

# ABERCORNUCOPIA

## A VILLAGE REVIEW

No. 39

REGISTERED AT THE

JULY 8TH. 1966

G. P. O. AS A NEWSPAPER

PRICE 4d.

### Luxury Game Viewing

Had a magnificent lion hunt a week or so ago.

I put up a fine pair I found resting under a tree and they made off at a fast lope but I was able to "cut out" the lioness and chase her for two or three hundred yards through light bush.

Lions, hunters themselves, don't very much care for being hunted. They soon get fed up with it and this one dived into a thick patch of brown spear grass and lay flat on her belly while I watched her from a nearby vantage point.

She knew I was there and didn't like it; so in a couple of minutes she leaped out of the grass, sat with her back to a small tree and started swearing at me.

I could see her vicious snarls as she threw her head back teeth bared to roar; but I could not hear what she was saying. The helicopter was much too noisy.

Yes! I was merely a passenger in Ted Malujlo's helicopter on a locust scouting trip over the unbelievably vast Ikuu plain north of Lake Rukwa.

These lions were a lucky break for they are not often seen in this area.

We flew so low over great herds of stampeding buffalo that we seemed to be riding on their backs. There were four or five herds each of two or three hundred beasts and it was amazing to see that they were in magnificent condition—great, fat, meaty animals, many weighing all of half-a-ton with a large number of calves and half-grown youngsters, all tearing wildly along under the hovering aircraft.

The half-dozen or more giraffe families we met must have added up to forty or fifty beasts and they too had many calves and youngsters with them.

As for elephant—I counted one fine herd of twenty and this was only one of a number of parties and families we encountered. One fine tusker—apparently solitary when we met him—raised his trunk, flapped his ears at us and swayed sideways. Ted Malujlo, hovering 30 or 40 yards in front of him, swayed sideways too so that we conducted a solemn sort of slow dance with this massive partner who eventually tossed up his trunk and moved off smartly, fed up with the thing.

We met one magnificent roan, majestic and beautiful on the vast plain. He normally takes no account of such small nuisances as eagles or vultures so he eyed us for minutes as we approached. Then he suddenly realised that this was no bird he had ever seen before and galloped off as fast as he could go.

There were, of course, a number of the smaller buck and the usual highly comical wart hog family scooting along like animated footballs. I also saw one such pig family rushing down a grass tunnel just beneath us.

We made straight for the tremendous steep escarpment and climbed steadily up its rugged slope looking down through the open door on enormous dongas and chasms as we sailed serenely a few feet over its highest point.

Then, after a brief landing at Muse, I changed over to Robin

Crosse-Upcott's Cessna and we swept home at zero height over the grass at 150 miles an hour like the finest car in the world. It just seemed a little odd that there did not appear to be any road. The illusion was heightened by the fact that at this level there is at times a sort of "micro-turbulence"—little tiny "bumps" caused, I suppose, by the small furrows and mounds in the ground surface. This sometimes feels exactly like the unevenness of a good road.

Robin never bothers to rise at all for ant-hills or small trees; he just skirts them neatly—possibly making a remark to you over his shoulder as he does it!

We banked as close as seemed reasonable to Mrs. Damm's house at Malonje and then followed the Kalambo down to its 700 ft. fall, over the brink and down the narrow gorge to the Lake.

Then we skimmed at zero height again above the still water waving to friendly canoe men as we shot past level with

the head of a standing fisherman.

And so up over the 3,000 ft. hills to the airport and a smooth landing about 5.15 that evening.

Ted Malujlo brought the helicopter in a little later—it was amusing that Salisbury was constantly asking the Cessna for news of him as we turned for home—and so back to Abercorn after a most delightful and rewarding day, as different as it could possibly be from the usual hours in the office chair where I am now writing this—a chair which seems almost to sway and bank over the tall flowing brown grass as I labouriously get this memory into words and typescript.

This was, of course, a "working" trip. Mr. du Plessis, Director of the International Red Locust Control Service, was with us and the idea was to make a quick survey of whatever locust population there is at present on the plains. It is rising somewhat at present, as

Continued on Page 4

The Editor of ABERCORNUCOPIA regrets that pressure of the important work of supplying large quantities of educational requirements to the rapidly expanding schools throughout the Northern Province and of executing increasing numbers of printing orders consequent on the cutting off of southern suppliers, has recently made regular publication impossible.

It has therefore been decided to suspend publication for some months in the expectation that, on the easing of the present urgency of school requirements and on provision and training of new staff, printing and editorial time will again become available for the paper to resume publication in, perhaps, an improved form.

It is hoped that subscribers will permit us to carry forward any small unexpended balances in their favour for the time being.

Come to **C.B.C. SHOPS** For Better Service and Good Prices

## MUSEUM FOR ABERCORN?

Abercorn has the opportunity during the next few weeks of being selected as the site of one of the museums which the government is establishing in each Province. They will be centres for the collection, display and study of historical, cultural and natural objects illustrative of local life, past and present, and will in time become invaluable in rescuing and preserving all significant traces of past history and in recording new discoveries in every department of cultural life.

