

A present to
Johannesburg



The fountain and statuary, above, presented to Johannesburg by Mr. Harry Oppenheimer, were unveiled yesterday. Soon after the unveiling 40 jets of water were played round the impala.

Oppenheimer memorial fountain unveiled

SUNDAY TIMES REPORTER

JOHANNESBURG remembered Sir Ernest Oppenheimer yesterday when, at a simple ceremony on the site of the old Standard Theatre, the Mayor, Mr. Alec Gorshel, unveiled the ornamental fountain and statuary presented to the city by Mr. Harry Oppenheimer in memory of his father.

Thousands of people watched the ceremony, and heard Mr. Gorshel and Mr. Harry Oppenheimer pay tribute to Sir Ernest's contribution to Johannesburg's development.

Seconds after the 18 bronze impala had been unveiled, 40 jets of water were played into the air about them.

Handing over his gift to Johannesburg, Mr. Oppenheimer said he was delighted that a little bit of sunlight and open space was being introduced into the heart of the city.

An optimist

He said that his father, from the time he arrived in South Africa as a man of 22 to the day of his death, had had a youthful and optimistic spirit.

This spirit was shared by Johannesburg, indeed, by all South Africa.

He then told the gathering: "I present this fountain to the city of Johannesburg for the relaxation and enjoyment of its citizens."

Mr. Gorshel called upon the Government to remove—with all possible haste—the "unsightly" old Rissik Street Post Office behind the fountain.

A deputation from the council

would soon appeal to Mr. Sauer, the Minister of Works, to remove the post office so that the site on which the fountain stood could be extended as a proper park.

Leaders of the mining and business communities were among those at the ceremony.