta on Lake Chila and the idea found quite a lot of support generally. A Lake Tanganyika course would be even more attractive to these serious minded sailormen and perhaps something can be done about this in the not too distant future.

At the close of the programme there were some objections to be heard and the scoring system, worked out on a logarithmic curve, is rather complex so that detailed results were not available at the time of going to press.



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## CHILA CHAT

Little — if any — chatting has been done at Chila lately and this for two important reasons. First oral activity there in the past week or two is better described as chattering and it is people's teeth not tongues, that have been doing it. Secondly over the holiday all the best chatters have been absent anyway; nine of them to Broken Hill for the sailing championship; 12 of them to Kasama for the golf match and half a dozen more on one of those important voyages on Lake Tanganyika that so often become obligatory over holiday periods.

The new I.R.L.C.S. Hillier helicopter is now operating from Abercorn airport and Ted Malujlo and Walter Puntis are back from their courses in piloting and maintenance. Ted flew the machine up from Johannesburg and found that one of the great advantages of such a machine was that he could carry extra petrol in jerricans, land in a field somewhere and pour it into the tank.

The Belgian vessel Baron Dhanis—often a visitor to Mpu-lungu — has just successfully transported 100 European refugees from beleaguered Albertville north to Rwanda under the United Nations flag. Apparently some days of negotiations with armed Congolese rebels were necessary before these United Nations officials, missionaries and others could be got safely away.

One would be tempted to see most ominous significance in the fact that "Old Glory" was raised to an Abercorn masthead on July 4 if one did not know that this is a thing that happens anywhere in the world where Liz. Rushton happens to be on Independence Day. In this case it was in her garden and friends attended a party at which, one learns, United States law — in one respect at any rate— was most strictly observed: namely enthusiastic compliance with the 21st. Amendment to the great American Constitution.

Mike Farina, who was Abercorn's Immigration Officer until

six months ago, has written from Beit Bridge announcing the birth of a daughter on June 15 who has been given the romantic name of Juanita.

Mrs. Mary Richards, whose many seasons of plant collecting from her Abercorn base, added to a life-time of similar work in Britain, have earned her one of the highest distinctions that the academic world can bestow, is to be installed as a Master of Science of the University of Wales at a ceremony on July 18. She will be one of the guests at a banquet the previous evening and Abercorn friends have sent a cable which they hope will be read out at this function.

The local party publication "Zambia Patriot" has just reappeared with apologies for "five months' delay" in publication. What I liked best in this issue was a splendid new English word. We are told that if Southern Rhodesia declares its independence Northern Rhodesia politicians will "smuntle" Mr. Smith's government. My Oxford dictionary does not give this word, but I think it should be included in the next edition. It is a magnificent word. It contains all the feeling of "smite", "smash", blunt", "runt", and lots of good old Anglo-Saxon earthy words for busting something you don't like. I think, but cannot be sure, that it is derived from (and is a great improvement on) "dismantle" — a feeble word reminiscent of divesting a blonde of her opera cloak. Give me "smuntle" every time. Counting up people I should just love to see "smuntled", I ran out of fingers — and toes.

When I was living in the Camco house, between Landry's Store and All Saints' Church five or six years ago, it was amusing to sit on the verandah at week ends and watch the odd car speed by in a northerly direction, often loaded with baggage, and obviously belonging to holiday tourists. For a few minutes one wondered why it was taking children, boats,

tents, carry-cots and the like on a wild goose chase for holiday happiness towards Sumbawanga. Then one would see it return, rather slowly and sheepishly, the occupants looking from one side to the other trying to find Abercorn. Confident that they had at last reached the suburbs they had sped on to the town centre only to find themselves in the bush again before they could ease up on the accelerator. That was in the days when there was a hotel in the township, and is an amusement that can no longer be enjoyed by Marshall Avenue residents.

Talking of hotels, is it not time that some real effort was made by such authorities as the Tourists Board and the Town Management Board to arrive at some permanent solution of the problem here? It seems likely that the whole question may soon come up again in an acute form, not because of any deficiency in the present facilities which, although some way out of town are comfortable and at a high standard of catering but because of the old problem

of the permanent availability of a suitable site and building. The impossibility of developing the original hotel under the formerly existing tenure conditions of the site — despite a quite reasonable level of business — is well known; the present hotel is on a no less precarious basis so far as tenure is concerned; the building clause on the scheduled Lake Chila site has, in the past, been so high as to impose a capital cost quite unjustified by the observable prospects. Surely now that the political future of the country is settled even to the satisfaction of a bank (so far as a modest building programme is concerned) it is time for some serious move to be made towards a permanent solution of the hotel problem?

One of Irvin and Johnson's large fishing boats was impounded recently by the Congo authorities and held pending payment of £150. It is learned that the money was sent and paid but the boat has not yet been released. One report says that its batteries have been removed.

IMPULUMUSHI

# HEINRICH'S

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