Mr. Barrie Reynolds, M.A., M. Sc., A.M.A., Director of Museums for Zambia, will be visiting this area in the latter part of August, accompanied by Mr. Bruce Burne who has recently been appointed National Archivist, and hopes to be able to have discussions on this matter during his visit.

Abercorn's claim to the Northern Province institution rests on the following main points. As a site of human settlement it is equivalent with Kalambo, for there are proved traces of early man beneath Lake Chila going back over 50,000 years. Historically its neighbourhood is reputed to have witnessed the repulse of the 'Ngoni when they streamed northward. They are said to have camped at the U-mingi Pans before they were turned east and south back to Malawi.

The township is within 25 miles of Kalambo and other sites of archaeological and historical interest and is already a tourist centre on a modest scale which may be expected to widen with the eventual completion of the all-weather road.

It is a site of considerable importance in the now unpopular but permanently interesting history of the colonial era, being one of the three oldest European settlements in the country and is also an area reached and exploited by the Arab slave traders in the immediately preceding period.

In addition, there exist premises in the township part of

for the start of such a centre if some satisfactory agreement could be reached between the museums directorate and those responsible for the publicly owned local site and building of the Tanganyika Victoria Memorial Institute.

Owing to the disturbances of two major wars and the fact that the extensive plantation and agricultural development formerly expected in this area never really occurred, the T.V.M.I. has in recent years had only minimal opportunity of serving the community except as the township's valued lending library and in entertainment.

Of its two sister institutions, founded about the same time as memorials to Queen Victoria, the Salisbury V.M.I. formed and for many years maintained a large museum collection and still operates the central lending and reference library of the city. The Fort Jameson V.M.I., after serving as a cultural and social centre to a substantial planter population for many years, merged into a single institution with the local sports club.

Senior, scientifically qualified officers of the museums directorate are due to visit Abercorn shortly and one of the objects of their visits is to decide on whether a beginning should be made with a provincial museum either at Abercorn or Kasama. It is believed that the Department has the funds for a special building if necessary and, if Kasama were decided upon, they would have to build one there.

Kasama's claim would rest on its status as Provincial headquarters and proximity to Bemba tribal headquarters and on the value such an institution would be to its two secondary schools and teacher training college. The staff and pupils of these would also, no doubt, be of assistance in the museum's field work—as they have already been in the case of the newly found rock paintings. On the other hand Kasama has no significant tourist potential and at present lacks the natural history and archaeological interest of Abercorn.

Abercorn is its status as headquarters of the International Red Locust Control Service. The Service has in the past attracted many eminent scientific visitors in the field of natural history and is known throughout the scientific world as the natural local point of reference for the botany, entomology, topography, meteorology and other details of an area stretching from northern Tanzania down to South Africa. Such activities have not recently drawn so much attention as formerly, the locust breeding cycle having been at a low point during the last few years and the pest under much better control than it was then; but the Service, with its valuable records and connections continues its supervisory work throughout its area and may at any moment be called upon to resume active operations anywhere in Central Africa.

With reference to Kalambo, Dr. Desmond Clark's detailed scientific account of his excavations there is to be published by the Cambridge University Press in three massive, fully illustrated volumes, the first two of which are now complete.

This will place Kalambo second only to Leakey's Olduvai site in African archaeology, for although there are very many sites of great importance elsewhere (especially of course in South Africa) these two discoveries are outstanding for their inclusion of successive series of cultures over an immense period of time—Olduvai in the million years category; Kalambo over the last 100,000 years.

### CORNELIUS

#### FIRST COPPER CONVOY

The first copper convoy of eleven heavy trucks is reported to have arrived at Dar es Salaam on July 8. They had taken six days to transport 250 tons of copper the 1,200 miles. The planned capacity of this £5,000,000 road service is 30,000 tons a month, says a Reuter report, to be carried by 450 trucks.

Meanwhile plans are being considered to increase the capacity of the port

## MR BENEDICTO LUCHEMBE

The death occurred on the morning of July 5 at Abercorn Hospital of Mr. Benedicto Luchembe, for more than 16 years senior compositor of The Lake Press Ltd.

Mr. Luchembe was a Fort Rosebery man, trained in the excellent School of Printing formerly conducted by the Belgians in the Congo, and had been a compositor all his working life. He was the first employee engaged by The Lake Press and came to Abercorn in 1950, working under the pioneer and primitive conditions which were all that could be provided here in those days.

His work was to assemble from the type cases, letter by letter, all the "copy" sent in for printing-work which calls for the utmost patience, accuracy and a high measure of craftsmanship in judging spacing, lay-out and such details.

Later, with two or three assistants, he regularly hand-set a great part of the monthly publication "Lyashi" and—it now seems almost unbelievably—returned every letter, space and comma to its proper box in the type cases on completion of printing.

In the six years or so during which the paper was set by hand, he must have thus assembled and distributed many hundreds of thousands—perhaps some millions of words.

Mr. Luchembe died at the early age of 52 following a stroke but throughout his residence in Abercorn had been in good health, and had never been off duty for reasons of illness for more than the occasional day.

His first wife, by whom he had two children, died many years ago, and he later married a wife from a leading Chiyanga family, whom he leaves with six children to care for.

The funeral took place later on the morning of his death at St. Paul's Mission where a very large number of mourners, including many of Abercorn's leading personalities in business and local government and among civil servants attended the service.

## ABERCORNUCOPIA

ABERCORN Zambia  
P.O. Box 44 Phone 244

## FOR SALE

One baby's perambulator, as new, £10; G.E.C. electric stove, £40.

Apply; Grasshopper Inn.

## 'GOLDEN EGG' LIMIT

Father Quinn, one of the members of the Commission now enquiring into the mining industry, stated at a recent session that if African mineworkers achieved a European standard of wages the Copperbelt's wages bill would come to £415,000,000 a year. This represents over £100 a year each for every man, woman and child in the country; five times Zambia's total revenue and nearly double the country's whole "Gross Domestic Product". It would be 2½ times the value of total exports. Also, such a sum is nearly three times the value of the country's mineral production. Politics has been described as "the science of the possible" and there are, obviously, limits to what is possible in a country with a total population only half that of a great city such as London, Tokio or New York.

## New Air Schedules

Beginning from Monday, July 4 Abercorn's air service is operating on Mondays and Thursdays instead of Wednesdays and Fridays.

The official announcement stated that as from July 1 flight QZ 604/605 arrives at Abercorn on Mondays at 12.55 p.m. and departs at 1.45 p.m. Mail for this flight closes for ordinary mail at 11.30 a.m. and for registered mail at 11 a.m.

Flight QZ 602/603 arrives at Abercorn on Thursdays at 2.40 p.m. and leaves at 3.10 p.m. Ordinary mail for this flight also closes at 11.30 a.m. and registered mail at 11.30 a.m.

The Kasaba Bay tourist schedule will change accordingly and M.V. Triton will be making a quick round trip every Sunday

## Two Seriously Hurt In Car Crash

Mr. and Mrs. MacGregor — he has been representing the consulting engineers on our local road contracts for some months — were both badly hurt in a car crash on their way back from line-of-rail recently. Mrs. MacGregor sustained very serious injury including fracture of both arms, multiple fracture of one leg, injury to a shoulder and some internal injury which caused much anxiety for some days but is now reported to be, perhaps, less serious than was at first thought.

Mr. MacGregor was less badly hurt but is expected to be in hospital for a month.

With both being so seriously injured no clear story of what happened has yet emerged, but the vehicle appears to have come into collision with a tree at speed on a road in the Mporokoso area. There is no report that any other vehicle was involved.

Fortunately another vehicle found the crashed car and the two victims while there was yet time to save Mrs. MacGregor's life and both were taken to Mporokoso from where Dr. Braithwaite flew them to Kasama where both are in hospital.

to bring passengers back for the Monday flight.

Thus, it is expected that Abercorn residents will have the opportunity of a whole day out on the Lake on Sundays at a cost of £2-10s per head for the full Mpulungu — Kasaba return trip including lunch on board.

There will, however, be no time for going ashore at Kasaba, where the boat will pick up her tourist passengers and return immediately.

Local passengers would also have to provide their own transport between Abercorn and Mpulungu.

The new schedule is expected to allow of a trip to Kalambo Falls for tourists on Monday mornings.

## Minister's Visit

Mr. R.S. Makasa, Resident Minister Northern Province, has just completed an official visit to Abercorn where he inspected Government services and developments in the township and district, met a number of local

traders and also had a meeting with Township Council members. Mrs. Simuchimba, Chairman of the Council, was his hostess at a cocktail party on Monday evening.

## ABERCORN TOWNSHIP COUNCIL

## THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 1965

## The Local Government (Elections) Regulations, 1966

## Local Government Elections, 1966

In terms of the Regulations, notice is hereby given:

- (1) that the ordinary elections of Councillors to fill the vacancies in the twelve wards of the Council, each ward to elect one Councillor will in the event of there being a poll take place on Thursday the First Day of September, 1966, between the hours of 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.
- (2) that no person can be elected to the office of Councillor in respect of whom a nomination paper is not delivered to me before 4 p.m. on Thursday, the Eleventh Day of August, 1966 that all withdrawals of persons so nominated must be delivered to me before 4 p.m. on Thursday, the Eighteenth Day of August, 1966, and that all such notifications must be given at my office situated at the Council Offices in Presidential Avenue, Abercorn;
- (3) that every person proposed for election as Councillor must be nominated in a nomination paper in the appropriate form contained in the Regulations, and every such nomination paper must be subscribed by five nominators whose names are in the roll for the appropriate ward, and shall contain a declaration by the candidate that he is willing and qualified, to stand for election.
- (4) that no person shall sign more than one nomination paper, and if he does so, his signature shall be inoperative in all but the first nomination paper delivered in terms of paragraph 2 above;
- (5) that a candidate who is validly nominated for more than one ward shall withdraw his nominations in all these wards except one before the close of the period allowed for the withdrawal of nominations, and that if he does not do so, all nominations lodged in respect of that candidate shall be null and void except the nomination which was first validly lodged;
- (6) that in the event of only one person remaining validly nominated in any ward there will be no poll in such ward and that on the day appointed for declaring the election, the person so nominated shall be declared to be elected Councillor; and
- (7) that forms of nomination and withdrawal are obtainable from my office above mentioned on or after 20th July, 1966.

30th June, 1966.

C.K. HYDE,  
RETURNING OFFICER

# THE PRUDENTIAL

ASSURANCE COMPANY LTD.

YOUR LOCAL AGENTS

G. W. GRIMSHAW

BOX 108

ABERCORN

## ST. PAUL'S AND ST. FRANCIS

### HOLY MASS EVERY SUNDAY

At St. Francis; 7.30 a.m.

At St. Paul's 7.30 a.m. (sermon  
in Bemba or Mambwe)

At Catholic Welfare Hall (Aber-  
corn Location) 9 a.m.  
(High Mass with sermon  
in Bemba or Mambwe)

### Holy Mass Daily

At St. Francis; 6.15 a.m.

At St. Paul's 6.15 a.m.

At Catholic Welfare Hall,  
Suburb 6.15 a.m.

### Meetings and Classes at Catholic Welfare Hall

Tuesdays at 4.30 p.m. In-  
struction for catechumens  
Mondays at 5 p.m. St. Vincent  
de Paul Conference

### Meetings of the Legion of Mary:-

Sundays after High Mass at  
Catholic Welfare Hall.

Confessions: Everyday before  
Holy Mass.

Benediction of the Blessed Sacra-  
ment at St. Francis every  
Saturday 5 p.m.

### Meeting of Abercorn Catholic Church Council:-

Every 2nd Tuesday of the month  
at Catholic Welfare Hall 4.30 p.m.

## FIVE MEN MISSING ON LAKE

Five men Messrs John Sika-  
ule, Nelson Muzimbe, Kaci-  
gwe Mazimbe and Doud have  
been reported missing on lake  
Manganyika. It is reported that  
police are still searching for  
the bodies

## ROAD PORT AND RAILWAY

It is now estimated that the  
re-alignment and tar-surfacing of  
the Mpulungu road—originally  
scheduled for completion in  
November—will not be ready for  
through traffic until February.

The gravel available in some  
sections has required more  
stabilising material than was at  
first realised and the contractors  
have been faced with very  
heavy soil shifting and working  
procedures which have delayed  
them despite a twelve-hours  
working day.

It was stated in an article in  
the Zambia Trade Fair supple-  
ment to the Times of Zambia of

July 1 that West Germany may  
provide £1,000,000 for the dev-  
elopment of Mpulungu Port—  
although this does not yet seem  
to be certain.

The surveyors who have been  
reporting on the engineering  
and economic feasibility of the  
Tanzania—Zambia railway pro-  
ject have rendered a favourable  
preliminary report and are  
stated to have said that  
there are no insuperable  
engineering difficulties and that  
the economic prospects are  
better than was originally  
thought.

### Continued from Page 1

is, I believe, to be expected on  
the now proven breeding cycle  
theory. We saw large numbers  
of them and, in one or two pat-  
ches, they rose quite thickly on  
the passage of the low-flying  
aircraft. It is quite easy, even  
for a layman, to get a rough  
idea of whether they are, say,  
one to the square yard or one  
to the square foot—or more or  
less—and an expert, I should  
think, can return with a very  
accurate estimate. We picked  
one out of the Cessna's rigging  
on arrival at Muse.

When one thinks of the  
labourious foot safaris of the  
old days, with hundreds of  
labourers hand spraying, scores  
of locust officers counting and,  
most striking contrast of all  
perhaps, the elephantine pro-  
gress of the "swamp-skipper"  
through these vast sodden plains,  
one cannot but give thanks that  
modern techniques and the  
beautifully made little aircraft  
now used can accomplish all  
this work with speed, precision  
and effectiveness, using only a  
few highly skilled men working  
in comparative comfort to pro-  
tect thousands of farms and  
millions of people all over south-  
ern and central Africa from any  
serious peril from this danger-  
ous pest.

## NEW GOLF

The golf programme for May  
was a very full one and included  
the knock out competition for  
the William Watson Cup and  
the Championships with which  
were incorporated the Bogey  
and the Stapleford Cups as well  
as those that go with the champ-  
ionships, the Castle Cup and the  
Hard Luck Eclectic. All the  
competitions were well suc-  
ceeded and the contests were close.

The final of the William Wat-  
son was a very close match  
May and was a very close match  
between Peter Kirkpatrick and  
Karl Kuhne the result being a  
win for Peter by one hole. This  
was Peter's last game in Aber-  
corn as Jock Thomson returned  
from leave and he was leaving  
the following morning for Ma-  
zabuka to take part in their  
golf open over the holiday week-  
end before returning to his dut-  
ies, this time in Lusaka.

A Nassau Competition played  
the same day was won rather ap-  
propriately, by Fanie Smit since  
in this case also it was his  
last game. The runner-up was  
Pix McLoughlin. Both play-  
ers' nett score was 65 and it went to  
Fanie on the count back.

## Bitten By Hippo

Mr. Elias Tom, a 32-year-old  
fisherman of Rapheus village,  
Chief Chimbola's area, Kasama  
district, had a narrow escape  
from death when the canoe in  
which he and a friend were  
fishing on the Chambeshi river  
was attacked by a hippopota-  
mus.

The hippo charged the canoe  
and overturned it. The animal  
then attacked Mr. Tom and bit  
his thigh, breaking the bone.

He was able to swim down  
the river and drag himself  
ashore. He was taken to Rosa  
Mission and then driven to No-  
ndo on the Great North Road  
by White Fathers. He is now  
recovering from his injuries in  
Abercorn Hospital.

## GRASS

MACARTNEY AV  
FULL BOARD AND

LICENSED R  
LUNCHEON

WHITE AND WH

FRES

Get to grips with a

# Castle Lager

TRU BREW TASTE

## CHAMPIONS

The Championships followed on May 29 and 30 and again, for Abercorn, at the moment, there was a good turnout. In the main the results were very close, count backs being necessary to decide the final results and, in the Men's Senior, "sudden death" play off was handed with Arthur Landry & Karl Kuhne acting as cadets & the players Jimmy Fraser and Jock Thompson. The final results were:-  
 Men's Senior Champion Jock Thompson  
 Ladies Senior Champion Pix McLoughlin  
 Men's Junior Champion, Colin Askam  
 Ladies Junior Champion, Joan Carlin  
 Hard Luck Eclectic Karl Kuhne after count back  
 Castle Cup 36 hole Medal Stan Richards  
 Runner up after count back Pix Landry  
 Moly Cup Jimmy Fraser  
 Runner up after count back Pix Landry  
 Stapleford Cup Pix McLoughlin  
 Runner up after count back Stan Richards

J.M.C.

## OPPER

ABERCORN  
COMMODATION

RESTAURANT  
DINNERS

MEAL BREAD  
DAILY

## THE TENNIS FINALS

The finals of the Tennis Championships were played on Saturday, June 18, followed by a dance that evening at which the cups were presented to the winners. The Club Hall was divided into booths, giving it very much the look of a night club, with laid tables for a meal. The music was excellent and later the evening took the form of a party with several people being called upon to sing and tell stories in cabaret style—all very much enjoyed. The past year has been one in which the courts have not been so well patronised as in many former seasons and at least a couple of this year's regular players admit to lack of fitness and some advance in years. Pix

After supper, provided by

## BILLIARDS AND SNOOKER

There was a "full house" for the Billiards and Snooker Championships finals played at the Club on Friday evening 1st July. The organisers Eve and Arthur Landry, were most gratified by the interest that has been shown throughout, they were thanked for the hard work they had put in and congratulated on the smooth running and timing of the competitions.

The results were surprising, a billiards player winning the snooker and a snooker player winning the billiards. The snooker was played first, the best of three games and was won most convincingly by Peter McLoughlin, in two straight games, from "Taffy" Martin. Peter was playing very well, even surprising himself, but it was "Taffy's" off night and what should have been a closely fought match had he been on form ended in his overwhelming defeat.

The billiards, the best of three games, was won by Arthur Landry from Tom Martin by two games to one. This was a

very good match. In the first game both players were in the nineties and Arthur sank the red to win. The second, Tom really found his game and won quite easily. The spectators were looking forward to a closely fought final, but as happens in these games, Arthur found, and Tom lost his touch and game and the championship went to Arthur.

several of the ladies and very welcome, the prizes were presented by Mrs. Chieffins as follows:-  
 Ladies Singles Mrs. McLoughlin  
 Runner-up Mrs. Askam  
 Men's Singles Mr. Spence  
 Runner-up Mr. Naik  
 Ladies Doubles Mrs. McLoughlin & Mrs. Bickerton  
 Runners-up Mrs. Askam and Miss Walsh  
 Men's Doubles Mr. Hurlbatt & Mr. Askam  
 Runners-up Mr. McLoughlin & Mr. Naik  
 Mixed Doubles Mrs. McLoughlin & Mr. Spence  
 Runners-up Miss Carlin & Mr. Hurlbatt  
 Ladies Plate Miss Walsh  
 Men's Plate Mr. Justin

The snooker shield and the billiards cup were presented to the respective winners by Dot Ferguson with, we regret to say, chits for the runners up whose prizes should have arrived on Wednesday's aircraft but for some obscure reason known only to the airways, the documents were all that came and there being no plane on Friday that week there was no chance of them coming in time.

The championships having created so much interest it is hoped the organisers will lay on another competition in the near future, this time to encourage the not so expert players!

## TRY FOR

ECONOMY

TRY

# ABERCORN

## STORES

( S. M. Patel )

MARSHALL AVENUE

( MAKANTA ROAD

CORNER )

SEE OUR WIDE RANGE

OF PROVISIONS

Spirits and Beer

PIECE GOODS

BUILDING MATERIALS

AND ALL SUPPLIES

### ABERCORN STORES

Box 54

Phone 201

# BRILLIANT SHOW RE-OPENS DRAMA SEASON

The Theatre Section's production of Michael Pertwee's drama "Night Was Our Friend" at the Club on June 11 was a considerable overall success despite a start mainly with little if any previous acting experience. This in itself posed serious problems for Gladys Campbell-Gray, the producer, which were added to by unavoidable cast changes during the last two or three weeks of rehearsals. That these handicaps were triumphantly surmounted and a thoroughly enjoyable production was presented is very greatly to the credit of the producer and all concerned.

First, there was a warm and happy "sense of occasion" about the presentation. Personally I was delighted to note strict audience control, starting and interval timing being clearly stated on the programme and firmly enforced by a bell. A completely filled house responded perfectly to this necessary discipline. A welcoming bank of flowers and greenery graced the foot of the stage. House and stage lighting worked smoothly in the hands of Dave Ellwood. And Brian Davison Pix McLaughlin's well designed, "practical" set was a triumph and earned applause at the rise of the curtain.

This was, I think, the first occasion at which the Zambian national anthem has been played at the start of a dramatic performance—an essential courtesy which helped to give dignity to the re-opening of the Section's dramatic activities.

Mrs. Cheffins organised the preparation of a generous and rich appreciated cold buffet supper which was much enjoyed over the show, and the subsequent party—as so often happens—did not break up until the small hours of the morning.

The play's central characters are a young couple; the wife having spent two years hoping for the return of a husband "missing" after a jungle plane crash; the husband, on his return, unbalanced and, in fact,

demented after shocking experiences as the only survivor of an escape from savage imprisonment. The play's serious aspect concerns two instances of the so-called "mercy killing" problem which are, nevertheless, murders; but the writing is highly professional and professionally careless. Thus the dialogue is "stagey" rather than literary; it is often repetitious, sometimes trivial (in contrast with rather than in accord with the circumstances) and contains a number of "corny" lines which would present difficulties to the most experienced performer. Thus there is less help from the script than there should be and the actor has to make an unusually massive contribution to communicate the deeper elements of a good, sensational plot.

It was not, therefore surprising that a certain lack of depth was at times evident even in an obviously well rehearsed and carefully produced performance. In some cases the lines seemed to come not from the speaker's mind and heart but from the book. However, good, clear speech; well picked-up cues and smooth production detail achieved a show which competently held the attention of an audience who often applauded exits.

There were, of course, exceptions to this general criticism. Norman Hiles, very happily cast as a sixty-years-old family doctor, displayed a warm, friendly and entirely credible character, apparently perfectly at home in a household he had known half a lifetime. He had a natural ability to reproduce the lines as the sincere speech of a likeable family friend.

Another who plumbed deep into the depths of his part was Chris Bickerton as the deranged husband. He had a task to test the capacity of the most talented professional in showing us the pleasant, vital young man whom the wife had married and now welcomed home and also the terror-struck, psychotic wreck which that young man became during his deranged episodes. To

achieve this, as he did, was a triumph, particularly as the change from an easy, pleasant manner to evil, unpredictable instability must be marked, yet credible. The two personalities must be the same man. Chris went a very long way towards fully realising this character. His disturbed periods, I thought, were helped by a better written script and in his long, highly dramatic account of the ghastly jungle escape he held the house silent and tense for many minutes in a lone tour-de-force which was admirably sustained. Congratulations on the thought and effort he must have given to the part.

No one could have been more charming, graceful and attractive than was Jane Hurlbatt in the part of the wife. It was easy to believe that half the countryside was in love with her. This with her clear, precise speech was fully adequate for all the lighter moments of the play; but at times of high drama, torn and shattered emotions—at the moment of mixing poison for her husband, for instance—the gay little ship had scarcely the power to breast the storm and was seen to be sailing in waters dangerously shallow for such tempests. This was, of course, a casting problem. Jane, who in any case has never acted before, would make a charming soubrette or (if she were a singer) musical comedy lead. Much could be made of her in one of Coward's brittle comedies; but her personality is not naturally attuned to the high drama involved in poisoning a mad husband (whose is, for that matter?) and to construct such a personality in a few weeks of rehearsal is not to be expected. There was, however, much slender, steel-shafted strength in many of her lines such as "Leave him to me!" and in her attitude to her formidable mother-in-law, which revealed excellent material available for a more sympathetic part.

Joan Carlin, the mother-in-law, had the experience to present a strong version of the middle-aged son-worshipper, subtle in

defence of her boy, blind to his dangerous instability and cruel in her determination to ensure the punishment of his wife. Both this "strong" part and Chris Bickerton's manic and tragic episodes might have seemed better balanced had the general keynote been at a deeper intensity; but I think the writing is partly responsible. It was in these parts that the really "strong" lines were concentrated.

Hubert Matthes, whose mother-language is French and whose university experience has been in French comedy, made an effective and courageous effort (with only a few rehearsals) as the young doctor who had been the wife's lover after she had presumed her husband's death. He responded well to the warm personality Norman Hiles gave his older colleague but was not so happy in the emotional passages with the wife. To repeat my former metaphor, both seemed somewhat shipwrecked in the shallows of a sometimes trivial script and in their difficulties in displaying depth of feeling adequate to their situation.

Colin Askam was fluent and natural in the small part of a rather brash young reporter and Eve Landry, although cast for the character part of a family domestic retainer, could scarcely be expected to stray very far from the well-known and respected personality of Eve Landry but acquitted herself well in the responsible task of delivering the final curtain line, "Drunken old beast!" said Eve—and meant it!

J.L.C.

## POLICE PURGE

The sudden and quite unexpected news of the dismissal of 17 senior European officers of the Security Branch of the Zambia Police and the retirement of the Inspector-General and his deputy from the uniformed branch also Europeans was announced in the wireless news

# The Eternal Simpleton

"Poor Mr. Arabin — untaught, illiterate, boorish, ignorant man! That at forty years of age you should know so little of a woman's heart!"

These words (from Anthony Trollope's "Barchester Towers") were the first to meet by eyes in a few minutes' late night reading after returning from the June 25 play at the Club.

"Poor Mr. Winthram!" I thought, "equally boorish and ignorant; unable even to creep into a woman's bed!"

Mr. Arabin of course was a high-born Anglican priest of a hundred years ago, Fellow of his Oxford College, renowned preacher and a learned man; but no less of a fool than Percy although in the very different situation of a Cathedral city courtship.

To happen on this parallel seemed a remarkable coincidence; for Keith Pollock's interpretation of Percy in Charles Dyer's "Rattle of a Simple Man" (for which he gained the Best Actor of the Year Award in the just ended Zambia Drama Festival) was so exact, so detailed a characterisation of the bemused Lancashire mill-hand that he was still with me; and I fell to musing on how classic novelist and modern dramatist had each handled this basic theme of male inhibition and female subtlety with an interval of 100 years between them.

It is this sort of universal fundamental theme which makes a play worthwhile and Charles Dyer expounds it with complete frankness and full acceptance of the crudity of a commonplace situation yet in no spirit of attempting to shock and quite without offence to anyone who knows reality when they see it.

A completely filled house enjoyed the play immensely, responding continuously to its brilliantly written lines and to the finest shades of mood and feeling so faithfully transmitted to them by the splendid acting of the small cast.

Hilary Hunt's production (placed only one point behind the festival winner) seemed to me to realise fully the author's intention, to bring out completely the light and shade, the comedy and drama, the absurdity and the pathos of the situat-

ion and to have used to the full the considerable powers and talent of her performers.

The adjudicator said that he felt the author could have been courageous enough to dispense with the third small part; but I do not think that I agree. The girl's brother brought a vivid glimpse of the back kitchens of sleazy little Greek cafes where Cyrene had wasted her girlhood and whence she had escaped to the brighter but more lonely hell of low-grade prostitution. Still, she had escaped; and after hearing all the lies of her high-life fantasies would we have believed the low-life reality without the evidence of a third party?

Personally I thought Percy a likeable man and felt much sympathy with him; but some women near me seemed as impatient with, and as contemptuous of him as was Cyrene herself. "Why doesn't that man go home?" was a feminine reaction which I thought was a strong indication of how successfully Keith "put over" the character.

He made full use of exceptionally mobile and expressive features and time and again the audience saw with delight exactly what was passing through his simple mind without a word to tell them. He made full use too of pace variation — the rapid flow of some trivial story followed by his own whole-hearted laughter; or the difficult, slow utterance of his own slow and direct thoughts. There can be no doubt that his selection as Zambia's leading amateur actor — on the showing of this part at any rate — is unchallengeable.

Maureen Pollock set the keynote of her characterisation in her first entrance and opening lines — the brassy, almost gutter snipe accent and the professional and sinuous enticements of her origins and occupation. Yet she showed a sharp-minded intelligent woman who had by no means lost all finer feeling. She seemed to alternate between professionally amused contempt for this stupid, inhibited man and a womanly concern for him — even some

envy for his resistance to the sort of corruption she represented, his working-class respectability as opposed to her rootless, foreign fecklessness.

Her brazen lies, furious energy, rapid transitions from soft enticement to vulgar tantrums were full of the vitality which she has brought to all of her work which I have seen. This is a character which cries out for strong colour, brush strokes in wide sweeps and a full canvas and Maureen has the capacity to give it just that treatment. The thing might have gone as far as murder in her native Greece!

Leo Davies, as the brother struck a curiously individual and sinister note. There was the strong Mediterranean family coherence — with its own un-English version of respectability. There was the softness of childhood recollections changing almost in seconds to wild rage.

There was a sort of und sophistication contrasting the innocence of the pro-cup-tie fan. I thought it effective and significant detail of a short yet crucial

This was the cast's sixth performance of the play and gave two holiday performances at Chingola, seats for were completely sold out could scarcely expect solid success.

A word must be said in recognition of the excellent done by Kasama and Al help on the rather "practical" set, with its equipped kitchen and water. All seemed to work out a hitch (except for one lighting failure) and made an essential contribution to the success of the show.

## Mobil Oil Zambia Ltd



Phone Abercorn 266 & Mpulungu 8

local agents

Mr. BEN BISHOP

and

CENTRAL AFRICAN ROAD SERVICE

Abercorn 268

marketers of MOBIL FUELS and world-famous

MOBIL OIL SPECIAL

G.R.Z. LU. 8

as specified for ALL GOVERNMENT PETROL-ENGINE VEHICLES

## CHILA CHAT

The rabies tie-up order which was imposed on May 16 over an area within 15 miles radius of Abercorn, was lifted on June 15. More than 50 unsecured stray or sick dogs were destroyed in the area during that period.

\* \* \* \*

Stan. Richards, Abercorn's Airport Manager for the very long period of eight years, left here on July 12 on transfer to Lusaka. Stan has been one of the township's keenest golfers for most of his stay and will be much missed by Club members. He will doubtless find Lusaka a very great change from the almost permanently cool breezes — and often ice-cold winds — in which he has worked for so long at Abercorn's over 5,000 feet airstrip.

\* \* \* \*

Mr. P.J. Davison, whose wife was formerly Dorothy Kuhne and is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Karl Kuhne has taken over from Mr. L. Laursen as Provincial Veterinary Officer. There may still be some readers who remember Dorothy as a very fetching little Fairy Queen in a ballet "tutu" in a local pantomime quite a few years ago when she made a very good job of reeling off streams of locally written doggerel in highly dramatic style. Much later, Dorothy made a successful adult appearance in Coward's "Blithe Spirit". By all accounts, her little 3½ years-old daughter is nearly ready to be a fairy queen herself!

\* \* \* \*

Among recent newcomers to Abercorn are Mr. and Mrs. Frank Palin, Mr. Palin being the new Health Inspector for the District; Mr. Ted Standly, who is replacing Stan. Richards at the Airport; Miss McGrath, Nursing Sister and Mr. H.D. Keeling of the local Standard Bank staff.

The Rev. R.N. Fuller and his family have just left for long leave in Britain during which Mr. Fuller will be preaching and addressing meetings on conditions in Zambia. If present plans are maintained, Mr. Fuller hopes to return here in March. Miss Barbara Lea has meanwhile taken up residence in the Abercorn Manse.

\* \* \*

Old Abercorn friends who are also leaving are Mr. and Mrs. Currie. Dave Currie has been in the Northern Province for very many years in various management jobs in storekeeping and transport business. Originally one of the early managers for African Lakes Corporation, Dave must now rank as one of the pioneer business men of this part of the world. He has secured an accountancy post with the Northern Electricity Supply Co. at Livingstone and, as Mrs. Currie has for long been on their Abercorn staff, she is going on transfer to Ndola.

Dave Cator, Abercorn's Immigration Officer for nearly 18 months, is leaving shortly on transfer to Livingstone. Dave, one of Abercorn's more eligible bachelors, has lately gained the reputation of being one of the best Chairmen that Abercorn Club has ever had and it is notable that under his chairmanship the Club has acquired its first African Honorary Secretary, Mr. Barnabas Dhlamini, Dave has taken his duties as Chairman seriously—that is to say, in the French sense of "serieusement", not by any means "solemnly" and has always taken the lead at functions and in welcoming guests and so on as well as being an ideal and business-like chairman at committee and general meetings. An old friend to Abercorn, he did a term of duty here some years ago when he was in the Police. Though not naturally a particularly adaptable actor, he has several times appeared in stage and light entertainment and has gene-

rally helped in many ways in the township's leisure activities. Everyone will wish him well in his new post.

Mr. M.J. Mvula has arrived to take over as Immigration Officer here.

\* \* \* \*

A fine son, weighing 8 lbs. 2 ozs., was born to Mrs Betty Martin on July 2—worth, I imagine, a very great deal more than thirty-six shillings!

\* \* \* \*

A most extraordinary car mishap occurred to Ted Malujlo a few days ago. He had driven almost next door to the Crosse-Upcott house to borrow a slide projector at about 8 o'clock in the evening and, on returning to his own house, seems to have

tried to correct a too long delayed turn into his own drive — or some such trivial incident. The car however, hit a tree with the result that Ted was thrown forward against steering wheel and windscreen and cut his head so severely that 35 stitches were necessary. The car was badly damaged but, although its steering wheel was completely smashed, Ted seems to have escaped any more serious injury. A steadier more expert driver could hardly be imagined than Ted normally is as can be vouched by the story (on another page) of his helicopter flying at 80 m.p.h. at zero height not only over the Rukwa plains but up the steep defiles of the escarpment—or, in fact, anywhere you want to go. A piece of sheer bad luck.

IMPULUMUSHI

# HEINRICH'S

## CHIBUKU

### THE GOOD FOOD FOR THE STRONG MAN

AVAILABLE ON THE GREAT  
NORTH ROAD FROM  
ABERCORN BREWERY